

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Myanmar Environment Institute
<b>Project Title:</b>	Ecological Conservation and Community Development around Alaungdaw Kathapha National Park
<b>Grant Number:</b>	CEPF-103508
<b>CEPF Region:</b>	Indo-Burma II
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	4 Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority key biodiversity areas
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	
<b>Project Dates:</b>	February 01, 2018 - December 31, 2019
<b>Date of Report:</b>	March 11, 2020

### IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

List each partner and explain how they were involved with the project.

**Global Environmental Institute (GEI), Community Development Action (CDA), Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development Initiative (ECCDI) and Myanmar Forest Association (MFA) are implementation partners for this project. The international partner GEI shared the approach, knowledge and experience on Community Conservation Concession Agreement (CCCA) model. CCCA is a type of conservation agreement, in which communities voluntarily sign an agreement to protect the conservation area. The three local partners, CDA, ECCDI and MFA work together to implement the CCCA conservation model. The four local NGOs including MEI work together to get a curriculum for CCCA model in myanmar language, which could be used in giving training to communities. The final policy recommendation report was developed by the four NGOs and and final policy recommendation workshop was held together.**

### CONSERVATION IMPACTS

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

**A total of 900 hectares of conservation area was established, where the communities patrolled and monitored with ecosystem conservation aspect. Due to the trainings for wildlife and plant monitoring, SMART patrolling, and conservation awareness talks and workshops, the communities received the efficient conservation skill. Due to the trainings for wildlife and plant**

**monitoring, SMART patrolling, and conservation awareness talks and workshops, the communities received the efficient conservation skill. Due to planting activities in the communities and conservation areas and reducing in illegal cutting and poaching, the ecosystem was restored. The forest conditions within the conservation area and reserved forest were improved due to the conservation awareness raising of the project, participation of the communities in conservation. Threats were identified by the workshops and stakeholders interviews. Therefore all threats were managed; threats to wildlife, threats to forest habitat, threats to plants, threats to threatened species, threats to ecosystem. Hunting activities was reduced because the communities had signed for avoiding and preventing the hunting by many ways. Around 4000 people became aware of the conservation directly or indirectly. A total of five village communities profited from the project by getting loans for pig growing, bean and pulse cultivation. They got the technical training and assistance for the successes in pig growing and pulse and bean cultivation. The people who signed the CCCA policy followed the policy. They did not conduct illegal cutting and hunting.**

**Planned Long-term Impacts – 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)**

<b>Impact Description</b>	<b>Impact Summary</b>
1. The number of communities participating in forest conservation in the potential buffer zone will be increased from 2 to 5, and a total of community conservation area will be expanded to 900 hectares	After developing the CCCA manual, the other 3 communities, Yay Yin village, Aung Thabyay village and Yay Phyu village, were selected and discussed for the CCCA project. The communities agree the CCCA project and MEI then expanded the CCCA project communities. The expansion of CCCA communities support the ecosystem conservation around the Alaungdaw Kathapha KBA, which support the management of KBA.
2. By establishing relations with stakeholders and informing government policies, conservation efforts will be further coordinated, exchanged and hence strengthened. Successful experiences of CCCA model could be further promoted in a larger scale, which will contribute to the conservation of other types of ecosystem and endangered species in Myanmar	After the project implementation, MEI and other three local NGOs developed "Policy recommendation report for CCCA model", which was discussed in a final workshop with various stakeholders including Government Forest Department. Agreement was obtained to further apply the CCCA model with myanmar context by Forest Department.
3. At least one government policy at national or division level revised to better integrate community-based conservation based on the CCCA model piloted by MEI and three other local NGOs	At the final Policy recommendation for CCCA model workshop, Forest Department (Director General) agreed to further implement and collaborate such community-based forest conservation approach.
4. Improved capacity of Myanmar Environment Institute (MEI) in terms of ecosystem conservation, organizational and project management, and overall capacity to access more funding sources	MEI staff received experience in CCCA model approach of community-based forest conservation and the capacity of MEI staff was enhanced by the project in terms of ecosystem conservation, organizational and project management, and overall capacity to access more funding sources.

