

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

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| Organization Legal Name: | Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development Initiative |
| Project Title: | Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development around Inle Lake |
| Grant Number: | CEPF-103507 |
| CEPF Region: | Indo-Burma II |
| Strategic Direction: | 4 Empower local communities to engage in conservation and management of priority key biodiversity areas |
| Grant Amount: | |
| Project Dates: | April 01, 2018 - January 31, 2020 |
| Date of Report: | March 10, 2020 |

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

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

Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development Initiative (ECCDI) has worked closely in partnership with one International Non-Government Organization (INGO) namely; Global Environmental Institute (GEI) and 3 Local Non-Government Organizations (LNGOs) namely; Myanmar Forest Association (MFA), Community Development Action (CDA) and Myanmar Environment Institute (MEI). We normally worked in consultation with each other through meetings and emails.

The INGO GEI facilitated the enhancement of the capacity of our 4 LNGOs especially in the promotion of Community Conservation Concession Agreement (CCCA) and Project Cycle Management. Although the main objective of all the 4 LNGOs is the promotion of CCCA, we worked in different regions of the country and in different site conditions. MFA worked in the coastal area of Tanintharyi Region, CDA in Wet land area of Bago Division, MEI near protected area in Sagaing Division and ECCDI in the watershed area of the Inle Lake in the Shan State. This is to assess the effectiveness of CCCA in different conditions and different regions of the country. The results of these assessments were presented in the final workshop of the projects, compiled and submitted with recommendation to the Forest Department. The proceedings of the workshop will be submitted by MFA.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

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

The planned long-term impacts as stated in the approved project proposal was:

1. By establishing relations with stakeholders and informing government policy maker, conservation efforts will be further coordinated, exchanged and hence strengthened. Successful experiences of CCCA model could be further promoted on a larger scale, which will contribute to the conservation of other types of ecosystem and endangered species in Myanmar.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

The actual progress toward Long-term impact at completion are:

1. By establishing relations with stakeholders and informing government policy maker, conservation efforts were further coordinated, exchanged and strengthened. Successful experiences of CCCA model could be further promoted in a larger scale, which will contribute to the conservation of other types of ecosystem and endangered species in Myanmar.
2. No activity was carried out in the community forests since they were established and the management plans for the community forests were outdated. However, with the trainings given and the management plans revised by the project in consultation with the CF management committees, the community forests of these 4 villages were revitalized and the Users' Groups are more active.
3. Although all the CFs in the 4 project villages were inactive for the past 25 years, 12 hectares were planted with mixed fruit and forest trees in the form of agroforestry during this project period. Nursery sheds were provided in each of the 4 villages in order to raise seedlings for the continuity and sustainability of this activity. Moreover, 20 hectares of Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) were also carried out in the CF of each of the 4 project villages. This will improve both the quality and growth of 81 hectares of forests where the operation was conducted.
4. The last two trainings, i.e. the make-up training and the bamboo handicraft making training yielded instant benefit to the communities. The make-up trainees got contract to beautify the school children of the nearby village soon after their training. They have a very bright future as there are many religious and traditional festivals in that area. On the other hand, the trainer of the bamboo handicraft training bought almost all the products produced during the training. He promised the trainees that he will take all that they can produce as he has already got a market which he could not manage alone.

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

1. The number of communities participating in forest conservation will increase to 7 villages from phase I and II and the area of community forest will be expanded to 1141.2 hectares
2. Capacities of ECCDI in terms of organizational and project management will be improved and their overall capacity to access more funding sources enhanced
3. Livelihood of 2488 villagers from 565 households of 4 villages will be enhanced. This was implemented through distribution of livestock and improved seeds and fertilizers which will further lead to formation of a revolving funds for each of the 4 project villages.

Actual Progress toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

1. The number of communities participating in forest conservation increased to 7 villages and the area of community forest is expanded to 721 hectares

- 2. Capacities of ECCDI staffs in terms of organizational and project management, and their overall capacity to access more funding sources are enhanced.**
- 3. The livelihood of 2488 villagers from 565 households of 4 project villages of phase II is improved through receiving pigs and support for agricultural activities on payback system, leading to formation of revolving funds thus, making the villagers rely less on the forests. Improved environmental condition through the practice of community forestry will also be beneficial to their agricultural practices and other livelihood activities.**

