

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Strengthening Sustainability of Protected Are**

[Basic Data](#_Toc1)

[Overall Ratings](#_Toc2)

[Development Progress](#_Toc3)

[Implementation Progress](#_Toc4)

[Critical Risk Management](#_Toc5)

[Adjustments](#_Toc6)

[Ratings and Overall Assessments](#_Toc7)

[Gender](#_Toc8)

[Social and Environmental Standards](#_Toc9)

[Communicating Impact](#_Toc10)

[Partnerships](#_Toc11)

[Annex - Ratings Definitions](#_Toc12)

# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 5162 |
| GEF ID | 5159 |
| Title | Strengthening Sustainability of Protected Area Management in Myanmar |
| Country(ies) | Myanmar, Myanmar |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Wildlife Conservation Society |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| The proposed project is consistent with the Goals of GEF Biodiversity Objective 1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems (BD1). Especially the project will contribute to Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas through increased capacity and standardized practice to improve management and planning especially linked to local community participation and financial planning, while at the national level increased overall coverage of the protected areas systems with the capacity to manage the PA system through strengthened technical capacity. It will also contribute to Outcome 1.2: Increased revenue for the protected area system by identifying opportunities for sustaining financial support to the protected areas network and clear policy framework for funds to be used for PA management. The project will also contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) as submitted to the CBD secretariat in January 2012, in particular: Priority Action 1: Developing Management plans for PAs, Priority Action 2: Promoting community participatory PAs management; and Priority Action 3: Ensuring sustainable financial mechanisms for PAs management. The Project, furthermore, directly contributes to achievement of the Aichi Targets, in particular under the strategic goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. It contributes to Target 11 through increasing significantly the coverage and connectivity of the PA system in important regions with high biodiversity importance and significant ecosystem services, and by increasing management effectiveness of the PA system in a way that is integrated into the wider landscapes.    The project will directly support the 2012 Myanmar National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (MNBSAP). More specifically, it directly supports implementation of three Strategic Directions in the MNBSAP.   Direction 1: Strengthen conservation of Priority Sites including four priorities for intervention: Intervention 1.1 Review and support the expansion of the national protected area system to address gaps in coverage of globally threatened species and Key Biodiversity Areas; Intervention 1.2 Strengthen protected area management at Priority Sites; Intervention 1.3 Pilot alternative approaches to formal protected area management at Priority Sites; and Intervention 1.4 Support strengthening of the legal framework for protected area management and species conservation.   Direction 2: Mainstream biodiversity into other policy sectors including three priorities for intervention: Intervention 2.1 Integrate biodiversity into decision-making processes for land-use and development interventions in the Priority Corridors, Intervention 2.4 Forge partnerships between biodiversity conservation and rural development initiatives, maximize synergies and mitigate risks; and Intervention 2.5. Cooperate with other concerned departments to raise awareness of the trade-off between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development; and   Direction 4: Support local NGOs and academic institutions to engage in biodiversity conservation including Intervention 4.3 Support the development of conservation curricula at local academic institutions.  In addition the project will support activities in two five-year action plans from the MNBSAP. In the Five-year Action Plan toward sustainable nature conservation and wildlife management the project will conduct activities that support the following actions in whole or in part:   the increase to 10 percent of the total area of the country gazetted as PAs by addressing gaps in coverage of globally threatened species and Key Biodiversity Areas and ensuring that all notified protected areas are well managed and looked after (In-situ Conservation).   Notify the proposed 7 protected areas as soon as possible.   Establish wardensÔÇÖ offices at remaining notified protected areas.   Conduct status surveys of priority species, studying their distribution and link results to conservation management.   Strengthen conservation and management of biological diversity and promote sustainable use of biological resources in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and national policies.   Promote local communities participation in biodiversity conservation.   Support the development of conservation curricula at the basic education.   Commission a systematic study for improving the legal system for effective environmental management and biodiversity conservation.  In the Five-year Action Plan toward sustainable management of land resources the project will conduct activities that support the following actions in whole or in part:   Adopt a well-defined or clear-cut land use policy aiming at sustainable development and ensuring environmental sustainability.   Formulate an integrated land use plan that takes into consideration national priorities and goals based on scientifically categorized different land uses.   Review to strengthen policies concerning land resources management and to avoid conflicts due to jurisdictional overlapping.  In addition, the high priority conservation corridor identified for the project overlaps with MyanmarÔÇÖs Tiger Conservation Landscapes (TCL). Project activities will also address all components of the Myanmar National Tiger Recovery Plan as submitted to the Global Tiger Initiative in June 2010. These activities include:   Landscapes with appropriate extensions and corridors legally protected;   Improved management especially concerning law enforcement in source landscapes;   Monitoring ongoing in source landscapes; and   Improved national and trans-boundary cooperation |

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| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

