

Social Assessment

Nov 2017

CEPF Grant: CEPF-103464

Fauna & Flora International

Participatory gazettement of KBAs for Primate Conservation in Myanmar

Pauk Sa proposed Wildlife Sanctuary, Indawgyi Lake Biosphere Reserve,
Imawbum proposed National Park

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: Fauna & Flora International
2. Grant title: Participatory gazettement of KBAs for Primate Conservation in Myanmar
3. Grant number CEPF-103464
4. Grant amount (US dollars): \$179,997.70
5. Proposed dates of grant: 1.4.2018 – 31.3.20120
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: Myanmar
7. Date of preparation of this document. 31st November 2017

8. Indigenous People affected:

Indawgyi

Red Shan (indigenous people of Indawgyi, approximately 45,000 people in the entire Indawgyi lake basin), various mixed Kachin groups (approximately 5000 people in the entire Indawgyi lake basin), who migrated to Indawgyi in the last 40 years and are now local residents in three villages (Lonton, Mainau, Naung Mon), These Kachin ethnic groups (mainly Lecik, Jingpo, and Law Waw) have been displaced by civil war from their area of origin.

The Shan people are paddy rice farmers and fishermen, with limited livelihood dependency on forest products and firewood. The Kachin people depend upland farming in the bufferzone of Indawgyi Biosphere Reserve and the collection of non-timber forest products and fire wood. No shifting cultivation and firewood collection is taking place in proposed core zones.

Imawbum

Indigenous Kachin ethnic groups (approximately 20,000 people, adjacent to proposed Imawbum National Park): Law Waw, Lecik, Lisu, Rawang. All ethnic groups depend on shifting cultivation and collection of NTFPs. However all shifting cultivation areas and fallow land, as well as forests important for NTFP collection are located outside the proposed National Park.

Pauk Sa

Ashok Chin (approximately 3000 indigenous people, adjacent to the proposed protected area). The indigenous Chin people depend on shifting cultivation and limited NTFP collection. All shifting cultivation areas and fallow land are located outside the proposed protected area.

- 9. Summary of the proposed project:** This section will describe what you plan to do and how you plan to do it, with a particular focus on activities implemented in areas inhabited and/or used by Indigenous People.

The project's target species for primate conservation in Myanmar are the Myanmar snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus strykeri* - CR), the Shortridge langur (*Trachypithecus shortridgei* - EN) and the Western hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock* - EN). All three species are priority species for CEPF investments. The main threats for all three species are hunting pressure and loss of habitat.

Priority sites of known populations of all three species are currently unprotected. Based on the Myanmar Hoolock gibbon conservation status review (FFI 2013)) and Myanmar Leaf-monkey

conservation status review (FFI/ DPZ, 2017 in print) three KBAs have been highlighted for their priority populations for these species, all three sites have been proposed for protected area gazettement or extension: Imawbum proposed NP - *Rhinopithecus strykeri*, Indawgyi WS (proposed northern extension - *Trachypithecus shortridgei*), Pauksa proposed WS (Rhakine Yoma).

The Myanmar snub-nosed monkey was discovered in 2010 by a team of Flora & Fauna International (FFI) and the Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA), and described as new species the year after. Based on intensive field studies between 2010 and 2014, the monkey occurs in mountain forests between the N'mai Hka River (Kachin State, northeastern Myanmar) and Salween River (northwestern Yunnan Province, China). In Myanmar, the species range encompasses the mountain forests in the watershed area of the Maw River. The Myanmar snub-nosed monkey is currently listed as Critically Endangered on the basis of criteria A4cd (IUCN 2001, Appendix A) and there is no protected area in the snub-nosed monkey range in Myanmar. The gazettement of Imawbum proposed National Park and effective community-based patrolling and monitoring were proposed by FFI to be crucial for the survival of the species. FFI has already initiated a community based conservation program for the species and succeeded in the area to be declared by the Forest Department as 'proposed National Park' through an initial stakeholder consultation process. This project will follow-up with the participatory gazettement of the National Park based on free, prior and informed consent of local communities and other relevant stakeholders and the development of management recommendations.

The second target species is the Shortridge Langur. There is only very limited information available on behavior, ecology and current status of the Shortridge Langur. It is classified as endangered by the IUCN Red List. Its distribution is limited to northern Myanmar and adjacent China. Total numbers are not known, but are believed to be declining owing to loss of habitat and hunting. The total population must be small, given the species' restricted geographical range. For China very recent estimate is only 250-370 individuals for the Gaoligongshan Nature Reserve, the only protected area where this species occurs in China. For Myanmar only limited data is available. In Myanmar the species has only been well documented in the Indawgyi Lake basin, both inside and outside the Wildlife Sanctuary. Illegal logging and forest fragmentation are major threats to the forest habitat at this protected area. Along the northeastern ridge the forest is still quite intact and first rapid assessments revealed several groups of langurs in that area. More populations are confirmed in forest blocks around Nyaung Kwin Lake which is northwest of the Wildlife Sanctuary and proposed as Wildlife Sanctuary extension to off-set the loss of habitat caused by illegal gold mining inside the wildlife sanctuary. The Forest Department has asked our local partner FFI to facilitate the justification and community consultation process to gazette the northwestern extension of the Wildlife Sanctuary.

Two species of Hoolock gibbon are recognized in Myanmar: the Western hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*), which is listed as globally Endangered, and the Eastern hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock leuconedys*), which is considered globally Vulnerable. In Myanmar Indawgyi WS and its proposed extension is a priority site for the conservation of Eastern hoolock gibbon in Myanmar (Myanmar Hoolock gibbon conservation status review, FFI 2013).

