

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Tanintharyi PA Land/Seascape Management**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 5427 |
| GEF ID | 6992 |
| Title | Ridge to Reef: Integrated Protected Area Land and Seascape Management in Tanintharyi |
| Country(ies) | Myanmar, Myanmar |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | MMR10 (Myanmar) |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| The Ridge to Reef: Integrated Protected Area Land and Seascape Management in Tanintharyi (R2R Project) aims to address the negative impacts of unsustainable sector-led development practices on pristine marine, coastal and terrestrial biodiversity of Tanintharyi Region of Myanmar, while taking into account needs for climate change adaptation and inclusive, equitable social and economic development for communities that are dependent on natural resources. The project will address four key barriers to effectively employing integrated and inclusive planning, management and protection of Tanintharyi’s marine, coastal and terrestrial biodiversity: 1) Under-representation of KBAs in the PA system; 2) insufficient systemic capacity for integrated land and seascape planning and management (ILSM); 3) Weak institutional and staff capacity to manage PAs, buffer zones and corridors; and 4) Insufficient capacity to generate and apply biodiversity information and knowledge.  Approximately 20% of the Myanmar’s KBAs are found in the Tanintharyi Region which include the largest areas of lowland wet evergreen forest remaining in the Indo-Myanmar Hotspot, some of the largest contiguous blocks of mangrove forest in mainland SE Asia, and some 800 islands and diverse marine ecosystems of the Myeik Archipelago, considered the most important area in Myanmar for hard and soft corals. These ecosystems support outstanding biodiversity including flagship species such as tiger, Asian elephant, Asian tapir, Sunda pangolin, and the endemic Gurney’s pitta, among others.  The project aims to achieve the sustainable development and ecological security of Tanintharyi by developing systemic and institutional capacity to generate, maintain and apply essential information and knowledge about its valuable biodiversity and ecosystems. The project will employ integrated planning and management of the protected area land/seascapes, with integrated ridge to reef planning and management as principles, expanding the PA system and increasing connectivity of protected areas to conserve valuable biodiversity and KBAs. It will explore the full spectrum of governance options, given the recent history of the region and on-going post conflict negotiations between the Union Government and Karen National Union (KNU), and take a conflict-sensitive approach to implementation. It will also establish a foundation of biodiversity knowledge for the terrestrial and marine ecosystems of the Tanintharyi Region, which can be directly applied to manage and secure the globally significant biodiversity of the Sundaic Subregion and Andaman Sea.  The primary global benefits that will be delivered include adoption of sustainable land management (SLM) and sustainable forest management (SFM) practices that will reduce land degradation, secure ecosystem services and mainstream biodiversity conservation over a landscape of 2,000,000 ha of globally significant terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems, and test SFM approaches in at least 200,000 ha. The project will have contribution to UN Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 13: Climate Action, Goal 14: Life Below Water, Goal 15: Life on Land, Goal 1 and 2: No Poverty and Zero Hunger, and Goal 5: Gender Equality; and directly support implementation of Myanmar Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (MNBSAP), contributing to Aichi Targets: Target 5: Loss of Natural Habitats, Target 11: Coverage and Connectivity of the PA System, Target 12: Extinction of Threatened Species, Target 14: Restoring and Safeguarding Essential Ecosystem Services, and Target 15: Enhancing Ecosystem Resilience.  The project will be implemented over a period of six years (2018 to 2023). The total funding of the project is estimated at USD 21.75 million; of which USD 5.25 million constitutes grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the remaining USD 16.5 in co-financing from the government and Responsible Parties (RPs). It is a DIM project and RPs comprise: Forest Department, Department of Fisheries, Tanintharyi Regional Government, Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and Smithsonian Institution (SI). |

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| **Project Contacts** | |
| UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser | Mr. Tashi Dorji (tashi.dorji@undp.org) |
| Programme Associate | Ms. Pakamon Pinprayoon (pakamon.pinprayoon@undp.org) |
| Project Manager | Mr. Min Zaw (min.zaw@undp.org) |
| CO Focal Point | Ms. Pem Wangdi (pem.wangdi@undp.org) |
| GEF Operational Focal Point | Mr. Hla Maung Thein (hlamaungthein.env@gmail.com) |
| Project Implementing Partner | Mr. Peter Batchelor (peter.batchelor@undp.org) |
| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