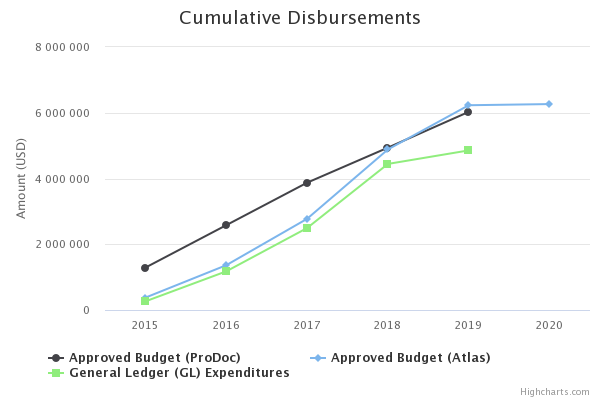
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Substantial |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **Strengthen the terrestrial system of national protected areas for biodiversity conservation through enhanced representation, management effectiveness, monitoring, enforcement and financing** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Increased coverage of Myanmar's terrestrial and aquatic PA network managed by the Forest Department to 10% (6,765,530 ha) of the country's land-area from the current 5.6% (3,788,697 ha) with increased coverage of under-represented ecoregions and essential corridors    Coverage of Myanmar's terrestrial and aquatic PA network managed by the Forest Department as indicated by increased coverage of under-represented ecoregions (revised after MTR, 2019) | 5.6% coverage (3,788,697 ha) of Myanmar’s terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. See inset table for baseline representation of eco-regions (revised after MTR).  Irrawaddy dry Forest 0.45%  Irrawaddy moist deciduous forest 1.82%  Kayah-Karen montane rain forest 0.60%  Myanmar Coast mangrove 0.92%  Nujiang Langcang Gorge alpine conifer and mixed forest 0.00%  Tenasserim-south Thailand semi-evergreen rain forest 5.16% | *(not set or not applicable)* | EOP target (revised after MTR): 6% coverage (4,059,462 ha) of total country land area:  Eco-regions:  Irrawaddy dry Forest - 3%  Irrawaddy moist deciduous forest - 3%  Kayah-Karen montane rain forest - 1.5%  Myanmar Coast mangrove - 3%  Nujiang Langcang Gorge alpine conifer and mixed forest - 3%  Tenasserim-south Thailand semi-evergreen rain forest - 25% | The Mid-Term Review was conducted during the first half of 2018. The report is still being finalised, with management responses to be agreed between UNDP, WCS and the government, but key recommendations are being reflected in the 2018 PIR.    The MTR recognizes that the End of project target level is unrealistically high under the current legal system of the country and has recommended reducing it to 7%.    Out of proposed protected areas reported in 2017, Inkhinebum National Park has been gazetted and 11 are still under development. 13 new areas have been added to the process for a total of 24 proposed protected areas remaining listed in 2018. Their status are listed in following paragraphs in relation to the process of protected area establishment:    Step 0- Processing for data collection to submit for notification  Ashay-myin Anauk-myin Taung (Step 0) - Shan  Bat Cave (geo-physically Significant Reserve) (Step 0) - Sagaing & Mandalay  Me-a-pi Taung (Step 0) - Chin  Hmon Taung (Step 0) - Chin  Sar-mon Taung (Step 0) - Chin    Step 1 - Formation of Supervisory Body: Supervisory Body will be formed in accordance with the approval of the Minister. The Body will be chaired by the head of Township General Administration. Township Forest Officer and Township Land Record Officer are members.  Hkakaborazi NP Extension (Step 1) - Kachin  Panthitaung National Park (Step 1) - Kayah  Kyee-ye-yan-Taung National Park (Step 1) - Chin  Laythar Taung National Park (Step 1) - Chin  Loi-sam-sit Taung Nature Reserve (Step 1) - Shan  Panlaung Pyadalin Cave Wildlife Sanctuary (Extension) (Step 1) - Shan  Shein-ma-gar (Step 1) - Sagaing  Zein-mu Taung National Park (Step 1) - Chin    Step 2 - Notifying the area: The Chair of the Supervisory Body will notify the proposed protected area and ask local communities to claim their rights and privileges.  Shinmataung Wildlife Sanctuary (Step 2) - Magway  Bwaipartaung National Park (Step 2) - Chin  Saytaung Wildlife Sanctuary (Step 2) - Mon & Karen  Zaloontaung Protected Area (Step 2) - Sagaing    Step 3 - Claiming rights and privileges: Local communities have to claim their rights and privileges within 90 days with evidences through village and township administration.  Eimawbum National Park (Step 3) - Kachin  Taninthayi National Park (Step 3) - Taninthayi  Lenya National Park (Step 3) - Taninthayi  Lenya National Park Extension (Step 3) - Taninthayi  Mahamyaing Wildlife Sanctuary (Step 3) - Sagaing  Bawdi Tahtaung Nature Reserve (Step 3) - Sagaing    Step 4 - Compensation considerations: Compensation considerations will be applied if evidences are completed and government agrees  None    Step 5 - Proposal for gazettement: When all processes and documents are completed, the Supervisory Body will submit a proposal for establishment of a protected area including detailed boundary description, location and area to Director General of Forest Department.  Htaung-Wei (Geo-physically Significant Reserve) (Step 5) - Karen    Step 6 - Gazettement of protected area: Cabinet approves the gazettement of the protected area.  Inkhinebum National Park (Step 6) - Kachin    The legal approval of Inkhinebum National Park in Kachin State has added 30,000 Hectares to the protected area system. This is an increase of 0.04% to the system raising the total to 5.64% | Out of the proposed protected areas reported in 2018, Htaung-Wei (Geo-physically Significant Reserve), Pharbaungtaung Nature Reserve, Saytaung Wildlife Sanctuary, and Bwaipataung National Park have been gazetted.    Two proposed protected areas Lenya National Park and Lenya National Park-Extension have been removed from the list of proposed protected areas they are still designated as Reserve Forests.    18 protected areas are still under development. 4 new areas have been added to the process for a total of 21 proposed protected areas listed in 2019.    Their status is listed in relation to the process of protected area establishment:    Step 0- Processing for data collection to submit for notification  None    Step 1 - Formation of Supervisory Body: Supervisory Body will be formed in accordance with the approval of the Minister. The Body will be chaired by the head of Township General Administration. Township Forest Officer and Township Land Record Officer are members.  Bawdi Tahtaung Nature Reserve (Step 1) - Sagaing  Hkakabo Razi (extension) National Park (Step 1) - Kachin  Kyeeyeyan-Taung National Park (Step 1) - Chin  Bat Cave Geo-physically Significant Reserve (Step1)- Sagaing  Sar Mhon Taung National Park (Step 1) - Chin  Panthitaung National Park (Step 1) - Kayah  Me-A-Pi Taung (Step 1) - Chin  Mhone Taung Community Conserved Area (Step 1) - Chin  Zein-Mu Taung National Park (Step 1) - Chin  Shanemakar (Step 1) - Sagaing  Man Wildlife Sanctuary (Step 1) - Magway Region  Loi-Sam-Sit Taung Nature Reserve (Step 1) - Shan  Panlaung-Pyadalin Cave Wildlife Sanctuary (Extension)(Step 1) - Shan  Say Taung Wildlife Sanctuary (Step 1) - Mon State    Step 2 - Notifying the area: The Chair of the Supervisory Body will notify the proposed protected area and ask local communities to claim their rights and privileges.  None    Step 3 - Claiming rights and privileges: Local communities have to claim their rights and privileges within 90 days with evidences through village and township administration.  None    Step 4 - Compensation considerations: Compensation considerations will be applied if evidences are completed and government agrees  Eimawbon National Park (Step 4) - Kachin  Maharmyaing Wildlife Sanctuary (Step 4) - Sagaing  Shinmataung Wildlife Sanctuary (Step 4) - Magway  Zalontaung National Park (Step 4) - Sagaing  Eait Sa Tha Ya cave (geo-physically Significant Reserve) ) (Step 4) - Kayin  Laythar Taung National Park (Step 4) - Chin    Step 5 - Proposal for gazettement: When all processes and documents are completed, the Supervisory Body will submit a proposal for establishment of a protected area including detailed boundary description, location and area to Director General of Forest Department.  None    Step 6 - Gazettement of protected area: Cabinet approves the gazettement of the protected area.  Htaung-Wei (Geo-physically Significant Reserve) (Step 6) - Kayin  Pharbaungtaung Nature Reserve (Step 6) - Mon  Saytaung Wildlife Sanctuary (Step 6) - Kayin  Bwaipataung National Park (Step 6) - Chin    The legal approval of 4 new protected areas has added 41,253 Hectares to the protected area system. This is an increase of 0.06% to the system raising the total to 5.85% |
| Improved habitat conditions at local level indicated by percentage change in forest cover caused by encroachment in Core Areas of PAs measured through remote sensing three times during the project.    Habitat conditions at the target sites indicated by percentage change in forest cover measured through remote sensing during the project (revised after MTR, 2019). | Protected Area Baseline forest cover    (% change / year)  Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary 0.95%  Hkakaborazi National Park 0.95%  Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary 0.95%  Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary 0.95% | *(not set or not applicable)* | Protected Area Target forest cover  (% change / year)  Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary 0.5%  Hkakaborazi National Park 0.5%  Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary 0.5%  Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary 0.5% | Technical changes during the past few years have refined the process to monitor forest change. Forest cover change analysis was conducted in 2016 using conventional satellite images analysis taking several moths to process data. We are now using Google Earth Engine with Hansen dataset applied for forest cover change analysis in 2017 and 2018 as this method is more cost-effective, time-saving and potentially sustainable after the project. The following is the result of forest cover change analysis in 2018.    1) Hukaung Valley WS 0.08%  2) Hkakaborazi NP 0.07%  3) Hponkanrazi WS 0.01%  4) Htamanthi WS 0.01%    The data collected during the project is already much lower than the initial baseline forest cover of 0.95% from the project document. The MTR is advising to reduce the target further to 0.010% on three sites and to 0.1% for the Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary which still has some areas of deforestation. The three other protected areas have virtually no deforestation and when deforestation is detected it can possibly be shown through natural process. The project is succeeding in protecting habitat conditions. | Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary 0.0604%  Hkakaborazi National Park 0.0007%  Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary 0.0032%  Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary 0.0000% |
| Financial Sustainability of PA System | Baseline Financial Sustainability Scorecard score (October 2013) 15% | *(not set or not applicable)* | Target Financial Sustainability Scorecard score 25% | Financial sustainability of PA system was measured through Financial Sustainability Scorecard for 2018 and the score is 24%.    The MTR highlights that this score should be supplemented with details of new financing sources and mechanisms as they are developed and could potential reach a higher target than initially defined. | Final Financial Sustainability Scorecard will be conducted following the release of the Government's 2020 Fiscal Year Budget in October 2019 |
