

**Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions**

**07/03/2022**

**CEPF Grant 111921**

**Fauna & Flora International**

**Community-based protected area management; Primate Conservation in  
Myanmar Phase II**

**Kachin State, Myanmar**

## **Grant Summary**

1. Grantee organization.

*Fauna & Flora International*

2. Grant title.

*Community-based management and protection of newly gazetted Protected Areas; Primate Conservation in Myanmar Phase II*

3. Grant number.

*111921*

4. Grant amount (US dollars).

*\$240,000*

5. Proposed dates of grant.

*1 July 2022 to 31 Dec 2024*

6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken.

*Myanmar*

7. Date of preparation of this document.

*07/03/2022*

**The Process Framework will describe the project and how restrictions of access to natural resources and measures to assist affected communities. Affected communities should have the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the Process Framework. Typically, the Applicant will prepare a draft Framework that will then be shared and discussed with local communities and other relevant stakeholders. Based on the consultations, a final Framework will be prepared. CEPF may provide guidance on development of the Framework and will review and approve the final Framework prior to approving the final project proposal application. The Process Framework should include the following elements:**

### **A. Project background**

The project's target species for primate conservation in Myanmar are the Western hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock* - EN) and the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus strykeri* - CR). Both species are priority species for CEPF investments. The main threats for the Western hoolock gibbon are shifting cultivation (resulting in habitat loss and fragmentation) and hunting for bushmeat. The Myanmar snub-nosed monkey is threatened by hunting and wildlife trade, driven by its proximity to the Chinese border, and habitat degradation, loss, and fragmentation caused by illegal logging and shifting cultivation. Based on the Myanmar Hoolock Gibbon Conservation Status Review (FFI 2013) and the Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey Conservation Status Review (FFI/ DPZ 2017), two KBAs have been identified as holding core populations of both species in Myanmar: Natyekan and May Hka.

During the first phase of the CEPF funded project (Participatory Gazettement of KBAs for primate conservation in Myanmar, April 2018 to June 2021), FFI successfully built local conservation

constituencies at both sites. Community-based patrol and monitoring teams were equipped and trained for SMART patrolling and are now actively carrying out operations. FFI facilitated a participatory protected area gazettelement process for both sites, based on the principles of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC). Through the sustained efforts of FFI and the local communities, both sites are now fully protected under Myanmar law, with Imawbum National Park legally gazetted in March 2020 and Mann Wildlife Sanctuary (Natyekan KBA) gazetted in December 2021.

To secure effective long-term conservation of the two core populations, this phase II project will facilitate the community-based development of collaborative management systems and plans for both Mann Wildlife Sanctuary and Imawbum National Park. While the management plan will make provisions for the allocation of government staff and protected area management budgets, they are unlikely to be sufficient, particularly in a place as remote as Imawbum National Park. Therefore, the collaboration of local communities, particularly with community-based patrols, is essential. These need to be supported with sustainable livelihoods investments to incentivize support for park management and to reduce local threats to the species through conditional Voluntary Cooperation Agreements (VCA), signed between project beneficiaries and FFI.

During the Phase I project, FFI successfully piloted gibbon and biodiversity-friendly coffee agroforestry systems in two villages on the border of the proposed Mann Wildlife Sanctuary. This was done as a proof of concept for an alternative to shifting cultivation, which threatens the remaining primary forest and, as soil fertility decreases, generates increasingly poor returns for local people. Local farmers signed VCAs and received technical and material support to grow the crop, supported by a local social enterprise, Genius Coffee, which committed to purchasing coffee beans.

In the Imawbum National Park landscape FFI has successfully provided community development grants for walnut plantations, wet rice cultivation and livestock raising, providing incentives for the protection of the remaining primary forest, to stop in-discriminatory hunting practices, such as trapping and snaring, and the hunting of protected species such as the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey, also based on community conservation stewardship agreements.

This phase II project will upscale the approach (replicating these initiatives in at least 11 villages bordering Mann Wildlife Sanctuary and at least 10 bordering Imawbum National Park), while creating a sustainable financing mechanism, through the development of improved value chains, in collaboration with the private sector partners. Without this project, the now-unsustainable shifting agricultural practices would likely lead to further poverty in the area through diminishing returns, while damaging habitat for gibbons and leaving

the area open to other threats, particularly illegal logging. This, combined with hunting, could lead to genetic isolation and ultimately the extinction of the species.

