

# Friends of Wildlife

## "Conservation of Vultures at two main sites at Myanmar"

### Social Assessment

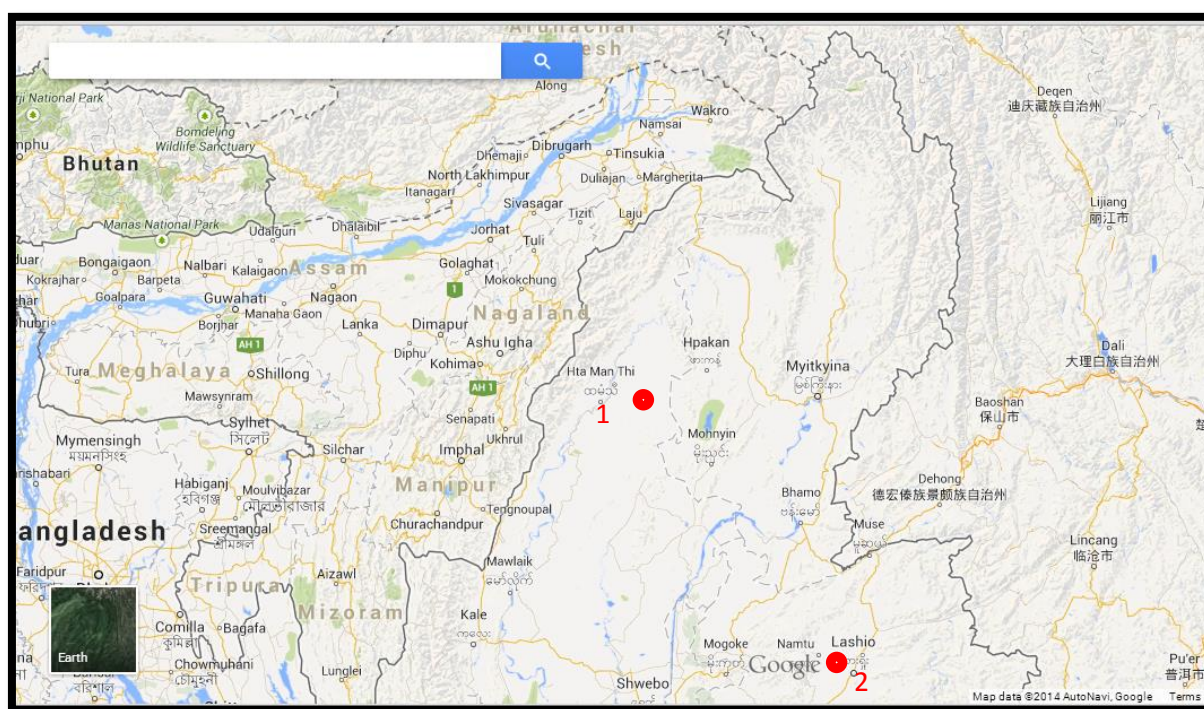
#### 1. Indigenous peoples in the project area:

Surveys will be conducted at two main sites; **1)** Naung Kwin Inn near Indaw Chaung, Kachin State (N 25° 20' 26") (E 96° 27' 11") and, **2)** Maing Yaw in the northern Shan State (N 23° 02' 28.1") (E 98° 05' 00.4"). A total of 4 villages which are nearest to the study sites will be visited during the survey. Three villages are located around Indaw Chaung, Kachin State and one village near Maing Yaw. The indigenous people of the ethnic group are as follows;

**Table 1:** List of the indigenous peoples of 4 villages at the propose project sites.

No	Village Name	Ethnic minority	Study site
1	Kaung Gyar	Kachin	1
2	Nyaung Pin Thar	Kachin - Myanmar	1
3	Hwelt Hlon	Kachin - Myanmar	1
4	Maing Yaw	Shan - Myanmar	2

**Figure 1:** Location map of project sites. **1)** Naung Kwin Inn near Indaw Chaung, Kachin State and, **2)** Maing Yaw in the northern Shan State.



#### 2. Expected project impacts

##### Positive Impacts:

Local field assistants will be hired from each study site during the surveys. The project will conduct education programs at the four nearest villages noted above and form "vulture protection groups" at key areas of both sites. These groups will be trained to protect vultures and nests. Guidance will also be given for these groups to be involved in biodiversity conservation activities in the future. Some of outstanding members from these groups and field assistants will be recruited as staff for the Friends of Wildlife organization. In addition, the purchase of cattle from local villagers will be a small source of income for these individuals. Since the FOW staff will be buying cattle directly from the villagers, both parties will benefit from a good price (without mark-up by a middleman).

**Negative Impacts:**

Part of the project will involve providing meat of various kinds to vultures in the form of “vulture restaurants”. It is therefore possible some people may feel this meat is valuable and try to steal from these restaurants, which could have negative health consequences. In addition, some villagers may complain about the stink from carcasses in these restaurants before the vultures finishing feeding on them.

**3. Community consultation and participation**

Free, prior, and informed consent will be the approach used in all project activities. Engagement and consultation meetings with local communities will be conducted before the project. The date and time for educational talks will be based on their proposed dates. The project implementation team will record and consider all of the recommendations and suggestions made by local communities. The project will also invite village youth groups and other volunteers who are keen to participate in the education activities and field observations at the restaurants. The team will visit each site three days consecutively each month. Furthermore, one additional day per month will be devoted to inviting members of the local communities who are interested to view the vulture restaurants.

**4. Measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits**

We are not anticipating any adverse impacts from this project. There are no invasive management activities planned as part of this project; the goal is simply conservation activities for vultures through vulture restaurants, protection of nests and awareness raising. One of the primary sources of mortality for vultures now is the drug vet *diclofenac* which is given to livestock which vultures may subsequently feed upon. We will first inquire about livestock disease outbreak at study sites and their vicinity and the use and availability of *diclofenac*. We will purchase the cattle for the restaurants insuring that it is both free of disease and harmful drugs such as *diclofenac*. Community engagement orientation meetings will be conducted with village authorities, village heads and village youth group leaders. Moreover, the project team will explore potential locations for vulture restaurants at sufficient distances from villages and other settlements to avoid the aforementioned impacts.

If logistics prevent complete self-sufficiency, and such services are occasionally required, we will pay appropriate local rates for whatever services are provided. Field teams will also adhere to internationally–accepted codes of conduct.

**5. Monitoring of potential adverse impacts**

We do not anticipate any adverse impacts; however, we will monitor behavior and respond to villagers if issues arise regarding the implementation of our project. In addition, we will also be using the above-mentioned education talks as an opportunity for open discussion on occasional problems and finding ways forward. In addition, we will meet and discuss with village authorities every month; thus, we strongly believe the project will be well monitored.

**6. Grievance mechanism**

The project will create a grievance mechanism, whereby any people who are dissatisfied with the project or have a disagreement with any of our activities are able to raise these concerns. We will produce pamphlets in local languages, stating project leader details and contact addresses, so that anyone who has a grievance can contact project leaders promptly. Moreover, pamphlets will state contact details of MERN (the CEPF RIT, based in Yangon). This grievance mechanism will also be explained verbally during village meetings.