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## Mangrove Extent Baseline from Landsat MSS, 1972-1977

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Documentation Revision Date: 2025-06-20

Dataset Version: 1

### Summary

This dataset includes a regional map of mangrove extent for Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia for the period of 1972-1977. The map was developed from Landsat 1-2 MSS Collection 1 Tier 2 imagery. Mangrove extent was generated using a Random Forest machine learning algorithm that effectively mapped a total of 15,420.51 km<sup>2</sup> at the nominal Landsat scale of 30 m. This map of mangrove extent served as a baseline to analyze changes in mangrove distribution in Southeast Asia from 1970s through 2020. Southeast Asia is home to some of the planet's most carbon-dense and biodiverse mangrove ecosystems. There is still much uncertainty with regards to the timing and magnitude of changes in mangrove cover over the past 50 years. While there are several regional to global maps of mangrove extent in Southeast Asia for the early 21st century, data prior to the mid-1990s are limited due to the scarcity of Earth Observation (EO) data of sufficient quality and the historical limitations to publicly available EO data. The data are provided in Cloud optimized GeoTIFF format at 60-m resolution. In addition, a shapefile outlines the region of analysis.

This dataset holds one Cloud optimized GeoTIFF and a shapefile in a compressed zip archive.

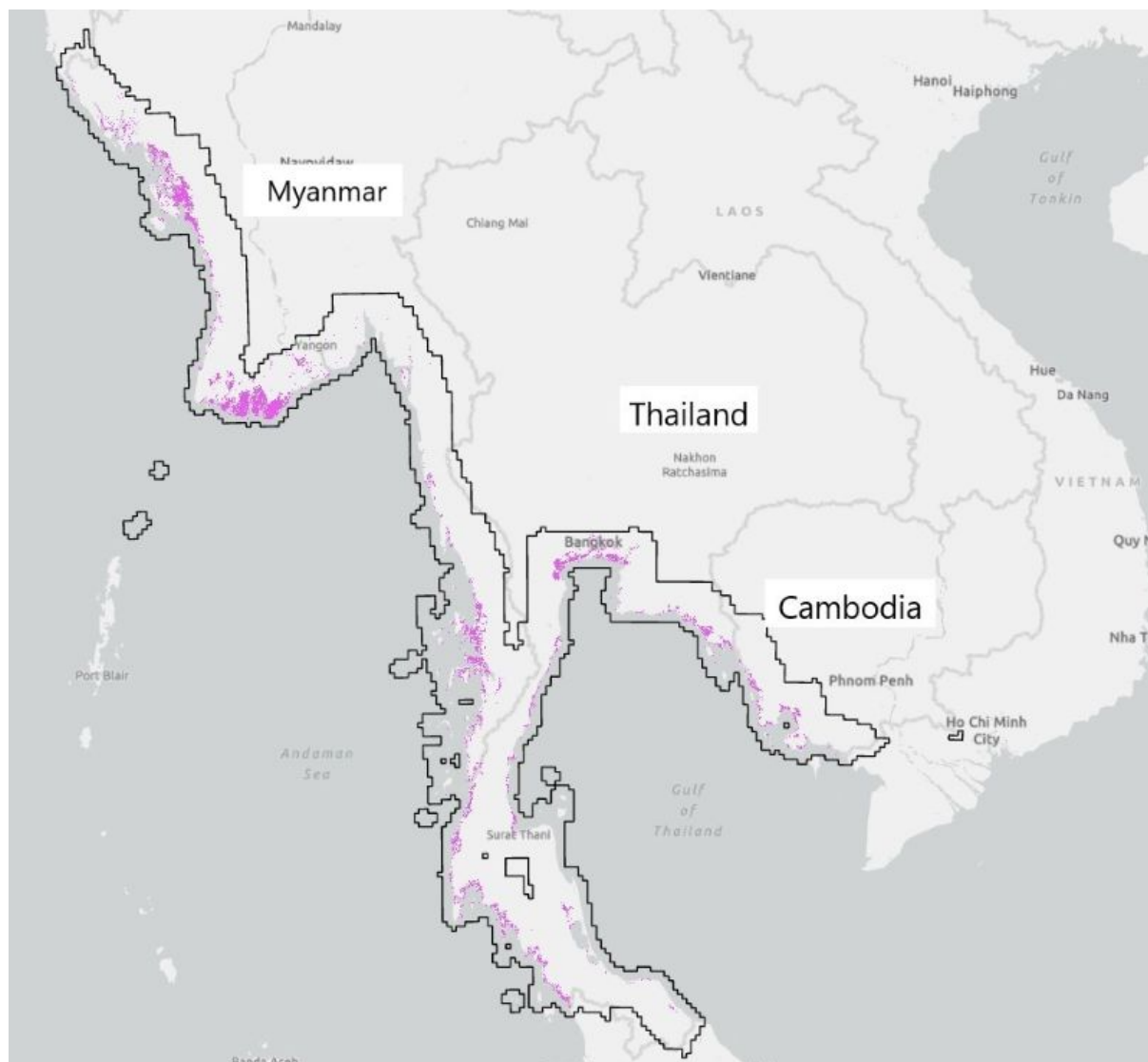


Figure 1. Regional extent of mangrove forest (magenta) on coasts of Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia for the period of 1972-1977. Black polygons outline the study area for this research. Source: Mangrove-Extent-LMSS-1972-1977-60m.tif.

## Citation

Baltezar, P., P. Murillo-Sandoval, K. Cavanaugh, C.L. Doughty, D. Lagomasino, T. Tieng, M. Simard, and L. Fatoyinbo. 2024. Mangrove Extent Baseline from Landsat MSS, 1972-1977. ORNL DAAC, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, USA. <https://doi.org/10.3334/ORNLDAC/2329>

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## 1. Dataset Overview