| Number of direct project beneficiaries of which 50% are women. | None | 1. Government staff who improved their knowledge and skills on management and threat reduction due to the project (162M, 35F 18%)  2. local people in project areas benefiting from engagement in conservation activities and improved livelihoods (1779M, 1679F 49%) | 1. government staff who improved their knowledge and skills on management and threat reduction due to the project (160M, 160F 50%)  2. local people in project areas benefiting from engagement in conservation activities and improved livelihoods (5600M, 5600F 50%) | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1. government staff who improved their knowledge and skills on management and threat reduction due to the project (227M, 51F 18%)  2. local people in project areas benefiting from engagement in conservation activities and improved livelihoods (7,619M, 10,529F 58%) |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Enhanced systemic, institutional and financial frameworks for PA expansion and management** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1.1.Strengthened national policies and legislation address the following key issues for the PA system:    a) enabling PAs to have access to funds raised through sustainable financing;  b) integrating valuation of ecosystem services (ES) into national land use planning;  c) clarifying the legal status of PA buffer zones and rationalization of approaches toward them;  d) clarifying the governance arrangements for coastal PAs; and  e) enabling local people to use and benefit from sites within Protected Areas.    Revised indicator after MTR:  Legal status enabling local people to use and benefit from sites within Protected Areas put in place and implemented. | a) PAs currently only access government funding; b) values of ES not considered in national land use planning; c) PA buffer zones vary in location and legal status; d) governance responsibilities for coastal PAs are complex and unclear; e) local people have no legal use rights within PAs.    Revised after MTR, 2019:  Local people have no legal use rights and in PAs, PA buffer zones vary in location and legal status; | *(not set or not applicable)* | a) PAs can access diverse sources of funding for management; b) national land use planning policy incorporates valuation of ES; c) PA buffer zones are given specific and consistent legal recognition; d) governance of coastal PAs is clarified in national policy and law; e) legislation passed to enable local use of land within PAs with appropriate safeguards.    Revised EOP target after MTR:  Legislation passed and zones developed to enable local use of land within PAs with appropriate safeguards. | (a) The first example of PAs accessing Regional funds is being developed by Chin State Government which is now collecting entry funds from international visitors and holding them in a set account for supporting conservation linked activities in and around Natmataung National Park. The system to distribute the funding is still not clear so most of the funds have not yet been used for activities. No other protected areas have collected fees but this is now more clearly defined under the authority of the Director General as defined by the new Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Law. Rules for the law are currently being developed.  (b) WCS has supported the FD in developing the new Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Law which was enacted in May 2018. The law has clarified the definition of Buffer Zone and the role of the Director General to define the Buffer Zone. There are additional sections on the types of activities that can be allowed within the Buffer Zone in relation community activities and ecotourism. Rules for the law are currently being developed.  (c) WCS has supported the new Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Law which has now defined Community Protected Areas and recognizes that communities can develop Community Protected Areas in collaboration with State and Region governments. The Law has also recognized that there is a role of communities in management of protected areas in collaboration with the PA management authority and these areas are in the buffer zone.  Based on recommendations of the Mid Term Review to remove indicators (d) and (e), these are not reported upon. | Indicator 5: Legal status enabling local people to use and benefit from sites within Protected Areas put in place and implemented.    The project has supported NWCD to create and submit the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Law. This was legally gazetted in May 2018. The law created the establishment of Community Conserved Area as a mechanism to support local and indigenous people managing their local areas for conservation purposes.  The project then supported the development of a new Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Rules through an extensive consultation process. The CCA mechanism has been well recognized through the Rules process.    The Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Rules identify communities' rights to access and manage the natural resources within the buffer zones of PAs. The Union Attorney General Office suggested legal advice for buffer zone development that are now more favorable to community rights to access natural resources. |
| 1.2. institutional capacity of the Forest Department for the PA system planning and management as indicated by the Capacity Development Scorecard (Revised after MTR, 2019)    (Combined average for NWCD, Sagaing Region FD, Kachin State FD, the Training and Research Development Division and the Planning and Statistics Division) | Revised after MTR (2019):  Baseline average of 56% (range: 48% to 65%)  No formal training courses on PA management are available in Myanmar | *(not set or not applicable)* | Capacity Development Scorecard target:  67%    Certificate-level Wildlife Conservation and PA management modules are incorporated into regular curricula for these groups (Revised after MTR, 2019):  1. Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD),  2. University of Forestry and Environmental Science (UoFES),  3. Myanmar Forest School (MFS) and  4. Central Forestry Development Training Centre (CFDTC) | The capacity development scorecard was assessed from October to December 2017 as a part of Mid Term Review. CD scores were collected from Kachin State Forest Department, Sagaing Forest Department, Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Training and Research Development Division and Planning and Statistics Division and all score were averaged. The averaged CD score was 63%. | Indicator 6: institutional capacity of the Forest Department for the PA system planning and management as indicated by the Capacity Development Scorecard    The second Basic Wildlife Management Training for NWCD’s rangers has been accomplished from September to October, 2018. A total of 21 Males and 4 females attended the training.    Biodiversity Conservation Protected Area Training books for Myanmar Forest School were published in early 2019.    The UoFES Capacity Development and Curriculum Development action plan is still ongoing. This was supported through a study tour to exchange experiences with several Thai Universities for university faculty and students in October 2018. A total of 8 females and 4 males joined the trip. In November 2018, a field trip to Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary was also organized for UoFES faculty and students. 14 females and 11 males joined the field trip.    The curriculum development for 4th year students of UoFES is still being developed. In June 2019, the internal meeting was conducted with the collaboration of UoFES and WCS to discuss the way forward according to the capacity building action plan.    The Capacity Development Scorecard will be developed in December 2019. |
| 1.3.Certificate-level PA management modules are established for the use of the Forest Department and incorporated into their regular curricula at Yezin University of Forestry and Central Forestry Development Training Centers as appropriate  (Merged under Indicator 1.2 after MTR, 2019). | No formal training courses on PA management are available in Myanmar | *(not set or not applicable)* | Certificate-level PA management modules are incorporated into regular curricula at Yezin UoF and CFDTCs.  At least 150 FD field staff trained and certified in Conservation Management and Community Outreach for PAs . | Capacity Development Strategy for Forest Department including work plan for Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD), University of Forestry and Environmental Science (UoFES), Myanmar Forest School (MFS) and Central Forestry Development and Training Centre (CFDTC) has been finalized. As part of implementing the strategy, Training of Trainers for No (1) Basic Wildlife Management Training has been conducted with NWCD’s Rangers in May and June 2018. There were 14 NWCD Rangers joined for ToT and 20 Rangers joined for the Basic Training.  WCS conducted short trainings for UoFES’s faculties in October and also for 4th year students in December 2017. The overseas study tour was organized with UoFES faculties and students in November 2017. A total of 68 male and 32 females from UoFES participated in the capacity building events. In October 2017, the short training course was also conducted at MFS for all 93 foresters. Regarding to address PA competencies gaps, a series of curriculum development for NWCD staff, 4th year student of UoFES, MFS diploma course and short training for CFDTC are being prepared. The training modules for NWCD’s basic wildlife management have been developed. | See Indicator 6 above. |
| 1.4.100% increase in total budget allocated to the protected areas in real terms compared to the baseline as indicated by the financial sustainability scorecard (deleted and revised after MTR, 2019)    New indicator (after MTR, 2019):  Pilot a feasible sustainable financing mechanism as measured by 50% increase in total budget allocated to the protected areas in real terms compared to the baseline as indicated by the financial sustainability scorecard | Revised after MTR (2019)  No PA sustainable financing system is piloted  US$1,012,642 per year in Financial Scorecard for 2013-14 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Revised after MTR (2019)  - A Conservation Trust Fund is established  - 50% increase in budget allocated to the protected areas in real terms compared to baseline | The Mid-term review updated the financial sustainability scorecard. Total annual central government budget allocated to PA management (excluding donor funds and revenues generated for the PA system) for FY2016/17 was $1,239,368. This is an increase of 65%    There have been a number of additional funding mechanisms to support protected areas considered. This includes the proposed Myanmar Biodiversity Foundation which is an independent conservation trust fund that can support sustainable financing for biodiversity conservation.    The project is seeking legal support to explore potential legal options for establishing a trust fund in the country established to operate within Myanamar to meet identified conservation objectives. | Indicator 7: Piloted a feasible sustainable financing mechanism.    The Myanmar Biodiversity Fund steering committee was established in January 2019. The Project then contracted DFDL for legal advice to legal establish a fund in Myanmar with shared financial mechanisms with Singapore. The Steering Committee visited KEHATI the Indonesian Biodiversity Fund in Indonesia and a series of funds, lawyers and money managers in Singapore. The Steering Committee reviews legal advice and in discussions with MONREC agreed to establish a Limited Liability Company by Guarantee.    MBF was legally registered in July 2019. |