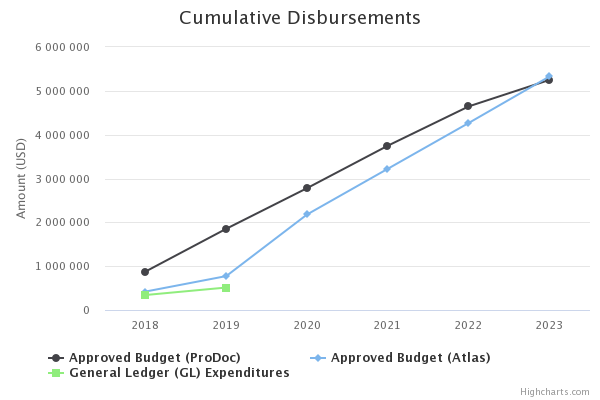
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Unsatisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Substantial |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **Securing long-term protection of Key Biodiversity Areas through integrated planning and management of the protected area land and seascape in Tanintharyi** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Indicator 1: Number of new partnership mechanisms with funding for sustainable management solutions of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste at national and/or subnational level (IRRF Output 1.3 indicator 1.3.1) | No current policy for mainstreaming biodiversity ecosystem services into ILSM. There are: Environmental Conservation Committee (ECC), and Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Committee. Land-coast-sea connections in existing policies not recognised except for temporary coordination committees. National Land Use Policy still in preparation. | ILSM coordination mechanism proposed to Tanintharyi regional government for integration of BD and ES into regional and local planning, in line with national policy and administration structures. | Fully functional and funded ILSM coordination mechanism institutionalized within Tanintharyi regional government ensures integration of BD and ES into regional and local planning, in line with proposed National Land Use Policy and existing coordination mechanisms. | *(not set or not applicable)* | The start of project is delayed and currently suspended |
| Indicator 2: Increase in ILSM Capacity Development Score of Tanintharyi regional government for integrated landscape and seascape management (ILSM), (see Annex 13a) ILSM Capacity Development  Scorecard score Tanintharyi Regional Government Baseline 2016 7 Mid- Term (PY3) 15 EoP Target (PY6) 36 | See inset table for 2016 baseline | See inset table for target score. | See inset table for target score. | *(not set or not applicable)* | The start of project is delayed and currently suspended |
| Indicator 3: Number of direct project beneficiaries (parts of Kyunsu, Tanintharyi and Bokpyin townships within the project landscapes, based on spatial analysis of 2014 village tract census data) | 0 | At least 4 Village Cluster Sustainable Development Committees in place (at least 40% female) serving at least 25,000 people | 50,000 persons in village clusters (at least 50% female)    Indirect beneficiaries at least 145,000 persons (estimated population of project target area within these townships; 50% female) | *(not set or not applicable)* | The start of project is delayed and currently suspended |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Land and seascapes rich in biodiversity in Tanintharyi are connected and their planning and management are integrated.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Indicator 5: Number of regional and local plans informed by / integrating biodiversity information including KBAs, HCVF and HCSF distribution | Regional and local government plans do not take account of spatial planning data concerning biodiversity information and comprehensive mapping data for KBAs, HCVF and HCSF is not available | Geospatial platform operational, accessible and being populated with data to inform regional and local plans | Information on distribution and status of biodiversity including KBAs, HCVF and HCSF has informed land use plans for Myeik and Kawthoung Districts and at least two Regional sectoral plans. | *(not set or not applicable)* | The start of project is delayed and currently suspended |
| Indicator 6: increase in GEF Financial Sustainability Scorecard (see Annex 4a). Component Financial Sustainability Scorecard score (%)  1. Legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks Baseline (2016) 15% Target (PY6) 50%  2. Business planning and tools for cost- effective management Baseline (2016) 24% Target (PY6) 60%  3. Tools for revenue generation Baseline (2016) 4% Target (PY6) 40% | See inset table for 2016 baselines | Component 1: 25%  Component 2: 40%  Component 3: 20% | See inset table for target scores. | *(not set or not applicable)* | The start of project is delayed and currently suspended |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Strengthened management and threat reduction in target proposed PAs and surrounding land and seascapes. Strengthened management and threat reduction in target proposed PAs, smallholder zones and corridors** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Indicator 7: Improved management effectiveness of individual existing and new PAs of global significance, covering over 500,000 ha , indicated by the percentage increase in the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scores (see Annex 4a): Protected Area Lenya proposed NP (183,012 ha) METT Baseline Score (2016) 24 METT Target Score (PY6) 60  Ngawun (Lenya Extension) proposed NP (184,997 ha) METT Baseline Score (2016) 21 METT Target Score (PY6) 60  Tha Gyet (166,338 ha) and Thein Khun RFs (96,151 ha) METT Baseline Score (2016) 11 METT Target Score (PY6)40  Thayawtatangyi Island LMMAs (5,626 ha)  Lin Long-Parawa (3,605 ha)  Don Pale (1,877 ha)    METT Baseline Score (2016) 38  METT Target Score (PY6) 65  METT Baseline Score (2016) 36  METT Target Score (PY6) 65  Langann Island LMMA (4,918 ha) METT Baseline Score (2016) 40 METT Target Score (PY6) 65 | See inset table for METT baseline scores. | METT scores are mid-way towards end of project target. | See inset table for METT target scores | *(not set or not applicable)* | The start of project is delayed and currently suspended |
| Indicator 8: Increased capacity of communities to plan and manage land and marine resources in an integrated and sustainable manner indicated by the implementation of Sustainable Development Plans for village clusters. | Planning and management of land and marine resources lacks coordination, integration and sustainability. | At least 4 Sustainable Development Plans drafted for village clusters (approximately 80 villages in total); participatory land use planning process underway for Smallholder Zone properties; village cluster enforcement networks established using SMART for 3 LMMAs. | At least 4 SDPs implemented; Smallholder Zone properties mapped through participatory land use planning process and recognized by local government; at least 5 infringements reported for each of 3 LMMAs through village cluster enforcement networks. | *(not set or not applicable)* | The start of project is delayed and currently suspended |
| Indicator 9: Improved integrity and functioning of coral reef ecosystems within the targeted seascape, indicated by coral reef condition (Reef Check methodology) | Coral reef condition – Reef Check index of 57.07% for sites surveyed in GEF project seascape (Good condition category) (see Reef Check scores in Annex 23) | Stable condition of coral reefs (Reef Check scores) | Stable / improved condition of coral reefs (Reef Check scores) | *(not set or not applicable)* | The start of project is delayed and currently suspended |
| Indicator 10: Status of selected indicator species in the targeted landscapes as indicated by monitoring protocols (see inset table and Annex 2). Indicator Species  (specify units of measurement  Tiger Baseline Status (Year X) TBC Target Status (PY6) TBC  Asian Elephant Baseline Status (Year X) TBC Target Status (PY6) TBC  Asian Tapir Baseline Status (Year X) TBC Target Status (PY6) TBC  Gurney’s Pitta Baseline Status (Year X) TBC Target Status (PY6) TBC  Plain-pouched Hornbill Baseline Status (Year X) TBC Target Status (PY6) TBC | See inset table for baseline status. Baselines to be established during Year 1. | Status of indicator species is maintained or improved over baseline (see inset table) | Status of indicator species is improved over baseline (see inset table) | *(not set or not applicable)* | The start of project is delayed and currently suspended |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Component 3:Emplacement of the National Biodiversity Survey and geospatial platform for Integrated Land and Seascape Management. Prototype National Biodiversity Survey framework and geospatial platform operational within Tanintharyi Regional Government.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Indicator 11: Training programme in biodiversity conservation and monitoring is developed and institutionalised with adequate human and financial resources in place at Myeik University, addressing staff competence requirements within FD and DoF for staff engaged in PA and related conservation management work, and capacity development strategy adopted by MoNREC and DoF | Current university programmes cover traditional disciplines of botany, zoology, marine science etc but not applied courses that cut across disciplines or contribute towards conservation management competence standards; lack of directed capacity building on biodiversity knowledge generation and application | Training programme of some ten modules on biodiversity conservation and monitoring is developed and run at least twice; mechanism developed to offset costs through course fees; capacity building strategy on biodiversity knowledge generation and application adopted by MoNREC and DoF | Training programme of some ten modules on biodiversity conservation and monitoring is run annually as part of Myeik University programmes by end of project, with adequate human and financial resources in place; capacity building strategy on biodiversity knowledge generation and application operational within MoNREC and DoF. | *(not set or not applicable)* | The start of project is delayed and currently suspended |