## **B. Participatory implementation**

### **i. Procedure development**

FFI has a position statement and guidance document related to displacement (including economic displacement i.e., the loss of or restricted access to livelihood resources) that was approved by FFI's Council in 2016. FFI endeavors to ensure that our conservation activities do not disadvantage or undermine poor, vulnerable, or marginalized people who are dependent upon or live adjacent to natural resources, and wherever possible we seek to conserve biodiversity in ways that enhance local well-being and social equity. We are committed to respecting human rights, promoting their protection and realization within our conservation programs, and supporting the governance systems that can secure those rights. We are one of the founding members of the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights (<http://www.thecihr.org>), a consortium of international conservation NGOs that seek to improve the practice of conservation by promoting the integration of human rights in conservation policy and practice.

FFI seeks to uphold this position in all its partnerships, including with government departments, the corporate sector, and civil society organizations.

This draft procedure has been developed by FFI as part of the CEPF proposal development process.

Prior to finalizing and implementation it will be discussed, revised, and approved with:

- Relevant local communities
- CEPF

### **ii. Project implementation**

The project will facilitate a participatory land-use plan for community-managed landscapes in the buffer zone of Man Wildlife Sanctuary, and community-based zonation of Imawbum National Park, through the integration of biodiversity science, local and Indigenous knowledge, community land and forest use, identified through participatory mapping, conducted through an FPIC process. The project will incentivize community-based conservation through sustainable livelihood interventions linked to conservation stewardship agreements, piloted in the first phase of the project. The project will build the capacity of at least two civil society organizations in Man Wildlife Sanctuary and Imawbum National Park for community-based conservation and sustainable development.

## Activities

1.1 Facilitate zonation and land-use planning for community-managed landscape in the buffer zone of Mann Wildlife sanctuary through the integration of biodiversity science, local and Indigenous knowledge, community land and forest use, and conducted through an FPIC process

1.2 Facilitate zonation and land-use planning for Imawbum NP through the integration of biodiversity science, local and Indigenous knowledge, community land and forest use, and conducted through an FPIC process

1.3 Identify additional biodiversity-friendly livelihood intervention in the buffer zone of Imawbum NP.

2.1 Provide refresher SMART training for community patrol groups in Imawbum NP and Man WS.

2.2 Support operation of SMART patrols and wildlife monitoring.

2.3 Undertake analysis and review of SMART database to improve wildlife monitoring and patrolling.

2.4 Conduct population survey gibbon using an auditory fixed-point method in Mann WS and MSM using line transect method in Imawbum NP.

3.1 Provide training in collaboration with Genius Coffee to local partner (ACCA) and smallholders to improve planting, harvesting, and post-harvest processing of coffee.

3.2 Provide training to establish biodiversity-friendly agroforestry systems and internal control systems for PGS Myanmar organic certification and Wildlife Friendly certification (<https://wildlifefriendly.org/>);

3.3 Develop improved long-term value chains for organic coffee through market development in collaboration with Genius coffee.

3.4 Facilitate the improvement of planting, harvesting, and post-harvest processing of walnuts in Imawbum with technical support from Asante or other local business partners.

3.5 Improve the development of walnut value chains to create long-term sustainable economic incentives for community-based conservations.

4.1 Training for CSO community facilitators in biodiversity-friendly production, post-harvest processing, and marketing of local commodities (coffee, walnut, and other agroforestry associated products).

4.2 Training of local CSO partners for organizational development and community-based conservation.

4.3 Develop a community network/management forum at each site.

4.4 Consultation with community leaders, farmers, and management forum to agree on an equitable benefit sharing agreement for the coffee and walnut enterprise.

**C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons**

The World Bank defines affected persons as, '*all persons losing assets or use of resources as a direct result of a Bank-supported project*'. Project 'affected people' are entitled to compensation and/or other forms of assistance. This includes people losing land they have held under customary or traditional rights, people utilizing common property resources, squatters residing on public lands, and encroachers deprived of established access to resources, as well as those with formally recognized property rights. It also includes tenants, artisans, and wage earners whose livelihoods or living standards would be adversely affected as a direct result of the project. It does not include persons opportunistically invading a site after disclosure of project plans for the purpose of obtaining assistance.