| Red-listed Ecosystem for PA expansion and network review | No national ecosystem information for comprehensive and representative PA gap analysis | Draft National Ecosystem Typology | Improved PA representation through gap analysis using national ecosystem information | *(not set or not applicable)* | Indicator 8: Developed Redlisted Ecosystem for PA expansion and network review    Workshop and review of National Ecosystem Typology and initial draft RLE review for some 30% of Ecosystems. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Strengthened management and threat reduction in the target PAs and buffer zones** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 2.1.Reduction of threats at the local level indicated by an eventual reduction in the number of individuals stopped inside the PA for illegal activities as shown in SMART monthly patrolling reports.    Revised after MTR (2019):  Reduction of threats at the target sites as indicated by increase of patrol distance (km) and decrease of evidences of illegal activity (people, camps and hunting weapons) | See inset table for baseline rate of individuals stopped per year for illegal activities for every 100km patrolled in each PA    Protected Area / SMART Baseline\*  Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary 20  Hkakaborazi National Park 20  Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary 0  Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary 20    \*Catch effort /100km patrol distance    Revised baseline after MTR (2019) for Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary:  - Patrol Distance (km): 4,196 (2015)  - Total People encountered: 3,274 (2015)  - Total Camps encountered: 33 (2015)  - Total Hunting weapons encountered: 993 (2015) | *(not set or not applicable)* | See inset table for predicted annual target rates of individuals stopped per year for illegal activities for every 100km patrolled in each PA    Protected Area Y1 Y2 Y3 Y4 Y5  Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary 30 40 30 15 10  Hkakaborazi National Park 30 40 30 15 10  Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary 10 20 15 8 5  Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary 30 40 30 15 10  \*Catch effort /100km patrol distance    Revised after MTR (2019) for Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary:  Patrol Distance (km): 130,000  Total People encountered: 500  Total Camps encountered: 20  Total Hunting weapons encountered: 20 | Threat reduction indicator - catch effort per 100 km patrol distance has not been consistent between protected areas depending on the patrol types - on-foot, motorboat, motorcycle and truck etc. Catch effort per 100 km patrol distance tends to be higher in PA where the major patrol type is on-foot patrol and it tends to be lower on PA where major patrol type is vehicle patrol.    Therefore, indicators - patrol distance (km), encounter of people, camps and hunting weapons haven been changed in the Mid-term review as a clearer indicator for threat reduction.    In 2018, those patrol distance (km), encounter of people, camps and hunting weapons are:    Hukaung Valley WS were 4776 km, 48 peoples, 12 camps and 31 hunting weapons.    Hkakaborazi NP were 2412 km, 63 peoples, 21 camps and 310 hunting weapons.    There were no data of Hponkanrazi WS as there was no SMART patrol in 2017.    Htamanthi WS were 116,193 km, 948 peoples, 31 camps and 38 hunting weapons. | Indicator 10a: Reduction of threats at the target sites as indicated by increase of patrol distance (km) and decrease of evidences of illegal activity (people, camps and hunting weapons)    In 2019, patrol distance (km), encounter of people, camps and hunting weapons were:    There were no data for Hukaung Valley WS    There were no data for Hkakaborazi NP    There were no data for Hponkanrazi WS    Htamanthi WS were 19473.73  km, 9 persons, 45 camps and 51 hunting weapons. |
| 2.2.Stable or increased encounter rates for key indicator species in each demonstration PA based on annual summaries of SMART patrolling data and focused auditory surveys for gibbons. | Encounter rate of 2 Hoolock Gibbon groups/ km2 for Htamanthi WS (revised after MTR, 2019)    0.2 to 2.5 ungulate sign observations/ 100 km patrolled for all demonstration sites (revised after MTR, 2019) | *(not set or not applicable)* | Revised after MTR (2019):  - Encounter rate of 2 Hoolock Gibbon groups/ km2 in Htamanthi WS  - 0.2 to 2.5 ungulate sign observations/ 100 km patrolled for all three demonstration sites. | Ungulate encounter rate per 100 km patrol distance using SMART law enforcement data has not been consistent between protected areas depending on the patrol types - on-foot, motorboat, motorcycle and truck etc. Encounter rate tends to be higher in PA where the major patrol type is on-foot patrol and it tends to be lower in PA where major patrol type is vehicle patrol.    Ungulate encounter rate per 100 km patrol distance using SMART law enforcement data have been generated for all four PAs.    Hukaung Valley WS 0.2  Hkakaborazi NP 5.1  Hponkanrazi WS N/A  Htamanthi WS 0.2    As Hoolock Gibbon auditory surveys have been conducted in Htamanthi WS and Hponkanrazi WS. Hoolock Gibbon group density per sq. km will be used to verify the encounter rates from SMART. Hoolock Gibbon group density per sq. km    Hukaung Valley WS N/A  Hkakaborazi NP N/A  Hponkanrazi WS N/A  Htamanthi WS 2.13    Medium cats relative abundance per 100 trap nights of Htamanthi WS was also assessed.    Hukaung Valley WS N/A  Hkakaborazi NP N/A  Hponkanrazi WS N/A  Htamanthi WS 0.94 | Indicator 10b: Stable or increased encounter rates for key indicator species in each demonstration PA based on annual summaries of SMART patrolling data and focused auditory surveys for gibbons.    As Hoolock Gibbon auditory surveys have been conducted in Htamanthi WS    Hoolock Gibbon group density per sq. km will be used to verify the encounter rates from SMART. Hoolock Gibbon group density per sq. km in Htamanthi WS 3.01/km2    Ungulate encounter rate per 100 km patrol distance using SMART law enforcement data have been generated  Htamanthi WS 8.6 ungulate sign observations/ 100 km |
| 2.3.Improved management effectiveness of individual PAs covering 2,604,000 ha, indicated by the % increase in the METT assessment | Protected Area / METT Baseline Score  Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (1,737,300 ha) 52%  Hkakaborazi National Park (381,200 ha) 51%  Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary (270,400 ha) 12%  Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary (215,100) 49%    Revised after MTR (2019):  Hkakaborazi National Park: 51%  Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary: 12%  Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary: 49% | *(not set or not applicable)* | Protected Area / METT Target Score  Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (1,737,300 ha) 82%  Hkakaborazi National Park (381,200 ha) 83%  Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary (270,400 ha) 69%  Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary (215,100) 82%    Revised after MTR (2019):  Hkakaborazi National Park 83%  Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary 69%  Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary 82% | The METT scores were assessed for all four model protected areas in 2018 as a part of Mid Term Review. The METT scores of Hkakaborazi NP, Hponkanrazi WS and Htmanthi WS were increased and that of Hukaung Valley WS was decreased due to armed conflicts between government army and Kachin Independent Army (KIA). The METT scores of four PAs are as follows:    Hukaung Valley WS METT = 48%  Hkakaborazi NP METT = 58%  Hponkanrazi WS METT = 39%  Htamanthi WS METT = 61% | The METT scores will be assessed for all four model protected areas at the end of 2019 in preparation of final review. |
| 2.4.Community participation systems piloted at demonstration PAs and incorporated into management plans    Revised after MTR (2019):  Community and stakeholder’s participation systems piloted at demonstration PAs and landscapes, and incorporated into management plans | No existing systematic measures for community participation at demonstration PAs | *(not set or not applicable)* | Community and stakeholder’s participation systems piloted at demonstration PAs and landscapes, and incorporated into management plans (revised after MTR, 2019) | Three of the four demonstration PAs are undergoing the design and development of community participation systems and all four PAs are developing Management Plans. The PAs each have community members that work with the project and then a growing number of part time participants and volunteers that work on a range of activities in and around their communities.    Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary community participation is limited because of conflict. The project supports 2 female and 8 male Community Guards that work full time on the project.    Hkakaborazi National Park and Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary are administered through the same Forest Department staff and project trainings and field activities are closely linked, especially in relation to community participation. The protected areas are supported by 25 male Community Guards that work full time on the project. In addition they have provided trainings for 66 Community Guardians including 9 females. 18 male and 7 female community members attended an intensive farmer field training in collaboration with Metta Development Foundation and additional community members will be attending an intensive training on tourism and hospitality supported by MOHT and Swiss Contact.    Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary has the most developed community participation system. The project supports 23 male Community Guards that work full time on the project. In addition Community Guardians are trained to participate in biodiversity conservation and protected area management. 20 females and 25 males have been trained. Community Guardians work directly with the PA and project on field activities. Some have been given additional training to become Community Mobilizers to engage with village development and to understand environment, ecosystems and sustainable development and to build their capacity in facilitation skills related to community engagement. Three communities have been piloted through participatory Research Action and Community Forestry to draft Community Managed Forest Management Plans. They are now in the process of maintaining Community Forestry Certificates from local government. | Indicator 12: Community and stakeholder’s participation systems piloted at demonstration PAs and landscapes, and incorporated into management plans    The PAs each have community members that work with the project and then a growing number of part time participants and volunteers that work on a range of activities in and around their communities.    Hkakaborazi National Park and Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary are administered through the same Forest Department staff and project trainings and field activities are closely linked, especially in relation to community participation. The protected areas are supported by 15 male Community Guards that work full time on the project until December 2019. In addition, 17 community members including 3 females attended an intensive farmer field training in collaboration with Metta Development Foundation and additional community members, 3 males and 7 females, attended an intensive training (Two trainings: 1st – August-October 2018, and 2nd April – June 2019) on tourism and hospitality supported by MOHT and Swiss Contact.    The newly established Snow Mountain Green and Clean Association composed of local community members and indigenous people successfully completed a garbage management campaign in Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary in November 2018. In the preparation meetings, 10 males and 5 females attended regularly. In addition, about 110 people including local porters participated in the campaign. This association was formed on 17th Aug 2018 by volunteers from Putao-based tourism and hotel businesses with these initial objectives: (a) to promote responsible tourism by cooperation between tourism business groups and environmental groups; (b) to promote environmental responsibility to sustain the tourism sector; (c) to seek solutions to garbage and plastic pollution which are challenges to tourism; and (d) to enhance awareness raising campaigns for the snow-capped mountains to remain being clean and green.    Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary has the most developed community participation system. The project supports 27 male Community Guards that work full time on the project. In addition, Community Guardians, in total 41 CGs, are trained to participate in biodiversity conservation and protected area management activities. Community Guardians work directly with the Protected Area on field activities. New Community Guardians Trainings were held in Htamanthi WS, trainings were held in January and June, 35 men and 31 women joined the training. Some participants were given additional training to become Community Mobilizers to engage with village development activities to understand environment, ecosystems and sustainable development and to build their capacity in facilitation skills related to community engagement.    Four communities/villages were piloted through participatory Research Action and Community Forestry to draft Community Managed Forest Management Plans. In January there was a CF committee meeting attended by 27 men and 1 women. In June, a refreshment training for CF Committee members (12 men and 5 women) was also completed. They are now in the process of requesting Community Forestry Certificates from local government through the gazettement of protected public forests.    In addition, 8 community members including 5 women attended an intensive farmer field training in collaboration with Metta Development Foundation. Additional community members, 3 men and 7 women, attended two intensive trainings ( 1st – August-October 2018, and 2nd April – June 2019) on tourism and hospitality supported by MOHT and Swiss Contact.    A handicraft training was held in February, with 20 men and 14 women including disable persons to promote sustainable utilization of the communities natural forest resources.    In developing the Management Plan for Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary, there were two consultation workshops with local communities and key stakeholders for Homalin Township and Khamti Township in May. The Management Plan, has four main sections and many management action (MA) is related to communities and stakeholders. Those sections are 1. Law enforcement (1 MA for wildlife and threat information collection); 2. People awareness and participation (7 MAs for need assessment to support community livelihoods, Community Forest establishment, participatory action research, community awareness raising, creating alternative livelihood development, sustainable agriculture, community led natural resource management); 3. Biological monitoring (1 MA for biological monitoring through community guardian participation); 4. Park management/administration (1 MA for ecotourism development plan development). |
| 2.5 Number of knowledge products reflecting best practices and lessons learned documented and disseminated for scaling-up. | none | *(not set or not applicable)* | - Reptile, Bird and Mammal National Redlists  - Ecosystem Redlist  - Protected Area Representation Document  - NWCD Curricula for Biodiversity and Protected Area management  - UEAFS Curricula for Biodiversity and Protected Area management  - MFS Curricula for Biodiversity and Protected Area management  - CFDTC Curricula for Biodiversity and Protected Area management  - Draft Conservation Biodiversity and Protected Area Rules | *(not set or not applicable)* | Conservation Biodiversity and Protected Area Rules has recently incorporated the Attorney General Office's (AGO) comments, following a public consultation with community members, CSOs, NGOs and government authorities. The revised rules will now be submitted to the Central Committee for Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in the State Counsellor's Office. Comments from the CCIPSD with be submitted for review by the AGO and then submitted to parliament for final approval. |
| 2.6 PA Strategies including M & E developed | Limited Strategy Documents | Capacity Development Strategy | - Sustainable Finance Strategy  - Capacity Development Strategy  - Exit Strategy | *(not set or not applicable)* | Capacity Development Strategy was completed in January 2019 |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 80.55% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 80.55% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 4,854,877 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 100,457 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 6,027,397 |
| Co-financing | 17,896,300 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Apr 12, 2013 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Sep 10, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Jun 23, 2015 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Oct 27, 2015 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 11, 2019 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Jun 1, 2018 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Dec 24, 2019 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Jun 21, 2020 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2018-09-14 |
| 2019-01-29 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| Political | Risk: Political tension between government and Kachin Independence Army (KIA) limit ability to implement project activities in Hukaung Valley WS    Update  Measures: The KIA have not signed the national ceasefire agreement and violence has escalated since the project was developed. Following the Mid-term Review Hukaung Activities have been seriously reduced and all activities will end in December 2019. |
| Strategic | Risk: High market demands on wildlife and forest products in China leads negative impacts on ecosystems and wildlife populations.    Update  Measures: Law enforcement and regular patrols (5 patrols per month in Htamanthi WS) are being conducted. Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) system is applied to assess the effectiveness of patrols. WCS is coordinating with Sagaing Region Protected Area Management Coordinating Committees to explore ways and means to reduce wildlife trade and trafficking at the landscape level scales. The government has also developed an Illegal Wildlife Trade Task Force in Sagaing Region and WCS has additional resources to increase their support for capacity building activities. |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| Not applicable |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| There were no delays in meeting key milestones. The project has also confirmed that they are on track to end project implementation by intended end date, and no cost extensions will be requested. |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The MTR was conducted in 2018, and the report was finalized in March 2019. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Moderately Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The project implementation progress was rated as moderately satisfactory. From February to June 2018 the Mid-term was conducted and a revised results framework was developed and approved in June 2019. Under the project objective: Strengthen the terrestrial system of national protected areas for biodiversity conservation through enhanced representation, management effectiveness, monitoring, enforcement and financing. Under the initial four indicators, I1. coverage of Myanmar’s protected area network has grown very slowly, and the end of project target has been reduced to 6%. Fortunately, I2. Habitat conditions can now be easily measured through a new digital platform http://myanmar-geotools.appspot.com and forest loss has been dramatically reduced in all field sites. I3. Financial sustainability of the protected area system continues to improve, and I4. the number of direct project beneficiaries have surpassed the end project target.    Under outcome (1) Enhanced systemic, institutional and financial frameworks for protected area expansion and management: I5. Legal status enabling local people to benefit within protected areas has improved greatly since the new Conservation Biodiversity and Protected Area Law and this has been broadened through the public consultations to inform and improve CBPA by-laws. The past year has seen dramatic changes in the legal status and capacity building to support implementation is now beginning. I6. The work on the capacity building development strategy continues to be implemented to support NWCD and other FD staff. I7. The Myanmar Biodiversity Fund was legally registered shortly after June 2019. This is being endorsed through MONREC as the independent sustainable financing mechanism for supporting protected area management. I8. The national Ecosystem Red List and the draft Myanmar Ecosystem Typology was reviewed and commented on with a range of government and civil society organizations in May 2019.    Under outcome (2) Strengthened management and threat reduction in the target PAs and buffer zones. Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary activities were ended following the mid-term review. Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary (HPWS) and Hkakaborazi National Park (HKNP) were put on hold shortly after due to the threat of increased violence due to expanding ethnic tensions. I9. The business plan for Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary was developed in August 2018 and is now being integrated with the new HWS management plan following public consultations. I10. Threats have been reduced in HWS through extensive SMART patrolling and gibbon and ungulate populations continue to increase. I11. Management effectiveness will be documented using METT for the final review in 2020. I12. Community and stakeholder participation in HWS, HPWS and HKNP continues with technical trainings for agriculture and tourism improvements.    The project has continued to adapt management actions to reduce conflicts with local communities and develop new opportunities to secure representation and management improvements at the national and field level.    The Annual Work Plan was revised following the mid-term review. Additional activities were revised to support the government’s interest to increase public consultations to support the CBPA By-laws and build increased dialog with numerous community members and CSOs for future natural resource management.    Project risks and ongoing risk management have resulted in a reduction of field sites due to ongoing ethnic conflicts. The new SESP systems was updated following the Mid-term evaluation. Under the new system the project is clearly High significance, although all initial risks were identified in the project document. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The overall achievement of the project is ‘moderately satisfactory’ during the review period. The mid-term review of the project conducted between February to June 2018 noted factors beyond the control of the project, that had disrupted project progress. It also noted weaknesses and inconsistencies in the original project design as articulated in the project document and results framework, which had not been updated/revised since the approval of the project. The review recommended the project undertake a strategic review of the project design and results framework to adapt to the changing country context, including reducing the overall scope of the work, prioritizing key strategic interventions with greatest sustainable impact and potential for scaling up, and updating project risks and assumptions. It also recommended dropping planned work on national land use planning and coastal governance, formally excluding Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary from further monitoring against results framework and consider undertaking a socio-economic mapping of terrestrial ecosystems for the PA system planning.    In accordance with the recommendations of the mid-term review, the project design and results framework have been updated. The project progress is assessed against the revised results framework, and key strategic interventions. With the recommendation to prioritize key strategic interventions with the potential to have the greatest sustainable impact, the project continued to support the Government the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (CBPA) Law with its Rules development process and facilitated both government and CSO led consultations. The Rules identify communities’ rights to access and manage natural resources within PA buffer zones.    