



2018  
Project Implementation Review (PIR)



**Strengthening Sustainability of Protected  
Are**

*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

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## A. Basic Data

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

Project Description
<p>The proposed project is consistent with the Goals of GEF Biodiversity Objective 1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems (BD1). Especially the project will contribute to Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas through increased capacity and standardized practice to improve management and planning especially linked to local community participation and financial planning, while at the national level increased overall coverage of the protected areas systems with the capacity to manage the PA system through strengthened technical capacity. It will also contribute to Outcome 1.2: Increased revenue for the protected area system by identifying opportunities for sustaining financial support to the protected areas network and clear policy framework for funds to be used for PA management. The project will also contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) as submitted to the CBD secretariat in January 2012, in particular: Priority Action 1: Developing Management plans for PAs, Priority Action 2: Promoting community participatory PAs management; and Priority Action 3: Ensuring sustainable financial mechanisms for PAs management. The Project, furthermore, directly contributes to achievement of the Aichi Targets, in particular under the strategic goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. It contributes to Target 11 through increasing significantly the coverage and connectivity of the PA system in important regions with high biodiversity importance and significant ecosystem services, and by increasing management effectiveness of the PA system in a way that is integrated into the wider landscapes.</p> <p>The project will directly support the 2012 Myanmar National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (MNBSAP). More specifically, it directly supports implementation of three Strategic Directions in the MNBSAP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Direction 1: Strengthen conservation of Priority Sites including four priorities for intervention: Intervention 1.1 Review and support the expansion of the national protected area system to address gaps in coverage of globally threatened species and Key Biodiversity Areas; Intervention 1.2 Strengthen protected area management at Priority Sites; Intervention 1.3 Pilot alternative approaches to formal protected area management at Priority Sites; and Intervention 1.4 Support strengthening of the legal framework for protected area management and species conservation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Direction 2: Mainstream biodiversity into other policy sectors including three priorities for intervention: Intervention 2.1 Integrate biodiversity into decision-making processes for land-use and development interventions in the Priority Corridors, Intervention 2.4 Forge partnerships between biodiversity conservation and rural development initiatives, maximize synergies and mitigate risks; and Intervention 2.5. Cooperate with other concerned departments to raise awareness of the trade-off between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Direction 4: Support local NGOs and academic institutions to engage in biodiversity conservation including Intervention 4.3 Support the development of conservation curricula at local academic institutions. In addition the project will support activities in two five-year action plans from the MNBSAP. In the Five-year Action Plan toward sustainable nature conservation and wildlife management the project will conduct activities that support the following actions in whole or in part: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> the increase to 10 percent of the total area of the country gazetted as PAs by addressing gaps in coverage of globally threatened species and Key Biodiversity Areas and ensuring that all notified protected areas are well managed and looked after (In-situ Conservation).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Notify the proposed 7 protected areas as soon as possible.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Establish wardens' offices at remaining notified protected areas.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conduct status surveys of priority species, studying their distribution and link results to conservation management.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen conservation and management of biological diversity and promote sustainable use of biological resources in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and national policies.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Promote local communities participation in biodiversity conservation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Support the development of conservation curricula at the basic education.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Commission a systematic study for improving the legal system for effective environmental management and biodiversity conservation.
- In the Five-year Action Plan toward sustainable management of land resources the project will conduct activities that support the following actions in whole or in part:
- Adopt a well-defined or clear-cut land use policy aiming at sustainable development and ensuring environmental sustainability.
  - Formulate an integrated land use plan that takes into consideration national priorities and goals based on scientifically categorized different land uses.
  - Review to strengthen policies concerning land resources management and to avoid conflicts due to jurisdictional overlapping.
- In addition, the high priority conservation corridor identified for the project overlaps with Myanmar's Tiger Conservation Landscapes (TCL). Project activities will also address all components of the Myanmar National Tiger Recovery Plan as submitted to the Global Tiger Initiative in June 2010. These activities include:
- Landscapes with appropriate extensions and corridors legally protected;
  - Improved management especially concerning law enforcement in source landscapes;
  - Monitoring ongoing in source landscapes; and
  - Improved national and trans-boundary cooperation

<b>Project Contacts</b>	
UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser	Mr. Doley Tshering (doley.tshering@undp.org)
Programme Associate	Ms. Pakamon Pinprayoon (pakamon.pinprayoon@undp.org)
Project Manager	Mr. Saw Htun (shtun@wcs.org)
CO Focal Point	Mr. Biplove Choudhary (biplove.choudhary@undp.org)
GEF Operational Focal Point	Hla Maung Thein (hlamaungthein.env@gmail.com)
Project Implementing Partner	Than Myint (utm.myint062@gmail.com)
Other Partners	(not set or not applicable)

**B. Overall Ratings**

Overall DO Rating	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate

## C. Development Progress

Description					
Objective					
Strengthen the terrestrial system of national protected areas for biodiversity conservation through enhanced representation, management effectiveness, monitoring, enforcement and financing					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2017	Cumulative progress since project start
Increased coverage of Myanmar's terrestrial and aquatic PA network managed by the Forest Department to 10% (6,765,530 ha) of the country's land-area from the current 5.6% (3,788,697 ha) with increased coverage of under-represented ecoregions and essential corridors	5.6% coverage (3,788,697 ha) of Myanmar's terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. See inset table for baseline representation of ecoregions.  Ecoregion / Current % Protected Chin Hills-Arakan Yoma montane forest 3.60% Eastern Himalayan alpine shrub and meadow 96.46% Irrawaddy dry Forest 0.45% Irrawaddy fresh water swamp forest 0.04% Irrawaddy moist deciduous forest 1.82% Kayah-Karen montane rain forest 0.60% Mizoram-Manipur- Kachin Rain forest 7.26% Myanmar Coast mangrove 0.92% Myanmar coastal rain forest 0.69% Northern Indochina subtropical forest 0.90% Northern Triangle subtropical forest 35.56% Nujiang Langcang Gorge alpine conifer and mixed	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	10% coverage (6,765,530 ha) of Myanmar's terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, with increased coverage of under-represented ecoregions (see inset table)  Ecoregion / Target % Protected Chin Hills-Arakan Yoma montane forest 3.60% Eastern Himalayan alpine shrub and meadow 96.46% Irrawaddy dry Forest 3.0% Irrawaddy fresh water swamp forest Potential to increase limited Irrawaddy moist deciduous forest 3.0% Kayah-Karen montane rain forest 1.5% Mizoram-Manipur-Kachin Rain forest 7.26%	In 2016, the progress of establishment of four new protected areas was reported by indicating their positions of six distinct steps of governmental procedures for new protected area establishment. For 2017, the progress of 12 new protected area establishment is presented as follows. 1. Hkakaborazi NP Extension (Step 1), 2. Eimawbum National Park (Step 3), 3. Taninthayi National Park (Step 3), 4. Lenya National Park (Step 3), 5. Lenya National Park Extension (Step 3), 6. Shinmataung Wildlife Sanctuary (Step 2) 6. Bwaipartaung National Park (Step 2) 7. Saytaung Wildlife Sanctuary (Step 2), Mahamyaing Wildlife Sanctuary (Step 3), Panthitaung National Park (Step 0), Zaloontaung Protected Area (Step 2) and Inkhinebum National Park (Step 6). Note: Process of protected area establishment Step 1 - Formation of Supervisory Body: Supervisory Body will be formed in accordance with the approval of the Minister. The Body will be chaired by the head of Township General Administration. Township Forest Officer and Township Land Record Officer are members. Step 2 -	The Mid-Term Review was conducted during the first half of 2018. The report is still being finalised, with management responses to be agreed between UNDP, WCS and the government, but key recommendations are being reflected in the 2018 PIR.  The MTR recognizes that the End of project target level is unrealistically high under the current legal system of the country and has recommended reducing it to 7%.  Out of proposed protected areas reported in 2017, Inkhinebum National Park has been gazetted and 11 are still under development. 13 new areas have been added to the process for a total of 24 proposed protected areas remaining listed in 2018. Their status are listed in following paragraphs in relation to the process of protected area establishment:  Step 0- Processing for data collection to submit for notification Ashay-myin Anauk-myin Taung (Step 0) - Shan Bat Cave (geo-physically Significant Reserve) (Step 0) - Sagaing &