The proposed project area at Pauk Sa forest is located in the Rakhine Yoma corridor and besides the Rhakine Yoma Elephant Reserve supports the most important population of Western hoolock gibbons (*Hoolock hoolock*) in Myanmar (FFI 2013). Pauk Sa is covered by contiguous evergreen forest. In contrast to other fragmented forest blocks in the Rakhine Yoma corridor this forest appears to be unusually large. A rough estimate suggests an area of about 400 km² of contiguous forest. Slash-and-burn agriculture poses a serious immediate threat to the future of the forest remaining in the area, it currently only occurs outside of the project area, however it may expand in the future, if the forest is not protected. FFI has initiated a community-based conservation program and local communities have agreed to core conservation area, which are patrolled by local communities. The Forest Department has listed the area as priority site for protected area gazettement, but would like to see this protected area to be established under regional governance based on a local community-based conservation constituency.

The project will support expansion of the protected area network in Myanmar using participatory gazettal and community consultation processes in all three proposed protected area sites (Imawbum proposed National Park, gazettement of additional core/ bufferzones in Indawgyi Biosphere Reserve, and Pauk Sa proposed Wildlife Sanctuary). The project will also support community-based biodiversity monitoring and patrolling.

10. Potential impacts: This section will assess expected project impacts (both positive and negative) on Indigenous People.

The project will support the expansion of Myanmar's PA network to secure priority areas for the conservation of endangered primates using participatory consultation processes for PA gazettelements based on free and prior, informed consent (FPIC) as well as support a community-based conservation approach to reduce the hunting of these flagship species. The project will build the capacity of local civil society in participatory gazettement of PA and community-based conservation of primates and other threatened species as well as the capacity of local communities to survey, monitor and protect primate populations.

Potential negative impacts:

1. Reduced access to primary forests for the hunting and extraction of threatened (IUCN Red List)/ protected species and illegal logging.

Potential positive impacts:

1. Reduced extraction of forest products and firewood by non-indigenous outsiders through collaborative patrolling and law enforcement in collaboration with local indigenous communities
2. Provision of fuelwood from community-owned woodlots and firewood-saving stoves (co-financed by FFI small grants to local forest user groups) will reduce the workload for indigenous women and improve their health.

3. Training and capacity building of local communities for sustainable natural resource use (community forestry, agroforestry, fisheries, alternative livelihoods) will improve the livelihoods of indigenous people

11. Participatory preparation: This section will describe the participation of affected communities during the project design process (i.e. prior to submission of the full proposal), and explain how Free, Prior and Informed Consent was obtained.

Indigenous peoples' representatives and all other relevant stakeholders have actively participated in the initiation of the gazettement process at all three sites and of this project. All stakeholders, as well as the forest department, who leads the formal gazettement process, are fully committed to complete the participatory gazettement process on the basis of free, prior and informed consent of all indigenous people, local villagers and other relevant stakeholders.

Participatory land/ forest use mapping has been undertaken in all villages at all three proposed sites. Initial consultation meetings have been conducted in all villages surrounding Indawgyi, Pauk Sa and Imawbum. Initial stakeholder consultation workshops involving village representatives, CSOs, NGOs and relevant government agencies have been hold in all three sites.

12. Mitigation strategies: This section will outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits.

None of the protected areas, neither core nor buffer zones, will include any settlements, agricultural or fallow land. Core zones are only established in primary forest areas. The protected area gazettement and zonation does not affect sustainable NTFP extraction by local indigenous people.

Access restrictions only apply for illegal or unsustainable extraction of natural resources, such as hunting and trade of protected species, or illegal logging. Therefore, there are no negative impacts expected on the livelihoods of indigenous people at any of the three sites. In fact the designation of buffer zones will increase legal access to forest areas in comparison to the previous status of 'reserved state forest'.

Ffi is actively supporting community forestry rights in the proposed buffer zones of all three sites and has co-financing to support community forestry and sustainable and alternative livelihoods.

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.

All stakeholder consultations and public consultations at village level will be documented through minutes of minutes of meetings. The result of the consultation meetings will be included in the technical progress reports to CEPF and/or the Regional Implementation Team.

14. Grievance 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, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank.

The project intends to use the stakeholder consultation process to resolve any conflicts that may 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 to the project will be sought 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 and the project proponent has the responsibility to respond within a reasonable time period. Participating communities will be provided with the contact details of the FFI Project Team as well as the CEPF-Regional Implementation Team at MERN, so that anyone who wishes to can raise a grievance directly with them. FFI will assign one office staff in the FFI Yangon office to respond to any grievances. FFI will publicise phone numbers and email addresses under which anybody who wants to express a grievance can contact FFI Myanmar and the CEPF-Regional Implementation Team at Myanmar Environmental Rehabilitation-conservation Network (MERN). Any grievances will be promptly addressed and responded to and in case dissatisfaction remains, our local rights based NGO partners Indawgyi Nature Conservation and Development Association, Pauk Sa conservation Group and Inn Chit Thu will be asked to mediate.

As part of the grievance mechanism the project will distribute leaflets in all consultation meetings and have posters/ signboards in all village tracts surrounding the three protected areas informing stakeholders of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism, including email addresses and contact phone numbers of the following organizations:

- Email and telephone contact information for FFI Myanmar, the grantee organization.
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.
- Email and telephone contact information for the local World Bank office.

The project will include the following text in the grievance mechanism in leaflets and posters/ signboards: "We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office."

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.

Stakeholder workshops/ consultation meetings: USD 13,250 (CEPF-funded)

Livelihoods/ community forestry/ agroforestry/ firewood saving stoves small grants: USD 45,000 (offsetting any potential impacts through access restrictions)