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

| Impact Description | Impact Summary |
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| 4. By establishing relations with stakeholders and informing government policies, conservation efforts will be further coordinated, exchanged and hence strengthened. Successful experiences of CCCA model could be further promoted on a larger scale, which will contribute to the conservation of other types of ecosystem and endangered species in Myanmar. | By establishing relations with stakeholders and informing government policy maker, conservation efforts were further coordinated, exchanged and strengthened. Successful experiences of CCCA model could be further promoted in a larger scale, which will contribute to the conservation of other types of ecosystem and endangered species in Myanmar. |

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

| Impact Description | Impact Summary |
|--|--|
| 2. The number of communities participating in forest conservation will increase to 7 from phase I and II and the area of community forest will be expanded to 1141.2 hectares. | The number of communities participating in forest conservation increased to 7 villages and the area of community forest is expanded to 1741 hectares |
| 1. Capacities of ECCDI in terms of organizational and project management will be improved and their overall capacity to access more funding sources enhanced. | At least 10 domestic civil society organizations demonstrate improvements in organizational capacity. |
| 3. Livelihood of 2488 villagers from 565 households of 4 villages will be enhanced. This will be carried out through distribution of livestock and improved seeds & fertilizers. This will further lead to formation of revolving funds for each of the four project villages. | The livelihood of 2774 villagers from 565 households of 4 project villages of phase II is improved through receiving pigs and support for agricultural activities on payback system, leading to formation of revolving funds thus, making the villagers rely less on the forests. Improved environmental condition through the practice of community forestry will also be beneficial to their agricultural practices and other livelihood activities. |

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

The project was implemented in good relations and consultation with partner NGOs, communities concerned and the Forest Department. Thus, conservation efforts were successfully further coordinated, exchanged and strengthened. Application of CCCA model in the implementation of the project was found to be appropriate and was therefore recommended to the Forest Department in the project final workshop. It is envisaged that the model could be further promoted in a larger scale, which will contribute to the conservation of other types of ecosystem and endangered species in Myanmar. Through the training on community forestry, revision of the CF management plans and constant awareness raising by the project staffs. The number of communities participating in forest conservation increased to 7 villages from phase I and II and the area of community forest expanded to 2462 hectares.

Capacities of staffs of ECCDI in terms of organizational and project management is improved and their overall capacity to access more funding sources enhanced through the project cycle management training that was given by Global Environmental Institute (GEI) and Conservation International (CI). Moreover, the capacity in accountancy was also enhanced through the training on SQL software that was provided by CEPF.

Livelihood of 2774 villagers from 565 households of 4 villages enhanced. This was implemented through distribution of livestock and support in agricultural activities which further lead to formation of a revolving funds for each of the 4 project villages. Moreover, in support of their livelihood, make-up training, and bamboo handicraft training were also given. In addition to this, each village was provided with a hand tractor.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Nil

PROJECT COMPONENTS AND PRODUCTS/DELIVERABLES

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

| Component | | Deliverable | | |
|-----------|--|-------------|--|--|
| # | Description | # | Description | Results for Deliverable |
| 1 | Enhance the ability of ECCDI on ecosystem conservation to better carry out community conservation-related work | 1.1 | Capacity of ECCDI staff increased, as demonstrated by comparison of civil society and gender tracking tool scores at project start and end | Capacity of ECCDI staff increased, as demonstrated by comparison of civil society tool score (61 : 65.5) and gender tracking tool score (1: 6) at project start and end |
| 2 | Mainstream community participation in conservation to achieve better conservation results | 2.1 | Signed CCCA agreement with 4 communities | CCCA was signed with the 4 communities after clarification of the concept at focus group meeting and inception workshop. |
| 3 | Improve livelihood of communities as demonstrated by baseline survey at project start and M&E assessment at the end | 3.1 | Baseline survey data at the start and M&E assessment at the end of the project | Baseline survey was carried out by ECCDI before the formulation of the project whereas M&E assessment was carried out by Global Environmental Institute (GEI) before the end of the project. |
| 4 | Involve government and other stakeholders to strengthen coordinated conservation efforts in Myanmar, as well as share knowledge and learning | 4.1 | M&E report and seminar proceedings produced | M&E report was prepared and produced by Global Environmental Institute (GEI) while the proceedings of the joint workshop will be produced by Myanmar Forest Association(MFA). |
| 1 | Enhance the ability of | 1.2 | Myanmar version of | Myanmar version of CCCA was produced in consultation with partner NGOs and training was |

