

## CEPF Final Project Completion Report

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Global Environmental Institute
<b>Project Title:</b>	Enhance Myanmar NGOs Capability on Community-Based Conservation and Development
<b>Grant Number:</b>	CEPF-103502
<b>CEPF Region:</b>	Indo-Burma II
<b>Strategic Direction:</b>	8 Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$74,996.00
<b>Project Dates:</b>	April 01, 2018 - December 31, 2019
<b>Date of Report:</b>	February 23, 2020

### IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

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

**Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development Initiative (ECCDI)/Community Development Action (CDA)/Myanmar Forest Association (MFA)/Myanmar Environment Institute (MEI):** GEI has been working with these four domestic NGOs since 2016. During CEPF's project, GEI formed an alliance with four local NGOs to implement and promote CCCA model in Myanmar, which helped expand community protected areas in KBAs and engaged local communities in conservation works.

**Forest Department:** GEI's works in Myanmar received generous supports from Myanmar's Forest Department with signed MoU since 2017. Officials from Forest Department participated in almost every workshop GEI held in Myanmar and provided useful advice to improve the implementation and promotion of CCCA model in Myanmar.

**Conservation International:** As the organization developed Conservation Agreement (CA) model, CI provided lots of help in designing training curriculum, sharing knowledge and experience in workshops and networking with different countries' NGOs.

### CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

**Capacity building:** The overall performance of CCCA projects in Myanmar was relatively successful based on the compliance of local NGOs and community capacity building, the extent of action terms followed and conservation responsibilities fulfilled by communities and the sustainability demonstrated through social acceptability, extension and outreach and resilience. Specifically, in total, over 150 environmental professionals from 4 governmental departments, 2 research institutes, 9 local NGOs and 10 international NGOs joined these trainings, building knowledge on the CCCA model, sharing lessons-learned stories and discussing implementation at larger scale. The number of staff working for CCCA project is one of the critical indicators. After interviewing responsible staff from each NGO, we found that there was an increase of CCCA project staff members from 19 to 27, with 3 new local offices established at project sites.

**Conservation:** This project also has highly positive impacts on Myanmar environmentally, socially and economically. Based on GEI's evaluation, we concluded that these projects contributed to the conservation of more land and ecosystems by communities. The conservation area protected by communities within these projects expanded to 40,890.5 acres, which is 4 times of the conservation scale from phase one. CCCA projects in Myanmar protected five key biodiversity areas in Myanmar, covering deciduous forest, mangrove forest and wetland ecosystems. It is also good to see that most of threats were addressed by conservation actions. The evaluation also showed local communities have increased their awareness of environmental issues, especially about deforestation and climate change.

**Socio-economic:** CCCA projects also brought positive social and economic impacts. There is an average income increase of 17% for community members who participated in local community funds and in new livelihood development. By our analysis, CCCA projects are also cost-benefit effective, with over 78.2% people participating receiving direct and indirect benefits from them.

**Policy, law and regulation:** Since 2016, GEI has introduced CCCA model in Myanmar, which explores the participation of communities in conservation and how can they benefit from conservation actions. Through pilot projects, we demonstrated how community protected area can contribute to the expansion of national protected area and have been communicated with Myanmar's Forest Department in several workshops through demonstrating project outcomes. However, we still want to say that GEI only contributes a little bit to achieve the change and it cannot be done without the efforts from Myanmar government, domestic NGOs and other international NGOs.

**Networking:** Through the project, GEI helped to build two network/partnership. The first one is the partnership between GEI and four local NGOs. The Myanmar Community Conservation Concession Agreement (CCCA) Partnership aims to implement and promote CCCA model in Myanmar, which would contribute to the ecosystem conservation and community sustainable development. The second network was developed in 2019 between Chinese NGOs and Southeast Asia's NGOs. We want to enhance the communication between China and ASEAN countries and share knowledge and experience of community-based conservation. In the next phase, we will focus on expanding the network and invite more ASEAN country's NGO to join and participate.