| Indicator 12: Capacity to collect and analyse biodiversity information/data, and apply them to the conservation and management of PAs and KBAs, and land and marine resource use planning, (as measured by the improvement in scores of UNDP capacity development scorecard (see Annex 13b&c):  Target Institution  Regional Forestry Dept Capacity Development Baseline Score (2014) 35% Capacity Development Target Score (PY6) 76%  Regional Dept of Fisheries Capacity Development Baseline Score (2014) 33% Capacity Development Target Score (PY6) 72% | See inset table for Capacity Development Scorecard baselines. | Capacity development scores improved by 20% (mid-way towards achieving target) | Increased institutional capacity to collect and analyse biodiversity information/data, and apply them to the conservation and management of PAs and KBAs, and land use planning (see targets in inset table and Annex 13b&c) | *(not set or not applicable)* | The start of project is delayed and currently suspended |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 4**  **Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Evaluation. Enhanced knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation support biodiversity conservation in Tanintharyi** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Indicator 13: Number of key project lessons and strategies for sustainable land and seascape management documented, disseminated and adopted at local and national levels | Baseline (2016): Project implementation is yet to start | Target by midterm: Initial project results and lessons learned shared through website (one news article per month – at least one/year on gender issues; at least 5 completed technical reports available online); Tanintharyi Land and Seascapes Knowledge Forum held (50 female participants); initial ILSM lessons shared with FD, DoF and Regional Government for consideration in landscape planning | Target by end of project:  All project results and lessons learned shared through website with one news article per month – at least one/year on gender issues; at least 15 completed technical reports available online; three Tanintharyi Land and Seascapes Knowledge Forums held (150 female participants in total); ILSM lessons learned presented to FD, DoF and Regional Government for adoption in landscape planning processes. | *(not set or not applicable)* | The start of project is delayed and currently suspended |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 9.76% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 27.66% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 512,554 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 150,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 5,250,000 |
| Co-financing | 16,538,116 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Jun 1, 2015 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Apr 4, 2017 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Dec 11, 2017 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Jul 17, 2018 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 11, 2020 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Sep 11, 2023 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Dec 11, 2023 |
| 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)** |
| 2018-07-18 |
| 2019-07-30 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| Strategic | Description of risk:  a) On 16 July 2018, Conservation Alliance of Tanawthari (CAT), a coalition of Karen community organizations [Tenasserim River & Indigenous People Networks (TRIP NET), Community Sustainable Livelihood and Development (CSLD), Tarkapaw Youth Group (TKP), Candle Light (CL), Southern Youth (SY), Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN), & Tanintharyi Friends (TF)] organized a Press Conference in Dawei and submitted a complaint letter to GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner alleging project of non-compliance of Social and Environmental Standards. Grievance include:  1. violation of indigenous peoples’ right to Free Prior and Informed Consent,  2. threats to land and resource rights of Karen indigenous people,  3. the rights of Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) and refugees to return to  their lands, and  4. implication on the fragile peace process in the region.  5. calls for an alternative approach to conservation – one that is centered  around the rights of indigenous peoples to manage and protect their forests  and resources instead of large-scale protected area.    b) On 2 August 2018, GEF Secretariat forwarded the project complaint to SECU. On 20 September 2018, CAT confirmed to SECU that they wished to pursue a compliance review process through SECU prior to engaging with the Stakeholder Response Mechanism of UNDP’s Accountability Mechanism.    Risk management measures undertaken include:    i) The 1st Project Board Meeting was held on 18 July in Dawei. The project board and the UNDP Sr. management directed the project to conduct a thorough Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and come-up with a robust Environmental and Social Management Plan, Indigenous Peoples Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan before start of any project activities.    ii) Environmental and Social Safeguards and Indigenous Peoples Expert was hired to conduct ESIA. However, the actual ESIA couldn’t be conducted considering submission of the grievance to the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU), despite UNDP’s offer to unconditionally discuss all issues around the Ridge to Reef project design, adaptive management and implementation.    iii) UNDP suspended the project activities following receipt of complaint. No project field activities are implemented, and have not singed any responsible party agreements with Responsible Parties. The decision was supported and endorsed by SECU in their Eligibility Determination memo.    iv) Forest Department issued a statement’, partly speaking to the SES concerns raised by CAT in their complaint letter on 18 July 2018.    v) UNDP reached-out to CAT on 3 September 2018 for a bilateral meeting and offered to unconditionally discuss all issues around the R2R project design and implementation. Reiterated UNDP’s position that the Ridge to Reef project activities will not commence until appropriate SES management plans have been agreed by stakeholders and management measures put in place. CAT has not responded to the meeting invitation, instead confirmed to SECU on 20 September 2018 their wish to pursue a compliance review process. |
| Political | Description of Risk:    1) The National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), a landmark agreement between the government and representatives of various ethic armed organizations (EAOs) was signed in October 2015, paving a path for national Reconciliation and Peace after over seven decades of conflict and civil war. Despite a five-year of ceasefire period, trust and cooperation between government and ethnic armed groups and CSOs has remained low, on account of a combination of territorial disputes, land rights, access to natural resources.    2) KNU is one of the leading EAOs in the NCA and the Union level led Peace Process. KNU has temporarily withdrawn from the Peace Talks in late October 2018.    3) KNU Forest Department sent a letter to UNDP and GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner on 16 July 2018 on their position and recommendations on the Project. Key points in the letter include:  a) Protected Areas in contested areas must not be established until a  comprehensive peace agreement has been secured, and the management  of land and resources in contested territories has been agreed upon. Further  initiatives must be implemented in accordance with the NCA’s provision of  the Interim Arrangement.  b) UNDP should reevaluate the project process and give priority to human  rights and indigenous peoples’ rights to redesign the project. When  redesigning the project, UNDP has to respect the participation of local  people and CSOs, from the beginning and at each step of project  implementation.  c) Before the project starts, it must go through a FPIC process. If indigenous  peoples are harmed by the project, they must be given compensation and  rehabilitation assistance.  d) The project must not move forward until after IDPs and refugees have  returned.  e) During the interim period of political negotiation, these projects should not  help directly or indirectly expand government administration in the KNU  areas.    Risk management measures undertaken:  1) UNDP led by the Resident Representative, has held two rounds of high-level meeting with KNU in October and December 2018 in Mae Sot, Thailand. UNDP reiterated its openness and offered to jointly discuss on the project concerns and finding common solutions. KNU indicated that they are working on a KNU policy on NCA and Interim Arrangements, and the same will be necessary to be articulated before they commit to any technical discussion of the project.    2) KNU noted that while it is open to the principle of project redesign, it would like to work through the SECU led process on the Ridge to Reef project as a formal complaint has been lodged.    3) In the interim, KNU expects UNDP to support operationalise the Interim Arrangements under the NCA, and coordination mechanisms in advancing the peace process. UNDP acknowledged the request but has no formal mandate in the Peace Process for now.    4) UNDP and KNU agreed to maintain an open channel of communication and organize meetings on a regular basis to strengthen collaboration and discuss issues of mutual interest. |