	<p>forest 0.00%                  Tenasserim-south Thailand semi-evergreen rain forest 5.16%                  Tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests 6.04%</p>		<p>Myanmar Coast mangrove 3.0%                  Myanmar coastal rain forest Potential to increase limited Northern Indochina subtropical forest Potential to increase limited Northern Triangle subtropical forest 35.56%                  Nujiang Langcang Gorge alpine conifer and mixed forest 3.0%                  Tenasserim-south Thailand semi-evergreen rain forest 25.00%                  Tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests 6.04%</p>	<p>Notifying the area: The Chair of the Supervisory Body will notify the proposed protected area and ask local communities to claim their rights and privileges. Step 3 - Claiming rights and privileges: Local communities have to claim their rights and privileges within 90 days with evidences through village and township administration. Step 4 - Compensation considerations: Compensation considerations will be applied if evidences are completed and government agrees Step 5 - Proposal for gazettelement: When all processes and documents are completed, the Supervisory Body will submit a proposal for establishment of a protected area including detailed boundary description, location and area to Director General of Forest Department. Step 6 - Gazettelement of protected area: Cabinet approves the gazettelement of the protected area.</p>	<p>Mandalay                  Me-a-pi Taung (Step 0) - Chin                  Hmon Taung (Step 0) - Chin                  Sar-mon Taung (Step 0) - Chin                    Step 1 - Formation of Supervisory Body: Supervisory Body will be formed in accordance with the approval of the Minister. The Body will be chaired by the head of Township General Administration. Township Forest Officer and Township Land Record Officer are members.                  Hkakaborazi NP Extension (Step 1) - Kachin                  Panthitaung National Park (Step 1) - Kayah                  Kyee-ye-yan-Taung National Park (Step 1) - Chin                  Laythar Taung National Park (Step 1) - Chin                  Loi-sam-sit Taung Nature Reserve (Step 1) - Shan                  Panlaung Pyadalin Cave Wildlife Sanctuary (Extension) (Step 1) - Shan                  Shein-ma-gar (Step 1) - Sagaing                  Zein-mu Taung National Park (Step 1) - Chin                    Step 2 - Notifying the area: The Chair of the Supervisory Body will notify the proposed protected area and ask local communities to claim their rights and privileges.                  Shinmataung Wildlife Sanctuary (Step 2) - Magway                  Bwaipartaung National Park (Step 2) - Chin                  Saytaung Wildlife Sanctuary (Step 2) - Mon &amp; Karen                  Zaloontaung Protected Area (Step</p>
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					<p>2) - Sagaing</p> <p>Step 3 - Claiming rights and privileges: Local communities have to claim their rights and privileges within 90 days with evidences through village and township administration.</p> <p>Eimawbum National Park (Step 3) - Kachin</p> <p>Taninthayi National Park (Step 3) - Taninthayi</p> <p>Lenya National Park (Step 3) - Taninthayi</p> <p>Lenya National Park Extension (Step 3) - Taninthayi</p> <p>Mahamyaing Wildlife Sanctuary (Step 3) - Sagaing</p> <p>Bawdi Tahtaung Nature Reserve (Step 3) - Sagaing</p> <p>Step 4 - Compensation considerations: Compensation considerations will be applied if evidences are completed and government agrees</p> <p>None</p> <p>Step 5 - Proposal for gazettelement: When all processes and documents are completed, the Supervisory Body will submit a proposal for establishment of a protected area including detailed boundary description, location and area to Director General of Forest Department.</p> <p>Htaung-Wei (Geo-physically Significant Reserve) (Step 5) - Karen</p> <p>Step 6 - Gazettelement of protected area: Cabinet approves the</p>
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					<p>gazettement of the protected area. Inkhinebum National Park (Step 6) - Kachin</p> <p>The legal approval of Inkhinebum National Park in Kachin State has added 30,000 Hectares to the protected area system. This is an increase of 0.04% to the system raising the total to 5.64%</p>
<p>Improved habitat conditions at local level indicated by percentage change in forest cover caused by encroachment in Core Areas of PAs measured through remote sensing three times during the project.</p>	<p>Protected Area Baseline forest cover (% change / year)</p> <p>Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary 0.95%</p> <p>Hkakaborazi National Park 0.95%</p> <p>Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary 0.95%</p> <p>Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary 0.95%</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>Protected Area Target forest cover (% change / year)</p> <p>Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary 0.5%</p> <p>Hkakaborazi National Park 0.5%</p> <p>Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary 0.5%</p> <p>Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary 0.5%</p>	<p>Hukaung Valley WS 0.69%</p> <p>Hkakaborazi NP 0.02%</p> <p>Hponkanrazi WS 0.15%</p> <p>Htamanthi WS 0.05%</p> <p>Note: Forest cover change analysis was conducted in 2016 using conventional satellite images analysis but Google Earth Engine was used as long term forest cover monitoring tool for forest cover change analysis in 2017.</p>	<p>Technical changes during the past few years have refined the process to monitor forest change. Forest cover change analysis was conducted in 2016 using conventional satellite images analysis taking several months to process data. We are now using Google Earth Engine with Hansen dataset applied for forest cover change analysis in 2017 and 2018 as this method is more cost-effective, time-saving and potentially sustainable after the project. The following is the result of forest cover change analysis in 2018.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Hukaung Valley WS 0.08%</li> <li>2) Hkakaborazi NP 0.07%</li> <li>3) Hponkanrazi WS 0.01%</li> <li>4) Htamanthi WS 0.01%</li> </ol> <p>The data collected during the project is already much lower than the initial baseline forest cover of 0.95% from the project document. The MTR is advising to reduce the target further to 0.010% on three sites and to 0.1% for the Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary which still has some areas of deforestation.</p>



					The three other protected areas have virtually no deforestation and when deforestation is detected it can possibly be shown through natural process. The project is succeeding in protecting habitat conditions.
Financial Sustainability of PA System	Baseline Financial Sustainability Scorecard score (October 2013) 15%	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Target Financial Sustainability Scorecard score 25%	It will be assessed in mid-term evaluation. International and national consultants are now assessing on increasing PA financing revenue sources.	Financial sustainability of PA system was measured through Financial Sustainability Scorecard for 2018 and the score is 24%.  The MTR highlights that this score should be supplemented with details of new financing sources and mechanisms as they are developed and could potential reach a higher target than initially defined.

