



CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name	Sympathy Hands Community Development Organization
Project Title	Building Capacity of Local Biodiversity Conservation Groups in Shan State, Myanmar
CEPF Grant or Number	CEPF-076 (IUCN Ref.) / CEPF-104310 (CEPF Sec Ref.)
Date of Report	31 st July 2019

CEPF Hotspot: Indo-Burma

Strategic Direction: 8

Grant Amount: US\$ 19,845

Project Dates: 1 August 2017 to 30 June 2019 (23 months)

PART I: Overview

1. Implementation Partners for this Project

Pwehla Environmental Conservation And Development Organization (PHECAD) was the main partner in this project. They are a local organization and they work closely with ethnic groups such as the Pa Oh, Danu and Taung Yoe.

2. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

The two organizations Sympathy Hands Community Development Organization (SHCDO) and PHECAD improved their organizational capacity and cooperated to conserve natural resources at the local level. The two organizations were able to develop funding proposals for future projects based on improved financial and human resource policies, increased capacity (especially for biodiversity conservation), established good coordination with government departments (especially with the Forestry Department) and village tract Administrators. The community improved their knowledge and awareness on biodiversity conservation, related laws and policies. Collective voice and action were easy to organize within township by Community based organizations.

3. Briefly describe actual progress towards the overall project goal (as stated in the small grant contract)

Description of the overall project goal (as stated in the small grant contract)	Summary of actual progress towards this goal
By creating and conserving the habitat of biodiversity, the ecosystem will be well maintained and sustainable livelihood development will be ensured.	Community based Biodiversity Conservation Groups (BCGs) are now equipped with biodiversity conservation knowledge and techniques. The capacity of Sympathy Hands & PHECAD was improved. Livelihood interventions could not be implemented effectively.

4. Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its overall goal

Improved capacity of SHCDO and PHECAD in biodiversity conservation and both organisations effectively managed the project, in part because of trainings provided by CEPF.

5. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

As a result of a stakeholder workshop an application for community forestry and development related issues was submitted. Hopefully this will allow PHECAD to continue conservation activities because they have strong commitment and continue to work in the targeted area.

Biodiversity conservation groups were formed within project but they were not functioning. Their priority is to find daily income for their family survival.

PART II: Project Objectives and Activities/Deliverables

6. Objectives (as stated in the small grant contract)

Objective 1: 30 CSO members from Pwe Hla and surrounding 15 villages and 5 staffs from SHCDO and PHECAD have greater knowledge about biodiversity and so can work more effectively for biodiversity conservation.		
Activity description	Deliverable(s)	Summary of actual progress/results for this activity
Activity 1.1: Conduct a 7-day biodiversity conservation TOT training event (with trainers U Sithu Lwin and Daw Khin Thein Htwe).	Training conducted, with at least 40 participants. Outputs recorded in training report	37 participants attended a 5 day TOT training from 9 to 13 Feb 2018. Leading the training were; U Sein Tun and biodiversity expert, U Ba Than, U Sithu Lwin from Myanmar Environmental Education Team. After this, the trainees shared their knowledge and experiences with their respective villages by utilizing various media (posters and pamphlets) and also talking one on one with community members.
Activity 1.2: Conduct a training event about law enforcement related to biodiversity conservation laws and policy reform (with	Training conducted, with at least 40 participants. Outputs recorded in training report	Training about law enforcement related to biodiversity conservation laws was facilitated by U Tin Myat Soe (Administrator of wildlife conservation from Ywangan) and U Lin Myat. The training was during 29-31 March 2019. U Tin Myat Soe especially discussed about wildlife conservation law, policy, and the National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (NBSAP). After the training,