**Planned Short-term Impacts – 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)**

<b>Impact Description</b>	<b>Impact Summary</b>
5. Strengthened management of at least 900 hectares of forest in the potential buffer zone of Alaungdaw Kathapha National Park through community-led conservation actions	A total of 900 hectares of conservation area was established, where the communities patrolled and monitored with ecosystem conservation aspect. Due to the trainings for wildlife and plant monitoring, SMART patrolling, and conservation awareness talks and workshops, the communities received the efficient conservation skill.
6. At least 2000 women and 2000 men in five target villages with direct human wellbeing	A total of five village communities profited from the project by getting loans for pig growing, bean and pulse cultivation.

benefits from improved agriculture and apiculture	They got the technical training and assistance for the successes in pig growing and pulse and bean cultivation. Around 4000 people became aware of the conservation and benefited directly or indirectly from pig growing and bean and pulse cultivation.
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Describe the successes or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

**The people from village communities accept and like the CCCA model. There is no conflict between the people and between the project activities and culture and habit of the people. The response from the people to the CCCA model and activities was positive in all village communities. The village development committees have revolving funds from the project which is being run with the management of the village development committees. The revolving funds can partly support for sustainability of the project. MEI will find the possibility of the new project grant from CEPF or other funding organizations for project continuation. Sustainability of the project may be a challenge , but this may be solved by finding new grant.**

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

**The unexpected positive impacts were occurrence of additional beneficiary. During the project period, two German university undergraduate students from University for Sustainable Development, Eberswalde, Germany, arrived to perform as internship students at MEI. They performed in the project and completed their internship course during the period from september 2019 to February 2020. They are Mr. Dorian Wolfgang Buchta and Ms. Madeleine Luise Scharnweber.**

## PROJECT COMPONENTS AND PRODUCTS/DELIVERABLES

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Enhance MEI's capabilities in CCCA and project management	1.1	Strengthened organizational capacity of MEI, as demonstrated by comparison of civil society and gender tracking tool scores at project start and end	CCCA approach manuals in English and Myanmar languages were developed. Capacity of MEI was enhanced which can be demonstrated by comparison of civil society and gender tracking tool scores at project start and end.
2	Expand projects to a larger scale with more communities involved	2.1	Enhanced conservation awareness and knowledge of at least 50 percent of the inhabitants of the five project villages, as demonstrated by knowledge, attitude and practice surveys at project start and end	Awareness training, awareness talks were given by staff from Forest Departments and from Alaungdaw Kathapha National Park. The workshops and training were also given by MEI. Conservation awareness was enhanced which can be demonstrated by knowledge, attitude and practice surveys at project start and end.
3	Reduce ecosystem degradation in the peripheral zone (potential buffer zone) of Alaungdaw Kathapha National Park by engaging	3.1	Socio-economic survey reports at project baseline and end, showing increased income and reduced	The socio-economic survey reports at project baseline and end showed increased income and reduced dependence on natural resources among targeted communities.

	local communities in conservation actions linked to livelihood benefits		dependence on natural resources among targeted communities	
3	Reduce ecosystem degradation in the peripheral zone (potential buffer zone) of Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park by engaging local communities in conservation actions linked to livelihood benefits	3.2	Community conservation plans for five villages	Community conservation plan was developed with the help of MEI at each of five communities.
2	Expand projects to a larger scale with more communities involved	2.3	Enhanced cooperation between the five communities and the government staff of the National Park, as demonstrated by interview surveys at project start and end	Staff from Forest Departments of Yin Mar Bin and Kani Townships and staff from Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park cooperate in conservation activities which can be demonstrated by interview surveys at project start and end.
2	Expand projects to a larger scale with more communities involved	2.4	Baseline survey report on environmental threats in the five communities	Baseline surveys were conducted and workshops were held for threats identification, and the report was prepared.
4	Provide policy recommendation to central government together with other 3 NGO	4.1	A document for evaluation index will be produced. All stakeholders	A document for evaluation index was produced. Policy recommendation report was developed and all stakeholders participate in ecosystem and biodiversity conservation.

	partners		including government stakeholders, NGOs, Civil societies, Institutions, universities and communities will participate in ecosystem and biodiversity conservation	
4	Provide policy recommendation to central government together with other 3 NGO partners	4.2	A policy report will be produced. More cooperation and effectiveness of environmental conservation and social development activities will be achieved due to the created networking platform	A policy recommendation produced by the local four NGOs and due to the final policy recommendation stakeholders workshop, networking platform could be built for more cooperation and effectiveness of environmental conservation and social development activities.
2	Expand projects to a larger scale with more communities involved	2.2	Signed Community Conservation Concession Agreements (CCCA) with three new villages	The other 3 communities, Yay Yin village, Aung Thabyay village and Yay Phyu village, were selected and discussed for the CCCA project. The communities agree the CCCA project and MEI then expanded the CCCA project communities. The communities signed the CCCA agreement.
3	Reduce ecosystem degradation in the peripheral zone (potential buffer zone) of Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park	3.3	Semi-annual safeguard monitoring report	Semi-annual safeguard monitoring reports were developed.

