

Conservation Outcomes Indo-Burma

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The political and geographic designations do not imply the expression of any opinion on behalf of CEPF or any of its partners concerning the legal status or territorial boundaries of any country, territory or area.

Scale: 1:1,500,000
 projection: Abares Equal Area Conic
 central meridian: 103.5° east longitude
 standard parallels: 12° & 23° north latitude

- Key Biodiversity Area, CEPF priority**
- Other Key Biodiversity Area**
- conservation corridor, CEPF priority**
- other conservation corridor**
- hotspot boundary**
- protected area**
(IUCN Categories Ia, II, IV)
- country border** (terrestrial)
- city** (national capitals underlined)

- Roster of Key Biodiversity Areas** denotes CEPF priority
- Cambridge**
- KMR1 Aung Myethazan Thon
 - KMR2 Basse Marah
 - KMR3 Basse Marah
 - KMR4 Basse Marah
 - KMR5 Basse Marah
 - KMR6 Basse Marah
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 - KMR38 Basse Marah
 - KMR39 Basse Marah
 - KMR40 Basse Marah
- Myanmar**
- MMR1 Aungmye Kalay
 - MMR2 Aungmye Kalay
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 - MMR6 Aungmye Kalay
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 - MMR40 Aungmye Kalay
- China**
- CHN1 Alibab
 - CHN2 Alibab
 - CHN3 Alibab
 - CHN4 Alibab
 - CHN5 Alibab
 - CHN6 Alibab
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 - CHN39 Alibab
 - CHN40 Alibab

Geographic Priorities for Investment

The Ecosystem Profile includes an investment strategy for engaging civil society organizations in initiatives that address threats to biodiversity, communities and livelihoods. The investment strategy focuses on those taxonomic, geographic and thematic priorities where additional resources can be used most effectively in support of initiatives that complement and better target investments by national governments and other donors. The basic premise underlying the investment strategy is that investment should be targeted where it can have the maximum impact on the highest conservation priorities, while supporting the livelihoods of some of the poorest sections of society.

To this end, the investment strategy prioritizes investments in four conservation corridors and the 74 Key Biodiversity Areas they contain. The Key Biodiversity Areas of the priority corridors are listed below:

Priority Corridor 1 - Hainan Mountains. Hainan is the second largest island off the coast of China, after Taiwan. Because the island was connected to the mainland of Asia as recently as the Quaternary Period, there is little endemism at the genus level, although considerable endemism at the species level. Of the 4,200 plant species recorded on the island, 630 are listed as endemic, including many that are globally threatened, such as *Cephalotaxa hainanensis*, *Cycas changjiangensis*, *C. hainanensis*, *Firmiana hainanensis* and *Secotium pumilum*.

Priority Corridor 2 - Mekong River and Major Tributaries. Partly as a result of a limited appreciation of their biodiversity values, riverine ecosystems have, to date, received less conservation investment than have most other ecosystems in Indo-Burma, and are severely under-represented within national protected area systems. The Mekong River and its major