The progress of the objective can be described as:

Off track

#### Outcome 1

#### Enhanced systemic, institutional and financial frameworks for PA expansion and management

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2017	Cumulative progress since project start
1.1. Strengthened national policies and legislation address the following key issues for the PA system: a) enabling PAs to have access to funds raised through sustainable financing; b) integrating valuation of ecosystem services (ES) into national land use planning; c) clarifying the legal status of PA buffer zones and rationalization of approaches toward them; d) clarifying the governance arrangements for coastal PAs; and e) enabling local people to use and benefit from sites within Protected Areas.	a) PAs currently only access government funding; b) values of ES not considered in national land use planning; c) PA buffer zones vary in location and legal status; d) governance responsibilities for coastal PAs are complex and unclear; e) local people have no legal use rights within PAs.	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	a) PAs can access diverse sources of funding for management; b) national land use planning policy incorporates valuation of ES; c) PA buffer zones are given specific and consistent legal recognition; d) governance of coastal PAs is clarified in national policy and law; e) legislation passed to enable local use	a) Chin State Government has allocated some budget to Natmataung National Park. b) WCS and Forest Department have discussed on ecosystem mapping process and some field ground truthing activities were conducted. c) WCS facilitated the buffer zoning process in management plan development of Hkakaborazi Landscape World Heritage site and Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary in line with existing wildlife law. d) WCS participated in the government initiated integrated coastal resources management system for which the first workshop was convened in June 2017. e)	(a) The first example of PAs accessing Regional funds is being developed by Chin State Government which is now collecting entry funds from international visitors and holding them in a set account for supporting conservation linked activities in and around Natmataung National Park. The system to distribute the funding is still not clear so most of the funds have not yet been used for activities. No other protected areas have collected fees but this is now more clearly defined under the authority of the Director General as

			of land within PAs with appropriate safeguards.	Through participatory land use planning, community land uses and resource uses rights and practices were recorded in 20 villages in Hkakaborazi NP southern extension. Those information will be incorporated in the land settlement process to enable to provide community rights and privileges when southern extension is established as a PA.	defined by the new Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Law. Rules for the law are currently being developed. (b) WCS has supported the FD in developing the new Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Law which was enacted in May 2018. The law has clarified the definition of Buffer Zone and the role of the Director General to define the Buffer Zone. There are additional sections on the types of activities that can be allowed within the Buffer Zone in relation community activities and ecotourism. Rules for the law are currently being developed. (c) WCS has supported the new Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Law which has now defined Community Protected Areas and recognizes that communities can develop Community Protected Areas in collaboration with State and Region governments. The Law has also recognized that there is a role of communities in management of protected areas in collaboration with the PA management authority and these areas are in the buffer zone. Based on recommendations of the Mid Term Review to remove indicators (d) and (e), these are not reported upon.
1.2.Improved institutional capacity of the Forest Department for the PA system planning and management as indicated by the Capacity Development Scorecard (see	Capacity Development Scorecard baseline: 45%	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Capacity Development Scorecard target: 67%	The capacity development scorecard will be re-assessed in the Mid-term evaluation.	The capacity development scorecard was assessed from October to December 2017 as a part of Mid Term Review. CD scores were collected from Kachin

Annex 2)* *Combined average for NWCD, Sagaing region, Kachin state, the Training and Research Development Division and the Planning and Statistics Division					State Forest Department, Sagaing Forest Department, Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Training and Research Development Division and Planning and Statistics Division and all score were averaged. The averaged CD score was 63%.
1.3.Certificate-level PA management modules are established for the use of the Forest Department and incorporated into their regular curricula at Yezin University of Forestry and Central Forestry Development Training Centers as appropriate	No formal training courses on PA management are available in Myanmar	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Certificate-level PA management modules are incorporated into regular curricula at Yezin UoF and CFDTCs. At least 150 FD field staff trained and certified in Conservation Management and Community Outreach for PAs .	WCS has developed Capacity Develop Strategy for Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD). The strategy was presented in the first meeting of Technical Advisory Group on Protected Areas (TAGPA) in May 2017. Members of TAGPA recommended to expand the Capacity Development Strategy for the whole Forest Department. WCS is preparing to improve the Capacity Development Strategy for the whole Forest Department. In 2016-17, regular training on law enforcement, natural resource management and governance, gender assessment and community guardians were given. Total numbers of trainees trained in 2016-17 were 368 - 115 Forest Department Staff, 63 WCS staff, 183 local communities and 7 INGOs and CSOs.	Capacity Development Strategy for Forest Department including work plan for Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD), University of Forestry and Environmental Science (UoFES), Myanmar Forest School (MFS) and Central Forestry Development and Training Centre (CFDTC) has been finalized. As part of implementing the strategy, Training of Trainers for No (1) Basic Wildlife Management Training has been conducted with NWCD's Rangers in May and June 2018. There were 14 NWCD Rangers joined for ToT and 20 Rangers joined for the Basic Training. WCS conducted short trainings for UoFES's faculties in October and also for 4th year students in December 2017. The overseas study tour was organized with UoFES faculties and students in November 2017. A total of 68 male and 32 females from UoFES participated in the capacity building events. In October 2017, the short training course was also conducted at MFS for all 93 foresters. Regarding to address PA competencies gaps, a series of curriculum development for NWCD staff, 4th year student of UoFES,

					MFS diploma course and short training for CFDTTC are being prepared. The training modules for NWCD's basic wildlife management have been developed.
1.4.100% increase in total budget allocated to the protected areas in real terms compared to the baseline as indicated by the financial sustainability scorecard (see Annex 3).	US\$ 750,000 per year as indicated by the financial sustainability scorecard.	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	100% increase in budget allocated to the protected areas in real terms compared to baseline as indicated by the financial sustainability scorecard.	WCS international and national consultants are now working to assess the government budget allocation for protected area management. The analysis results will be contribute to mid term evaluation.	<p>The Mid-term review updated the financial sustainability scorecard. Total annual central government budget allocated to PA management (excluding donor funds and revenues generated for the PA system) for FY2016/17 was \$1,239,368. This is an increase of 65%</p> <p>There have been a number of additional funding mechanisms to support protected areas considered. This includes the proposed Myanmar Biodiversity Foundation which is an independent conservation trust fund that can support sustainable financing for biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>The project is seeking legal support to explore potential legal options for establishing a trust fund in the country established to operate within Myanmar to meet identified conservation objectives.</p>