This dataset includes a regional map of mangrove extent for Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia for the period of 1972-1977. The map was developed from Landsat 1-2 MSS Collection 1 Tier 2 imagery. Mangrove extent was generated using a Random Forest machine learning algorithm that effectively mapped a total of 15,420.51 km<sup>2</sup> at the nominal Landsat scale of 30 m. This map of mangrove extent served as a baseline to analyze changes in mangrove distribution in Southeast Asia from 1970s through 2020 (Baltezar et al., 2023). Southeast Asia is home to some of the planet's most carbon-dense and biodiverse mangrove ecosystems. There is still much uncertainty with regards to the timing and magnitude of changes in mangrove cover over the past 50 years. While there are several regional to global maps of mangrove extent in Southeast Asia for the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, data prior to the mid-1990s are limited due to the scarcity of Earth Observation (EO) data of sufficient quality and the historical limitations to publicly available EO data.

Project: [Vegetation Collection](#)

The ORNL DAAC compiles, archives, and distributes data on vegetation from local to global scales. Specific topic areas include: belowground vegetation characteristics and roots, vegetation biomass, fire and other disturbance, vegetation dynamics, land cover and land use change, vegetation characteristics, and NPP (Net Primary Production) data.

**Related Publication:**

Baltezar, P., P.J. Murillo-Sandoval, K.C. Cavanaugh, C. Doughty, D. Lagomasino, T. Tieng, M. Simard, and T. Fatoyinbo. 2023. A regional map of mangrove extent for Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia shows losses of 44% by 1996. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 10:1127720. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2023.1127720>

**Related Dataset:**

Landsat 1-2 MSS (LMSS) Collection 1 Tier 2 DN. Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Interior. <https://www.usgs.gov/landsat-missions/landsat-collection-1>

**Acknowledgements:**

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**2. Data Characteristics**

**Study Areas:** Coastlines of Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia

**Spatial Resolution:** 60 m

**Temporal Coverage:** 1972-01-01 to 1977-12-31

**Temporal Resolution:** One time estimate

**Study Area:** All latitude and longitude given in decimal degrees

Site (Region)	Westernmost Longitude	Easternmost Longitude	Northernmost Latitude	Southernmost Latitude
Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia	89.714	107.500	24.014	5.635

**Data File Information**

This dataset holds a shapefile in a compressed zip archive (\*.zip) and one cloud optimized GeoTIFF(\*.tif).