trainer U Ba Than).		participants conducted awareness raising activities and posted communication materials around Community Forest Areas about the laws related to wildlife protection.
Activity 1.3: Produce and distribute Information, Education and Communication materials (vinyl posters and pamphlets) relating to biodiversity awareness-raising in target villages in the 15 target villages.	1,000 pamphlets and 100 vinyl posters produced and distributed.	1000 pamphlets about biodiversity conservation were printed and distributed in 15 villages. 60 vinyl sheets about biodiversity awareness and 40 sheets about law enforcement were posted in public areas.
Activity 1.4: Conduct a 5-day training event on field practices for survey and research (with trainer Daw Khin Thein Htwe)	Training conducted with at least 37 participants. Outputs recorded in training report.	40 participants from 15 villages and 8 staffs from 2 organizations completed a 5-day training (22-26 April 2019) about field methods for survey and research. The training was led by Daw Tin Tin Ohn (Researcher) and U Ba Than. After this training, participants developed a survey questionnaire for practical work in villages. They also conducted practical surveys in forest areas. They collected data and interviewed household members about biodiversity issues in 15 villages.

Objective 2: SHCDO and PHECAD are strengthened and so are able to work more sustainably.		
Activity description	Deliverable(s)	Summary of actual progress/results for this activity
Activity 2.1: Conduct a 3-day human resources, financial and organizational management training event (with trainer Daw Theimt Theimt Aung).	Training conducted, with at least 21 participants. Outputs recorded in training report	Human resources and financial management training was conducted from 10-12 June 2019. A total of 23 persons participated in the training (16 female) from 2 organizations and Community forest groups. The lead trainer was U Ngwe Nan Han (freelance consultant). During the training a HR policy and Finance policy were developed for 2 organizations, Sympathy Hands & PHECAD. Because of this training, trainees understood HR & Finance process, and 2 organizations improved policies relevant for field operation.
Activity 2.2: Conduct a 5-day Project Cycle Management (PCM) training (with trainer Daw Su Thet Nwe).	Training conducted, with at least 37 participants. Outputs recorded in training report.	Project Cycle Management training was led by Daw Thidar Htay who is experienced trainer from UNDP. The training was conducted at the Pwehla Hall between 28-30 April 2019, and a total of 35 (19 female) attended. Topics covered during the training included; project assessment & problem identification, project design, implementation, and monitoring & evaluation, Concept note for small project were also developed by participants. As a result of the training the two organizations and CBOs' leaders increased their knowledge of PCM and can now apply them in their activities at village level.
Activity 2.3: PCM trainees prepare monthly plans, and start to implement them under the supervision of project staff.	At least 3 monthly plans prepared. Implementation of monthly plans started.	After the PCM training, project teams prepared monthly plans and followed the proposed activities. PHECAD and SHCDO also have better skill to develop project proposals.

Objective 3: Better coordination and cooperation built with project stakeholders, relevant government departments and other interested parties.		
Activity description	Deliverable(s)	Summary of actual progress/results for this activity
Activity 3.1: Holding three biodiversity conservation stakeholder workshops to improve understanding of the challenges facing target villages, identify solutions, and improve coordination.	First workshop held, with at least 50 participants. Outputs documented in workshop report.	The 1 st workshop was conducted on 6 April 2019 with the involvement of project stakeholders, especially Forest Department, Wildlife Conservation Departments, other interested organizations, and members of parliament. Linkages and coordination between the government departments and other stakeholders improved.
	Second workshop held, with at least 50 participants. Outputs documented in workshop report.	The 2 nd stakeholder Workshop has conducted at the Inle Wetland Conservation Center in collaboration with the Forest Department and the Ramsar Site Administration Department. A total of 43 participants attended (15 female) and discussed about birds species conservation around the Inle watershed area. The Biodiversity Conservation Law and policies were presented and participants asked questions related to their area.
	Third workshop held, with at least 50 participants. Outputs documented in workshop report.	Connections were also established between biodiversity conservation professionals, service providers and CBOs.
Activity 3.2: Help the CBOs connect with national networks (including MERN, and the Food Security Working Group), and other NGOs/INGOs which share similar objectives.	Application to become a member of MERN submitted. CBOs are in regular contact with national networks and other relevant organizations.	SHCDO became a member of Food Security Working Group and PHECAD became a member of Myanmar Environmental Rehabilitation Network (MERN) during the project period. These CBOs can now join trainings and events conducted by national networks.