To ensure sustainable financing for protected area management and conservation, the Myanmar Biodiversity Fund has been established. Conflict between ethnic armed forces and government has severely impacted project activities, with implementation having to stop in Hkakaborazi National Park, and in delaying project implementation in others since 2017. Long standing conflicts over land and natural resources, and differences in conservation approaches have been also disrupted project progress. In an attempt to break this impasse in the project locations between the government and ethnic communities, the project supported a delegation comprised of Forest Department officials, ethnic community leaders from Karen, Shan and Rawang communities to the Philippines in June 2019 on ‘Co-management of Protected Areas and Indigenous Peoples Community Conserved Areas and Territories.’    The exchange visit was found to be productive by the delegation members, and they agreed that it provided them with a practical understanding of how ICCAs can be operationalized and presented them with input options for ongoing diversification of conservation approaches in the country, including on ICCAs. While not falling in the PIR review period, in follow up to the visit, an ICCA knowledge sharing workshop was organized for CSOs and community groups in July. This is widely acknowledged as a critical step forward with positive implications for the promotion of the role of local communities and indigenous peoples in biodiversity and protected area conservation. ICCAs are now recognized by the government as an integral part of supporting local communities to expand protected areas in Myanmar.    Preparations for the National Red List on ecosystem is under way, and is expected to be finalized in the next few months.    Despite the good progress in the review period, the project will need to ensure that all its resources are focused on achieving the revised project targets within short period of time left till the closure of the project. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the fourth and the final PIR of the project ‘Strengthening sustainability of protected area management in Myanmar’. The project will end in June 2020. The development objective of the project is to strengthen the terrestrial system of nationally protected areas for biodiversity conservation through enhanced representation, management effectiveness, monitoring, enforcement and financing. The development objective will be achieved by implementing two outcomes. The project conducted MTR in 2018 and was finalized in March 2019. Some course corrections were made to the project results framework and reflected in the current reporting period. Concurring with the country office, I have rated the progress towards development objective and implementation progress as ‘moderately satisfactory’.    PROGRESS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES (DO)  The project has two outcomes: (1) Enhanced systemic, institutional and financial frameworks for PA expansion and management; and (2) Strengthened management and threat reduction in the target PAs and buffer zones. The key indicators that are tracked to measure the progress towards achieving the development objectives are: a) Expansion of protected area to 6% of the country’s land; b)Improve forest cover area; c) Improve financial sustainability score; and d) Raise knowledge and skills of the government staffs and the local communities on the management and threat reduction. During the reporting period, the project team made progress in all indicators. Specifically, the four new areas are declared as protected areas; the forest cover in three national parks and one wildlife sanctuary have been improved; knowledge and skills of the government staffs and local communities are improved; and the assessment on the financial sustainability of the protect areas are currently underway. Due to these advancements, I have assessed the status of DO as “On Track”.    Under Outcome 1, the progress is tracked by measuring five indicators that will improve systemic, institutional and financial frameworks for protected area expansion and enhance management. The progress made during this reporting period include development of Biodiversity and Protected Area Law; as part of the capacity development activities, a Wildlife Management Training was conducted, Biodiversity Conservation Protected Area training books was published; several workshops and learning field trips were also organized; and The Myanmar Biodiversity Fund steering committee is established. Due to these advancements towards the end-of-project target, I concur with the status of the outcome assessed as ‘On Track’ by the project manager (PM).    Outcome 2 aims to strengthen management of and reduce threat to protected areas and their buffer zones. The progress under the outcome is tracked by measuring six indicators. To reduce the threats to the protected areas, patrolling coverage was increased. Increased patrolling resulted in locating hunting camps and weapons. For example, in Htamanthi total of 19,474 kilometers (km) were patrolled that yielded identifying 45 hunting camps, 51 hunting weapons and 9 people potentially engaged in hunting activity. The patrolling data on other protected areas were not reported by the PM; the encounter rate for the hoolock gibbon was increased to 3.01/km square surpassing the EOP target of 2/km square. In addition, a community participation system was incorporated in the updated protected area management plans. The project team focused on gender advancement during several trainings and workshops that were carried-out as part of the pilot community participation management system. Several protected area management strengthening activities were also carried-out and the METT score for the model protected areas is scheduled for an assessment for the second-half of 2019. Due to these several advancements, I concur with the status of the outcome assessed as ‘On Track’ by the project manager.    IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS (IP)  In 2018, the project delivered 92% of the approved grant and in 2019 the half-year delivery is at 31%. As of June 30, the cumulative financial delivery of the project is at approximately 81% of the total approved project grant. With continued strong delivery, the project is on track to fully disburse funds by project completion date.    The project is scheduled to close operationally on June 2020. To-date, preparation of knowledge management products appears to be very limited. The project should focus on engaging more on the knowledge management by utilizing the traditional and social media platforms. The project team should start documenting the lessons learned and the best management practices.    The project is collaborating well with the local communities and with other partners during project implementation. For example, a senior representative of Rawang community joined the Forest Department delegation to the Philippines on a south-south collaboration event. The delegation also included ethnic community leaders, government employees, and the Wildlife Conservation Association (WCS) employees. WCS is a major partner during implementation and among other activities it supports the project with knowledge management through its website.    Despite the GEN-1 gender marker rating for the project, 73% women benefited from engagement in conservation activities and improved livelihood. But, only 14% of female government staffs received the knowledge and skills training. The project has not undertaken a gender analysis and gender mainstreaming plan. However, in collaboration with conservation partners, the project prepared a gender-focused “Community Voice for Wildlife Conservation in Htamanthi”.    The Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the project was conducted in 2018, and report finalized in March 2019. The MTR made 10 recommendations including revisiting the results framework to reduce the overall scope of work and prioritizing the activities with potential to have greater impacts. The other important recommendation was – prioritizing policy-related interventions that are critical to both the scale up and sustainability of project impacts, and achievable within the available project timeframe, capacity and other resources. The project team adopted the recommendation showing the adaptive management ability. As a response to the MTR, the team prepared a detailed management response addressing each recommendation and adjusted the results framework accordingly.    The PM has identified two major risks a) political risk due to the tension between the government and Kachin Independence Army, and b) a strategic risk due to the high market demands on wildlife and forest products in China. As a measure to mitigate the political risk, in light of continued escalation of violence, the PM adopted the MTR recommendation to reduce the scope in Hukaung. On the strategic risk, law enforcement measures are taken by increasing protected area and its buffer zone patrol. The PM is expected to identify any emerging challenges and respond with adaptive management approach to ensure the development objective remain on track throughout the project implementation period. When necessary, the PM is recommended to coordinate with the UNDP country office team as well as the regional technical adviser to identify measures to mitigate the risks.    Following the MTR, the project SESP was revised in 2019 and the existing project risks have been escalated. The overall project risk has now been categorized as 'High'. One of the risks that has been escalated to 'high risk' is related to lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples. As a mitigation measure, UNDP CO and the project participated in the amendment of the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area (BCPA) Law initiated by the Forest Department in 2018. Also participated in multi-stakeholder consultations to develop the associated rules and by-laws. The new CBPA Law stipulates a greater role for local communities. The Law recognizes “Community Conserved Protected Areas” as a new category of protected area. The Law also permits the Director General (Forest Department) to allow co-management in collaboration with the local communities and defines buffer zones for the socio-economic development of local communities.    The project governance mechanism is very effective with strategic guidance and decisions provided by the PB. During the reporting period, two PB meetings were convened: 14 September 2018 & 29 January 2019.    RECOMMENDATIONS  I have following recommendations to ensure that the project continue to stay on track:    (1) Plan for the terminal evaluation 3 months prior to project closure. CO should complete the terminal evaluation well before the expected closure date of June 2020;    (2) project team to prepare a project exit strategy or a closure report mainly taking stock of project’s achievements, new knowledge generated, good practices that could be replicated, challenges, lessons learned, partnership, etc. This will be a good reference for the TE team.    (3) Improve reporting on the increased patrolling targets in Hukaung Valley, Hkakaborazi, and Hponkanrazi;    (4) CO to closely monitor the identified political and strategic risk and coordinate with the RTA if an urgent measures are required to complete the project on schedule. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| [Community Voices for Wildlife Conservation in Htamanthi\_7 May 2018.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5162/213868/1728338/1742896/Community%20Voices%20for%20Wildlife%20Conservation%20in%20Htamanthi_7%20May%202018.pdf) |