The shapefile is *Coastal-Mangrove-Mask\_shapefile.zip*, a compressed Zip archive. This shapefile holds seven polygons that define the analysis mask used in this study (Figure 1).

The GeoTIFF is *Mangrove-Extent-LMSS-1972-1977-60m.tif* and maps the distribution of mangrove forest. It has these characteristics:

- Coordinate system: geographic coordinates, EPSG: 4326, WGS84 datum
- Spatial resolution: 0.000539 degree (~60 m)
- Number of bands: 1
- Pixel values: 1 = mangroves present, 0 = mangroves absent.  
Pixels outside of the polygons delineated in the shapefile have value of 0 and should be considered *no data*.

**3. Application and Derivation**

Southeast Asia is home to some of the planet’s most carbon-dense and biodiverse mangrove ecosystems. There is still much uncertainty with regards to the timing and magnitude of changes in mangrove cover over the past 50 years. While there are several regional to global maps of mangrove extent in Southeast Asia for the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, data prior to the mid-1990s are limited due to the scarcity of Earth Observation (EO) data of sufficient quality and the historical limitations to publicly available EO data.

This map of mangrove extent served as a baseline to analyze changes in mangrove distribution in Southeast Asia from 1970s through 2020 (Baltezar et al., 2023).

**4. Quality Assessment**

The Random Forest classification of mangrove and non-mangrove was assessed using a random stratification approach. The area proportions for the mangrove and non-mangrove classes were 16% and 84% of the total study area, and the sample allocation was based on the smaller area proportion class (mangrove). The anticipated accuracy was 70% and a proportion of 20% for the mangrove class, and a target standard error of 1%. This leveraged a set of 300 samples for the non-mangrove class and a set of 67 samples for the mangrove class. Each sample was inspected in original Landsat MSS imagery and Google Earth imagery. Accuracy assessments indicated that the classification for the mangrove and non-mangrove class had a producer accuracy of 80% and 98%, respectively; user accuracy of 90% and 96%; and an overall accuracy of 95%.

**5. Data Acquisition, Materials, and Methods**

This dataset is a classification of mangrove extent using Landsat 1-2 MSS Tier 2 data (LMSS) from 1972-1977 for three Southeast Asian countries: Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia. Mangrove extent was generated using a Random Forest machine learning algorithm that effectively mapped a total of 15,420.51 km2 at the nominal Landsat scale of 30 m.

Coastal areas were delineated to subset the LMSS data needed for processing. A coastal mask was generated to include all potential mangrove areas (Figure 1). The mask included: the known extent of more current mangroves and coastal wetlands based on the global Wetland Extent Map (Mcowen et al., 2017) and the Global Mangrove Watch dataset (GMW, Bunting et al., 2022), areas within 10 km of the shoreline, based on the global shorelines data (Sayre et al., 2019) and areas lower than 20 m elevations based on the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) DEM (Farr et al., 2007; Yang et al., 2011).

LMSS scenes for 1972 to 1977 within the study area were selected and modified to mask out cloud cover and correct to top-of-atmosphere reflectance. These scenes were combined into a single mosaic and a series of vegetation indices were calculated to serve as input for classification model development: simple ratio (SR), normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI), the normalized difference water index

(NDWI), the combined mangrove recognition index (CMRI), the soil-adjusted vegetation index (SAVI), the optimized soil-adjusted vegetation index (OSAVI), and the greenness chlorophyll vegetation index (GCVI).

Mangrove and non-mangrove areas were selected for model training then a Random Forests (RF) analysis was applied to develop a classification model. The RF model used 100 trees sampled at random for every 5<sup>th</sup> predictor, a minimum leaf population of 1, a bag fraction of 0.5 per tree, no limit on the maximum number of leaf nodes in each tree, a randomization seed value of 0, with the output mode set to a probability output. In the classified map, a 3 x 3 pixel majority filter was used to reduce noise.