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

<b>Impact Description</b>	<b>Impact Summary</b>
Together with 4 local partners and Forest Research Institute, GEI will promote CCCA models at a national scale and advocate Myanmar's forest policy to better integrate with community-based conservation through 40 CCCA pilot sites' case studies	Since 2016, GEI has introduced CCCA model in Myanmar, which explores the participation of communities in conservation and how can they benefit from conservation actions. Through pilot projects, we demonstrated how community protected area can contribute to the expansion of national protected area and have been communicated with Myanmar's Forest Department in several workshops through demonstrating project outcomes. However, we still want to say that GEI only contributes a little bit to achieve the change and it cannot be done without the efforts from Myanmar government, domestic NGOs and other international NGOs.
Through the project, both GEI and four local partners' organizational capacity will be improved. As a trainer and coordinator to local partners, GEI would strength our project coordination skills and international communication skills with Myanmar NGOs For 4 Myanmar NGOs, abilities of project cycle management and implementation of CCCA model will continue to be improved through phase two.	During the project, we conducted workshops and trainings to improve four local CEPF grantees' (ECCDI, CDA, MEI and MFA) capacities. After the project, there is an obvious increasing of local NGOs' staff number from 19 to 27, with 3 new local offices established at project sites. Meanwhile, GEI's organizational capacity was also improved through implementing CEPF's project. For example, as an international NGO, we built a good collaboration with domestic organizations and Myanmar central government, which would help us to continue our work in Myanmar in the future.
Through international communication with NTFP-Cambodia, this project also aims to form a community conservation network between lower Mekong countries in the long term. This alliance will be developed and expanded during the phase three, promoting CCCA and involving more NGOs into conserve KBAs.	Internationally, we created a China-Southeast Asia Community-based Conservation Network with six countries including China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Philippine to enhance the communication between China and ASEAN countries and share knowledge and experience of community-based conservation.

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

<b>Impact Description</b>	<b>Impact Summary</b>
Through this project, GEI intends to involve at least 6 domestic civil society organizations in Myanmar to participate in conservation actions through promoting CCCA mechanism	During the project, GEI collaborated with four domestic organizations: ECCDI, CDA, MFA and MEI to conduct conservation actions in key biodiversity areas. Meanwhile, we invited several other domestic organizations such as Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA), Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association (FREDA) to join our trainings and workshops, building knowledge on CCCA model and participating in conservation actions
GEI will form an alliance with 4 local NGOs to conduct CCCA pilot projects across Myanmar, which will help expand community protected area to 87 km <sup>2</sup> in surrounding KBAs and engage 18 more communities in conservation actions	In Myanmar, GEI, worked with four other CEPF grantee: ECCDI, MFA, MEI and CDAction to implement Community Conservation Concession Agreement model in Myanmar. GEI played as a coordinator to provide supports and to communicate with international parties, ensuring the alliance working in the same direction and maximizing impacts to conserve ecosystems. Meanwhile, we also try to expand the alliance by inviting NGOs from other countries to join our workshop, discussing different community-based conservation models.
Four Myanmar NGOs' organizational capacity including project cycle management, governmental cooperation and international communication will be enhanced through at least 2 training and workshop sessions	Four domestic NGOs' capacity in project cycle management, governmental cooperation and international communication was built through 2 trainings held respectively in June 2018 and September 2018 and 2 international workshops held in July 2019 and November 2019. In total over 150 environmental professionals from 4 governmental departments, 2 research institutes, 9 local NGOs and 10 international NGOs joined these trainings, building knowledge on CCCA model, sharing lessons-learned and discussing implementation at larger scale

Describe the successes or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

**I believe we had several success of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impacts.**

**First of all, local NGOs and communities had a very good understanding of CCCA model and believed it can motivate people to get involved in conservation work. Meanwhile, several new organizations, department and companies were involved in the project, including Forest Research Institute, SEE Foundation, Mercy Corps, etc., which built a good environment for CCCA model to be recognized and implemented in more KBAs in Myanmar.**

**Second, GEI did some extension and outreach works to increase the impacts of this project and reach out for co-funding from international organizations such as SEE Foundation, Conservation International and Global Environmental Innovation Fund(GEIF).**

**At last, to ensure local NGOs and communities have sustainable funding to support conservation works, GEI helped to establish community funds and Myanmar Community Sustainable Development Trust Fund, which can provide micro-finance loan for household or small enterprises to develop sustainable livelihoods/businesses.**

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

**It was a surprise that through this project, we connected with NGOs from several southeast Asia countries and built a network to communicate and exchange experiences.**