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

Community based approach to form Biodiversity Conservation Groups and then empower them to advocate policy change by facilitating local CSOs, strengthening capacities and systems for organization development.

PART III: Lessons, Sustainability, Safeguards and Financing

Lessons Learned

8. 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)*
- *Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community*

The following is a list of lessons learned from our project;

- Participant selection should be right person according to certain criteria
- Key persons should be mobilized (e.g Village leaders, Ethnic group leaders, Youth leaders etc).
- Resource persons (especially research training) did not know different level of participants
- Biodiversity projects was very new project for our staffs and target communities so some gaps were found during implementation
- Villages where there was no Community Forest showed a low level of interest in biodiversity conservation
- Resource persons from government departments need guidance on how to interact with community participants during trainings. Resource persons especially for biodiversity trainings were very few in our area and there was no Department for Biodiversity Conservation in Pindaya. The main issue is poor community participation in biodiversity conservation because they are living and finding income by selling natural resources such as trees, lime and orchid etc. They mainly focus on their livelihoods day by day and most of them do not understand the relationship between their livelihood and biodiversity conservation. Department of Forestry and Department of Wildlife Conservation do not have enough staff and they could not monitor biodiversity regularly.

Sustainability / Replication

- 9. Summarize the success 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.**

Beneficiaries of the project activities were members of two organizations and BCGs so they will continue conservation activities in their area especially regarding Peacock and birds in community forests. Smaller research assessments will be conducted to know the root causes and issues to be addressed in the future. Assessments are needed to develop project proposals and concept notes. SHCDO and PHECAD will continue proposal writing to apply for funds for project implementation. PHECAD will replicate biodiversity knowledge and practices to Community Forest Committee in Ywangan. And stakeholder engagement will be continued in township level to empower communities to advocate for their basic rights, for example community forest registration and land use certificate.

Safeguards

- 10. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social or environmental safeguards that your project may have triggered.**

This project is very small and objective was about organization development. The project was designed to minimize the impact of development on plants and wildlife. Environmental management plan and social safeguard plan were developed by consulting with community and stakeholders and followed by all project staffs and village volunteers. There were no safeguard

issues encountered during the project. This small project was especially focused on trainings to promote the capacity of community based organizations. Ethnic minorities and indigenous people had equal opportunity to participate in capacity building training and sharing events. Project information and training opportunities were shared in public areas and mass meetings. Project level grievance mechanism by phone was used to inform, to collect complaints and to ask questions. Women and ethnic groups participation in trainings was considered to strengthen gender equality and social inclusion. Staff and volunteers conducted social assessment and ecological survey after trainings.

Additional Funding

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

a. Total additional funding (US\$) N/A

b. Type of funding

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

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
N/A			

* Categorize the type of funding as:

- 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)*

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

The project should be extended for local CBOs to sustain their motivation on biodiversity conservation. Now we received trainings and capacity but we have some funding limitations to work effectively.

PART IV: Impact at Portfolio and Global Level

CEPF requires that each grantee report on impact at the end of the project. The purpose of this report is to collect data that will contribute to CEPF's portfolio and global indicators. CEPF will aggregate the data that you submit with data from other grantees, to determine the overall impact of CEPF investment. CEPF's aggregated results will be reported on in our annual report and other communications materials.

Ensure that the information provided pertains to the entire project, from start date to project end date.

Contribution to Portfolio Indicators

- 13. If CEPF assigned one or more Portfolio Indicators to your project during the full proposal preparation phase, please list these below and report on the project's contribution(s) to them.**

Indicator	Narrative
None	

Contribution to Global Indicators

Please report on all Global Indicators (sections 14 to 21 below) that pertain to your project.