# 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.** |
|  The inception workshop of the project was held on 17 July 2018; expected dates for mid-term review and terminal evaluation are December 11 2020 and September 11, 2023 respectively.     Start of the project activities is already delayed by one and half years, and it is currently suspended, considering the on-going SES compliance review by the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit against the project grievance filed by CAT.     There will be subsequent delays in the key project milestones, including the eventual project closure. |

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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 are no key project milestones during this reporting period. The project has been suspended following the grievance submitted by CAT to the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit, and is currently under SES compliance review. Upcoming milestones are likely to be affected depending on the duration of the review process, its findings and recommendations. |

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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.** |
| Project inception workshop was held on time (17 July 2018), however the project activities are temporarily suspended soon after the inception workshop following a complaint submitted by CAT to SECU, and is currently under compliance review by SECU. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Unsatisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment |  The project is off track, and start of activities is delayed by one and half years. Currently, the project is suspended and undergoing compliance review of its Social and Environmental Standards by SECU. Detail project grievance, status and response is provided under Safeguards Section of the PIR.   CAT organized a press conference, on 16 July 2018 and submitted a grievance to GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner and UNDP.   CAT declined the offer to jointly address the project concerns through a Stakeholder Response, instead invoked SECU investigation of the project against its SES on 20 September 2018. While the formal complaint to SECU was filed by CAT, KNU Forest Department also complained to UNDP and GEF and raised their concerns on the project (detail is provided under Adjustments Section of the PIR .   SECU determined the case as eligible for further compliance review on 18 December 2018, supported and endorsed the CO proactive decision to suspend the project activities to mitigate any risks.   The first SECU field mission to Myanmar to gather additional information and evidence was conducted from 14 to 23 July 2019. Second SECU field mission is expected in October 2019, to visit project sites and meet with local communities. Final SECU report is estimated to be issued by November/December 2019.   Start/resumption of the project activities remain uncertain. It will be dependent on the outcome of the SECU investigation and guidance, and fulfillment of the compliance requirement determined thereof.    Myanmar’s development context underscores the close interrelationship between peace, governance, environment and sustainable development. The peace process faces challenges in ensuring an inclusive and flexible approach that is acceptable to all parties involved in the national dialogue, and adherence to the 2015 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).    The NCA, a landmark agreement between the government and representatives of various ethic armed organizations (EAOs) was signed in October 2015, paving a path for national Reconciliation and Peace. However, the pace and substance of Peace Process has been disappointing and has faced a number of bottlenecks, some of which such as on natural resource governance issues date back to colonial and pre-independence times. Despite a five-year of ceasefire period, trust and cooperation between government and ethnic armed groups and CSOs has remained low, on account of a combination of territorial disputes, land rights, access to natural resources.    Project was designed in 2014 to 2016, during a period when there was a great optimism for a comprehensive peace process from all the parties. One of the core elements of the NCA is the Interim Arrangement (IA), for the government and EAOs to coordinate and work on development projects and services during the period of Peace Negotiations.    NCA Article 25 stipulates that:    ” the Ethnic Armed Organizations that are signatories to this agreement have been responsible in their relevant capacities, for development and security in their respective areas. During the period of signing ceasefire and political dialogue, we shall carry out the following programs and projects in coordination with each other in said areas. (1) Projects concerning the health, education and socio-economic development of civilians. (2) Environmental conservation. (3) Efforts to preserve and promote ethnic culture, language, and literature. (4) Matters regarding peace and stability, and the maintenance of rule of law in the said areas. (5) Receiving aid from donor agencies both inside and outside the country for regional development and capacity-building projects. (6) Eradication of illicit drugs".    However, there is no clear protocol and implementation mechanism in place, and the term “Interim Arrangements” (IA) is interpreted and understood differently by different stakeholders.    The project is challenged with a complex, multifaceted case and a changing political landscape. The case is conflated between a number of national level different political, social and economic issues. KNU wants an equal play in the project, recognition as de facto government, uphold KNU land and forest policies in the project implementation as per the Interim Arrangement under the NCA. On the other hand, the government has resistance and had been reluctant, this is one of the main contentions also for the Peace Process.    UNDP remains fully open to unconditionally addressing the issues and concerns raised by CAT and KNU based on the outcome of SECU investigation and guidance.    The CO has recently established CO Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM) and designated SRM Focal Points to enable project-affected stakeholders to expeditiously address project concerns through dialogue and negotiations. It has also developed an EAO Engagement Strategy and rolled-out training on SES, FPIC, Conflict Sensitivity and ‘Do No Harm’ approach to program and project staff. CO, through the UNREDD+ is piloting FPIC process in three types of jurisdictions: Union government control; mixed control and EAO control locations. This will provide key local lessons and application of FPIC in different environment and settings.    Although the project remain suspended, UNDP is finding new opportunities and making concerted efforts to effect greater policy change and enabling environment. Currently, several communities have expressed their serious concerns on expansion of the traditional top down ‘protected areas approach to conservation leading to an impasse by indigenous peoples and local communities in different parts of the country on declaration of any new protected areas; and instead are demanding recognition of customary community conservation practices and their rights over land and natural resources. One of the demands from the CAT is also recognition and support to Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) as an alternative to top-down expansion of protected areas.  UNDP had been part of the amendment of the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Law (amended in 2018) and supported the public consultations of the Rules. The amended law has expanded the category of protected areas, and includes Local Community Conserved Protected Areas. This provides a new opportunity and a positive direction to redesign the project.    Further, the country office from its internal resources and jointly with Wildlife Conservation Society coordinated a South-South learning on ICCAs from 2 to 8 June 2019 to the Philippines. The key objective of the South-South exchange was to learn about the experiences in the co-management of Protected Areas and ICCAs in relation to the Philippines’ Protected Area system and how these systems could be applied in Myanmar. The learning visit was participated by Director General, Forest Department; Regional Forest Officers (Sagaing, Kachin and Tanintharyi); and Ethnic Groups: Rawang Literature and Culture Association, Shan Literature and Culture Association and Tenasserim River & Indigenous People Network (TRIPNET). TRIP-NET, one of the leading CAT CSOs and party to the grievance joined the learning visit from Tanintharyi Region. This was a unique opportunity, where high level government officials and ethnic group CSOs could travel together and interact on a common issue. As a follow of the South-South Learning exchange visit to the Philippines, a national ICCA workshop with the CSOs and community groups was held on 18 July 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw. TRIPNET shared the experiences from the South-South learning visit on ICCAs to the Philippines on behalf of the delegation. The workshop included a number of presentations on customary conservation practices by different ethnic groups, and a group work on ‘challenges, opportunities and way forward in implementing ICCAs in Myanmar’. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | Project progress is rated as ‘unsatisfactory,’ with progress being ‘off-track’ across all Development Objectives (DO). The project is delayed and has not implemented any field activities, and is currently suspended. It is under UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards (SES) compliance review by the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU) of the OAI following the grievance filed by the Conservation Alliance of Tanawthari (CAT) against the project.    On 16 July 2018, two complaints concerning UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards (SES) were filed by CAT and KNU to GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner and UNDP CO, alleging that the project violates indigenous peoples’ right to FPIC; threatens the land and resource rights of Karen indigenous people, and the rights of Internally Displaced Peoples and refugees to return to their lands; and risks “the resurgence of violence”.    Respecting the project concerns raised, and so as not to exacerbate the situation or cause any potential harm, UNDP put on-hold all project activities and proactively reached out to both KNU and CAT, offering to unconditionally discuss the project issues flagged. Two rounds of meetings were held between senior leadership from KNU and UNDP CO (3 October and 6 December 2018). In both the meetings, KNU expressed that they would prefer to discuss matters related to the project only once they finalize their internal policy on Interim Arrangement under the National Ceasefire Agreement. CAT did not respond to the CO’s request, instead confirmed (on 20 September 2018) its desire to pursue the compliance review process with SECU prior to engaging with UNDP’s Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM).    