

Social Assessment

Date: 15 – 12 - 2017

CEPF Grant: *CEPF 103507*

Grantee: *ECCDI*

Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development around Inle Lake

Inle Lake, Nyaungshwe Township

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: *Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development Initiative (ECCDI)*
2. Grant title: *Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development around Inle Lake*
3. Grant number: CEPF 103507
4. Grant amount (US dollars). \$ *81,100*
5. Proposed dates of grant. *01-02-2018*
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken: *Myanmar*
7. Date of preparation of this document. *15 – 12 - 2017*

8. **Indigenous People affected:** This section will describe the Indigenous People in the project area.

The Indigenous people living in this area are Inn-thar, Taung-yoe, Danu and, PaO. They form a total of 2,800 people living in the 4 project villages. They will not be affected negatively by the implementation of this project. There will be no negative impact on the communities in the implementation of this project as, all they need from the forest is fuelwood. However, they now have grid electricity which they can use for cooking. There will be only positive effects such as support in livelihood, trainings and development of a conservation plan which will assist them in systematically conserving their environment.

9. **Summary of the proposed project:** This section will describe what you plan to do and how you plan to do it, with a particular focus on activities implemented in areas inhabited and/or used by Indigenous People.

Myanmar is one of the most important biodiversity hotspots around the world. Areas such as the Southern Shan State possesses diverse forests ranging from mixed deciduous and dipterocarp forests to temperate and hilly evergreen pine forests. However, since 1989, the status of the forest cover has changed a lot both in quantity and quality due to overcutting, intrusion of agriculture, shifting cultivation and the development of infrastructure. In order to conserve these forests, introduction of “Community Conservation Concession Agreement” (CCCA) was considered and this project is greatly focused on the development of CCCA.

Preliminarily, after the Inception workshop of the project, training workshop on CCCA will be conducted for the staffs off ECCDI, MFA, CDA and MEI by GEI experts.

In order to involve the local communities, CCCA training materials will be translated into Myanmar for the benefit of the local communities. The concept of CCCA will be explained to the local communities after which they will be facilitated to sign the CCCA with either the Local Forest Officer or the Local Administrative Officer.

In consideration of the livelihood of the communities, piglets will be distributed on payback system. Support will also be given in the field of agriculture in the form of improved seeds(non GMO) and bio-fertilizer. For conservation of the forests near their villages, support will be given for purchase of tree seedlings, bamboo stakes, and bio-fertilizer for gap planting

Towards the termination of the project, a seminar will be held to discuss the developed report.

Related government officials and stakeholders will be invited

10. **Potential impacts:** This section will assess expected project impacts (both positive and negative) on Indigenous People.

This project will:

- (1) improve the livelihood of the Indigenous people*
- (2) enhance their understanding of CCCA and participation in environmental conservation*
- (3) their participation in the management of their Community Forest (CF) will be enhanced thus, improving the environment*

- (4) *increase water supply from their underground springs*
- (5) *mitigate collection of fuelwood and encroachment for agriculture in the CF. However, most of the villagers use electricity for cooking and the small amount of fuelwood required are obtained from the vegetations along their fences.*

11. Participatory preparation: This section will describe the participation of affected communities during the project design process (i.e. prior to submission of the full proposal), and explain how Free, Prior and Informed Consent was obtained.

In order to make the formulation of the project open, free and include the opinion of the communities, a team of ECCDI staffs visited each of the 4 villages and conducted focus group discussions with the village leaders and villagers from 21 – 11 – 2017 to 23 – 11 - 2017. Questionnaires on facts that will be included in the project proposal were prepared and given to the villagers prior to the discussions. After the discussion, all the villagers representing different sections of the community who attended the focus group meeting verbally agreed to the implementation of the project. The data received from the questionnaires were used in the formulation of the project proposal

12. Mitigation strategies: This section will outline measures to avoid adverse impacts and provide culturally appropriate benefits.

There will be no adverse impact on the community in the implementation of this project. They will in fact benefit from their culturally practiced livelihood activities such as pig breeding and agricultural activities from which a revolving fund can be established.

13. Monitoring and evaluation: This section will explain how compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples will be monitored, and reported to CEPF and/or the Regional Implementation Team. Monitoring and evaluation methodologies should be adapted to the local context, indicators, and capacity.

The activities in this project are in full compliance with the World Bank Social Safeguard Policies such as OP 4.11 Physical Cultural Resources, OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement and OP 4.10 Indigenous People. There is no negative impact that can cause grievance to the community. However, in case there should be inadvertent impacts, the two project staff who will be permanently stationed at the project site should be able to minimize such impacts. Moreover, there will always be village meetings held periodically by the project manager who will mitigate such impacts through clarifying any problem that may arise.

14. Grievance mechanism: All projects that trigger a safeguard are required to provide local communities and other interested stakeholders with means by which they may raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank. Affected local communities should be informed of the objectives of the grant and the existence of a grievance mechanism. Contact information of the grantee, the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director should be made publicly available, through posters, signboards, public notices or other appropriate means in local language(s). Grievances raised with the grantee should be communicated to the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days, together with a proposed response. If the claimant is still not satisfied following the response, the grievance may be submitted directly to the CEPF Executive Director via the dedicated email account (cepfexecutive@conservation.org) or by mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Secretariat, the grievance may be submitted to the World Bank at the local World Bank office. Please describe the grievance mechanism that you will use for your project, and how you will ensure that stakeholders are aware of it.

There is no grievance expected in the implementation of this project. According to CCCA, they are only expected to conserve their environment and this will enhance their water supply through the underground springs. Moreover, they will benefit through support for pig breeding and agricultural activity and establishment of revolving fund.

If there should be any grievance, they may submit their grievance directly to ECCDI, the CEPF Regional Implementation Team (Aung Thant Zin of MERN), or the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from these organizations, they may submit their grievance to the World Bank at the Local World Bank Office. The address of the World Bank in Myanmar is:

*The World Bank [Myanmar](#)
No 57, Pyay Road, (Corner of Shwe Hinthar Road)
61/2 Mile, Hlaing Township,
Yangon, Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone: 95 1 654824
myanmar@worldbank.org*

In order to facilitate such complaints by the villagers as well as give them the assurance of the frank and open policy of the project, posters on vinyl with phone numbers, email address and surface mail address of the above organizations will be posted in all the four villages.

- 15. Budget:** This section will summarize dedicated costs related to compliance with the safeguard policy on Indigenous Peoples. These costs should be incorporated into the budget of the CEPF grant and/or covered by co-financing.

As there will be no negative impact on the Indigenous People living in the project area, cost dedicated to comply with the safeguard policy will not be needed. However, these issues will always be included in all the village meetings that were budgeted.