



Norwegian institute for
water research

The Politics of Water in a Changing Climate – Insights from Myanmar and Kenya

World Water Day 2024

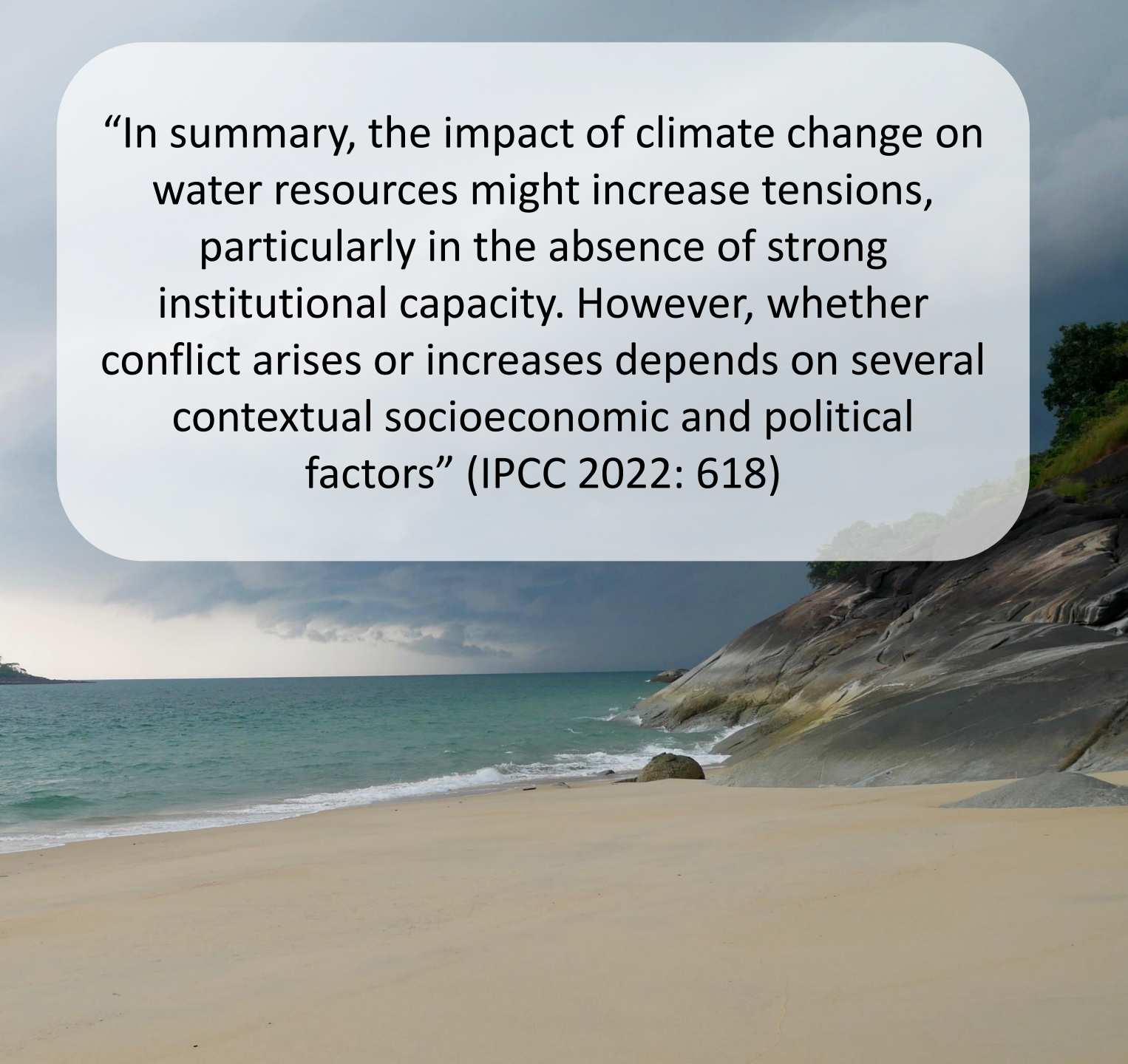
Marianne Mosberg





6.13 billion people live in countries characterized as water-insecure (Global Water Security Assessment 2023)

