

# **SPEOLOGICAL EXPEDITIONS TO THE SHAN PLATEAU IN MYANMAR (BURMA)**

**Joerg Dreybrodt, Imogen Furlong, Fleur Loveridge &  
Peter Talling**

**Myanmar Cave Documentation Project**



# Overview

- **Project introduction**
- **Region & landscapes**
- **Access, logistics – some facts**
- **Caving areas**
  - **Hopon - caving with the monks**
  - **Pinlaung – Namun system**
  - **Ywangan – potential for longest caves**
- **Outlook & Acknowledgement**

# Results of the Cave Documentation Project

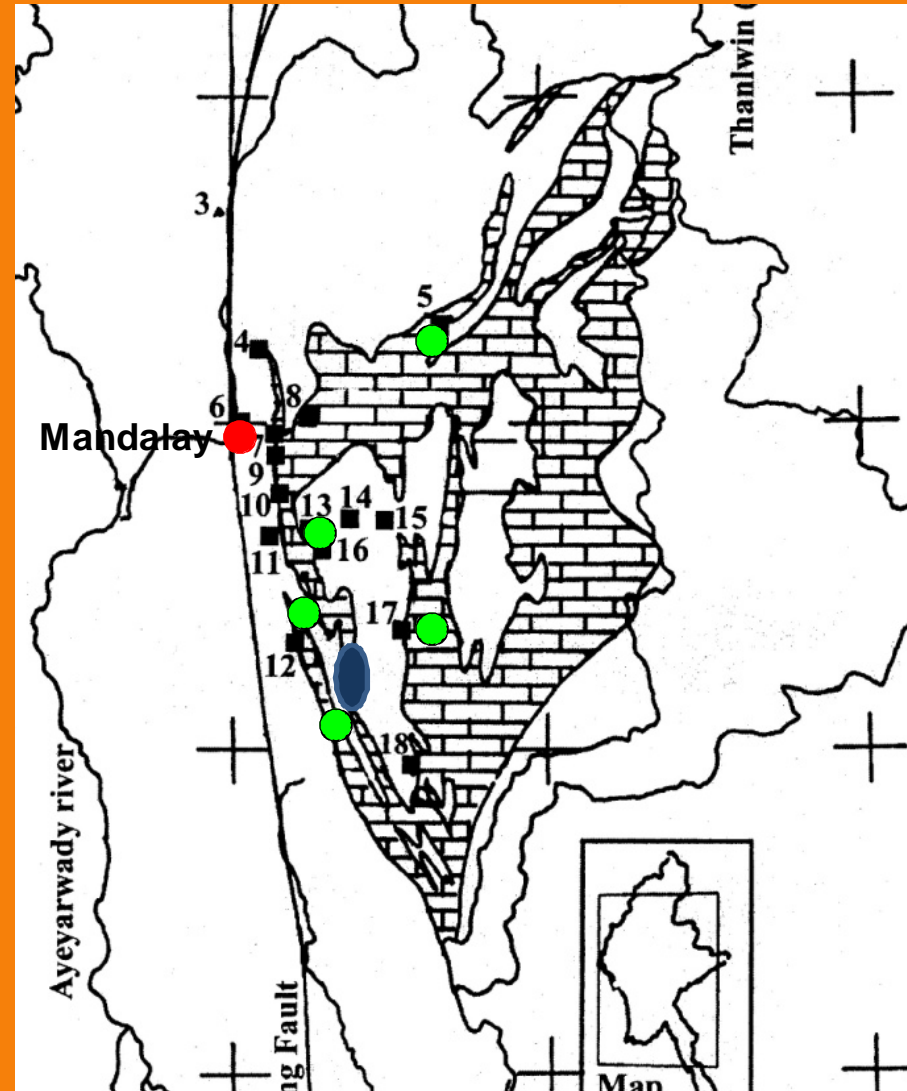
No.	Cave	Location	Length(m)	Surveyed
1	Khauk Khaung	Ywangan	4,790	2012-2013
2	Mondowa Gu	Taunggyi	1,770	1998
3	Hopon Spring Cave	Hopon	1,655	2011
4	White water Buffalo and Tiger Cave	Hopon	1,343	2010
5	Namun Spring Cave	Pinlaung	1,162	2013
6	Happy Monk Cave	Hopon	975	2010
7	Leikte Gu (active)	Kalaw	960	1998
8	Maung Nyunt Sinkhole	Pinlaung	900	2005
9	Naung See cave 2	Kutkai	859	2011
10	Sadan Gu	Hpa-An	800	2009 (1995)

