# Conservation and ecotourism: Cornerstones for development of Indawgyi Lake Area, Myanmar





# Conservation and ecotourism: Cornerstones for development of Indawgyi Lake Area, Myanmar

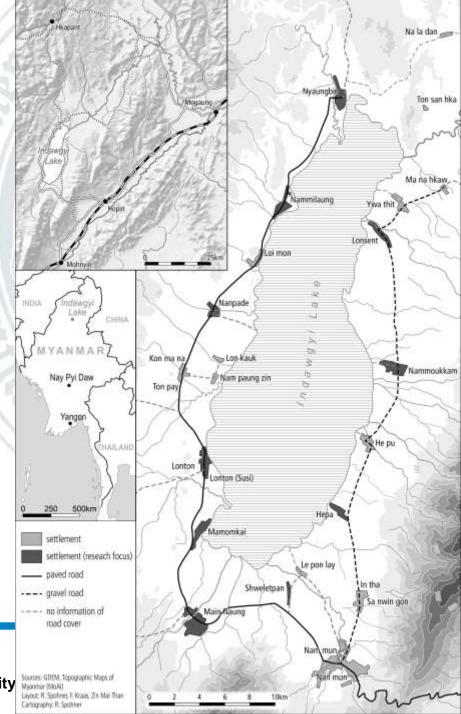
- 1. General information of the research area
- 2. Research aim
- 3. Theoretical and empirical concept
- 4. Results: challenges and potentials
- 5. Discussion: Strengthening of eco-tourism





#### General information of the area

- Since 1999, the total area of 775 km² is under conservation as "Indawgyi Wetland Bird Sanctuary", also belongs to the ASEAN Heritage sites
- An open water area of 120 km², located 170 m above see level; Savanna climate
- 64 fish species, 95 species of water birds and highest number of the Eastern Hoolock gibbons are recorded
- population of over 50,000
- strong dependency on the natural resources
- Currently main economic activities: agriculture, fishery and gold mining



Zin Mar Than, University of Cologne, Germany Frauke Kraas, University of Cologne, Germany, and University

### **Current challenges in socio-economic development**

### **Unbalances in the migration patterns**

- in-migration mainly un-skilled people
- out-migration mainly (highly) skilled people

### Farming

- Mono-culture cropping system
- lack of food processing

### **Fishing**

- overfishing
- ignorance of closed season
- illegal method

### **Gold mining**

- mercury contamination
- sedimentation
- drugs







#### Research aim

find out *potentials*, which can contribute to the future development of the region

Objective 1: Investigation of the current conservation status and situation of ecotourism

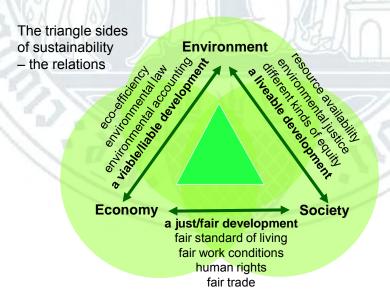
Objective 2: Discussion on possible development paths

### Theoretical and conceptual framework

### Endogenous development:

The idea is based on bottom up development started and implemented by local and regional actors, using mainly regional resources and aiming at regional benefit (*Tödtling 2011: 333-336*)