“In summary, the impact of climate change on water resources might increase tensions, particularly in the absence of strong institutional capacity. However, whether conflict arises or increases depends on several contextual socioeconomic and political factors” (IPCC 2022: 618)





Global Atlas of Environmental Justice

Water management conflicts:
"Conflicts linked to the access to and control over (mainly fresh-) water resources"

Case nr. 1: Laikipia, Kenya





Photo: Marianne Mosberg, Laikipia, Kenya, 2018

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Kuki Gallmann shot and wounded at Kenya conservation park

© 23 April 2017

AFP | A luxury safari lodge owned by Ms Gallmann was burned down last month

Renowned Italian-born conservationist Kuki Gallmann has been shot and injured in an ambush at her conservation park in central Kenya.

The author of the best-selling memoir *I Dreamed of Africa* was airlifted to hospital for treatment.

Ms Gallmann, 73, owns the Laikipia Nature Conservancy.

She also ran a luxury safari lodge that was burned down last month by suspected cattle herders, who have been in conflict with landowners.


Herders have been invading private property in search of fresh grazing in the drought-stricken Laikipia region.

British ranch owner killed by armed raiders in Kenya

Tristan Voorspuy, a former British soldier, had gone to inspect damage on his ranch when he was shot

Guardian staff and agencies
Mon 6 Mar 2017 00:26 CET


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Tristan Voorspuy was killed on his ranch whilst riding to inspect damage on his ranch in Kenya. Photograph: Offbeat Safaris Ltd

A British man has been shot dead on his ranch in central Kenya, in a crime officials blame on armed herders responsible for land invasions in the area.

Thousands of herders - some armed with spears, others with AK47s - have invaded private ranches and wildlife parks with their livestock, slaughtering animals and destroying property in Laikipia, as they go in search of pasture in the drought stricken-country.



Tristan Voorspuy, a British citizen who was born in South Africa, had gone to inspect damage on his Sosian ranch, 190km (118m) north of Nairobi, caused by the raiders when he was killed. Local media reported that two cottages on his property had been torched.

“It is true the Sosian ranch director was shot dead while going to inspect damage at his ranch,” local government official Jacob Endung said

“He was riding on his horse when he was felled by bullets. Even the horse was also shot at and is lying there.”

He said police had been unable to access the area due to the high number of the raiders but had managed to fly over the area and saw the body.