- Origin in 2009 from Northern Lao – European Cave Project
- 5 expeditions: 4 x Shan state, 1 x Hpa-An
- Two teams:
  - German / International Team (coordination J. Dreybrodt)
  - British team (coordination P. Talling)

**Mission: Document caves as basis for future research**

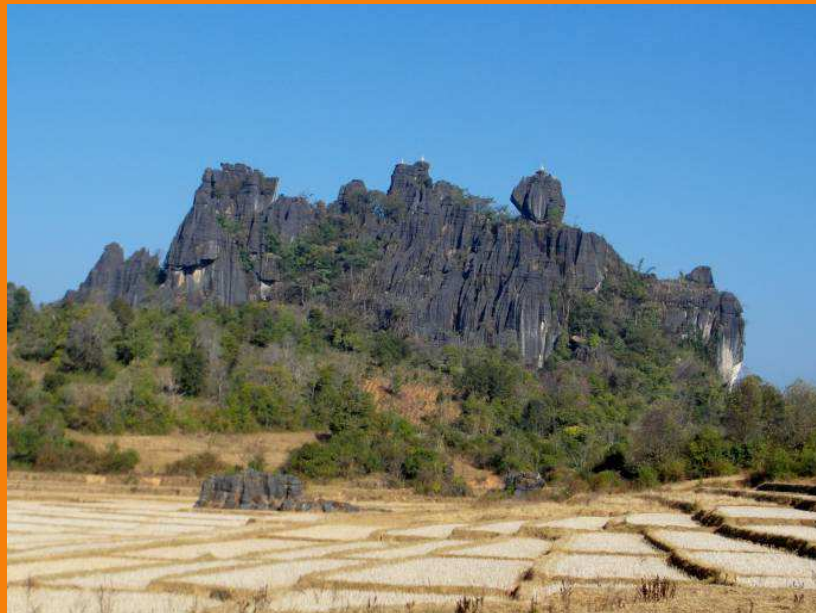


# Major karst areas



● Expedition areas

# Karst on the Shan plateau ( $\approx 1500$ m asl)



# Myanmar basics for expeditions

Permission

Essential, especially for minority areas

Visa

easy & cheap (1-2 weeks, 25 Euro)

Accommodation

Very good, about 25 US\$ for double,  
to stay in the field extremely difficult

Internet

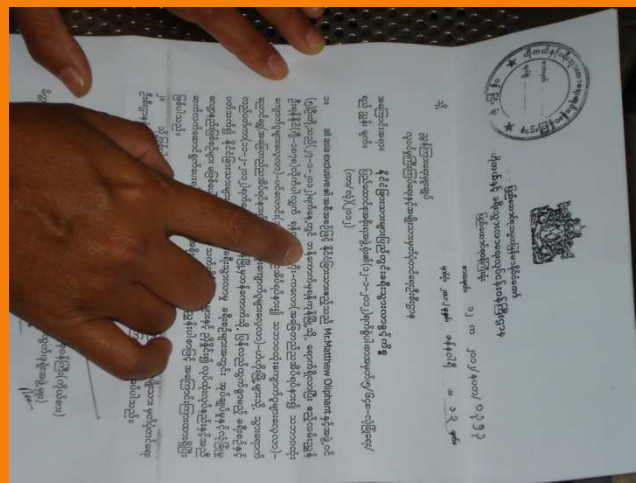
almost everywhere

Transport

minivan 100 US\$/day

People

extremely friendly and welcoming



# Access situation to karst

Inhibited by minority tribes (self admin) like Pa-O

Restricted areas for foreigners due to:

- opium cultivation
- insurgences



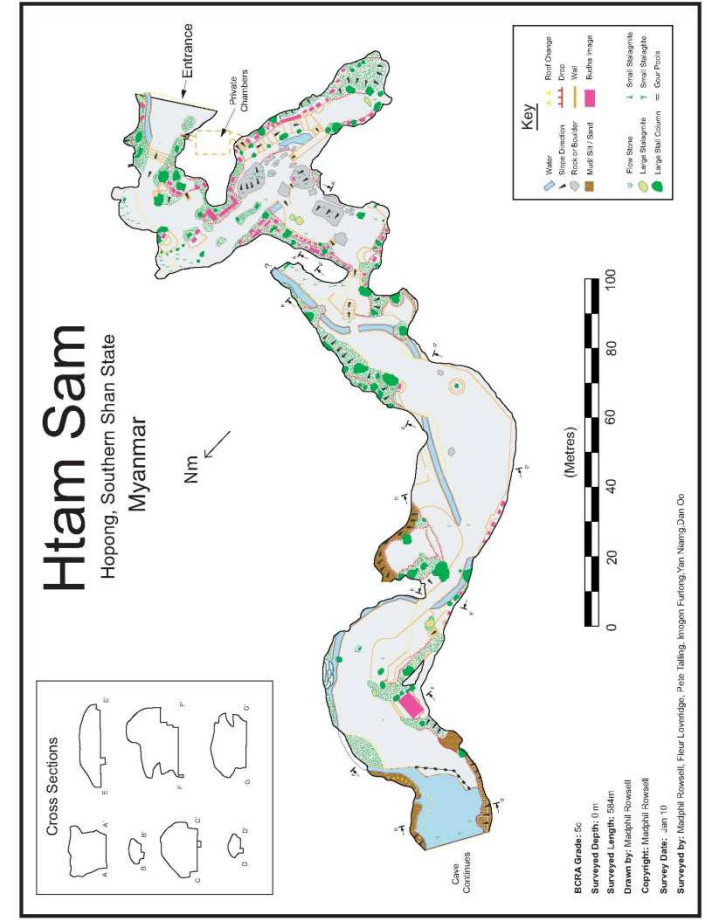
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