

Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

1 January 2018

CEPF Grant 103506

Myanmar Forest Association

*Community-based Conservation and Development in in Khanti and Pyin Bu Nge
Islands, Tanintharyi Region, Myanmar*

Tanintharyi Region, Myanmar

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Myanmar Forest Association
2. Grant title: Community-based Conservation and Development in in Khanti and Pyin Bu Nge Islands, Tanintharyi Region, Myanmar
3. Grant number: 103506
4. Grant amount (US dollars): 80,949
5. Proposed dates of grant: 1 February 2018
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Tanintharyi Region, Myanmar
7. Date of preparation of this document:

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 will enhance the ability of MFA and communities on ecosystem conservation to carry out community-based conservation, improve community participation in conservation, improve livelihoods of communities and advocate involving government and other stakeholders to strengthen coordinated conservation efforts in Myanmar. Firstly an inception workshop will be conducted to inform the proposed works to local authority and relevant stakeholders. Trainings/workshop on CCCA, project cycle management, biodiversity assessment, livestock breeding and home garden will be conducted. Livestock particularly piglets and fruit seedlings will be provided for targeted communities. Advocacy for involvement of government and other stakeholders will be undertaken to strengthen coordinated conservation efforts in Myanmar, as well as share knowledge and learning Development intervention like capacity development, livelihood support and awareness on environment for community was in placed in that area within a few years.

B. Participatory implementation:

As the last remaining old-stand mangrove forest in Myanmar, Tanintharyi mangrove forests face lots of threats, mainly unsustainable natural resource uses. Due to traditional lifestyle and low level of economic development, local communities are extremely dependent on natural resources. Villagers extract fuel-wood from mangrove forests for locally, as well as for Yangon and neighboring country. Awareness and values of mangroves by communities are very limited as community only realizes mangroves are the source of fuel-wood and charcoal. Even community's livelihood is solely upon the fishery only a few people understand the linkage between fishery and mangroves which are breeding and sponging ground for fishery, biodiversity and barrier for tidal surge in coastal areas.

With reference to the experience of previous Project Phase participatory approach has been applied through consultation with villagers, village elders and interested people. With the technical assistance of GEI Community Conservation Concession Approach (CCCA) has been practiced in that area. MFA Executive Committee Members visited and briefed on CCCA, conservation of mangrove forests, values of mangroves and linkages between mangroves and livelihoods to the community through consultation meetings as well as trainings and socio-economic assessment.

The project staff from the first phase has visited each village and briefed about the CEPF project during the project preparation period as well as conducted consultation meetings briefing on proposed project activities, expansion of community conservation areas and refreshing CCCA approaches.

The meetings both formal and informal will be conducted with Village Development Committee (VDC) members and interested villagers for management and conservation of mangrove forests. During the meetings issues and drivers of degradation of mangroves will be discussed and explore possible management approaches will be discussed depending upon the quality and quantity of mangroves. Conduct capacity building workshop on mangrove conservation, discussion on zoning of conservation area, species identification, data collection, patrolling, and awareness and community participation. With reference of consultation and meeting 20 hectares for conservation area each in 7 villages will be identified as community-based conservation area.

When the project start the inception workshop will be conducted the participants including communities from project area, local authorities, Forest Department, Department of Fisheries, private sector particularly Myanmar Fishery Federation and local NGOs working in Palaw Township. As experience from Phase I the local communities and village authority have involved in conservation of mangroves and improved their knowledge. In Phase I township level governments, private sector and CSOs have been invited to observe project activities in December 2017 to Khanti Village. The governmental officials and private sector showed their interests on community involvement in conservation of mangroves and livelihood activities and the officials stated to support sustainability of mangroves conservation and livelihood development. Similarly initiative of cooperation among government, private sector and community will be undertaken in the project with the cooperation of VDC and community.

C. Criteria for eligibility of affected persons:

Daily requirement of fuel-wood will be considered in the village consultation meeting. Apart from proposed conservation areas the community can extract minor forest products mainly fuel-wood for their household uses not for commercial purposes. A few families who solely depend on cutting of fuel-wood will be identified during the meetings and discussion with village elders as well as interested persons. These families can also access to extract for their subsistence needs with prescribed cutting practices through demonstrations. A number of households possess traditional home gardens growing rubber, betel nut mixed with jack fruit and durian. Training for livestock breeding and improvement of home garden will be conducted to support improvement of traditional home garden resulting more productive as well as more availability for fuel-wood which will fill up the gap of fuel-wood.

D. Measures to assist the affected persons

With reference to above mentioned criteria for eligibility of affected persons' alternative livelihood opportunity will be provided for some affected persons like livestock farming with technical support. Based upon experience in community revolving fund in previous phase those affected community will be benefitted. Above mentioned affected families can also access to extract for their subsistence needs with prescribed cutting practices through demonstrations.

Conservation of mangrove forests will be improved sustainable resource use practices as well as livelihood of the community in long term. Even though there will be a few anticipate negative impacts in that area. Formerly community extracts fuel-wood for their requirement where mangrove forest are occurred. Some community especially who solely depend on their livelihood will be consulted to participate in forestry activities like establishment of nursery, nursery works and planting operations that would support for their livelihood. Changing of some community's habit will take time as cutting fuel-wood with prescribed method. Through consultations and training with the community will improve gradually the mindset and habit of the community.

E. Conflict resolution and complaint mechanism.

All projects that trigger a safeguard are required to provide local communities and other interested stakeholders with means by which they may raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank. Affected local communities should be informed of the objectives of the grant and the existence of a grievance mechanism. Contact information of the grantee, the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director should be made publicly available, through posters, signboards, public notices or other appropriate means in local language(s). Grievances raised with the grantee should be communicated to the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days, together with a proposed response. If the claimant is still not satisfied following the response, the grievance may be submitted directly to the CEPF Executive Director via the dedicated email account

(cepfexecutive@conservation.org) or by mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Secretariat, the grievance may be submitted to the World Bank at the local World Bank office. Please describe the grievance mechanism that you will use for your project, and how you will ensure that stakeholders are aware of it.

During the village meetings, inception workshop and trainings compliance mechanism will be informed to the community as the address and telephone nos. of CEPF, MERN, Myeik District Forest Department (FD) and MFA Office. The monitoring and evaluation visit will be arranged consist of FD, MERN, MFA observing project activities, meeting with VDC, village elders and beneficiaries.

Affected local communities shall be informed of the objectives of the grant and the existence of a grievance mechanism. Contact information of the RIT National Coordinator for Myanmar, Aung Thant Zin, MFA, the Myeik District Forest Department and the CEPF Grant Director shall be made publicly available, through posters, signboards, public notices in local language posted in village administration offices and public places like village bazar. Grievances raised with the grantee should be communicated to the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days, together with a proposed response.

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F. Implementation Arrangements

As VDC has been formed in previous phase VDC has experience on CCCA as well as community revolving fund. With the active participation of VDC and cooperation with the project staff this project will undertake the Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions as mentioned above steps. MFA project staff will enhance their capacity on social assessment, FPIC and participatory approaches through studying and reviewing relevant documents and exchange of knowledge among local NGOs.