Forest resources continue to be on the decline
From 1975 to 2010, forest cover declined to 29.388 million ha in 2015, 44% of the land cover. This represents a loss of 11.8 million ha in this period (between 1975 and 2015).

Primary drivers of deforestation
- Land use conversion (primarily for agriculture and mining), development of roads and other infrastructure
- Inconsistencies remain between policies and laws across different sectoral ministries in relationship to Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land

Primary drivers of forest degradation
- Unsustainable extraction of timber
- Illegal logging
- Production of fuelwood

Forest products and value chain issues
Until 2014, Myanmar had no restrictions on log exports, which made roundwood exports, especially teak, the dominant commercial forest product. At present, most of wood processing is undertaken by small and medium scale enterprises

Challenges to scale up community forestry initiatives
Community Forestry has been hampered by limited capacity and financial resources of local Forestry Department as well as lack of civil society staff related to awareness on CF rights and regulations

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Review Reserve Forest and Protected Public Forests, define how Production Forests should be managed, adapt district forest management plans
- Address wood fuel as the major rural energy source and driver of forest degradation
- Improve long-term management of state-owned plantations
- Develop and implement Myanmar Industrial and Commercial Plantation Strategy a close cooperation with wood-based industry
- Align definition and implementation of national certification standards with regional and international requirements
- Reform Myanmar Timber Enterprise, taking into account a strong regulatory, planning, and control function of Forest Department
- Improve enabling environment for small and medium-sized enterprises
- Simplify approval process of Community Forestry establishment, develop efficient delivery mechanism for scaling up CF
- Expand area under protection to meet national targets with increased focus on community-based conservation models and stakeholder engagement