

ASEAN LAND-USE AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS FOR FARMERS AND FOOD SUPPLY

Integrated Research-in-Development by the World Agroforestry Centre

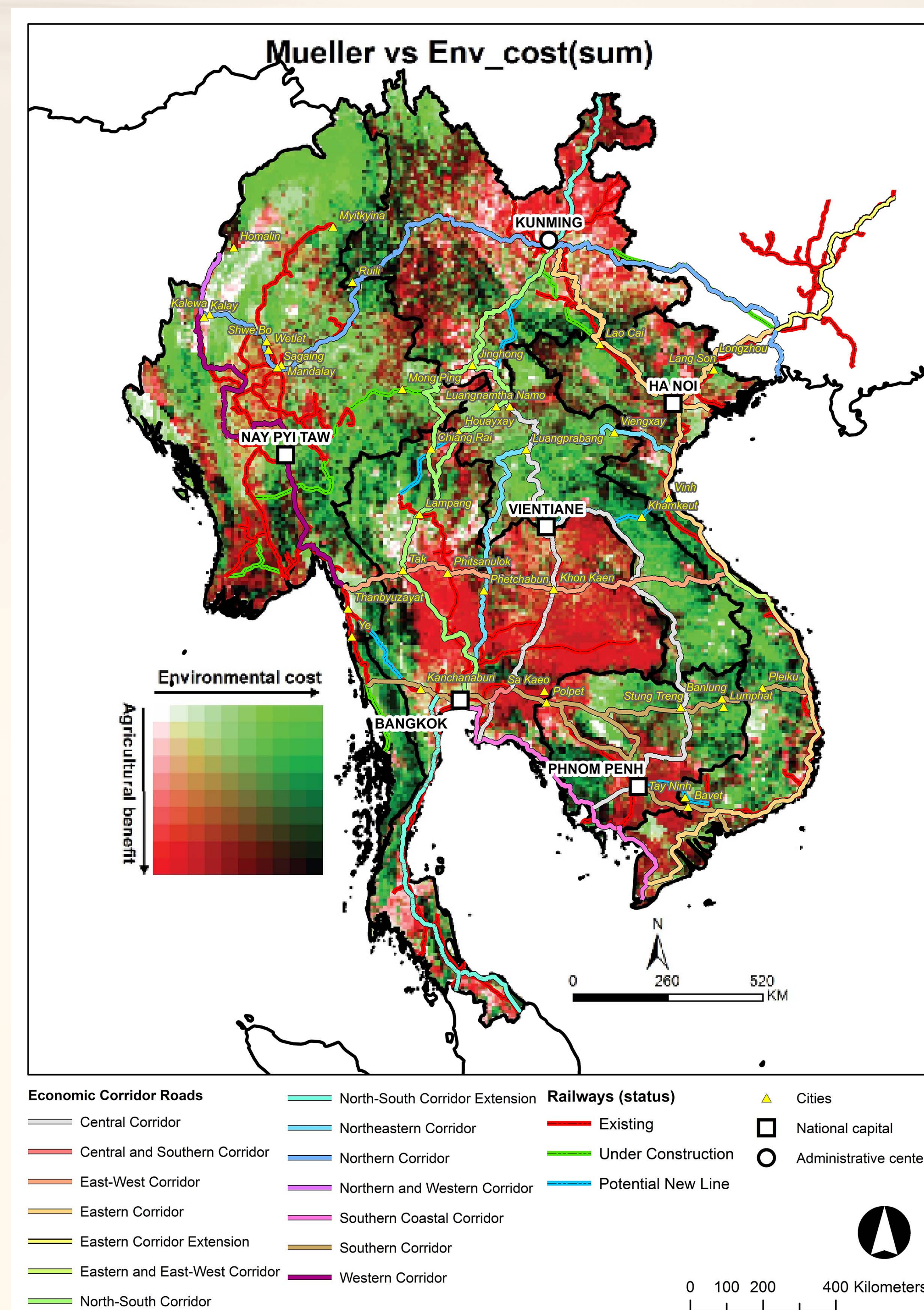
More than USD 100 billion for new roads, railways and ports in Southeast Asia

“For ASEAN economic integration to work for the millions of citizens and national budgets reliant on agroforestry, forestry and agriculture, we need a change of mindset and behaviours as well as new, integrated policies, real implementation and enforcement. The risks of failing to provide for our people are real. And the consequences will be severe.”

Dr Delia Catacutan
Country representative
World Agroforestry Centre Viet Nam

APPROACHES

- ASEAN-wide master research plan of land-use and infrastructure trade-offs
- Identification of ASEAN food-insecurity and environmental-degradation ‘hotspots’ in the face of rapid development and climate change
- Methods and tools to assist land-use planning and development
- Deployment of tools and methods for multiple stakeholder negotiations
- Analysis of ASEAN's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals
- Agroforestry centres of excellence in partnership with national institutions
- ASEAN Agroforestry Strategy



OPPORTUNITY: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will form the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by December 2015

- Single-market economy
- Trade, investment, labour and market liberalisation
- New, integrated transport network through previously remote, forested and agricultural areas that are home to millions of indigenous, poor, smallholding farmers who produce much of the region's food
- All the overland transport links will have to go through Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam and Myanmar; these countries stand to benefit the most through infrastructure development and the opening up of remote inland and less-developed regions
- All these efforts would significantly narrow the development gap within ASEAN

Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity

THREAT: Unknown impact on the 3.4 million km² of treed and agricultural landscapes that represent the major sources of livelihoods for the majority of the region's citizens and are the primary drivers of national economies

- Increased conversion of forests to agricultural land
- Massive expansion of large-scale commercial monoculture crops
- Exponential growth in extraction of natural resources
- Degradation of ecosystem services
- Increasing income disparities
- Greater vulnerability to climate change

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

- * Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore
- * Population: 617 million
- * Population growth: 1.3% a year.
- * Land area: 4.4 million km²
- * Agricultural land: 1.26 million km² (~ 30%)
- * Forests: 2.14 million km² (~ 50%)
- * Combined average gross domestic product growth: 5.7% per year
- = Rapid exploitation of natural resources

FAO (2014)

- * 10% of ASEAN's total population—60 million people—have insecure food supplies
- * 900 000 hectares of forest lost annually: 2000–2010
- * Many of the countries are amongst the most vulnerable in the world to the impact of climate change: droughts, storms and floods, landslides and rising altitudes for plant growth