Based on this definition, the project will not have any impact on any person or group of people's right to access resources.

Both protected areas, including core/buffer zones, are surrounded by villages with indigenous people: Imawbum (Law Waw, Lisu, Lecik), Pauksa (Asho Cin). None of the protected areas, core, and buffer zones include any settlement, agricultural or fallow land with core zones only established in primary forest areas.

Access restrictions only apply for illegal or unsustainable extraction of natural resources, such as hunting and trade of protected species, or illegal logging. The main objective of this project is to reduce the dependence of communities on natural resources, both legally and illegally accessed, by providing them with alternative and sustainable livelihoods. Furthermore, as the zonation and buffer zone management plans will increase legal access to forest areas to those communities currently dependent on illegal extraction, no negative impacts on those communities are expected.

FFI is actively supporting community forestry rights in the proposed buffer zones of both sites. All indigenous people and all other relevant stakeholders actively participated in the initial gazettement process at both sites, and the project, as well as the forest department, are fully committed to a process of management plan development that is based on free, prior, and informed consent of all indigenous people, local villagers and other relevant stakeholders.

**D. Measures to assist the affected persons**

We do not anticipate any individuals being eligible for compensation as a result of this project as the project itself will not limit or prohibit access to natural resources.

**E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.**

All projects that trigger a safeguard must provide local communities and other relevant stakeholders with a means to raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team or the CEPF Secretariat.

The project intends to use the stakeholder consultation process to avoid any conflicts before they arise from the project implementation as much as possible. However, if the matter is beyond the capability of direct project partners, an intervention of respected local leaders, such as elders and religious leaders, will be sought. These key local authorities will be engaged from the start of the project and their overall support of the project will be facilitated through regular updates.

A grievance mechanism will be established to enable the receipt, review, and addressing of communities' concerns and complaints. Any person or group who feels disenfranchised - most likely as it relates to community access of specific forest areas during survey periods or through competition resulting from the selection process of community field assistants to support field research - has a right to raise a grievance; the project proponent has the responsibility to respond within a reasonable time.

Anonymous complaints will not be considered, but complainants' identities will be kept confidential if requested when submitting a grievance. Ineligible complaints include:

- Complaints with respect to actions or omissions that are the responsibility of parties other than FFI or project partners under its authority.
- Complaints submitted:
  - After the date of official closure of the project; or
  - 18 months after the date of the official closure of the project in cases where the complaint addresses an impact resulting from project activities that were not, and reasonably could not have been, known prior to the date of official closure.
- Complaints that relate to the laws, policies, and regulations of the country, unless this directly relates to the entity's obligation to comply with ESMS principles, standards, and procedures.
- Complaints that relate to CEPF non-project-related housekeeping matters, such as finance, human resources, and administration.
- Complaints submitted by the same claimant on matters they submitted to the grievance mechanism earlier unless new evidence is provided.

- Complaints that relate to fraud or corruption or to the procurement of goods and services because they fall under different mechanisms.

For complaints that cannot be resolved through this mechanism, the grievance will be escalated as per the CEPF grievance policy and procedure.

#### **F. Implementation Arrangements**

FFI is responsible for the overall implementation of the project and will ensure that the Process Framework is followed. FFI will closely collaborate with relevant government authorities, including the Wildlife Sanctuary Management and Forestry Department at township and district levels.

This project builds on existing initiatives and collaborations, through our ongoing work in Myanmar, and has been developed in consultation with project stakeholders. Thus, we have already begun implementing methods to reduce the likelihood of conflict and complaints.

Regarding the grievance mechanism, participating communities will be provided with the contact details of the FFI Project Team as well as the CEPF-Regional Implementation Team. This will be done by each project site leader during project start-up meetings with the community. The contact person in Yangon responsible for dealing with these grievances will be the Project Manager, Aung Lin, and the Acting Country Director, Ngwe Lwin.

Regular meetings with project proponents will provide a forum for issues to be shared and resolved in a timely and transparent manner. This should reduce the need for a formal grievance mechanism to be used.