To assess the classification, 300 samples for the non-mangrove class and a set of 67 samples for the mangrove class were visually compared to the original LMSS mosaic and imagery in Google Earth.

This map of mangrove extent in 1972-1977 served as a baseline to analyze changes in mangrove distribution in Southeast Asia from 1970s through 2020. Figures 2-4 illustrate results from that analysis (Baltezar et al., 2023).

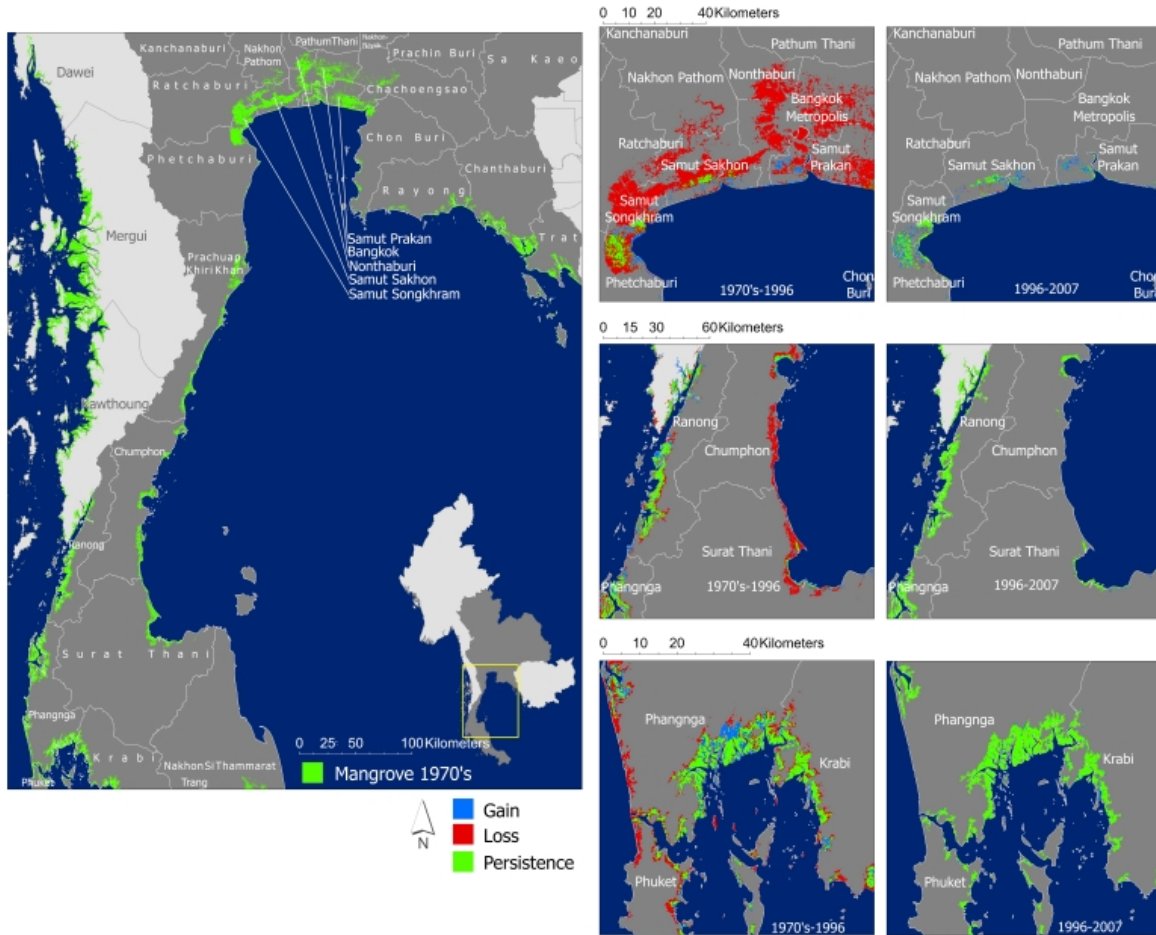


Figure 2. Gain, loss, and persistence of mangrove forest in Cambodia from 1970s to early 2000s. Source: Baltezar et al. (2023).