Armed herders invade Kenya's most important wildlife conservancy

Read more



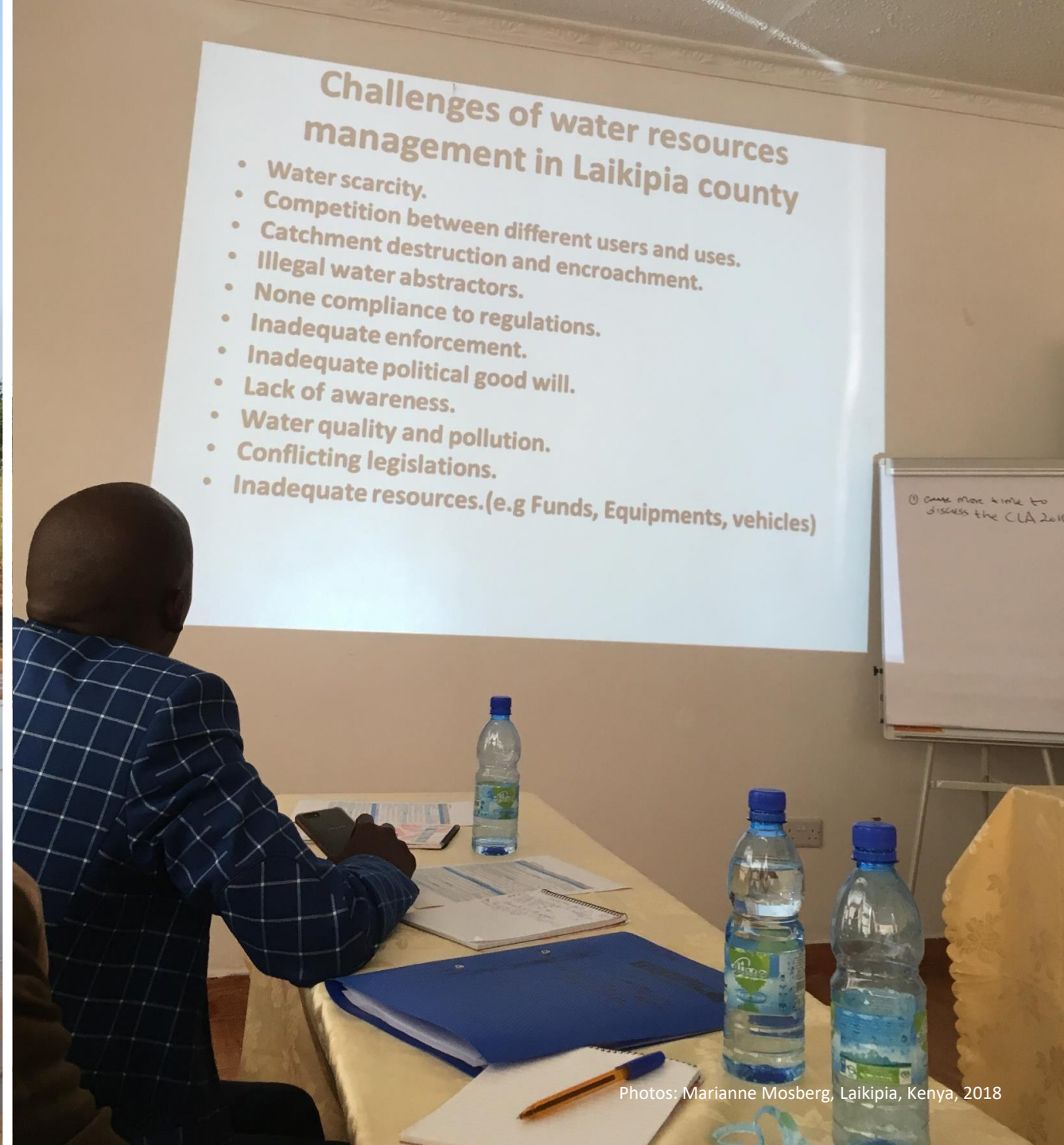
Photo: Marianné Mosberg, Laikipia, Kenya, 2018







Photo: Marianne Mosberg, Laikipia, Kenya, 2018



- ### Challenges of water resources management in Laikipia county
- Water scarcity.
 - Competition between different users and uses.
 - Catchment destruction and encroachment.
 - Illegal water abstractors.
 - None compliance to regulations.
 - Inadequate enforcement.
 - Inadequate political good will.
 - Lack of awareness.
 - Water quality and pollution.
 - Conflicting legislations.
 - Inadequate resources.(e.g Funds, Equipments, vehicles)

Photos: Marianne Mosberg, Laikipia, Kenya, 2018



Insights from Kenya

- Climate change is likely contributing to more intense and prolonged droughts in Laikipia, and water scarcity is compounded by human activities.
- Conflicts over water are tied to a complex mix of socio-political factors and contestations over access to and control over water resources.
- Conflicts increase vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.
- Women and children are often disproportionately affected by these conflicts, but are rarely involved in water management or peace negotiations.