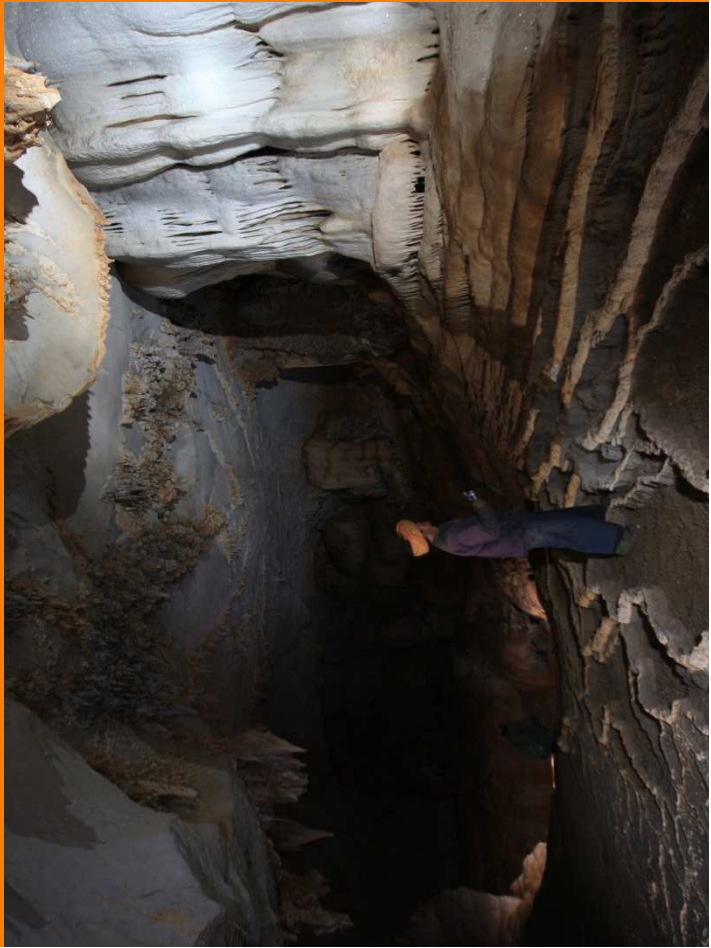
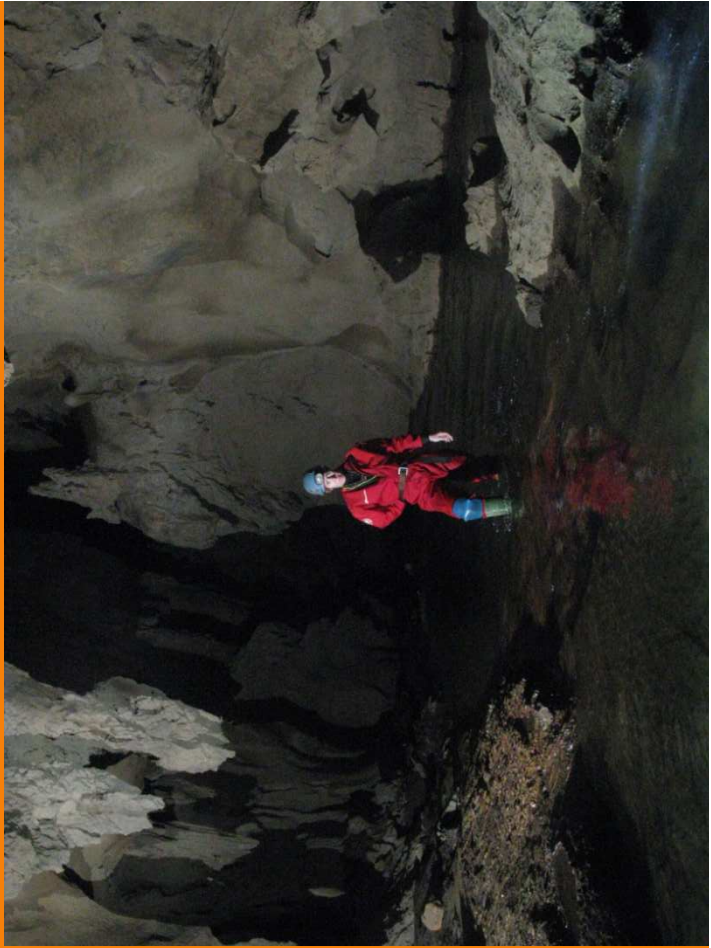
# Pa-O Monastery administering Hopon area