**The progress of the objective can be described as:** **On track**

## Outcome 2

### Strengthened management and threat reduction in the target PAs and buffer zones

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2017	Cumulative progress since project start
2.1.Reduction of threats at the local level indicated by an eventual reduction in the number of individuals stopped inside the PA for illegal activities as shown in	See inset table for baseline rate of individuals stopped per year for illegal activities for every 100km patrolled in each PA	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	See inset table for predicted annual target rates of individuals stopped per year for illegal	SMART values (catch efforts in 100 km patrolled) in three protected areas were reported as follows: Hukaung Valley WS 0.2 (Total Patrol Distance =	Threat reduction indicator - catch effort per 100 km patrol distance has not been consistent between protected areas depending on the patrol types - on-foot, motorboat,

SMART monthly patrolling reports.	<p>Protected Area / SMART Baseline*</p> <p>Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary 20</p> <p>Hkakaborazi National Park 20</p> <p>Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary 0</p> <p>Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary 20</p> <p>*Catch effort /100km patrol distance</p>	<p>activities for every 100km patrolled in each PA</p> <p>Protected Area Y1 Y2 Y3 Y4 Y5</p> <p>Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary 30 40 30 15 10</p> <p>Hkakaborazi National Park 30 40 30 15 10</p> <p>Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary 10 20 15 8 5</p> <p>Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary 30 40 30 15 10</p> <p>*Catch effort /100km patrol distance</p>	<p>4776.42km, Total Actions = 9)</p> <p>Hkakaborazi NP 3.6 (Total Patrol Distance = 2412.5km, Total Actions = 87)</p> <p>Htamanthi WS 0.7 (Total Patrol Distance = 51034.62km, Total Actions = 343)</p> <p>Notes: The same unit index "Catch effort/ 100km patrol distance" is used for base line data and assessment in 2016 and 2017. This unit is generated by dividing total numbers of actions taken by total kilometer patrolled then multiply with 100 days in a prescribed period. This unit tends to be fluctuated by the influences of other factors such as limited access due to political conflicts and contributions of other law enforcement agencies. The catch effort of 2017 in Hukaung Valley WS was the same as that of 2016. The patrol teams only conducted law enforcement activities only along Ledo Road as the political and arm conflicts between government military and Kachin Independence Army (KIA) was going on and the access into the forest was still limited. Compare to 2016, total patrol distance was increased about three times (4776.42 km) and total actions were increased two times (9 actions). Law enforcement and patrolling activities in Hkakaborazi National Park is always challenging due to its remoteness and bordering with China and India. Total patrol distance was increased more than two times (2412.5 km) and actions were increased significantly (87 actions).</p>	<p>motorcycle and truck etc. Catch effort per 100 km patrol distance tends to be higher in PA where the major patrol type is on-foot patrol and it tends to be lower on PA where major patrol type is vehicle patrol.</p> <p>Therefore, indicators - patrol distance (km), encounter of people, camps and hunting weapons haven been changed in the Mid-term review as a clearer indicator for threat reduction.</p> <p>In 2018, those patrol distance (km), encounter of people, camps and hunting weapons are:</p> <p>Hukaung Valley WS were 4776 km, 48 peoples, 12 camps and 31 hunting weapons.</p> <p>Hkakaborazi NP were 2412 km, 63 peoples, 21 camps and 310 hunting weapons.</p> <p>There were no data of Hponkanrazi WS as there was no SMART patrol in 2017.</p> <p>Htamanthi WS were 116,193 km, 948 peoples, 31 camps and 38 hunting weapons.</p>
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				As no government staff was assigned yet, regular law enforcement and patrolling activities have not been conducted. In 2016, opportunistic patrolling was conducted. Like 2016, Htamanthi WS had high numbers of action (total actions = 343) and high number of patrol distance (total patrol distance = 51034.62 km).	
2.2. Stable or increased encounter rates for key indicator species in each demonstration PA based on annual summaries of SMART patrolling data and focused auditory surveys for gibbons.	Encounter rate of 2 Hoolock Gibbon groups/ km <sup>2</sup> for Hukaung valley WS, Hponkanrazi WS and Htamanthi WS. 2.5 ungulate sign observations/ 100 km patrolled for Htamanthi WS. Baselines for other sites to be completed during Year 1.	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Encounter rate of 2 Hoolock Gibbon groups/ km <sup>2</sup> and 2.5 ungulate sign observations/ 100 km patrolled for all four demonstration sites	Biological indicator - ungulates sign density/ 100 km patrol distance - in Hukaung Valley WS, Hkakaborazi NP and Htamanthi WS were analyzed using data from SMART database. Hoolock Gibbon group density was estimated using auditory method in Htamanthi WS. Ungulate signs / 100 km patrolled were 0.2 in Hukaung Valley WS, 5.1 in Hkakaborazi NP and 0.2 in Htamanthi WS. Hoolock Gibbon group density per square km in Htamanthi WS was 2.13.	Ungulate encounter rate per 100 km patrol distance using SMART law enforcement data has not been consistent between protected areas depending on the patrol types - on-foot, motorboat, motorcycle and truck etc. Encounter rate tends to be higher in PA where the major patrol type is on-foot patrol and it tends to be lower in PA where major patrol type is vehicle patrol.  Ungulate encounter rate per 100 km patrol distance using SMART law enforcement data have been generated for all four PAs.  Hukaung Valley WS 0.2 Hkakaborazi NP 5.1 Hponkanrazi WS N/A Htamanthi WS 0.2  As Hoolock Gibbon auditory surveys have been conducted in Htamanthi WS and Hponkanrazi WS. Hoolock Gibbon group density per sq. km will be used to verify the encounter rates from SMART. Hoolock Gibbon group density per sq. km

					<p>Hukaung Valley WS N/A Hkakaborazi NP N/A Hponkanrazi WS N/A Htamanthi WS 2.13</p> <p>Medium cats relative abundance per 100 trap nights of Htamanthi WS was also assessed.</p> <p>Hukaung Valley WS N/A Hkakaborazi NP N/A Hponkanrazi WS N/A Htamanthi WS 0.94</p>
2.3.Improved management effectiveness of individual PAs covering 2,604,000 ha, indicated by the % increase in the METT assessment	<p>Protected Area / METT Baseline Score</p> <p>Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (1,737,300 ha) 52%</p> <p>Hkakaborazi National Park (381,200 ha) 51%</p> <p>Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary (270,400 ha) 12%</p> <p>Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary (215,100) 49%</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Protected Area / METT Target Score</p> <p>Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (1,737,300 ha) 82%</p> <p>Hkakaborazi National Park (381,200 ha) 83%</p> <p>Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary (270,400 ha) 69%</p> <p>Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary (215,100) 82%</p>	The METT score will be assessed in the mid-term evaluation.	<p>The METT scores were assessed for all four model protected areas in 2018 as a part of Mid Term Review. The METT scores of Hkakaborazi NP, Hponkanrazi WS and Htmanthi WS were increased and that of Hukaung Valley WS was decreased due to armed conflicts between government army and Kachin Independent Army (KIA). The METT scores of four PAs are as follows:</p> <p>Hukaung Valley WS METT = 48% Hkakaborazi NP METT = 58% Hponkanrazi WS METT = 39% Htamanthi WS METT = 61%</p>
2.4.Community participation systems piloted at demonstration PAs and incorporated into management plans	No existing systematic measures for community participation at demonstration PAs	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Community participation systems piloted at demonstration PAs and incorporated into management plans	Community participation system was piloted in Hkakaborazi National Park, Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary and Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary through "Community Guardians" training. Totally 161 communities from three protected areas were trained as community guardians to participate in the biodiversity conservation and protected area management. In the	Three of the four demonstration PAs are undergoing the design and development of community participation systems and all four PAs are developing Management Plans. The PAs each have community members that work with the project and then a growing number of part time participants and volunteers that work on a range of activities in and around their