SECU team recently concluded its first fact-finding mission to Myanmar in July. A follow up mission is planned for October 2019, and the final report expected in early 2020. In the light of the ongoing SECU process and continued suspension of project activities without a clear visibility on resumption, the Project Management Unit will be dissolved in December 2019 as per the recent Project Board decision (3rd PB held on 30 July 2018). This is intended to ensure availability of PMU earmarked resources on project resumption pursuant to the issue of Compliance Report by SECU.    Though the outcome of the compliance review is uncertain, UNDP remains positive and looks forward to quick finalization of the review report, and concrete practical options it might provide for moving forward with the project.    UNDP is making a concerted effort to effect greater policy change and enabling environment to enhance participation and ownership of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity conservation. The amended Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area (BCPA) Law (amended in 2018) 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. Further, the government has recently re-called its proposal for declaration of Lenya and Lenya Extension Protected Areas.    In June 2018, UNDP facilitated a South-South learning on ICCAs to the Philippines. The learning visit was participated by Director General, Forest Department; Regional Forest Officers (Sagaing, Kachin and Tanintharyi); and Ethnic Groups: Rawang Literature and Culture Association, Shan Literature and Culture Association and Tenasserim River & Indigenous People Network (TRIPNET).    Contingent to the outcome of the compliance review and agreement of various stakeholders, this provides a new opportunity and a positive direction to redesign the project to take forward the new initiative under BCPA law to enhance local community participation and ownership in biodiversity conservation through Community Conserved Protected Areas (CCPA)/ICCAs. The project could be redesigned to achieve the following:     Policy harmonization and development of operational guidelines/SOP on CCPA/ICCAs.   Institutional and technical capacity strengthening of stakeholders on diversified governance and conservation approaches.   Documentation and mapping of customary conservation approaches, and piloting of CCPA/ICCAs | |
| **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** | Unsatisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the first PIR of the “Ridge to Reef: Integrated Protected Area Land and Seascape Management in Tanintharyi” project. The project’s objective is to secure the long-term protection of Key Biodiversity Areas through integrated planning and management of the protected area land and seascape in Tanintharyi. The project aims to achieve the sustainable development and ecological security of Tanintharyi’s marine, coastal and terrestrial biodiversity through integrated planning, management and protection involving a wide range of stakeholders. Tanintharyi region is highly critical from biodiversity conservation perspective harbouring the largest contiguous forest area in Indochina spanning across the border with Thailand, with approximately 20% of Myanmar’s Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) located in Tanintharyi.    The project was CEO endorsed in April 2017 and the project document signed by the government and UNDP in December 2017. The PMU with two key staff – Project Manager and Chief Technical Specialist were on board around March 2018. The project board was established on 3 July 2018 and the project inception workshop was held on 17 July 2018.    Unfortunately, the project could not move further with the implementation of the activities following complaints from the Conservation Alliance of Tanawthari (CAT), a coalition of Karen community organizations and Karen National Union (KNU) Forest Department alleging the project of non-compliance to the social and environmental standards. Two complaints were filed one day before the inception workshop on 16 July 2018. CAT submitted a complaint to GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner alleging that the project violates indigenous peoples’ right to FPIC; threatens the land and resource rights of Karen indigenous people, and the rights of Internally Displaced Peoples and refugees to return to their lands; and risks “the resurgence of violence”. Another complaint was submitted by the KNU Forest Department to GEF and the UNDP Country Director.    CAT confirmed its desire to pursue the compliance review process with UNDP’s Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU) prior to engaging with UNDP’s Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM) on 20 September 2018. SECU registered the case on 26 September 2018 (Case No. 0010) and determined it eligible for Compliance Review on 18 December 2018. CO has confirmed to SECU that the implementation of project activities has been put on hold indefinitely since July 2018. The same was recorded by SECU while determining the eligibility of case for investigation. In consistent with paragraph 55 of SECU’s Investigation Guidelines, which allows SECU to recommend temporary suspension of a project due to imminent, significant and irreversible harm to communities, SECU has endorsed the Myanmar CO decision to temporarily suspend the project.    The CO has made concerted efforts reiterating its intention to unconditionally discuss with CAT and KNU to better understand the issues and concerns on the project design and implementation and, address the same. Two high level meetings with senior leadership from KNU and UNDP CO were held in Mae Sot, Thailand (3 October & 6 December 2018). UNDP fully respecting the concerns raised by CAT and KNU – the project hasn’t initiated any field activities and have not signed any agreement with the two Responsible Parties – Flora and Fauna International (FFI) and Smithsonian Institution.    On this basis, the progress towards development objectives (DO) and implementation progress (IP) has been rated “Unsatisfactory”.    While no on-the ground work had started, CO has engaged with the government and CSOs to effect greater policy change through enhancing participation and ownership of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity conservation. CO has proactively engaged in the amendment of the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area (BCPA) Law (amended in 2018). UNDP supported public consultations and Expert Roundtables of the CBPA Rules development. 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. This provides a new hope and positive direction for biodiversity conservation in Myanmar. To bring about positive policy change in the areas of community engagement in conservation and protection of environment, UNDP CO coordinated South-South learning for government officials and CSOs on ICCAs in June 2019 to the Philippines. The key objective of the South-South exchange was to learn about the experiences in the co-management of Protected Areas and ICCAs in relation to the Philippines’ Protected Area system and how these systems could be applied in Myanmar. This provided good opportunity for high level government officials and ethnic group CSOs to learn and interact on issues concerning community engagement in conservation. Follow-up to S-S exchange on ICCAs to the Philippines, a national ICCA workshop with CSOs and community groups was held in July 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw, and this presented a new development of positive engagement and learning.    In terms of the project risk, the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure undertaken during the project design categorized the project as ‘Moderate Risk’, and UNDP’s Standards on Indigenous Peoples, and Displacement and Resettlement (6 and 5, respectively) were determined relevant. While no further assessments such as ESIA were identified as necessary, the requirement for FPIC (Free Prior Informed Consent) has been confirmed to be undertaken during the implementation.    Existing social and/or environmental risks that have been escalated during the reporting period include:  CAT and KNU filed their grievances against the project on the following claims: (a) violates FPIC of Indigenous Peoples and local communities; (b) Contravenes ‘interim arrangements’ of the NCA agreed by the Government and EAOs; (c) violates and threatens the rights of return of IDPS and refugees to their land; (d) violates rights of Indigenous Peoples and the land and resource rights of the indigenous Karen Communities. In view of this, the following risks have been escalated:    (i) Risk 1: Adverse impacts on human rights of local communities, including marginalized groups - Moderate to High.  (ii) Risk 5: Human rights concerns raised by local people regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process - Moderate to High.  (iii) Risk 10: Possible effect on land tenure arrangements and/or community-based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources -Low to High.  (iv) Risk 11: The Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by ethnic minorities: Low to High.  (v) Risk 12: The proposed Project may potentially affect the rights, lands and territories of ethnic minorities regardless of whether they possess the legal titles to such areas -Low to High.    Based on the existing risks that have been escalated to ‘high risk’ the project therefore, has to be categorized as ‘High risk’ and has to be followed by further assessments namely FPIC, ESIA, IPP as required once there is a consensus after SECU’s Compliance Review report which is expected in early 2020.    In response to the complaint before it was filed with SECU and, on the recommendation of the first PB meeting, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was planned in July 2018 however, once the case was determined eligible by SECU, the CO decided to indefinitely postpone the assessment, so as not to exacerbate the grievance and to avoid any actual or perceived conflict with the SECU process.    SECU’s investigation:  After the case was determined eligible for investigation in December 2018, SECU issued a draft TOR of the investigation for public comments on 2 April 2019 and finalized on 24 June 2019. SECU conducted its first field mission to Myanmar to meet with key stakeholders from 14 to 22 July 2019. Second field mission is planned in October 2019, and the Compliance Report is expected in early 2020.    Actions taken and next steps:  (i) implementation of field activities are currently suspended and the planned agreements with the project’s two Responsible Parties (Flora and Fauna International (FFI) and Smithsonian Institution) have not been signed;    (ii) non-field activities that have been undertaken to date include: PMU set-up, 1 stakeholder consultation workshop, project inception workshop, 3 project board meetings, and public consultation of draft Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Rules (2018).    (iii) Project’s cumulative expenditure till June 2019 was US$541,008 that covered cost for PMU, project inception workshop, 1 stakeholder consultation workshop, 3 project board meetings.    (iv) Per the 3rd Project Board meeting held on 30 July 2019, the Project Management Unit will be dissolved by the end of 2019.    (v) The next project board meeting will be convened after SECU’s Compliance Review report to discuss and agree on any strategic decisions that may be necessary.    (vi) UNDP-GEF Directorate will update GEF SEC about the SECU case, press coverage and ongoing efforts by UNDP. | |