Case nr. 2: Tanintharyi, Myanmar

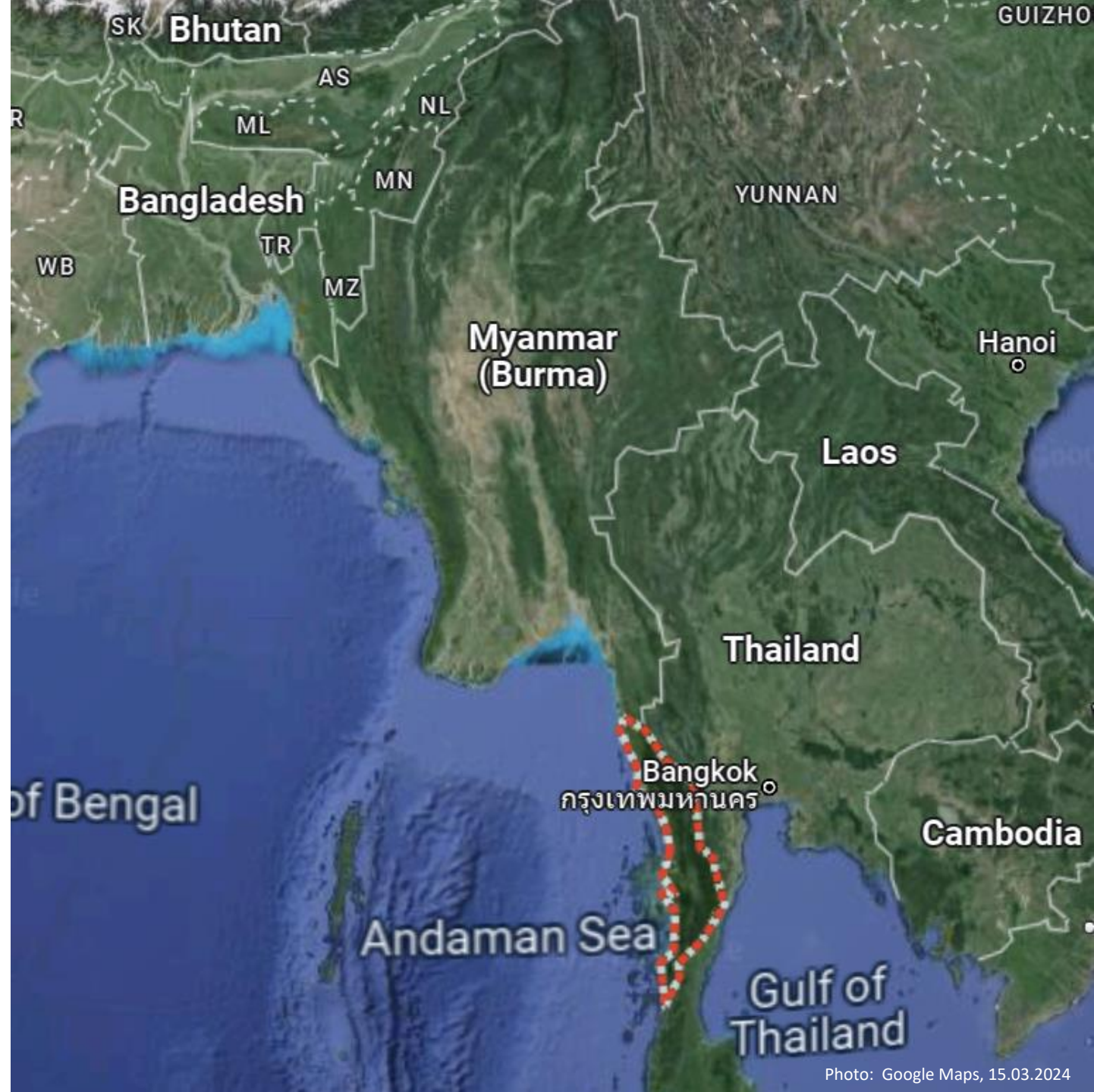






Photo: Marianne