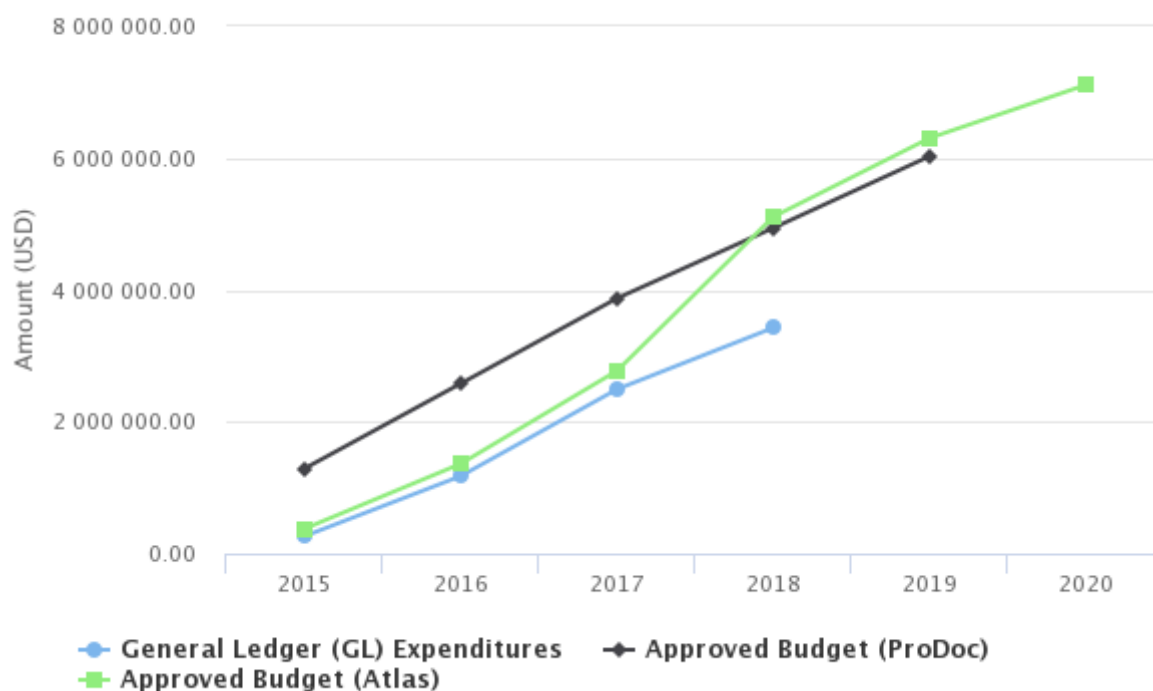
				<p>long term representatives from community guardians will be trained to be a part of Township Protected Area Management Supporting Units which have been established by Kachin State and Sagaing Region governments.</p>	<p>communities.</p> <p>Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary community participation is limited because of conflict. The project supports 2 female and 8 male Community Guards that work full time on the project.</p> <p>Hkakaborazi National Park and Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary are administered through the same Forest Department staff and project trainings and field activities are closely linked, especially in relation to community participation. The protected areas are supported by 25 male Community Guards that work full time on the project. In addition they have provided trainings for 66 Community Guardians including 9 females. 18 male and 7 female community members attended an intensive farmer field training in collaboration with Metta Development Foundation and additional community members will be attending an intensive training on tourism and hospitality supported by MOHT and Swiss Contact.</p> <p>Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary has the most developed community participation system. The project supports 23 male Community Guards that work full time on the project. In addition Community Guardians are trained to participate in biodiversity conservation and protected area management. 20 females and 25 males have been trained. Community Guardians work</p>
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				<p>directly with the PA and project on field activities. Some have been given additional training to become Community Mobilizers to engage with village development and to understand environment, ecosystems and sustainable development and to build their capacity in facilitation skills related to community engagement. Three communities have been piloted through participatory Research Action and Community Forestry to draft Community Managed Forest Management Plans. They are now in the process of maintaining Community Forestry Certificates from local government.</p>
<p><b>The progress of the objective can be described as:</b></p>		<p><b>Off track</b></p>		

## D. Implementation Progress

### Cumulative Disbursements



Highcharts.com

Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	56.84%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	69.36%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August):	3,425,780.27

Key Financing Amounts	
PPG Amount	100,457
GEF Grant Amount	6027397
Co-financing	17,896,300

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

Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2017 to 1 July 2018)
2017-09-22

## E. Critical Risk Management

Current Types of Critical Risks	Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period
Political	<p>Overall, ATLAS risk log will be updated following the MTR. The draft MTR recommends that the risk log be updated in line with an updated SESP to reflect contemporary situation. The information presented here is on the existing risk log and an understanding of the types of risks to be included in the updated risk log.</p> <p>The risk log notes that the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) has not signed yet the National Cease-fire Agreement. KIA and government military have had sporadic fighting in Hukaung valley WS.</p> <p>Since project inception fighting has almost completely prevented project activities in Hukaung Valley WS. As such, project activities have been directed towards other sites. At this stage in project implementation, the focus will continue to be on those sites that can be safely accessed.</p> <p>In September 2017, there were large-scale protests by local communities, particularly from the Rawang ethnic community, against the proposed Southern Extension PA to Hkakaborazi National Park linked to the UNESCO World Heritage (WH) nomination, the FD and also WCS, who are also associated with the establishment Hkakaborazi National Park in 1996. As a result of these protests as well as formal written complaints, including one which had over 10,000 signatures, all project and FD activities in Hkakaborazi have been suspended since September 2017. This could impact the achievement of some of the end of project targets under Outcome 2. In response, WCS has supported the FD in developing the new Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Law which was enacted in May 2018. The law has clarified the definition of Buffer Zone and the role of the Director General to define the Buffer Zone. There are additional sections on the types of activities that can be allowed within the Buffer Zone in relation community activities and ecotourism. The Law has defined Community Protected Areas and recognizes that communities can develop Community Protected Areas in collaboration with State and Region governments. The Law has also recognized that there is a role of communities in management of protected areas in collaboration with the PA management authority and these areas are in the buffer zone. Rules for the law are currently being developed through a consultative process and future Hkakaborazi activities will be pursued in this context.</p>

## F. Adjustments

### Comments on delays in key project milestones

**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.**

As the total number of GEF projects overseen by Forest Department has increased, it is getting hard to organize Project Board meeting for individual GEF projects. Forest Department is also looking for a feasible solution for that. First project board meeting was convened in November 2016 and second project board meeting was held in September 2017. The in-country mission of the Mid Term Review (MTR) was conducted from February to March 2018. MTR consultant visited field sites - Htamanthi WS and Hponkanrazi WS, met with Sagaing Regional and Kachin State level ministers and directors, Forest Department and WCS field staff, local communities. MTR consultant briefed the MTR findings to Director of NWCD, UNDP and WCS. Third project board meeting will be organized to present back the findings of the MTR in 2018.