# 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.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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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: No |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: No |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: No |
| Not applicable: Yes |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN2:** gender equality as significant objective |

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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.** |
| Not Applicable |

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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.** |
| Not Applicable |

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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.** |
| Not Applicable |

# 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?** |
| No |

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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.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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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.** |
| Project was designed between 2014 to 2016, during the period the NCA was signed and there was a great optimism for a comprehensive peace process from all the parties. The project identified tension between ethnic minority groups and the central government as a key political risk that may limit ability to implement project activities effectively; potentially, blocking access to project demonstration areas, delaying or stopping of project implementation, and impact plans for establishing and managing new protected areas. The risk was regarded as ‘Medium’ and ‘Declining Risk’, considering the optimism of NCA implementation and peace process during 2015 – 2016.    Political Dialogue; Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC); and Interim Arrangements constitute three key elements to the peace process, as structured in the NCA. Trust in the NCA signed in 2015 and in peace negotiations is at its lowest in years. KNU, one of the leading EAOs has suspended its participation in the political dialogue in October 2018; similarly, in November 2018 the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) stopped participating in JMC, claiming the committee was not abiding NCA; and Interim Arrangement has no implementation mechanism.  The project is caught amid the continuing tension and mistrust between government and KNU and local communities, as well as the volatile situation in the region. This has impacted and resulted in escalation of several social and environmental risks identified in the project design, particularly:    a) Risk 1: Adverse impacts on human rights of local communities, including marginalized groups, from Moderate to High.  b) Risk 5. Human rights concerns raised by local people regarding the stakeholder engagement process, from Moderate to High.  c) Risk 10. Possible effect on land tenure arrangements and/or community-based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources. From Low to High.  d) Risk 11. The Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by ethnic minorities, from Low to High.  e) Risk 12. The proposed Project may potentially affect the rights, lands and territories of ethnic minorities regardless of whether they possess the legal titles to such areas, from Low to High.    Description of risks:    On 16 July 2018, two complaints regarding UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards (SES) were filed by CAT and KNU. CAT submitted a complaint to GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner alleging that the project violates indigenous peoples’ right to FPIC; threatens the land and resource rights of Karen indigenous people, and the rights of Internally Displaced Peoples and refugees to return to their lands; and risks “the resurgence of violence”. On the same day, a similar complaint was submitted by the KNU Forest Department to GEF and the UNDP Country Office.    Response to the risks:  1. UNDP Suo moto put on-hold project activities considering social or environmental concerns raised and CAT and KNU, conveyed to both KNU and CAT UNDP's full commitment to stakeholder engagement and FPIC before start of any project activities.    2. With TRAC funds, the CO contracted a consultant to undertake an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), as a response to the complaint before it was filed with SECU. However, once the case was determined eligible by SECU, the CO decided to indefinitely postpone the assessment, so as not to exacerbate the grievance and to avoid any actual or perceived conflict with the SECU process.    3. UNDP CO reached out to both KNU and CAT. Held two meetings with senior leadership from KNU and UNDP CO (3 October and 6 December 2018), KNU expressed that they would prefer to discuss matters related to the project only once they finalize their internal policy on Interim Arrangement under NCA. CAT did not respond to the CO’s request, instead confirmed its desire to pursue the compliance review process with SECU prior to engaging with UNDP’s Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM).    4. The planned agreements with the project’s two Responsible Parties (Flora and Fauna International (FFI) and Smithsonian Institution (SI) have not been signed. |

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| **SESP:** [Annex 6\_SESP\_R2R Myanmar.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5427/214150/1723104/1734155/Annex%206_SESP_R2R%20Myanmar.docx)  **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.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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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.** |
| ESIA was planned as a first- line/priority activity before implementing project activities on the ground, the same was advised by the 1st Project Board meeting held on 18 July 2018. Environmental and Social Safeguards and Indigenous Peoples Expert was contracted to conduct an ESIA. However, the actual assessment was indefinitely postponed, so as not to exacerbate the grievance and to avoid any actual or perceived conflict with the SECU process. |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| Yes |