Mosberg, Yangon, Myanmar, 2018



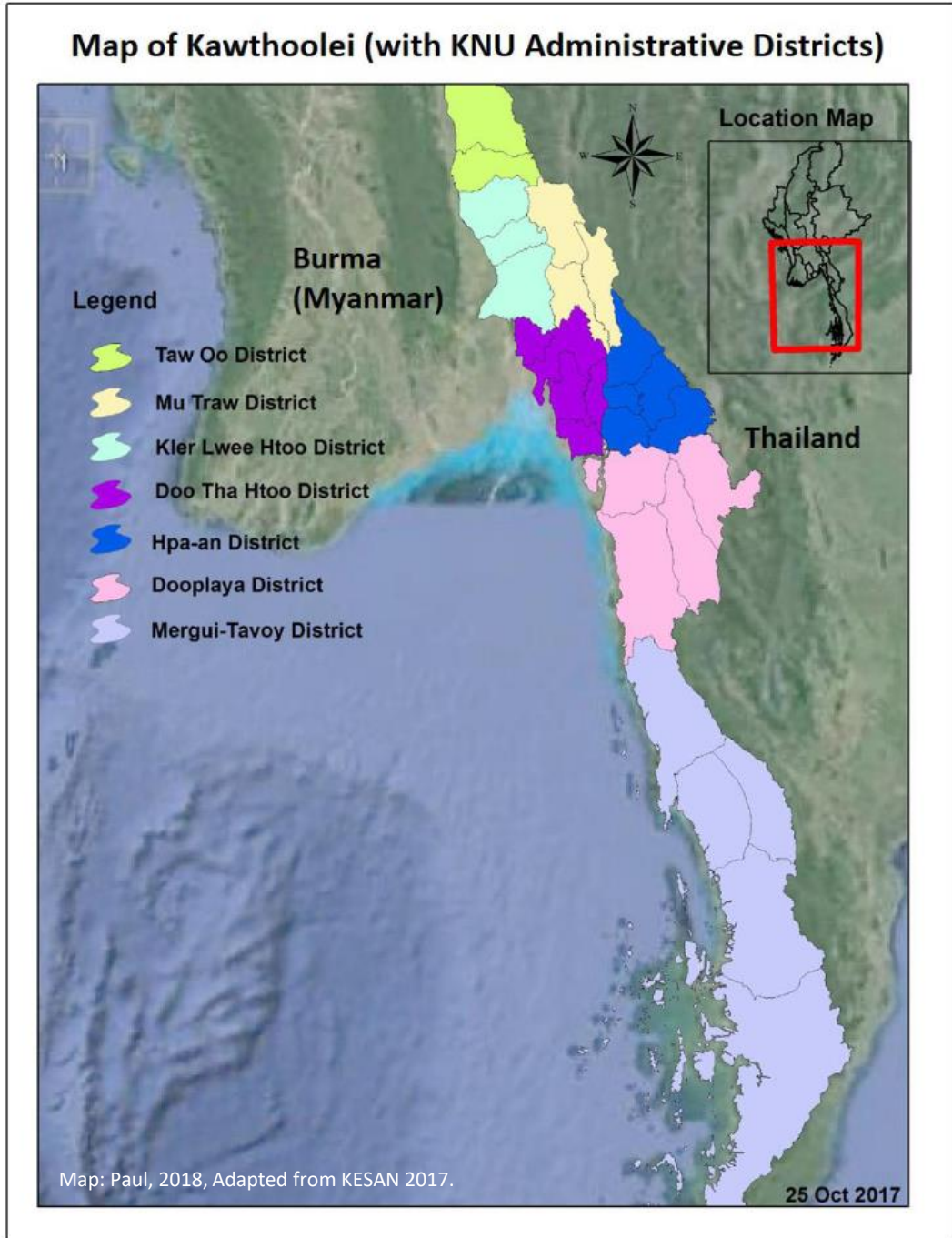
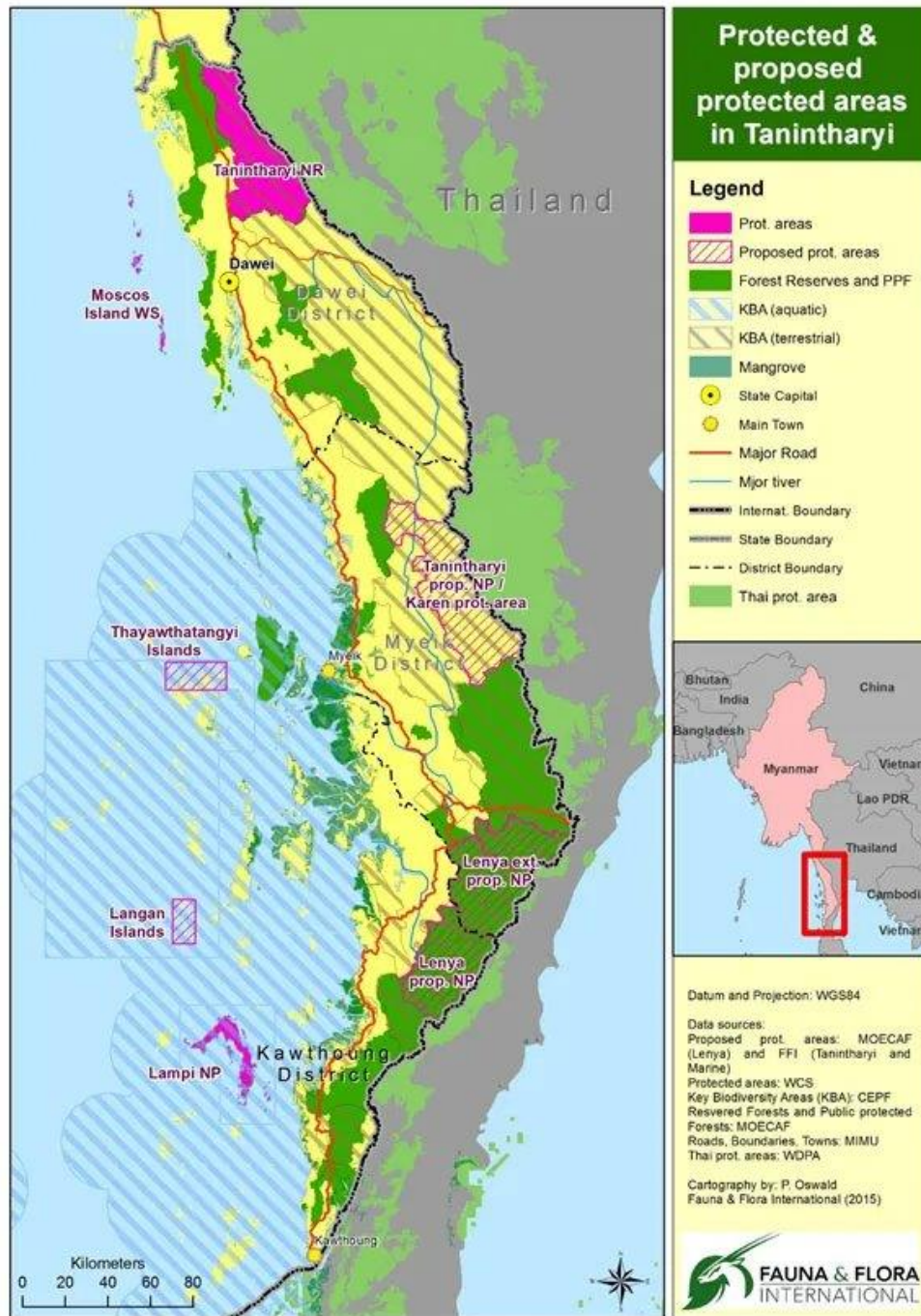
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Photo: Thierry Falise via Getty Images, 2022