- 14. Key Biodiversity Area Management**

Number of hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) with improved management

Please report on the number of hectares in KBAs with improved management, as a result of CEPF investment. Examples of improved management include, but are not restricted to: increased patrolling, reduced intensity of snaring, invasive species eradication, reduced incidence of fire, and introduction of sustainable agricultural/fisheries practices. Do not record the entire area covered by the project - only record the number of hectares that have improved management.

If you have recorded part or all of a KBA as newly protected for the indicator entitled "protected areas" (section 17 below), and you have also improved its management, you should record the relevant number of hectares for both this indicator and the "protected areas" indicator.

Name of KBA	# of Hectares with strengthened management *	Is the KBA Not protected, Partially protected or Fully protected? Please select one: NP/PP/FP

** Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were improved due to implementation of a fire management regime in the first year, and 200 of these same 500*

hectares were improved due to invasive species removal in the second year, the total number of hectares with improved management would be 500.

15. Protected Areas

Number of hectares of protected areas created and/or expanded

Report on the number of hectares of protected areas that have been created or expanded as a result of CEPF investment.

Name of PA*	Country(s)	# of Hectares	Year of legal declaration or expansion	Longitude**	Latitude**

* If possible please provide a shape file of the protected area to CEPF.

** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456).

16. Production landscape

Please report on the number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened biodiversity management, as a result of CEPF investment. A production landscape is defined as a landscape where agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs. Production landscapes may include KBAs, and therefore hectares counted under the indicator entitled “KBA Management” may also be counted here. Examples of interventions include: best practices and guidelines implemented, incentive schemes introduced, sites/products certified and sustainable harvesting regulations introduced.

Number of hectares of production landscapes with strengthened biodiversity management.

Name of Production Landscape*	# of Hectares**	Latitude***	Longitude***	Description of Intervention

* If the production landscape does not have a name, provide a brief descriptive name for the landscape.

**Do not count the same hectares more than once. For example, if 500 hectares were strengthened due to certification in the first year, and 200 of these same 500 hectares were strengthened due to new harvesting regulations in the second year, the total number of hectares strengthened to date would be 500.

*** Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the site, to the extent possible, or send a map or shapefile to CEPF. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the

Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456).

17. Beneficiaries

CEPF wants to record two types of benefits that are likely to be received by individuals: formal training and increased income. Please report on the number of men and women that have benefited from formal training (such as financial management, beekeeping, horticulture) and/or increased income (such as tourism, agriculture, medicinal plant harvest/production, fisheries, handicraft production) as a result of CEPF investment. Please provide results since the start of your project to project completion.

17a. Number of men and women benefitting from formal training.

# of men benefitting from formal training*	# of women benefitting from formal training*
143	183

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men benefited from training in beekeeping, and 3 of these also benefited from training in project management, the total number of men who benefited should be 5.*

17b. Number of men and women benefitting from increased income.

# of men benefitting from increased income*	# of women benefitting from increased income*
0	0

**Please do not count the same person more than once. For example, if 5 men benefited from increased income due to tourism, and 3 of these also benefited from increased income due to handicrafts, the total number of men who benefited should be 5.*

17c. Total number of beneficiaries - Combined

Report on the total number of women and the number of men that have benefited from formal training and increased income since the start of your project to project completion.

Total # of men benefiting*	Total # of women benefiting*
143	183

**Do not count the same person more than once. For example, if Paul was trained in financial management and he also benefited from tourism income, the total number of people benefiting from the project should be 1 = Paul.*

18. Benefits to Communities

CEPF wants to record the benefits received by communities, which can differ to those received by individuals because the benefits are available to a group. CEPF also wants to record, to the extent possible, the number of people within each community who are benefiting. Please report on the characteristics of the communities, the type of benefits that have been received during the project, and the number of men/boys and women/girls from these communities that have benefited, as a result of CEPF investment. If exact numbers are not known, please provide an estimate.

