Background
The study was done by Mai Mai, Ting Lwi and Tsawm Bu of KYO. Three visits were made in August and December. They met with village leaders, elders, and 15 villagers at each trip. The village is located between Kutkai and Muse towns. 12 households (70 persons) live there. It was founded in 1952. Three main kinship groups (Kareng, Lahpai, Galau) settled. Its territory covers 1007 acres, including gardens (32.5 acres), rainfed lowland paddy (26.5 acres), permanent, upland fields with paddy or corn (15 acres), tea (11 acres) and bamboo (7 acres) as perennial crops. Since 1993, there is no more rotational cultivation in the uplands and instead, the village protects 900 acres of forest and 15 acres of pastureland which also contribute to local livelihoods.

Farm and forest lands
It is not allowed to sell farmlands to outsiders. These are acquired by heritage. The heritage is decided by parents, relatives and the traditional committee. The children who stay and look after the parents have the priority for inheritance.

The forest areas are protected by villagers led by the village committee.
There are 5 types forests:
- Watershed area where no trees may be cut
- Natural Forest: villagers can only cut for household use timber after approval by the village committee
- Village forest: trees can be cut for construction of villagers’ own houses.
- Firewood forest: 5 lan (30 feet) is allowed for firewood for household use annually.
- Forest for village fund: it is used to produce firewood and timber for the village fund, especially for religious affairs and village welfare.
- Pasture can be used by all after cultivation period, not only by villagers but also by people from other villages.

Rules on forest
- Can cut fire-wood (less than 12 yards per household)
- Can cut to make pillars to build house
- Must not cut and sell for fire wood.
- Must not burn the forest.
- No hunting
- No charcoal making
- Not allowed to sell the forest land
- No outsiders are allowed to take any forest products
- If caught cutting and stealing wood, the goods will be confiscated and kept for the village fund.

For example, outsiders caught stealing the valuable tree bark were punished and their knives taken away by the management committee.
- Will be warned 3 times. If insiders they will be driven away from the village and handed over to the authorities.

Key findings
There is a forest management system in the village led by a village management committee and with participation of community. They want to get legal registration for Community Forestry by Forest Department as they worry about their conserved forest because it is situated near the ethnic conflict zone and they worry about potential road construction in the future.

Every villager can take ordinary NTFP from the forest equally. High-value NTFPs are collected by different groups in the village and the income shared by group members. These high-value NTFPs may be tree bark or orchids.

Forest customary tenure in Man Ping village, Northern Shan State, Myanmar
Kachin Youth Organization (KYO)