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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN1:** some contribution to gender equality |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| No reports/experience of GBV in project demonstration sites. The project activities are implemented through gender responsive approach. |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| During the PIR period 66 men, 9 women (14%) from government staff improved their knowledge and skills on management and threat reduction due to the project; and 3,621 men, 4,952 women (73%) from local communities in the project areas benefited from engagement in conservation activities and improved livelihoods.    Project activities such as capacity building trainings/workshops and consultation meetings facilitated women's representation and participation. Efforts were also made to ensure women's representation in CF Committee.    Also, in other projects implemented in parallel with GEF-5, project activities contributed beneficiaries to women like energy efficient stoves distribution and vaccination program for domestic cattle near the protected area. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| During this reporting period, gender equality and women empowerment are considered in all training activities, women are targeted as participants particularly in recent capacity building programs for livelihood support such as:  a) handicraft making training with 20 men and 14 women, ranging from 18 to 70 years old, were invited including disabled men and women for alternative livelihood support. Handicraft training was supported through Earth Vocational Training a Nay Pyi Daw registered NGO that will provide continued support for handicrafts to access national and international markets.  b) Farmer Led training for sustainable agriculture and livestock (8 community members including 5 women). The use of improved agriculture and livestock techniques will be reviewed with participants following the growing season (July – September).  c) Three men and seven women, attended two intensive trainings on tourism and hospitality training led by government Hotel and Tourism Department and Swiss contact (to support community-based ecotourism development and diversify livelihood opportunities)  The ongoing activities in Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary were built upon the Community Voices for Wildlife Conservation in Htamanthi - Assessment of Community Engagement in Wildlife Conservation through a Gender Lens. The work on efforts to improve gender capacity are not yet sufficient. Women have less experience in development affairs, except in traditional social and religious groups in the village. Traditional gender stereotyping still plays a large part in identifying the role of women in CF committees. Women’s participation should be encouraged by both direct and indirect approaches. In the natural resource management sector, gender equity is being considered in the consultation process to establish Community Forests and forming CF committees. Out of 30 villages, 8 villages are soon to finish management plans for their Community Forests. In forming committees, women were selected mostly as the Treasurer of the CF committees. To encourage more women’s participation in natural resource management, the project team held separate consultations with men and women in order to identify their specific natural resource needs. Women have shown an interest in seed collection and home gardening, and technology to make recycled products. Women are continually encouraged to be elected in CF management committees; however, women’s participation remains relatively low. Four communities/villages were piloted through participatory Research Action and Community Forestry to draft Community Managed Forest Management Plans. In January 2019 there was a CF committee meeting attended by 27 men and 1 woman. In June 2019, a refreshment training for CF Committee members (12 men and 5 women) was also completed. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| Yes |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| Under the new SESP it has been highlighted that the project is focused on protected areas in relation to Indigenous People’s access to land and resources. The potential risk impacts of projects that may affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous people are to be considered at a minimum potentially severe. Also, the project is implemented in collaboration with the Myanmar Government and we recognize the government has limited capacity in project implementation and limited legal structures to secure human rights.    These issues have been highlighted in government changes to the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area (CBPA) Law and the subsequent process to engage public participation in the CBPA By-laws. The Forest Department (FD) led the process with the collaboration of several organizations especially Land Core Group (LCG), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The organizing team arranged eight events starting from 15th August 2018 including consultation workshops in four main regions (Dawei, Yangon, Mandalay, Myitkyina), a consolidation workshop to combine all comments, two expert round table meetings to review technical issues and a final consultation workshop at the national level. A total of 998 representatives from CSOs, CBOs, ethnic communities, private sector, parliaments and government departments attended the events.    This process is still ongoing as the Forest Department is supporting the creation of new community conservation areas, managed by local communities and is currently working towards new systems to ensure Free Prior Informed Consent in all future activities linked to land and natural resources in areas managed by the forest department. |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| Yes |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| The mid-term review recommended that social and environmental screening undertaken at the time of project approval be updated using the recent UNDP SESP to ensure that risks reporting including mitigation measures and management strategies were harmonized across different processes. The revised overall project risk was assessed as &quot;high&quot; on account of the high probability and significance of the risks. |