	by engaging local communities in conservation actions linked to livelihood benefits			
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Describe and submit any tools, products or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

**The tools or methodologies from the project are Community Conservation Concession Agreement (CCCA) model curriculum in myanmar language, plant monitoring methodology, track and sign survey method, and SMART patrolling method.**

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

Consider lessons that would inform:

- Project design process (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)
- Project implementation (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)
- Any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

**During implementing the project, it was learnt that CCCA model is a good model, but it needs clever approach to discuss and work together with the communities and government sectors. The CCCA model should be well understood by the organization and by the communities as well.**

**CCCA is an improved and innovative mechanism of ecological conservation. It was established in South America and brought to China by GEI 10 years ago.**

**Concept: The concept of the CCCA is to bring stakeholders (e.g. government departments, enterprises, local communities, individuals and etc.) together to sign a contract on how to act within the protected areas. According to the contract, stakeholders are empowered to share the protection rights and limited exploration rights of the natural resources in the area.**

**Objectives: It is to balance environmental conservation and economic development in local area; to solve the conflicts among governmental agencies, companies and local residents; to alleviate human impacts on forests and vegetation; and to reduce ecosystem degradation.**

**Principles of CCCA**

**1. Balancing resource exploitation, environmental conservation and interests of local communities.**

**--- conservation becomes economical activity.**

**2. Increasing the effectiveness of ecological conservation funds and diversifying funding resources.**

--- *funding based on agreements.*

**3. Achieving co-management.**

---*local people play a leading role on conservation.*

**4. Local people benefit from conservation activities.**

#### **8 Steps for CCCA**

- **Conduct a baseline survey to find problems**
- **Identify needs of the communities and project goals**
- **Sign CCCA contract with local communities**
- **Help communities make plans [participatory approach (PA)]**
- **Establish *Community Conservation and Development Fund***
- **Conduct training and capacity building: conservation & livelihood**
- **Make business plans and marketing for community green products**
- **Conduct monitoring and evaluation --- policy suggestions**

## **SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION**

Summarize the successes or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

**The people from village communities accept and like the CCCA model. There is no conflict between the people and between the project activities and culture and habit of the people. The response from the people to the CCCA model and activities was positive in all village communities. The village development committees have revolving funds from the project which is being run with the management of the village development committees. The revolving funds can partly support for sustainability of the project. MEI will find the possibility of the new project grant from CEPF or other funding organizations for project continuation. This case concerned with sustainability may be a challenge.**

## **SAFEGUARDS**

If not listed as a separate project component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental or pest management safeguards.

**The information on the proposed project was given to the communities before the project was started. The local people and heads of the communities were invited to the monasteries and houses of the village heads and discussion was made for the project plan. The project information and activities are disclosed to the communities providing telephone numbers and address of MEI and CEPF representatives. The key stakeholders are identified and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people. The key stakeholders of the program are locals, government sectors and civil society groups within the hotspot. Specific efforts**



are made to inform and involve potentially affected people in the planning, design, implementation and monitoring of the project and the overall ecosystem programs. As necessary, capacity building activities are undertaken to strengthen consultation and participation skills of the stakeholders, where the project include the policy of equity of opportunity and participation right for men and women. Gender issue is put in front in the project plan. As grievance mechanism, a flyer design was developed where the information on the project was mentioned and the complaints and advices from the communities were invited together with the phone numbers of MEI and country representatives of CEPF.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF.

**The project implementation was successful in all five communities and the communities like the CCCA model and would like to continue for long term period. If possible CEPF should give next grant so that the conservation activity at the Alaungdaw Kathapha KBA can be sustained. The small village community is more successful in implementing the CCCA model when compare to large village community.**

## **ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization or region as a result of CEPF investment.

**Total additional funding (US\$)**  
\$0.00

### **Type of funding**

Provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

- A. Project co-financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)
- B. Grantee and partner leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF-funded project)
- C. Regional/portfolio leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)

**No additional funding for mentioning the type**

## **INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY**

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. Final project completion reports are made

available on our website, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and may be publicized in our e-newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (name, organization, mailing address, telephone number, email address) below.

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