Ridge to Reef Risks the Resurgence of Conflict

16. The Ridge to Reef project has been proposed over large territories which are either under the partial or complete control of the Karen National Union (KNU). The expansion of government managed protected areas into KNU controlled territory without the consultation or consent of the KNU is in contravention to the “interim arrangements” of the National Ceasefire Accords.⁷ This shows a serious dereliction of duty on behalf of the project proponents, and poses a very real risk to the fragile ceasefire process that has seen a recent halt to over sixty years of active armed conflict in Tanintharyi Region.

Screenshot from the publicly available complaint letter to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), 16.07.2018





Insights from Myanmar

- What we do ‘in the name of’ climate change also has the potential to increase or trigger conflicts over water
- These conflicts are often tied to questions about equity and justice, e.g. distributional aspects, recognition or procedural justice



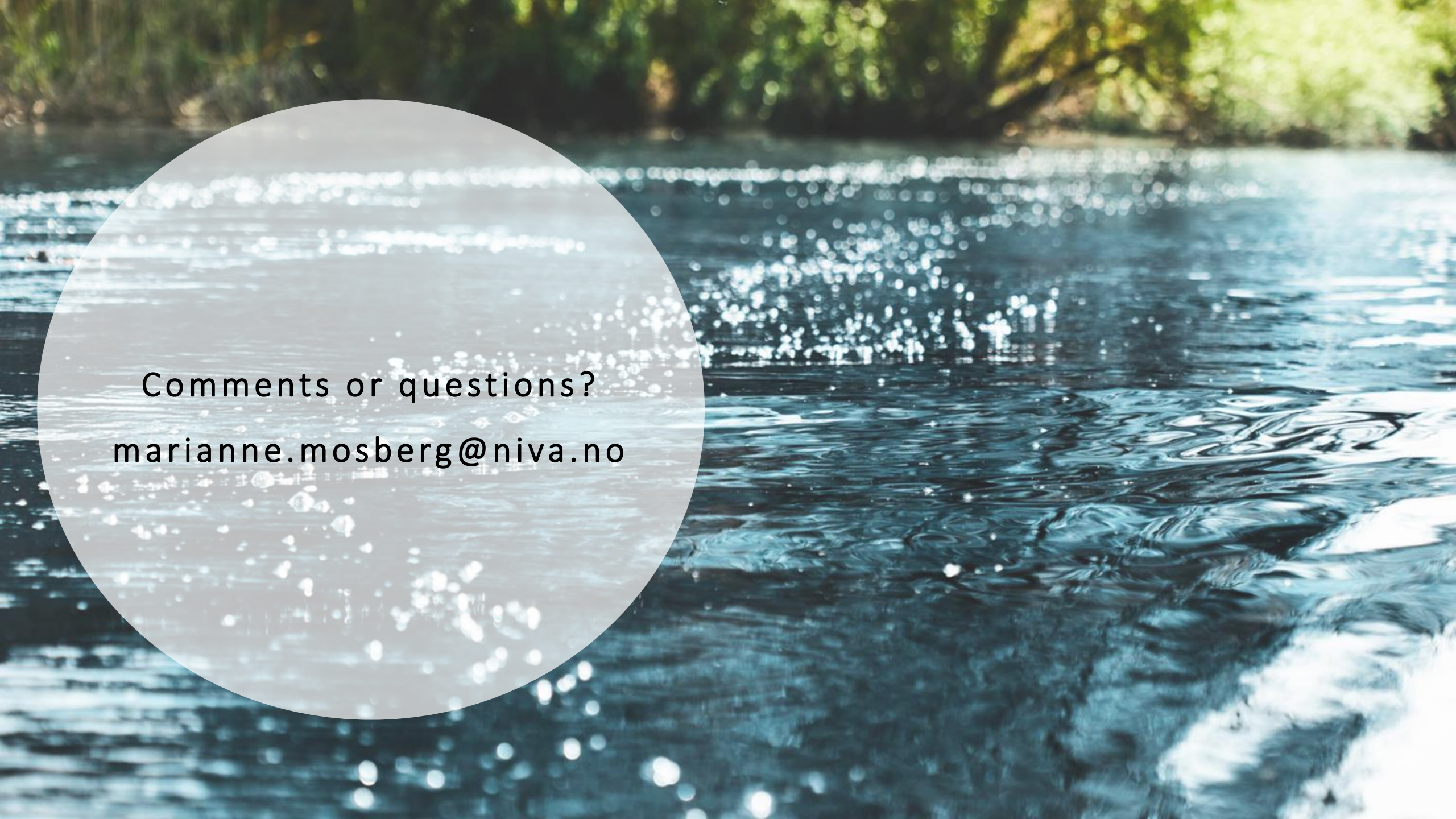
KESAN

<http://kesan.asia>

From **Battlefields** to **Refuge**

The Salween Peace Park

An indigenous Karen landscape conservation initiative



Comments or questions?
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