### Sustainable development:





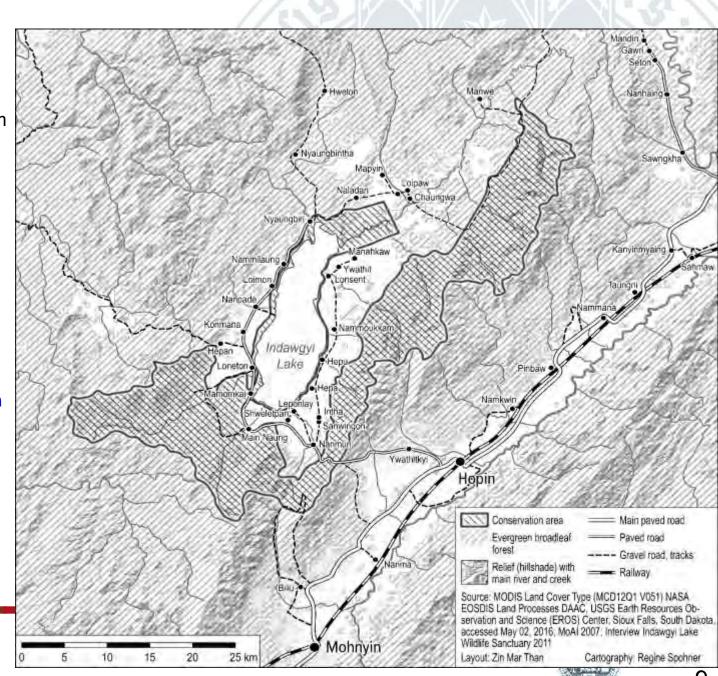


### Results

#### Current conservation status

- > undefined zoning system
- insufficient manpower and lack of patrolling facilities
- lack of environmental awareness
- ▶ lack of collaboration
  (e.g. fishery ←→
  conservation)
- > lack of powerful law

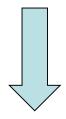
unstable political situation



### **Results**

#### **Potentials**

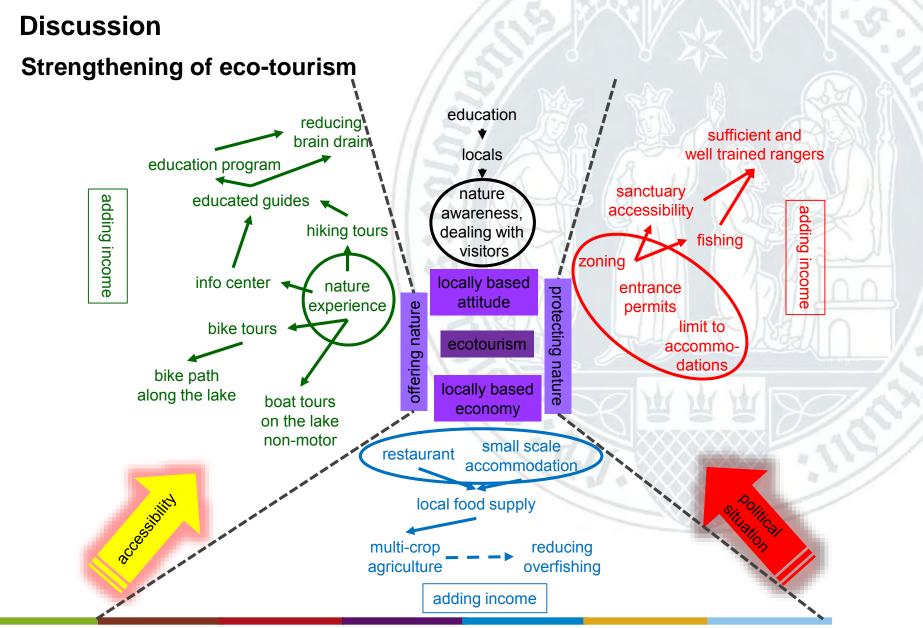
- sustainable farming plus implementing added value products
- sustainable fishing plus implementing added value products
- sustainable mining plus implementing added value???...
- eco-tourism → a new (fourth) economic base