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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.** |
| 1. Description of grievance and current status    1.1 Compliant by Conservation Alliance of Tanawthari (CAT)    a) On 16 July 2018, Conservation Alliance of Tanawthari (CAT) a coalition of Karen community organizations [Tenasserim River & Indigenous People Networks (TRIP NET), Community Sustainable Livelihood and Development (CSLD), Tarkapaw Youth Group (TKP), Candle Light (CL), Southern Youth (SY), Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN), Tanintharyi Friends (TF)] together with communities in Lenya and Monorone organized a Press Conference in Dawei and submitted a project complaint to the GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner and UNDP CO.  b) GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner responded to the complainant on 18 July 2018, acknowledging the receipt of the complaint and providing information on GEF system to respond to complaints and UNDP accountability mechanism.  c) The grievance highlighted a lack of compliance with SES, and include the following claims:  i. violates indigenous peoples’ right to Free Prior and Informed Consent,  ii. threatens to contravene the ‘interim arrangements’ of the National Ceasefire Accords agreed by the Government of  Myanmar and Ethnic Armed Organizations,  iii. violates the rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees to return to areas from which they were  displaced by armed conflict.  iv. violates the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the land and resource rights of the indigenous  Karen Communities, and  v. calls to recognize and support indigenous community-driven initiatives to protect indigenous territories, strengthen  local institutions and practices, and protect forests, instead of top-down large-scale Protected Areas.    d) On 2 August 2018, GEF Secretariat forwarded the project complaint to SECU. On 20 September 2018, CAT confirmed to SECU that they wished to pursue a compliance review process through SECU prior to engaging with the Stakeholder Response Mechanism of UNDP’s Accountability Mechanism.  e) On 18 December 2018, SECU determined the case (SECU0010) as eligible for further review and investigation and supported the UNDPCO’s proactive decision to suspend the project activities.  f) SECU issued the final TOR of the investigation on 24 June 2019, and conducted the first field mission to Myanmar from 14 to 23 July 2019 to meet with key stakeholders and gather additional information and evidence. Second SECU field mission is expected in October 2019 to meet with local communities and follow-up meetings. Final SECU report is estimated to be issued by early 2020.      1.2 KNU Forest Department letter on their position and recommendations to the project    a) KNU Forest Department submitted a letter on their position and recommendations on the project to GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner and UNDPCO on 16 July 2018. However, KNU had not invoked investigation of the complaint by SECU.  b) Below is a summary of key claims and recommendations of KNU Forest Department:  i. Protected Areas in contested areas must not be established until a comprehensive peace agreement has be secured,  and the management of land and resources in contested territories has been agreed upon. Further initiatives must be  implemented in accordance with the NCA’s provision of the Interim Arrangement.  ii. UNDP should reevaluate the project process and give priority to human rights and indigenous peoples’ rights to  redesign the project. When redesigning the project, UNDP has to respect the participation of local people and CSOs,  from the beginning and at each step of project implementation.  iii. Before the project starts, it must go through a FPIC process.  iv. If indigenous peoples are harmed by the project, they must be given compensation and rehabilitation assistance.  v. The project must not move forward until after IDPs and refugees have returned.  vi. Any forest and biodiversity conservation and activities in KNU controlled areas must first consult with KNU.  vii. During the interim period of political negotiation, these projects should not help directly or indirectly expand  government administration in the KNU areas.    2. UNDP Outreach and engagement efforts    UNDP made concerted efforts to engage and get buy-in of key stakeholders to avoid and/or mitigate any potential political, social and environmental risks and jointly address the project concerns:    a) UNDP team visited KNU Liaison Office in Dawei on 13 March 2018, met with Liaison Officer, Chairman of Myeik/Dawei District. Updated on the project approval and shared the project documents. Extended invitation to the consultation workshop planned on 20 March 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw.  b) Project team met with members of CAT on 9 May 2018, updated on the project status, and planned inception workshop in Dawei in July 2018. Noted the project concerns raised, and requested CAT’s participation in the workshop, as it would provide a multi-stakeholder platform to discuss the project issues and make necessary adjustments.  c) On 11 July 2018 UNDP requested KNU Leadership for a meeting to provide an update on UNDP Program Cycle 2018-2022 and discuss on R2R Project implementation (earlier to the project complaint). However, the meeting could be secured only on 3 October 2018.  d) The 1st Project Board Meeting held on 18th July 2018 advised the project to review the Social and Environmental Safeguards. Accordingly, ESIA was planned to prepare an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and Indigenous Peoples Plan before the start of any project activities. However, ESIA was indefinitely postponed in light of submission of complaint to SECU, and so as not to conflict with the SECU process and exacerbate the grievance.  e) UNDP and KNU held two rounds of high-level meeting (on 3 October and 6 December 2018) in Mae Sot, Thailand. At both the meetings UNDP proposed to set up a technical task team, jointly agreed by Forest Department, UNDP and KNU to unconditionally discuss the concerns expressed by KNU and CAT. However, KNU expressed their preference to discuss matters related to the project only once they have clarity and finalize their internal policy on Interim Arrangement and NCA, and after the SECU investigation.  f) UNDP fully respecting the project concerns raised by CAT and KNU, no project activities were implemented or signed any agreement with Responsible Parties. The CO’s decision was supported by SECU in their case eligibility determination letter issued on 18 December 2018. Project activities are put-on-hold and remain suspended.    