

Social Assessment

2nd November 2017

CEPF Application Code: 103514

Wahplaw Wildlife Watch Society

Development of Community-based Models for Biodiversity Conservation in Tanintharyi

Tanintharyi, Myanmar

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: **Wahplaw Wildlife Watch Society (WWWS)**
2. Grant title: **Development of Community-based Models for Biodiversity Conservation in Tanintharyi**
3. Grant number : Application Number 103514
4. Grant amount (US dollars): **79988 USD**
5. Proposed dates of grant: **1st February 2018 to 31st Jaunaury 2020**
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: **Myanmar**
7. Date of preparation of this document: **2nd November 2017**

8. Indigenous People affected:

Being a pilot project, the project will occur in three villages in Bokeyyin townships of Tanitharyi Region, Myanmar. To be definite, the project will target to the two reserved forests nearby those target villages, that they customarily or officially manage their selves and have been reduced the forest degrading , habitat loss and poaching pressure. In those villages, Karen and a few numbers of Burmese are indigenous dwellers. Those indigenous dwellers made their livings on agriculture, shifting cultivation, forestry and poaching. Besides, the encroachment of oil palm plantation that have been threatening the forest degrading will be reduced in the area.

9. Summary of the proposed project:

The project is intended to protect forest degradation and endangered and other rare species in Tanitharyi region.

The endangered species _ Tiger, Asian Elephant, Tapir, Gurney's Pitta, Storm Stork declining rapidly cause of habitat loss due to forest degrading and poaching in the project area. One of the issue is the encroachment of oil palm plantation by business man.

By promoting capacity of communities to take part in habitat area improvement and participatory patrolling in forest lands that the communities customarily manage.

In this project, the project will make three major efforts: Capacity building of indigenous communities and CSOs for conservation and habitat area improvement; engagement with stakeholders; and

10. Potential impacts:

We believe that the positive impacts of this project overshadow those of negative ones. The indigenous communities in target villages will socially, economically and ecologically benefit from the project involvement.

Initially, the capacity of some stake holders including communities, CSOs and Wahplaw Wildlife Watch Society will be directly promoted in conservation management for the project area. The rest stake holder will get benefit on conservation managements by sharing lesson learn on project activities.

Finally, being a biodiversity conservation project, the forest and biodiversity especially the forest cover condition and population of species will be increased at least in the targeted area.

11. Participatory preparation:

The project has initiated from Tiger Conservation Landscape Project in which monitoring process on threat assessments are being taken place. But local communities had been affected by Civil War before singing National Cease Fire in 2015. Therefore the awareness on biodiversity and management system

on conservation has been limited of them for many years. But their enthusiasm of conservation on their environment and nature resources are still strong. Therefore the effective training, necessary technical assistance, and engagement to other stakeholders are urgently needed.

As Wahplaw Wildlife Watch Society, Karen ethnic based organization , the local communities want to collaborate on biodiversity conservation. So participation on project implementation will be smoothly and effectively implemented

12. Mitigation strategies:

We believe that two-year experiences in Tiger Monitoring project and community mobilization in Karen context will help the organization fulfil its objectives and goal of this particular project.

More importantly, it long-term partnership with government and non-government organizations such as Karen Forest Department at regional as well as national level will help the project overcome the potential risks and barriers by seeking technical, managerial and administrative assistances from them whenever necessary. Therefore, we will keep networking with FUGs at the community level and with existing state and non-state partners at regional levels to better meet the objectives of the project.

Moreover, diversity of ethnicity, i.e., a mix of Karen and Burmese, etc., is another asset of Southern Youth Civil Society to work safely and smoothly in any villages in Tanitharyi Region. S, which can in turn help the project settle in those villages without having any major difficulties

13. Monitoring and evaluation: This section will explain how compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples will be monitored, and reported to CEPF and/or the Regional Implementation Team. Monitoring and evaluation methodologies should be adapted to the local context, indicators, and capacity

As explained in the item below, contact information necessary for filing grievances will be provided to villagers and community leaders. The merits of any grievance will be assessed and attempts will be made to resolve conflicts to the satisfaction of all parties. Each grievance and subsequent outcome will be included in six-month reports to CEPF. Regardless of whether or not any grievances have been filed, inquiries will also be made during regularly scheduled community meetings to identify problems that might not have been reported through regular channels; efforts will then be made to address these issues in a timely manner

14. Grievance 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.

Communities in the project area are already aware of our conservation efforts and project objectives, although we have yet to discuss the availability of grievance procedures. We have already negotiated with authorities from villages and taken agreement from them to participate in the project. As we have been using the RAFT (Responsibility, Accountability, Fairness and Transparency) among the communities, our organization and stakeholders, it will also help in project implementation.

In keeping with the policies of CEPF, this information will be provided during forthcoming consultations in each village of the project throughout the project.

Contact information for Myanmar Forest Department, CEPF Regional Implementation Team, and CEPF Grant Director will be made available readily on posters or information materials to be published using the CEPF funds and those posters and information materials will be distributed to target villages and surrounding villages. Moreover, the grievance procedure will be further explained to villagers by project team members during community meetings, reinforcing information provided in printed format.

15. **Budget:** This section will summarize dedicated costs related to compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples. These costs should be incorporated into the budget of the CEPF grant and/or covered by co-financing.

An amount of \$9340 in the project budget will be dedicated to insuring compliance with the CEPF safeguard policy. This amount includes \$2500 for local transportation to project villages, \$1800 for community meetings and \$5040 for for daily allowance for communities in training and field work for monitoring threats on species.