creating job opportunities reducing brain drain

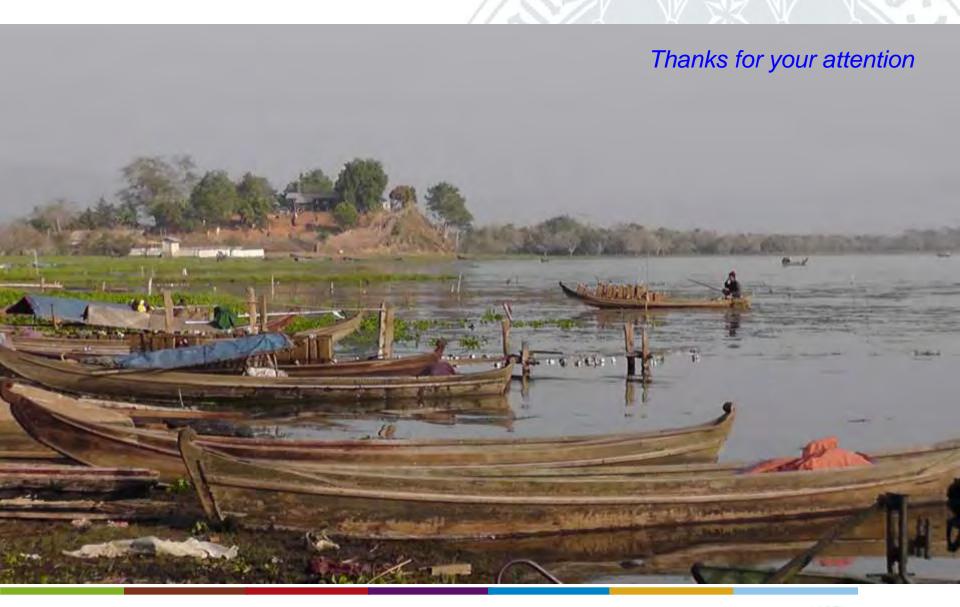














# Ameliorate the environment to improve the habitat's healthy

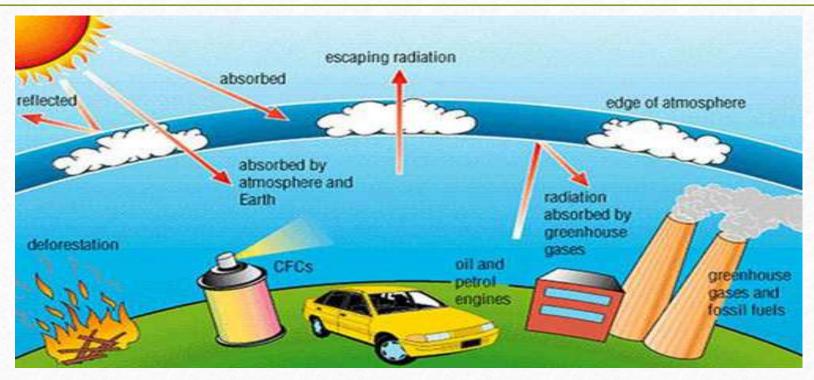
Case study Singapore

Nguyen Phuoc Linh

# Environment Impact Facts

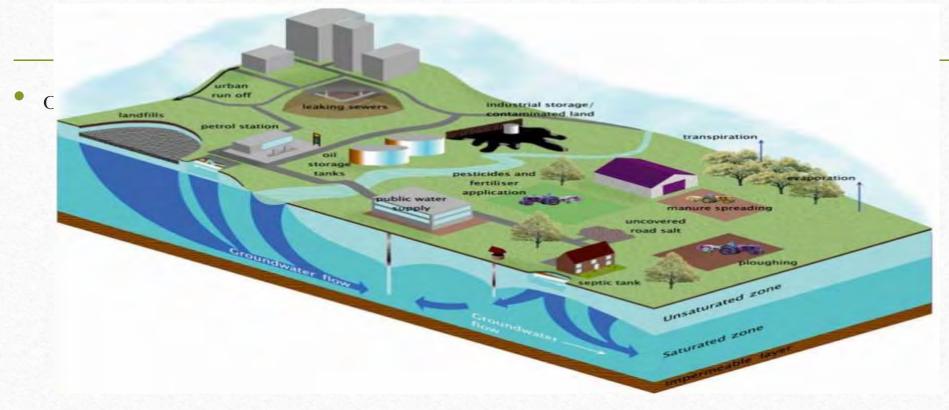
- Water Contamination
- Tree
- Emission Gas
- Pesticide