**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.**

In response to the previous PIR, the MTR was brought forward with planning commencing in late 2017. Due to the scope of the MTR and challenges identifying capable MTR consultants, the completion of the MTR has taken slightly longer than anticipated. This in turn has delayed the planned Project Board meeting in the first half of 2018. A Project Board meeting is being planned for the coming weeks to discuss, inter alia, the completed MTR and make management response decisions.

**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.**

No major delays in this reporting period. The project organised the MTR in a timely manner.

## G. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2018 Development Objective Progress Rating	2018 Implementation Progress Rating
Project Manager/Coordinator	Moderately Satisfactory	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<p>Following on from the recent draft MTR all result indicators of the project for the 2018 Development Objective Progress Rating was given as "Satisfactory"</p> <p>Objective Indicator 1. Increased coverage of Myanmar's terrestrial and aquatic PA network managed by the Forest Department- Only one PA - Inkhaingbum National Park was gazetted in 2017. As indigenous people and community are very concerned about their customary land tenures and rights, they are mostly opposed to establishing new protected areas from the Union Government. There are now 24 proposed PA by Union government and state governments. Many of the large Union Government areas are opposed by indigenous people, but there are a number of smaller areas that are supported and a growing number of State and Region governments promoting new protected areas.</p> <p>Objective Indicator 2. Improved habitat conditions at PA level indicated by percentage change in forest cover measured through remote sensing - As the data shows that there is low deforestation rate in four model protected areas, this indicator was rated as "Satisfactory"</p> <p>Objective Indicator 3. Financial Sustainability of PA System (measured through Financial Sustainability Scorecard)- the Financial Sustainability Scorecard was 24%, it was rated as "Satisfactory"</p> <p>Outcome 1 Indicator 1 (a): Enabling PAs to have access to funds raised through sustainable financing mechanism -The policy for accessing funds by PAs is not yet very clear. However, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) and Forest Department (FD) are very eager to initiate a conservation trust fund. There is the potential for a new mechanism to utilize a broader range of financial opportunities such as entrance fees, payment for ecosystem services and biodiversity offsets, that could be managed through a trust fund and used to support PA management. MONREC and FD recommended to establish a trust fund as the "Myanmar Biodiversity Foundation". It was rated as "Moderately Satisfactory"</p> <p>Outcome 1 Indicator 1 (b): Clear legal status of PA buffer zones and rationalization of approaches toward them -PA buffer zones, community rights and privileges, co-management, rules and regulations out lined in the consultation process for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas rules. It was rated as "Moderately Satisfactory"</p> <p>Outcome 1 Indicator 1 (c): Enabling local people to use and benefit from sites within Protected Areas - Community rights and privileges, recognition of their customary tenure and land rights, benefits from payment for ecosystem services and ecotourism are included in the consultation process for Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas rules development. It was rated as "Moderately Satisfactory"</p> <p>Outcome 1 Indicator 2: Improved institutional capacity of the Forest Department for the PA system planning and management as indicated by the Capacity Development Scorecard - The averages CD scorecard was 63% in 2017. it was rated as "Satisfactory"</p> <p>Outcome 1 Indicator 3: Certificate-level PA management modules are established for the use of the Forest Department and incorporated into their regular curricula at Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD), University of Forestry and Environmental Science (UoFES), Myanmar Forest School (MFS) and Central Forestry Development Training Centre (CFDTC) -An institutionalized training for basic and advanced wildlife management training</p>	

	<p>and park manager training haven been developed. The first basic wildlife management training was delivered. The syllabus improvement with UoFES has been started and curriculum for MFS and CFDTC have already been developed. Therefore, It was rated as "Satisfactory"</p> <p>Outcome 1 Indicator 4: Piloted a feasible sustainable financing mechanism - A legal feasibility assessment for conservation trust fund is underway. Steering committee members are proposed. It was rated as "Moderately Satisfactory"</p> <p>Outcome 1 Indicator 5: 50% increase in total budget allocated to the protected areas in real terms compared to the baseline as indicated by the financial sustainability scorecard - The government budget for PA has been increased in real terms by 67%. It was rated as "Satisfactory".</p> <p>Outcome 2 Indicator 1: Reduction of threats at the PA level indicated by individual stops for illegal activities increase of patrol distance (km) and decrease of evidences of illegal activity (camps and hunting weapons) - Individual stops, patrol distance and evidence of camps and hunting weapons indicated the threat reduction, this indicator was rated as "Moderately Satisfactory".</p> <p>Outcome 2 Indicator 2: Stable or increased encounter rates for key indicator species in each demonstration PA based on annual summaries of SMART patrolling data and other biological monitoring activities -The encounter rates and gibbon group densities indicate the stable condition of wildlife, it was rated as "Satisfactory"</p> <p>Outcome 2 Indicator 3: Improved management effectiveness of individual PAs covering 2,604,000 ha, indicated by the % increase in the METT assessment - METT scores for Hkakaborazi NP, Hponkanrazi WS and Htamanti WS were significantly increased. Therefore, it was rated as "Satisfactory"</p> <p>Outcome 2 Indicator 4: Community participation systems piloted at demonstration PAs and incorporated into management plans -Community participation in Htamnthis is "Satisfactory", Hkakaborazi and Hponkanrazi is "Moderately Unsatisfactory".</p> <p>Therefore, overall rating was "Satisfactory"</p>	
<b>Role</b>	<b>2018 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2018 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>UNDP Country Office Programme Officer</b>	Moderately Satisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Assessment	Based on the MTR findings and UNDP's own analysis, the overall rating for the project is Moderately Satisfactory.	
<b>Role</b>	<b>2018 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2018 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>GEF Operational Focal point</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
<b>Role</b>	<b>2018 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2018 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>Project Implementing Partner</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
<b>Role</b>	<b>2018 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2018 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>Other Partners</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>

Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
<b>Role</b>	<b>2018 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2018 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser</b>	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Assessment	detailed comments forthcoming  - MTR findings - action plan to address - acceleration pla - focus on outcomes that have not seen progress	