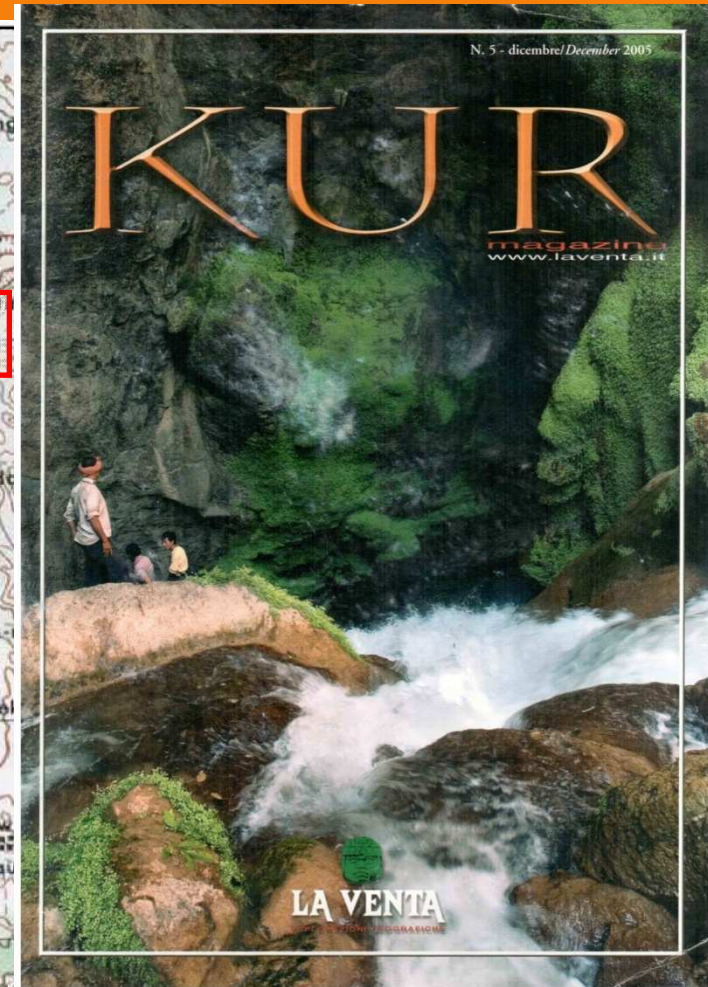
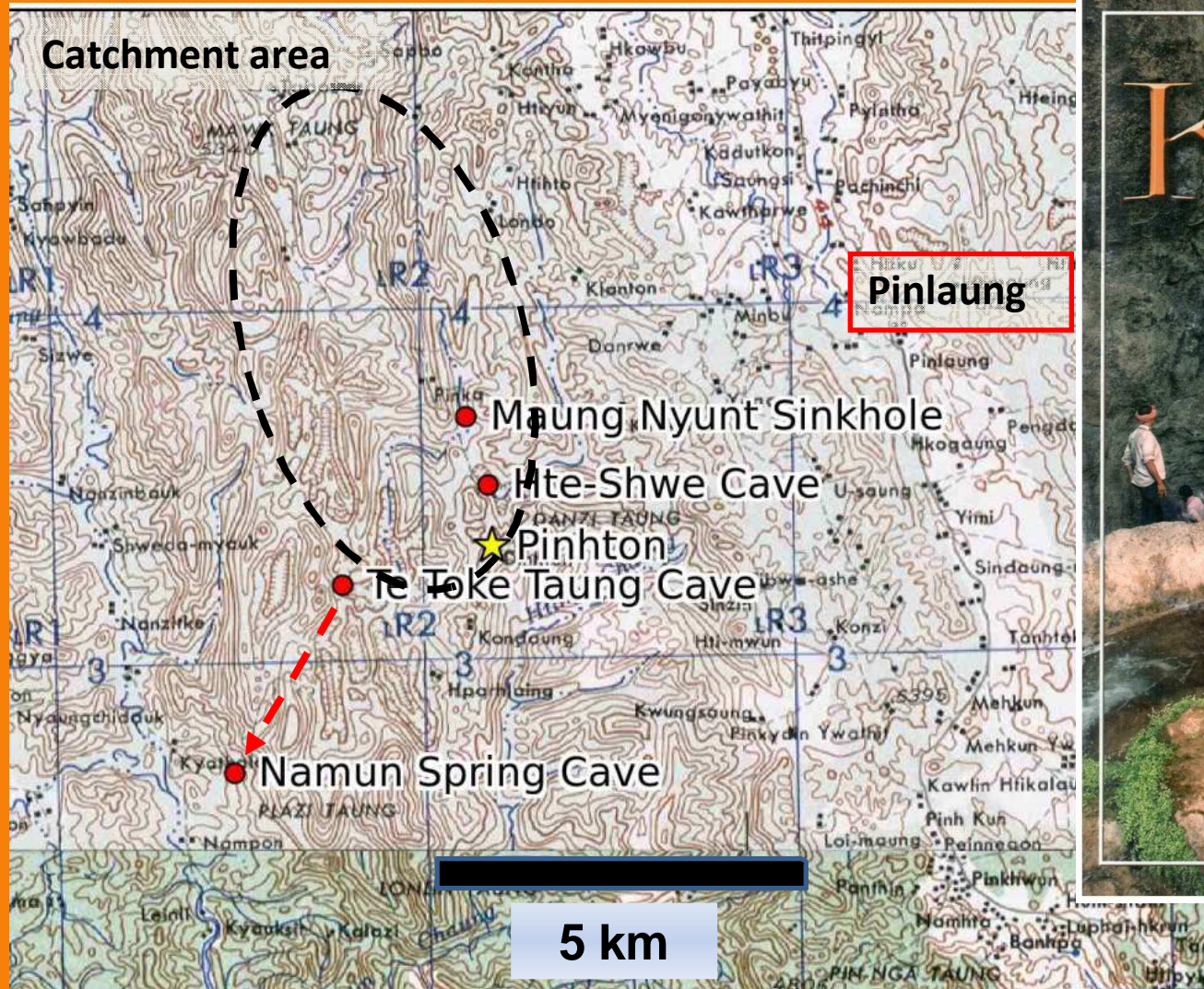