## PROJECT COMPONENTS AND PRODUCTS/DELIVERABLES

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Train local NGOs to enhance capacity of CCCA implementation and expansion	1.1	Myanmar-based CCCA training materials	To involve more important players and to increase CCCA model's impacts in Myanmar, GEI conceived to conduct training workshops to introduce the CCCA model and provide instructions on this model's components for local environmental professionals, NGO staff members, governmental officials. These workshops feature a variety of experts to teach both through theoretical explanation and on-the-ground practice experiences with a curriculum created, and consistently updated by GEI with supports from Conservation Stewards Program, Conservation International (CI). To share knowledge and experiences of CCCA model, GEI has created CCCA model handbook for Myanmar in April 2019 to guide past participants through curriculum and to share valuable information with interested individuals.
1	Train local NGOs to enhance capacity of CCCA implementation and expansion	1.2	Training evaluations for at least 6 local civil society organizations at start and end	We conducted training evaluation for all participants from 7 local NGOs with designed questionnaire. According to the result, 100% participants thought trainings were very useful and reached their expectations. 90% of them would like to participate more in the future.
2	Assist four Myanmar NGOs to scale up CCCA and protected areas involved in KBAs	2.1	Community conservation areas profile including context, maps and conservation plans	We collected information (coordinates, maps and conservation plans) from four partner NGOs and built profiles in the Myanmar CCCA project evaluation report.
2	Assist four Myanmar NGOs to scale up CCCA and protected areas involved in KBAs	2.2	Monitoring and evaluation report of CCCA pilot projects	The evaluation team visited 13 communities across 4 Regions/States and conducted 19 household surveys, 10 focus group discussion and 5 meetings with local governments. The results show that the overall performance of CCCA projects in Myanmar is relatively successful based on the compliance of NGOs and communities' capacity building, the extent of action terms followed and conservation responsibilities fulfilled by communities, as well as sustainability demonstrated through social acceptability, extension and outreach and

				resilience.
3	Help four local partners to improve communication and cooperation	3.1	Minutes and participant lists for seminar and symposium	Through the project, GEI organized four different workshops and seminars in Myanmar and collected minutes and participant lists for each one
3	Help four local partners to improve communication and cooperation	3.2	Policy recommendation based on pilot sites case studies	Policy recommendation was prepared by four local partners and GEI assisted in review and presentation to government

Describe and submit any tools, products or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

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## **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

**First of all, this project showed positive engagement with communities. Even though some communities lacked motivation and were difficult to communicate with, it is good to know that local NGOs made lots of effort to discuss projects with local people and respected their needs and willingness. However, projects have had less success engaging governments and companies. As important stakeholders, they were not identified through the initial stakeholder analysis process and did not share the same level of understanding of CCCA projects with**

**NGOs and communities. Their engagement and participation need to be considered for future projects.**

**Secondly, capacity building of GEI and partner NGOs in Myanmar are vital for the success of the project and its sustainability. With CEPF's support, GEI had the great opportunity to not only organize trainings and workshops for local NGOs, but also enhance our own capacity to conduct international project and build relationship with international governments and NGOs. However, we still found out that the language barrier and working distance had caused some difficulties during the implementation of projects. Therefore, in the future, GEI would consider hiring Myanmar local consultant and contact more with local partners.**

## **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.

**First of all, I believe good social acceptability is a key to have a sustained project. Based on the evaluation, the CCCA model was well-accepted by project communities and many believed it motivated people to get involved in conservation work. Meanwhile, implementing NGOs built a very good relationship with local communities by establishing local offices and hiring local people as field staff. Several new domestic organizations, departments and companies were also involved in CCCA projects, which provide a good environment to promote this model in the future.**

**Secondly, to ensure the project is sustainable, it is also important to measure whether extension and outreach works were conducted for more funding supports. During the project, GEI received two additional financial supports from SEE Foundation and GEIF, as well as in-kind contribution from Conservation International. They can be the potential donors to support the duplication and expansion of CCCA projects in the future.**

**At last, we found out that the community fund is very popular among communities and has helped communities to increase average income by 17% and enhance collaboration among community members. Additionally, community funds provide sustainable financial support for project communities to develop livelihoods and to share benefits through welfare, such as road construction and education financing. Community-based projects should not be a short-term practice; they must consider long-term strategies for sustainability, especially financing options. The establishment of community fund gave local people right to manage and decision to make.**

## **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.

**First of all, all conservation activities, including limited access to natural resources, were listed in the agreement after discussion and negotiation with local community members. Local community signed the agreement on a voluntary basis. Even though the implementation of CCCA model can restrict community's participation and access to natural resources in some areas, GEI and local NGOs provided benefits to compensate the loss and to motivate them participate in conservation, which include more sustainable source of energy (clean cookstove, solar-powered lighting system, fuel wood plantation) and trainings of skills to develop alternative livelihoods (pig raising, commercial tree planting, etc.)**

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

## **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\$)**  
\$30,612.00

### **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)

### **SEE Foundation (Category A)**

**The SEE (Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology) Foundation is a the first environmental protection NGO in China with a membership comprised mainly of entrepreneurs dedicated to advancing enterprises' social responsibility. In July 2019, the SEE Foundation provided ¥75,796 RMB (\$10,612 USD) to support the "Institutional Capacity Building and Advanced CCCA Model Training Workshop" as well as field visits with experts to Inle Lake watershed communities.**

### **GEIF (Category A)**

**The Global Environmental Innovation Fund (GEIF) aims to contribute to global efforts to explore and practice innovative environmental and development mechanisms, models and solutions. As a reserve fund and re-granting platform, GEIF offered \$20,000 as co-funding to support CCCA projects in Myanmar and to explore opportunities to influence governmental policies.**



## **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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