## H. 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.

<b>Gender Analysis and Action Plan:</b> <i>not available</i>
<b>Please review the project's Gender Analysis. If the Gender Analysis 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.</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.</b>
<b>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.</b>
<p>WCS conducted an assessment at their project site, Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary, in February 2017. Expected outputs include a learning model that can be applied in other project areas. The main objectives of this study were: a) To develop a rationale for the inclusion of gender considerations in community conservation; b) To analyze the different roles of women and men and their relationship to natural resource management; c) To articulate the importance of women's participation in conservation efforts and the barriers to participation that they face, and to implement ways to remove these barriers; and d) To identify a plan to enhance community involvement in environmental conservation practices.</p> <p>Community engagement is an essential part of ecosystem conservation and can ensure sustainability. Community engagement should seek to empower the economic, political, social, and environmental capacities of people regardless of age, gender, class, and ethnicity. Thus, recent community engagement activities undertaken by WCS, and the response of community members to these activities, were explored. In addition, gender sensitivities of the community were also assessed to understand perspectives of women's involvement in environmental conservation schemes.</p> <p>Key findings from this work highlight that local people still rely heavily on forest and other natural resources for major and additional income; the income of smallholders and casual labor households is for the most part insufficient. Thus, these households constitute the main target group for livelihood improvement support; and women have access to a greater number of income sources, but a gender wage gap exists; women are paid less than men for the same jobs.</p> <p>Gender division exists in roles related to the extraction and preservation of natural resources. The role divisions are based on gender stereotyping, traditional norms, and different practices. Both men and women are perceived to be able to, and do in practice, perform some activities like preserving seeds and collecting rare plants. However, only men are perceived to be competent to undertake other activities like hunting and logging.</p> <p>The project contributes by included women's recognition as forest users, and also forest preservers. We recognize that gender stereotypes exist in the division of men and women's roles, defined by perceived levels of competence in using and maintaining forest products. The labor contribution of women behind the scenes needs to be acknowledged; and women can act as a bridge between wildlife and society, as well as between the beliefs of ancestors and younger generations.</p>
<b>Does this project specifically target woman or girls as direct beneficiaries?</b>
No
<b>Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced</b>



**the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.**

The project supports increased gender equality and women's empowerment and this has increased awareness during the first two years of the project. In Htamanti Wildlife Sanctuary a learning model about gender assessment in natural resource management was developed so that it can be applied in other project areas. During community forestry participatory research action, findings and analysis related to Outcome 2: Strengthened management and threat reduction in the target PAs and buffer zones. Recognize that women equally play important roles like men in cooking, firewood collection, farming, bamboo plantation, NTFP collection, boat driving and rafting. The opportunity ratio for capacity building from the sanctuary are more or less the same and in forming community managed forest user group, women play an important role like treasurer or secretary in the committee.

The PIR does not include any gender-disaggregated indicators but these are provided in quarterly reports to UNDP such as the numbers of men and women undergoing different types of training or attending meetings and workshops. As identified by the MTR this area would benefit from strengthening and UNDP could provide additional support their expertise and experience as a project partner. UNDP and WCS are exploring strategies to strengthen the project's support for gender equality and women's empowerment through the balance of the project.

## I. 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. For reference, the project's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), which was prepared during project design, is available below. If the project began before the SESP was required, then the space below will be empty.

<b>SESP:</b> <a href="#">ESSR Report signed letter final.pdf</a>
<b>1) Please provide a brief update on the project's social and environmental risks listed in the SESP. If the project has not prepared an SESP (i.e. if the project began before the SESP was required), then please indicate when that screening will be done (recommended before the Midterm Review and/or Terminal Evaluation, or after a significant change to the project context). If the project has updated its SESP during implementation, then please upload that file to this PIR. If any relevant grievances have arisen during the reporting period please describe them in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.</b>
A recommendation of the MTR is that UNDP and WCS collectively update the SESP, using the most recent SESP toolkit. This is recommended to take account of contemporary circumstances and to support improved monitoring of risks and technical implementation of the project.
UNDP and WCS are planning a dedicated post-MTR planning session to address the MTR recommendations, including to prepare the updated SESP.
The updated SESP will be used as the basis for harmonized risk reporting across the project, including in future PIRs.
<b>2) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?</b>
No
<b>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.</b>
N/A
<b>3) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during implementation? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.</b>
Yes
<b>If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.</b>
During the project development the political tension between ethnic minority groups and the central government was identify as a moderately likely risk that may limit ability to implement project activities effectively. The exciting political changes in the country subdued this issue temporarily but the deep issues that underlie this conflict are still a major challenge for the project and need to be prioritized for future activities to succeed.
As identified early on by the project relationships with local ethnic leaders must be developed to increase awareness, build trust and encourage participation in project activities to ensure that tension is limited. Unfortunately tension has continued to increase, primarily due to outside factors in relation to the peace process, and the balkanization of ethnic groups into a growing number of militias. The Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary has been identified by the MTR to reduce our engagement due to expanding conflict in the area. Tension in relation to Hkakaborazi National Park has also expanded but the are is still not an active conflict area. The project's ongoing discussions with civil society on the new Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Law are focusing on improved understanding of legal mechanisms that can formalize community managed protected areas in relation to communities living and and around these areas. This risk is still a major challenge to the project but there is now a legal mechanism to engage all stakeholders to achieve a peaceful solution to secure the communities economics and livelihood needs in relation to securing this globally

important natural heritage for all.

## J. Communicating Impact

**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.)**

Myanmar is the largest country in mainland South-East Asia, with significant forest, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems. Because of its very wide variation in latitude, altitude and climate, and location at the convergence of four major floristic regions, Myanmar supports a high diversity of habitats, and is extremely rich in plant species. Available information on species diversity and endemism indicates that Myanmar supports extraordinary plant and vertebrate diversity. However, detailed baseline data are still lacking for many taxonomic groups, and new species for science are still being regularly discovered. Since the late 1990s, destruction and degradation of Myanmar's natural habitat has increased, primarily due to logging and agricultural conversion as the country increasingly engaged with the outside world for economic development. These pressures are likely to increase dramatically following recent political changes that facilitate foreign investment and trade. The long-term vision of the project is for Myanmar to have a robust, representative and effectively managed terrestrial protected area system, which is effectively integrated into broader landscape-level land use planning. This project aims to secure important biodiversity areas to be included in the expanded PA system and to strengthen the overall system while at the same time raising the profile of protected areas within the national and state level development planning context. However, the country faces a number of barriers for achieving this, namely weak systematic and institutional capacity to plan and manage the expanded national PA system, and insufficient management capacity and motivation at the PA level to manage local threats and achieve conservation outcomes. The objective of the project is to strengthen the terrestrial system of national protected areas for biodiversity conservation through enhanced representation, management effectiveness, monitoring, enforcement and financing. This is implemented through two project components. Myanmar is experiencing a rapid boom in development after over 50 years of relative isolation. This unique period in history allows a tremendous opportunity to benefit the global environment by addressing local, national, and global environmental challenges and to promote sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in Myanmar. The project works to strengthen PA management in four focal PAs and integrate PA management and finance into broader state and national level development planning. Lessons from focal PAs are increasing the overall effectiveness of the national PA system. The GEF is now beginning to overcome systemic and institutional barriers to improved PA management and sustainable financing in Myanmar. Protected Area expansion is being discussed to represent the globally significant ecosystems within the country. Financing for the Protected Area system is gradually being increased by government investment as well as establishing new revenue streams. Technical and management capacity of the Forest Department is being strengthened through institutionalisation of training programmes, habitat/biodiversity monitoring, SMART patrolling and law enforcement. On the ground, protected area management is slowly improving at the four demonstration PAs although recent conflict is a substantial challenge. The lessons learned from these PAs are being used to increase capacity nationwide by drawing on such successful practices and mainstreaming those into national training programmes at the Yezin University of Forestry and the Central Forestry Department Training Centres (CFDTC) to train Forest Department staff in protected area management.