3. Creating Enabling Policy Environment and Platform    There is a growing tension and impasse by indigenous peoples and local communities in different parts of the country on declaration of any new protected areas, and are demanding recognition of customary community conservation practices and rights over land and natural resources. Although the project remains suspended and uncertain of the SECU outcome, UNDP remains positive and is working with government to creating an enabling policy environment and platform to addressing larger conservation issues, IP rights and root causes of the project grievance.    3.1 Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Rules and Forest Rules    a) One of key concerns raised in the complaint is support to ICCAs as an alternative to top down expansion of large scale protected areas. UNDP had been part of the amendment of the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Law (amended in 2018) and supported the public consultations of the Rules. The amended law has expanded the category of protected areas, and includes Local Community Conserved Protected Areas. This provides a new and positive direction.  b) As the positive policy changes for more community engagement in conservation and protection of environment are effected, to provide practical learning on ICCAs, UNDP coordinated a South-South learning on ICCAs from 2 to 8 June 2019 to the Philippines. The objective of the South-South exchange was to learn about the experiences in the co-management of PAs and ICCAs in relation to the Philippines’ Protected Area system and how these systems could be applied in Myanmar.  c) The learning visit was participated by Director General, Forest Department; Regional Forest Officers (Sagaing, Kachin and Tanintharyi); and Ethnic Groups: Rawang Literature and Culture Association, Shan Literature and Culture Association and Tenasserim River & Indigenous People Network (TRIPNET). TRIP-NET, one of the leading CAT CSOs and party to the grievance joined the learning visit from Tanintharyi Region. It provided an unique opportunity where high level government officials and ethnic group CSOs could travel together and positively interact on a common issue UNDP is encouraged by this new development of positive engagement and learning.  d) As a follow of the South-South Learning exchange visit to the Philippines, a national ICCA workshop with the CSOs and community groups was held on 18 July 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw. TRIPNET shared the experiences from the South-South learning visit on ICCAs to the Philippines on behalf of the delegation. The workshop included a number of presentations on customary conservation practices by different ethnic groups, and a group work on ‘challenges, opportunities and way forward in implementing ICCAs in Myanmar’. UNDP is encouraged by the leadership of FD, vision on community conserved protected areas and dialogue that is taking place around ICCAs.  f) UNDP is also supporting Regional/State level and CSO led community consultation of draft Forest Rules in four Regions/States to maximize the opportunities for communities to the formulation of the Forest Rules and to incorporate feedback/commendations from local communities. UNDP has strategically made resources available to ethnic group led CSOs for community consultations of the draft Rules.    3.2 FPIC and Social and Environmental Standards, and Conflict Sensitivity    a) UNREDD+ is piloting FPIC process in three types of jurisdiction: Union government control; mixed control and EAO control locations. This will provide UNDP key local lessons and application of FPIC in different environment and settings.  b) In April, UNDP conducted a training workshop on Social and Environmental Standards, Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) and FPIC for UNDP personnel and Implementing Partners. Capacity building on SES is also planned for partner government agencies in the later part of the year.  c) CO has recently established CO Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM) and designated SRM Focal Points to enable project-affected stakeholders to expeditiously address project concerns through dialogue and negotiations.  d) CO has also developed an EAO Engagement Strategy and rolled-out training on Conflict Sensitivity and ‘Do No Harm’ approach to all staff.    Current status     The project is currently suspended and undergoing SES compliance review by SECU. SECU conducted its first field mission to Myanmar to meet with key stakeholders from 14 to 22 July 2019. It plans to undertake a second mission, to visit communities in target sites, in October 2019. Compliance Report is expected in 2020. |

# 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.)** |
| For the reporting period there is no story on project's contribution to improving people's lives, project implementation is delayed and temporarily suspended. |

**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.** |
| There is no specific KM product(s) in the reporting period. However, project information, especially Prodoc translated in Burmese and Karen languages and project FAQ is made available at: http://www.mm.undp.org/content/myanmar/en/home/projects/ridge-to-reef.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.

|  |
| --- |
| **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:** [PIMS 5427 MYA Tanintharyi CEO ER - 21Mar2017 CP.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5427/214150/1691380/1691674/PIMS%205427%20MYA%20Tanintharyi%20CEO%20ER%20-%2021Mar2017%20CP.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.** |
| Stakeholder Engagement has been updated as part of the project communication strategy. An extensive stakeholder mapping, consultation and engagement will be conducted before the start of the project activities, depending on the outcome of the SECU compliance review.    The project document identifies four Responsible Parties: Forest Department, Department of Fisheries, Fauna and Flora International and Smithsonian Institutions, and outlines various project stakeholders (international and local NGOs and CSOs, and communities) and their roles in the project implementation. Also, the project provides a number of innovative stakeholder engagement platforms: Regional Advisory and Coordination Group, Technical Working Groups (for Terrestrial Landscape, Coastal and Seascape, biological corridors) and an independent CSO led Tanintharyi Landscape and Seascape Forum.    However, for the reporting period no specific stakeholder engagement activity was conducted, as the project is suspended and under SES compliance review by SECU |

# 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.