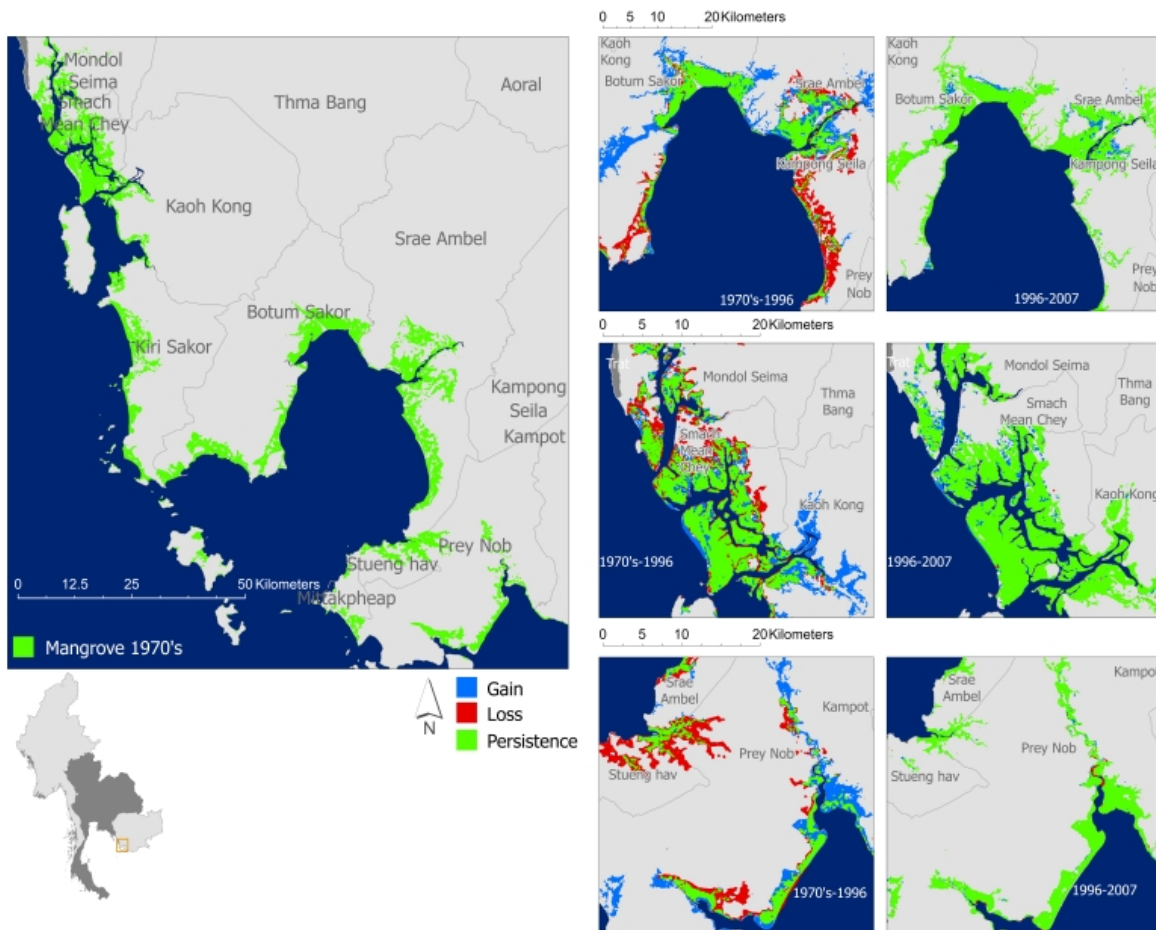


Figure 3. Gain, loss, and persistence of mangrove forest in Thailand from 1970s to early 2000s. Source: Baltezar et al. (2023).