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| **SESP:** [ESSR Report signed letter final.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5162/213868/1717828/1682871/ESSR%20Report%20signed%20letter%20final.pdf)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| [SESP WCS SSPAM.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5162/213868/1728312/1742858/SESP%20WCS%20SSPAM.docx) |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| The social and environment risks were updated following the mid-term review of the project. |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| The Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Law was promulgated on 21st May 2018 and was followed by a series of multi-stakeholder consultations from August to December 2018 to develop the associated rules and by-laws. The consultation process for rules development aimed to increase trust building and understanding among civil society organizations, government institutions, local ethnic communities as well as non-governmental organizations by taking consideration of all relevant comments and agreements. The consultation process focused on biodiversity conservation, protected area management, recognizing land tenure and natural resource use of local communities, strengthening public participation through recognition of their needs and other matters such as eco-tourism, payment for ecosystem services, hunting, freshwater and marine conservation.    The Forest Department (FD) led the process with the collaboration of several organizations especially Land Core Group (LCG), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The organizing team arranged eight events starting from 15th August 2018 including consultation workshops in four main regions (Dawei, Yangon, Mandalay, Myitkyina), a consolidation workshop to combine all comments, two expert round table meetings to review technical issues and a final consultation workshop at the national level. A total of 998 representatives from CSOs, CBOs, ethnic communities, private sector, parliaments and government departments attended the events. The individual or organizational comments from both national and international experts were also accepted through online or via post. The final consultation workshop was conducted on 12th December 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw and the draft rules incorporating appropriate comments and have been developed by the FD rules development committee and organizing team with assistance from the legal experts.    As the next part of the process, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC) submitted the drafted rules to the Attorney General’s Office to receive legal comments. These comments were reviewed in an additional public consultation supported by the project in July 2019.    This process has built a broad collaborative mechanism that can be utilized to continue the public discussions on the Community Conservation activities including Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCAs). This process lead to the a South-South Exchange between Myanmar and the Philippines with senior leaders from Rawang, Shanni. and Karen community leaders and the Director General and other leaders of the Forest Department visiting several ICCAs on Luzon and learning from a range of Philippine leaders on how ICCAs could be realized in Myanmar.    There is now broad support for clear Indigenous management of natural resources and how that can be strengthen through the CBPA Law and by-laws. The updated version of the by-laws will next be submitted to the cabinet as well as the Security, Peace and Stability, Rule of Law Working Group for their approval. After that, MoNREC will enact the rules by submitting them to the Amyotha Hluttaw or Pyithu Hluttaw for their cross check and approval according to the constitution. Consultations with the natural resources and environmental conservation committee of Amyotha Hluttaw may be needed before final submission to Amyotha Hluttaw. |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| Project activities and progress have been disseminated to the general public through:  GEF5 Myanmar Biodiversity Project (https://www.facebook.com/GEF-Myanmar-Project)  WCS Myanmar website (https://myanmar.wcs.org)  Myanmar Biodiversity website (https://myanmarbiodiversity.org),  WCS Myanmar Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/WCSMyanmar/) and  WCS Myanmar Twitter (https://twitter.com/wcsmyanmar?lang=en).  Project Site on UNDP Myanmar Website: (https://www.mm.undp.org/content/myanmar/en/home/projects/sustainability-of-protected-area-management.html) |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

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| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| No |

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| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| No |

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| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

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| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| Yes |

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [5162 Myanmar\_PAS\_CEO\_Endorsement\_September 2.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5162/213868/1682585/1682866/5162%20Myanmar_PAS_CEO_Endorsement_September%202.doc) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| To overcome challenges in stakeholder engagement and trust building activities (which contributed to the activities being put on hold in Kachin state, a senior representative of the Rawang community was invited to be part of a delegation led by the Director General, Forest Department to the Philippines. The delegation on ‘Co-management of Protected Areas and Indigenous Peoples Community Conserved Areas and Territories included FD officials, ethnic community leaders from Karen, Shan and Rawang communities, WCS and UNDP colleagues. The south-south learning exchange visit was productive and provided a practical understanding of how ICCAs have been operationalized in Philippines as well as provided Philippines stakeholders about Myanmar’s efforts in this regard.As a follow up to the exchange visit, a ICAA knowledge sharing workshop was organized with the CSOs and community groups on 18 July 2019. All parties acknowledged that this is a critical step forward with positive implications for the promotion of the role of local communities and indigenous peoples in biodiversity and protected area conservation. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.