Well decorated end chamber of Tham Sam



# Namun cave system / Pinlaung

## 500 m altitude difference Te Toke - Namun



Te Toke Taung  
La Venta 2005

# Ridge hosting Namun Spring Cave with Paulaung river





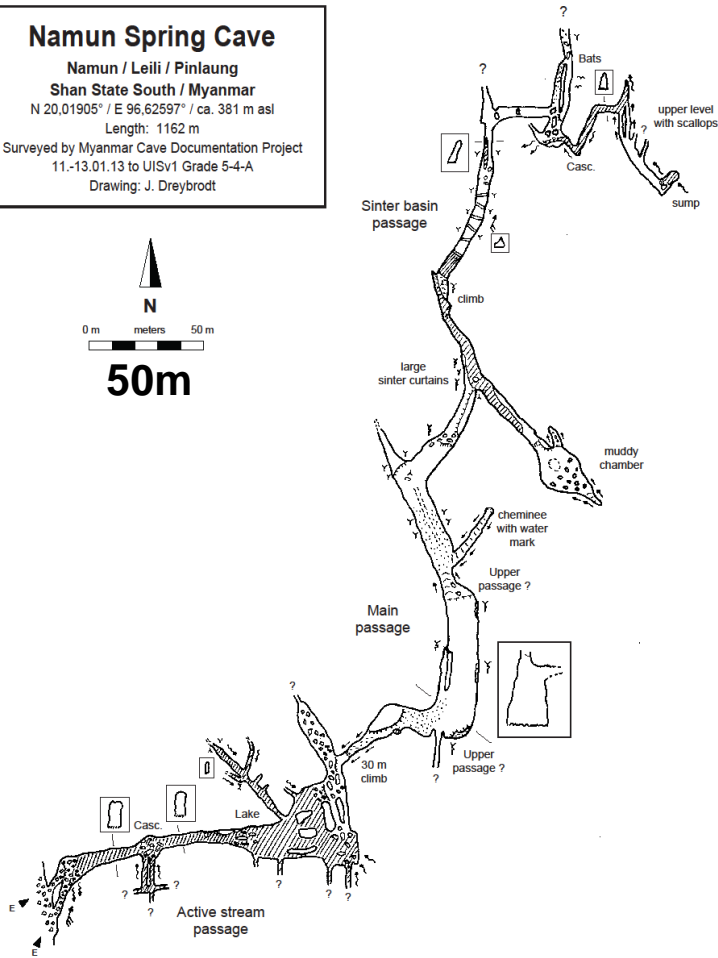
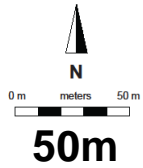
## **Namun Spring Cave 2013**

**Access & entrance area**

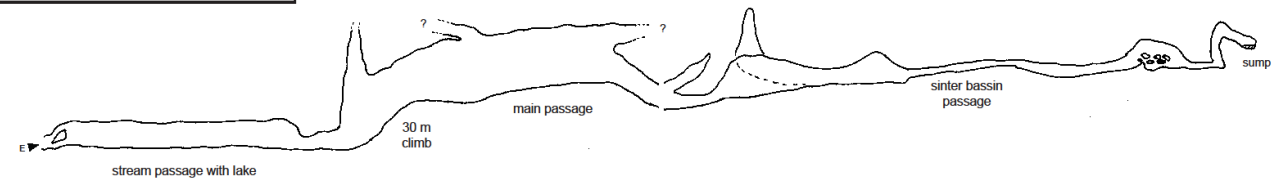
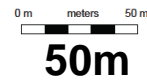
**Finally surveyed after  
prediction from maps in  
1998 by Dunkley and  
confirmation of entrance  
by La Venta in 2005**