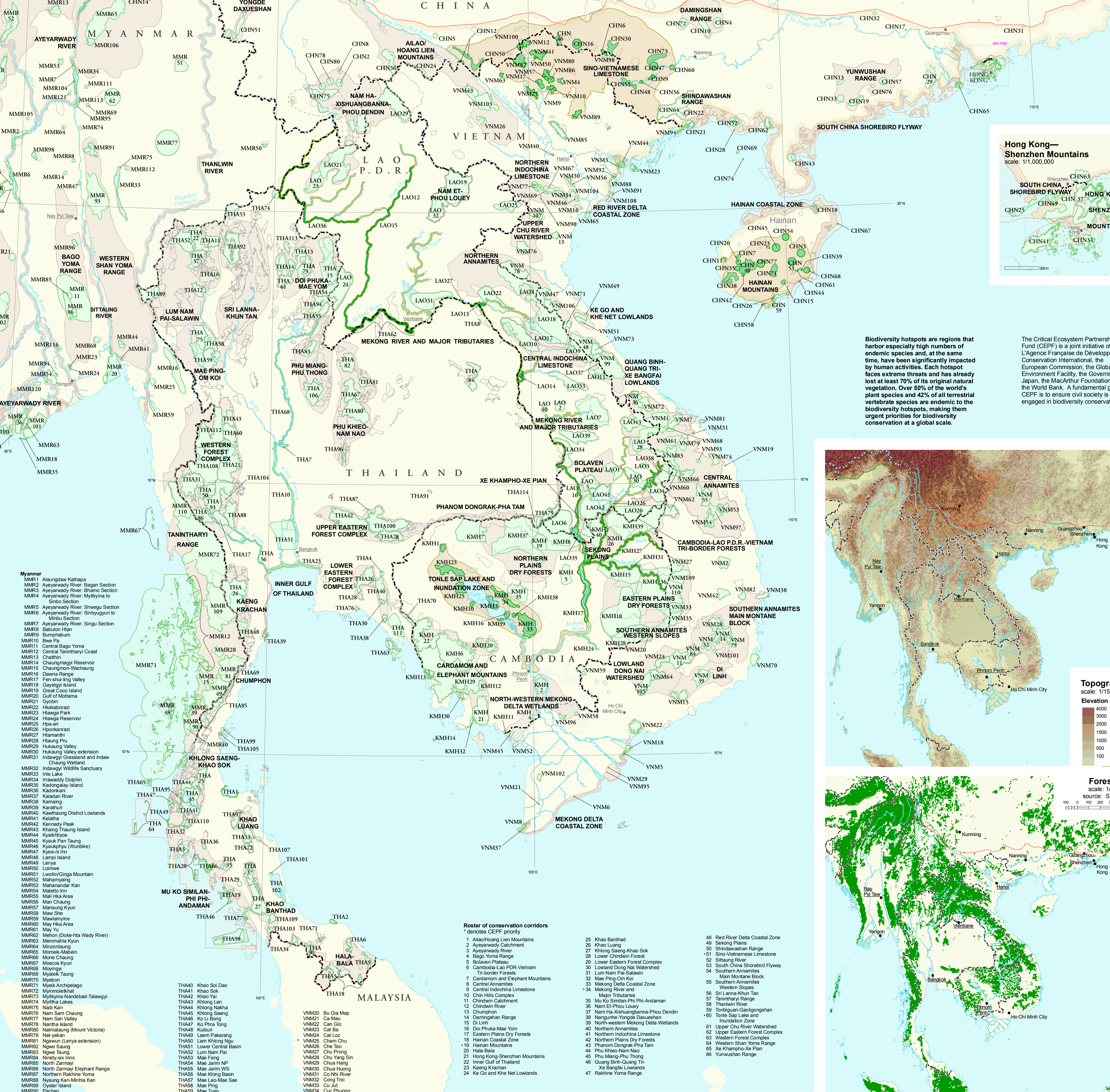
tributaries, including the Srepok, Sesan, and Sreng (Da Kong) rivers, represent one of the best remaining examples of the riverine ecosystems of Indo-Burma, and provide services vital to the livelihoods of millions of people. The corridor is vital for a number of giant fish, and many other globally threatened fish species, and supports a major freshwater fishery. The corridor also supports significant populations of several high-priority turtle species, and one of the fullest riverine bird communities remaining in Indo-Burma, including globally significant congregations of species such as white-stoled ibis (*Phaethon leptas*), river tern (*Sterna aurantia*) and great thick-knee (*Esacus vociferans*), plus the entire world population of Mekong mugilid (*Mudocilis zambezensis*). Among mammals, one of the world's three freshwater populations of Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) inhabits the corridor. The biodiversity and ecosystem service values of the corridor are highly threatened, but are being protected through disturbance, infrastructure development and other incompatible activities, arising from Hainan's recent designation as a "national tourism island".

Priority Corridor 3 - Sino-Vietnamese Limestone. The Sino-Vietnamese Limestone corridor is particularly important for the conservation of primates, as it supports the entire global population of two Critically Endangered species, Tonkin snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus avunculus*) and cat vit created gibbon (*Nomascus nasutus*). The corridor is also

of high global importance for plant conservation, supporting high levels of endemism in many groups, such as orchids. The corridor supports the richest assemblages of conifer species in the region, including several globally threatened species, such as *Amentotaxus yunnanensis*, *Cephalotaxa hainanensis* and *Cunninghamea konishi*. Most notably, the corridor supports a conifer species known globally from only one site, *Xanthopanax vietnamense* (Critically Endangered, discovered only in 1998), and another known from only two sites, *Amentotaxus hainanensis* (Endangered, described only in 1998). Through a land-use history of commercial logging and shifting cultivation, the natural habitats of the Sino-Vietnamese Limestone corridor (limestone, lowland evergreen and montane evergreen forest) have become fragmented, in places highly degraded, and remaining blocks are often threatened by overexploitation of forest products.

Priority Corridor 4 - Tole Sap Lake and Inundation Zone. Tole Sap, the largest lake in mainland South-east Asia, is an integral and essential part of the lower Mekong ecosystem. The lake's unique seasonal flood regime has led to the development of flooded forest and grassland habitats around its periphery, important for species of other waterbirds and the Critically Endangered Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*). The flooded forests around the lake support the largest breeding colonies of large waterbirds remaining in South-east Asia, including

important congregations of globally threatened species, such as greater adjutant (*Leptoptilos dubius*). The extensive areas of flooded forest and high levels of nutrients transported by the annual flood result in very high levels of aquatic productivity, helping to make the lake the most important fishery in Cambodia, responsible for around 60 percent of protein intake by the country's population. The system is also critically important for agriculture and fisheries production in Vietnam, as waters draining from the lake provide around 50 percent of the dry season flow in the Mekong Delta. The Tole Sap lake and inundation zone provide critical breeding, foraging and feeding habitats for many species of migratory fish, including several globally threatened species, such as giant dog-eating catfish (*Pangasistodon hypophthalmus*) and Juliette's golden carp (*Phobocara julietae*). The Tole Sap system faces a wide array of threats, including agricultural development in the inundation zone, clearance of flooded forest, changes to fishing practices and management arrangements in the lake, and changes in hydrological flows due to upstream developments on the Mekong River and its tributaries.



- Roster of conservation corridors** denotes CEPF priority
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 1/3,500,000
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CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