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| | ECCDI on ecosystem conservation to better carry out community conservation-related work | | CCCA produced | given to the communities using this Myanmar version CCCA |
| 2 | Mainstream community participation in conservation to achieve better conservation results | 2.2 | Village-owned conservation plans adopted by four communities | Participatory community forest management plans were formulated in consultation with the communities and submitted to the Forest Department for approval. All the 4 plans were approved. |
| 2 | Mainstream community participation in conservation to achieve better conservation results | 2.3 | Enhanced community capacity on environmental conservation, as demonstrated by pre and post-training assessments. | The capacity of the communities on environmental conservation is clearly enhanced. The concept of CCCA is well understood and accepted. The pre and post training assessment on community forestry (CF) training showed that the understanding of CF increased from 44% to 86%. |
| 2 | Mainstream community participation in conservation to achieve better conservation results | 2.4 | Improved habitat quality in 1141.2 hectares of forest, through enrichment planting with native trees, as evidenced by photographs and activity report | Improved habitat quality in 1741 ha of forest, through enrichment planting with native trees species can be seen in the field. Unfortunately, the planted trees are still small but photographs of communities planting the seedlings is attached. |
| 3 | Improve livelihood of communities as demonstrated by baseline survey at project start and M&E assessment at the end | 3.2 | Training notes developed | Training notes for all the trainings were produced and assessed by the audit. |

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| 4 | Involve government and other stakeholders to strengthen coordinated conservation efforts in Myanmar, as well as share knowledge and learning | 4.2 | Policy recommendation report produced | Recommendation of CCCA for adoption by the Forest Department in Myanmar was prepared jointly by the 4 partner NGOs and was presented at the final workshop. This report will also be submitted by Myanmar Forest Association (MFA) to the Director General of Forest Department. |
| 1 | Strengthening institutional capacity of CDA on ecosystem conservation-related work; | 1.3 | Financial procedure manual for ECCDI | |

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

Nil

LESSONS LEARNED

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

Consider lessons that would inform:

- Project design process (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)
- Project implementation (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)
- Any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

There are many NGOs/INGOs and CSOs that work on east and west bank of Inle Lake in order to conserve the lake, biodiversity and reduce pollution to the lake. However, the link between the organizations are weak. If the organizations work together, the results of conservation will be more effective. Moreover, the term of the present project is too short and ECCDI did not have enough time to identify and organize community forest enterprises which can ensure sustainability. More time is needed in order to implement conservation work effectively. Establishing community forest enterprises will be an alternative income source for them to conserve their forest.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

Summarize the successes or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

The project implementation team was successful in establishing revolving fund in each of the project villages. The revolving fund left by the project will support their livelihood, which in a way, will also facilitate the conservation activities by the villagers. In order to sustain the revolving funds, activities such as, support for income generation activities including make-up training, bamboo handicraft training and provision of hand tractor to each of the 4 villages were added.

SAFEGUARDS

If not listed as a separate project component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental or pest management safeguards.

Complaint mechanism was prepared by ECCDI before the implementation of the project in order to avoid negative impacts to the project villages. The main objective of the project was to introduce Community Conservation Concession Agreement (CCCA) to protect their Community Forests (CFs) which is important in conserving the Inle Lake. ECCDI believes that conservation work can be more successful if the local people are in good economic situation. In order to facilitate this concept, Community Conservation Concession Agreement (CCCA) was introduced to 4 villages in the Western side of Inle Lake. In brief, CCCA is a model which enhance the livelihood of the local community and at the same time make them conserve the biodiversity. All the 4 project villages have their own Community Forest Certificate but the interest on these CF were poor. In accordance with the concept of CCCA, ECCDI distributed piglets and supported agricultural activity to the villagers to enhance their livelihood. ECCDI conducted focus group meeting in these villages during formulating this project in order to ensure that there will be no negative impacts or bias between the communities and the project is acceptable to them.

For the conservation activities, ECCDI updated the community forest management plans in consultation with the communities. The communities of the project villages decided the kind of activities and species for gap planting in their forests. ECCDI only facilitated in collecting their ideas, prepared their documents and submitted their plans to the Forest Department. The communities also erected boundary pillars in each of their CF to avoid encroachment and other illegal activity. Also, ECCDI conducted trainings which were essential for their income generation as well as protection and management of their CFs. Before implementing each activity of the project, the project team conducted numerous meetings with the communities.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

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

The timeframe for the project is too short and the budget provided is limited. For the sustainability of the project, more activities should be done and more time with the communities is needed with proper exit strategy.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

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

Total additional funding (US\$)
\$0.00

Type of funding

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

- A. Project co-financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)
- B. Grantee and partner leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF-funded project)
- C. Regional/portfolio leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)

INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our website, www.ceph.net, and may be publicized in our e-newsletter and other communications.

1. Please include your full contact details (name, organization, mailing address, telephone number, email address) below.

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