### Greenhouse Effect



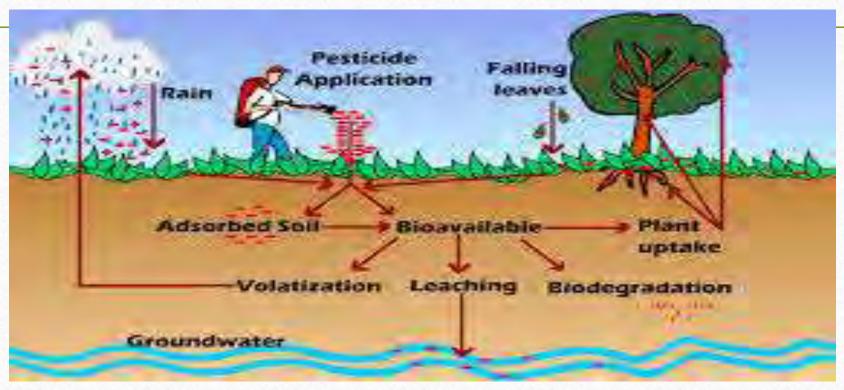
Reference: http://www.kidzworld.com/

### Water Contamination



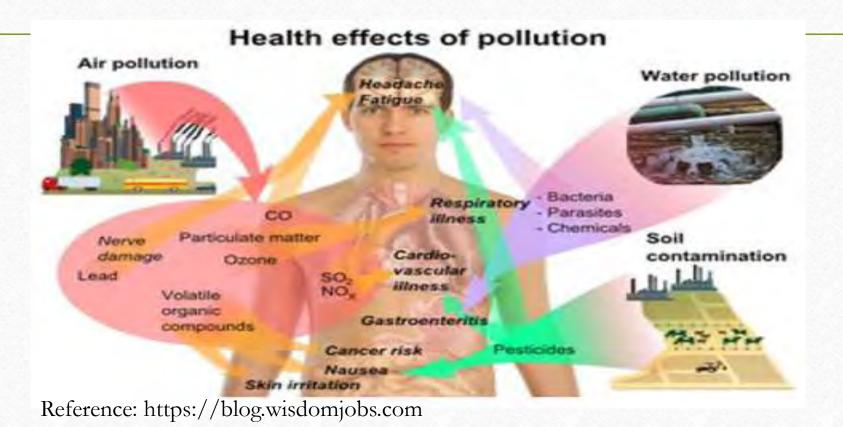
https://ospar.org

# Pesticide Cycle



Reference: "Applied Bioremediation - Active and Passive Approaches"

# Health effect of pollution



# Singapore Environment Amelioration

- City in a Garden
- Water from Local Catchment
- Engaging and inspiring communities to co-create a greener Singapore
- Enhancing competencies of landscape and horticulture industry
- Enriching biodiversity in urban environment
- Optimising urban spaces for greenery and recreation
- Rejuvenating urban parks and enliven streetscape

# Tree Plant



Reference: http://www.gardensbythebay.com.sg/

### Local Water Catchment



Reference: https://wordpress.com

# Singapore Resident Health Index







# Thai Fishing Industry



- Too many vessels using destructive and unsustainable fishing methods to catch too many fish
- Increased demand in animal feeds and farmed shrimp
- Lack of law enforcement
- Catch: 14% of mid-1960s
- CPUE: reduced by 86% since 1966



"Exacting profits from exploiting people will often go hand in hand with illegal, unsustainable and unregulated industries."



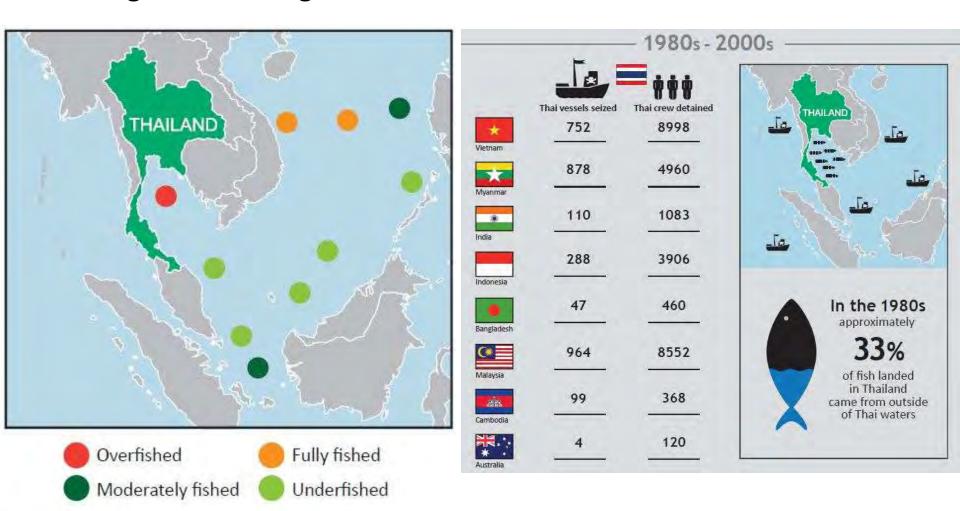
#### Source:

EJF (2014) SLAVERY AT SEA: The Continued Plight of Trafficked Migrants in Thailand's Fishing Industry

### Oversea Fisheries

Pelagic overfishing in SEA

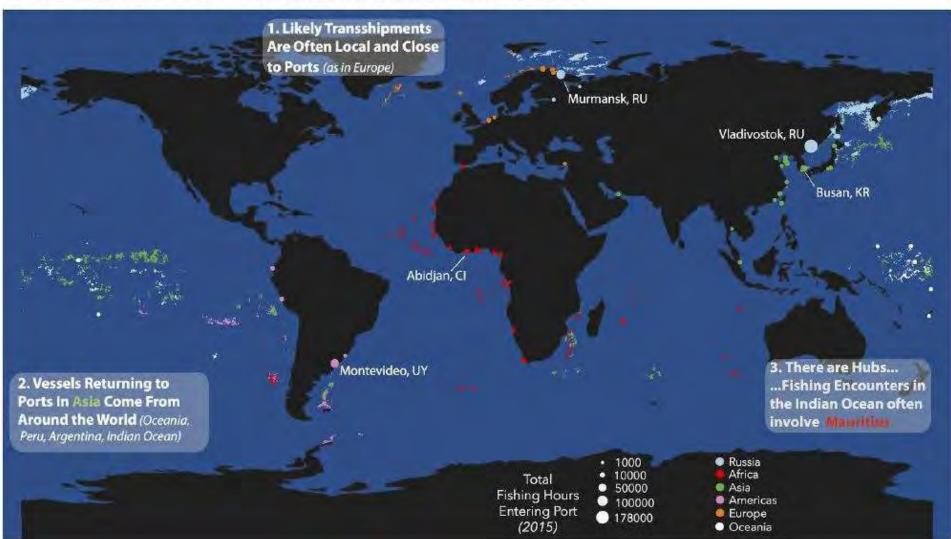
Number of Thai vessles seized



Source: EJF (2015) PIRATES AND SLAVES: How Overfishing in Thailand Fuels Human Trafficking and the Plundering of Our Oceans

# Problems with Transshipment

**Top Destinations for Likely Transshipped Catch, 2015** 

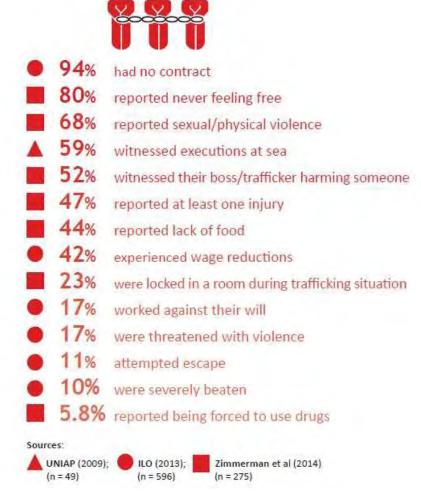


# **Human Trafficking & Labor Abuses**

Trafficking and fishing operations in Southeast Asia



**Source:** Greenpeace (2015) SUPPLY CHAINED: Human Rights Abuses in the Global Tuna Industry



**Source:** EJF (2015) THAILAND'S SEAFOOD SLAVES. Human Trafficking, Slavery and Murder in Kantang's Fishing Industry



"Consumers will buy and eat fish as long as they can afford to. But if they knew about us, I think they would have sympathy and no longer consume these products."