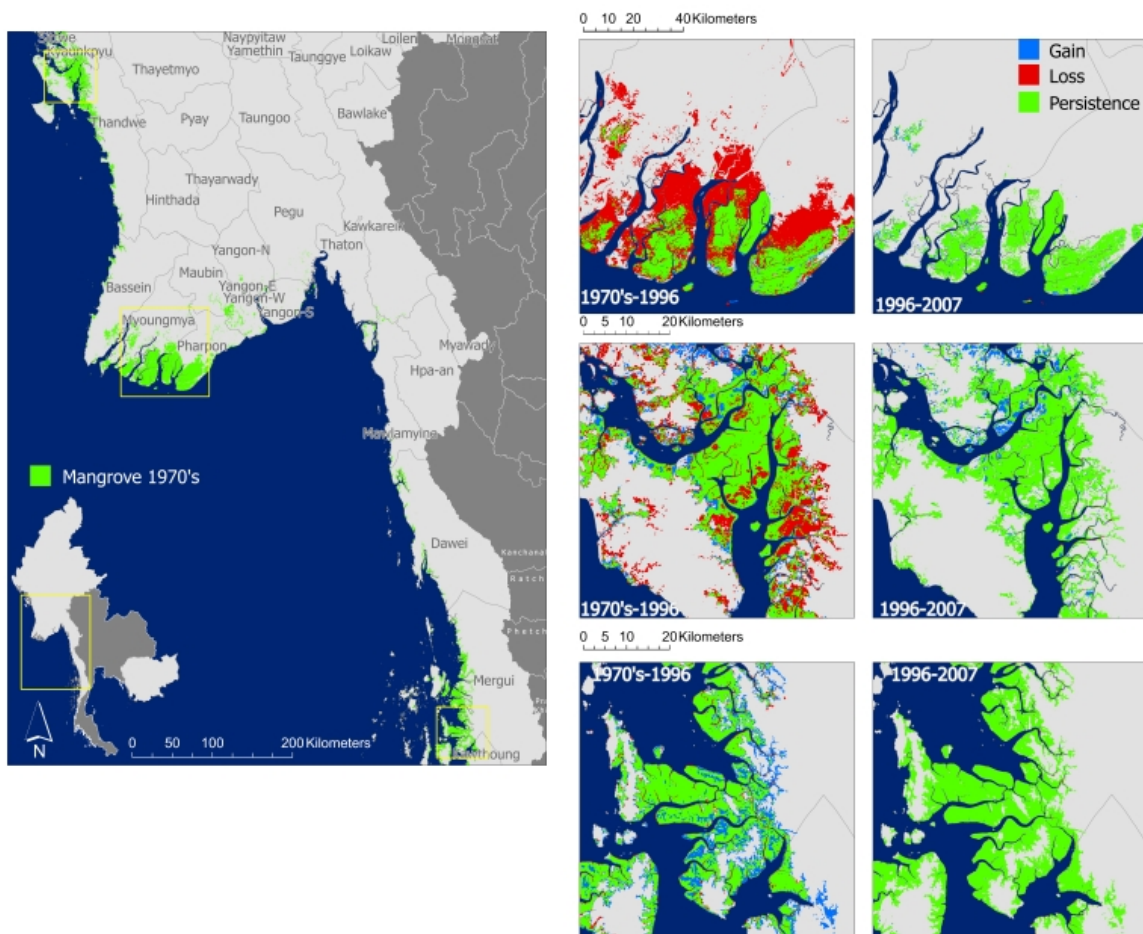


Figure 4. Gain, loss, and persistence of mangrove forest in Myanmar from 1970s to early 2000s. Source: Baltezar et al. (2023).

Details of the methods and results of this study are available from Baltezar et al. (2023).

## 6. Data Access

These data are available through the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Distributed Active Archive Center (DAAC).

[Mangrove Extent Baseline from Landsat MSS, 1972-1977](#)

Contact for Data Center Access Information:

- E-mail: [uso@daac.ornl.gov](mailto:uso@daac.ornl.gov)
- Telephone: +1 (865) 241-3952

## 7. References

Baltezar, P., P.J. Murillo-Sandoval, K.C. Cavanaugh, C. Doughty, D. Lagomasino, T. Tieng, M. Simard, and T. Fatoyinbo. 2023. A regional map of mangrove extent for Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia shows losses of 44% by 1996. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 10. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2023.1127720>

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