## Namun Spring Cave

Namun / Leili / Pinlaung  
Shan State South / Myanmar  
N 20.01905° / E 96.62597° / ca. 381 m asl  
Length: 1162 m  
Surveyed by Myanmar Cave Documentation Project  
11.-13.01.13 to UISV1 Grade 5-4-A  
Drawing: J. Dreybrodt



### Extended Profile

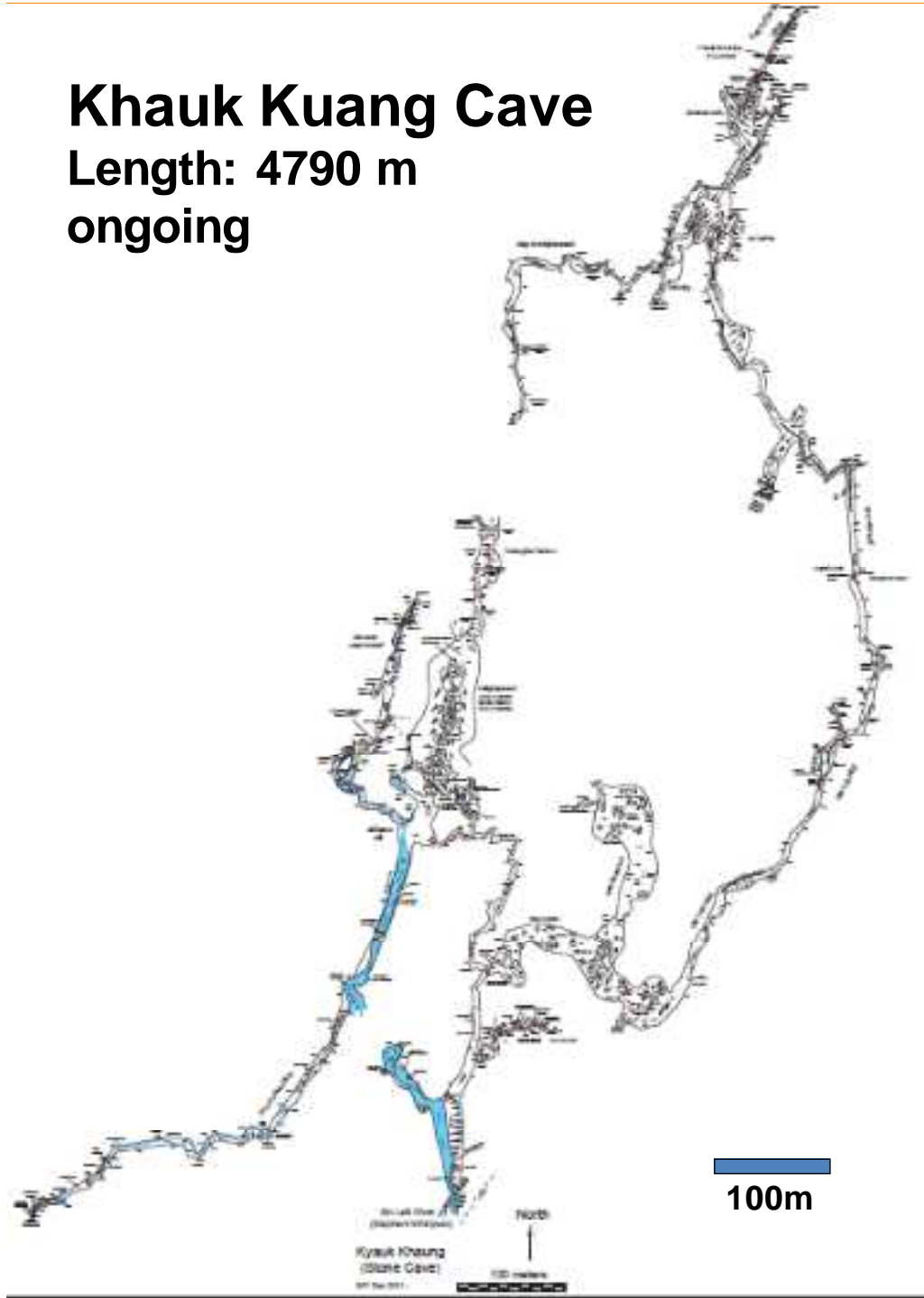


**Namun Spring**  
Length: 1162 m  
ongoing




# Khauk Kuang Cave

Length: 4790 m  
ongoing



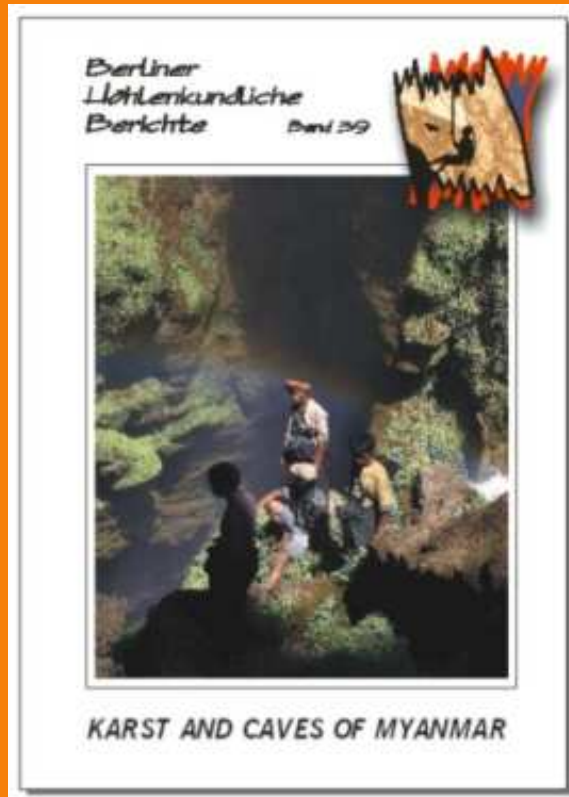
# Ywangan



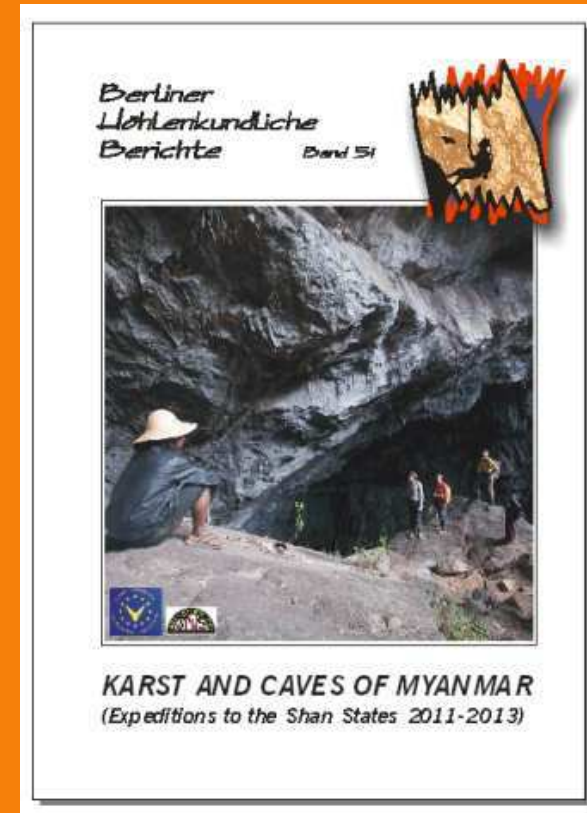
An aerial photograph taken from an airplane window, showing a vast, mountainous landscape. The terrain is rugged and covered in dense green vegetation, with a prominent, winding road or path cutting through the valleys. The sky is clear and blue. The airplane's wing and part of the fuselage are visible in the foreground, framing the view.

**What is next ?**  
**Key is access due to limited  
road network and restricted areas**

# Publications in the BHB series



2010



2013

Available at the ICS at SPELEOBOOKS  
or online at [www.speleo-berlin.de](http://www.speleo-berlin.de)

# Acknowledgement

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[www.myanmarcaves.com](http://www.myanmarcaves.com)



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