18a. Please provide information for all communities that have benefited from project start to project completion.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics (mark with x)						Type of Benefit (mark with x)								# of Beneficiaries			
	Subsistence economy	Small landowners	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Other*	Increased access to clean water	Increased food security	Increased access to energy	Increased access to public services (e.g. health care, education)	Increased resilience to climate change	Improved land tenure	Improved recognition of traditional knowledge	Improved representation and decision-making in governance forums/structures	Improved access to ecosystem services	# of men and boys benefiting	# of women and girls benefiting
Nan Kone (Upper)			x												x	x	5	4
War Tayar			x												x		4	3
Pwe Hla			x												x		5	4
Kan Daunt			x												x		4	3
Kyar Kone			x												x		5	4
Let Pan Pin			x												x		4	3

Tae Pin (Upper)			x												x		4	3
Tae Pin (Lower)			x												x		4	3
Pa Yar Phyu			x												x		3	2
Nan Kone (Lower)			x												x		4	3
Shauk Pin			x												x		4	3
Pin Sein Pin			x												x		3	2
Nyaung Kone			x												x		3	2
Paw San Thee			x												x		4	3
Set Kyar Kone			x												x		4	3

*If you marked “Other” to describe the community characteristic, please explain:

18b. Geolocation of each community

Indicate the latitude and longitude of the center of the community, to the extent possible, or upload a map or shape file. Give geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; latitudes in the Southern Hemisphere and longitudes in the Western Hemisphere should be denoted with a minus sign (example: Latitude 38.123456 Longitude: -77.123456).

Name of Community	Latitude	Longitude
Pindaya township, Southern Shan state (Biodiversity Conservation Groups)	20° 55' 17.99" N	96° 39' 2.14" E

19. Policies, Laws and Regulations

Please report on change in the number of legally binding laws, regulations, and policies with conservation provisions that have been enacted or amended, as a result of CEPF investment. “Laws and regulations” pertain to official rules or orders, prescribed by authority. Any law, regulation, decree or order is eligible to be included. “Policies” that are adopted or pursued by a government, including a sector or faction of government, are eligible.

19a. Name, scope and topic of the policy, law or regulation

No.	Name of Law, Policy or Regulation	Scope (mark with x)			Topic(s) addressed (mark with x)														
		Local	National	Regional/International	Agriculture	Climate	Ecosystem Management	Education	Energy	Fisheries	Forestry	Mining and Quarrying	Planning/Zoning	Pollution	Protected Areas	Species Protection	Tourism	Transportation	Wildlife Trade

19b. For each law, policy or regulation listed above, please provide the requested information in accordance with its assigned number.

No.	Country(s)	Date enacted/ amended MM/DD/YYYY	Expected impact	Action that you performed to achieve this change
1				
2				
3				

20. Best Management Practices

Please describe any new management practices that your project has developed and tested as a result of CEPF investment, that have been proven to be successful. A best practice is a method or technique that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means.

No.	Short title/ topic of the best management practice	Description of best management practice and its use during the project
1		
2		

21. Networks & Partnerships

Please report on any new networks or partnerships between civil society groups and across to other sectors that you have established as a result of CEPF investment. Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable even if they do not have a Memorandum of Understanding or other type of validation. Examples of networks/partnerships include: an alliance of fisherfolk to promote sustainable fisheries practices, a network of environmental journalists, a partnership between one or more NGOs with one or more private sector partners to improve biodiversity management on private lands, a working group focusing on reptile conservation. Please do not use this tab to list the partners in your project, unless some or all of them are part of such a network / partnership described above.

No.	Name of Network/ Partnership	Year established	Country(s) covered	Purpose

Part V. 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 Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Mr. NYEIN KYAW KYAW LAT
Organization: Sympathy Hands Community Development Organization
Mailing address: No.7, 10th Street, Qtr 4, Kyaiklat, Ayeyarwaddy region, Myanmar.
Telephone number: +95 9 799 107 449
E-mail address: sympathy.hands@gmail.com