The project's two components will result in the following main outcomes:

Component 1: Improved institutional capacity of the MOECAP for PA system planning and management; Core operation of the existing national PA system in Myanmar covering 3,788,697 ha strengthened, leading to reduction of threats from forest loss, encroachment and poaching; a national PA system financing strategy is developed and operationalized, articulating PA financing needs; and 50% increase in budget allocated to the protected areas in real terms compared to the baseline of US\$ 750,000 per year.

Component 2: Improved management effectiveness of individual PAs covering 2,604,000 ha – Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (1,737,300 ha), Hkakaborazi National Park (381,200 ha), Hponkanrazi Wildlife Sanctuary (270,400 ha) and Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary (215,100 ha); reduction of threats at the local level through improved patrolling and enforcement, community participation, and planning measures to reduce external threats; improved habitat conditions at local level indicated by stable forest cover and reduced encroachment; and the project's global environmental benefits derive from improved management of an expanded terrestrial PA network in Myanmar covering 6,765,500 ha, in the largest and most heavily forested country in South-East Asia.

The strengthened PA network will provide improved protection for globally significant populations of key species, including Tiger, Asian Elephant, and primates, as well as over 80% of the birds found in South-East Asia and some of the most highly diverse plant communities in the world.

The project is now deploying participatory mechanisms to enhance the efficiency of biodiversity conservation by incorporating the knowledge base of all resource users to improve compliance, since users themselves devise the rules by which they must abide. By allowing resource users to voice their needs and priorities, such mechanisms are expected to promote equitable solutions to conservation problems, as it is assumed they will provide all community members with similar opportunities to influence the decisions that affect their lives. By bringing in the voice of women within the community, WCS will promote all-inclusiveness in each project management step.

Local people need to be economically, politically, socially, and environmentally empowered. Livelihood improvements should be delivered to provide economic empowerment, and local voices should be considered in decision making, raising political awareness at the community level to challenge external bodies. In terms of conservation practices, villagers should be educated about relevant laws, which will give them a sense of ownership of, and accountability for, their resource use. Local knowledge and practices, and local groups, are required to promote and strengthen social capacity and networks. Environmentally friendly empowerment activities can be defined as an ecological approach to improve the environment that would bring balance to social, economic, and environmental development.

Although an environmental perspective has been adopted in our community development programs, it is not yet a comprehensive and holistic approach because placing too much emphasis on ecosystems cannot provide appropriate solutions to economic hardships suffered by the community. Social, environmental, and economic values need to be promoted for sustainable community development. Our perspectives include the improvement of community wellbeing, promotion of economic opportunities, and reduction in environmental impacts. Nevertheless, balancing economic efficiency and environmental welfare is a challenging issue. For a community whose major concern is environmental sustainability and improvement of living conditions, development projects that focus on growth of local small businesses that harmonize with ecological values are most suitable. Local people have called for provision of new livelihood opportunities based on their existing knowledge, skills, and competences, and the resources available in the area. Capital, technical support, and market availability are fundamental resources needed to improve livelihoods, as well as to increase interest in wildlife conservation.

Our experience in the first half of the project continues to be a challenge, our initial optimism has slowed down as we are obviously dealing with some of the most contested areas in the country during this hopefully period towards peace. We see the country's recent adoption of the new Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Law as a significant move towards improved collaboration for conservation with local people and a reminder that conservation for protected areas is still an important and strongly supported vision for the future of the country.

**What is the most significant change that has resulted from the project this reporting period? (This text will be used for internal knowledge management in the respective technical team and region.)**

There are two significant changes from the project this reporting period.

- 1) The Government recognition and support for a broad and inclusive consultation process with civil society to inform the development of "Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Rules". Their acceptance of this level of participation from civil society in the rules development is exceptional.
- 2) The Government's recognition that the Myanmar Biodiversity Foundation (conservation trust fund) should be developed as an independent mechanism to support sustainable financing for the protected area system.

**Describe how the project supported South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year. (This text will be used for internal knowledge management within the respective technical team and region.)**

The project supported South-South Cooperation between the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and Forest Department to implement the Landscape Initiative for Far Eastern Himalayas (Hi-LIFE). ICIMOD has organized training to initiate community based tourism and documenting of indigenous knowledge on medicinal plants. The project will provide more support for the development of community based tourism development in Hponkanrazi WS.

## Project Links and Social Media

**Please include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, Adaptation Learning Mechanism (UNDP-ALM) platform, 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 upload' button in the top right of the PIR.**

Project activities and progress have been disseminated to general public through:  
GEF5 Myanmar Biodiversity Project (<https://www.facebook.com/GEF-Myanmar-Project>)  
WCS Myanmar website (<https://myanmar.wcs.org>)  
Myanmar Biodiversity website (<https://myanmarbiodiversity.org>),  
WCS Myanmar Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/WCSMyanmar/>) and  
WCS Myanmar Twitter (<https://twitter.com/wcsmyanmar?lang=en>).

## K. Partnerships

Give the name of the partner(s), and describe the partnership, recent notable activities and any innovative aspects of the work. Please do not use any acronyms. (limit = 2000 characters). This information is used to get a better understanding of the work GEF-funded projects are doing with key partners, including the GEF Small Grants Programme, indigenous peoples, the private sector, and other partners. Please list the full names of the partners (no acronyms please) and summarize what they are doing to help the project achieve its objectives. The data may be used for reporting to GEF Secretariat, the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP Corporate Communications, posted on the UNDP-GEF website, and for other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts. The RTA should view and edit/elaborate on the information entered here. All projects must complete this section. Please enter "N/A" in cells that are not applicable to your project.

<p><b>Civil Society Organisations/NGOs</b></p> <p>Land Core Group (LCG): WCS collaborates closely with LCG on consultation process for Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas rules revision. LCG has provided their technical support based on their knowledge and experiences gained through the National Land Use Policy development.</p> <p>World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF): WCS has collaborated with WWF on consultation process for Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas rules revision. WWF contributed financial and human resources for the process.</p> <p>Fauna and Flora International (FFI): WCS has collaborated with FFI on consultation process for Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas rules revision. FFI contributed financial and human resources for the process.</p> <p>Smithsonian Institution (SI): WCS has collaborated with SI on consultation process for Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas rules revision. SI contributed human resources for the process.</p> <p>Council of Naga Affairs (CNA): WCS maintained good relationship with the Council of Naga Affairs by updating all project activities conducted in the area where Naga peoples live.</p> <p>Rawang Literature and Culture Committee: Forest Department and WCS keep informed all project activities conducted in the area where Rawang peoples live.</p> <p>Jinhaw Literature and Culture Committee: Forest Department and WCS keep informed all project activities conducted in the area where Jinhaw peoples live.</p> <p>Lisu Literature and Culture Committee: Forest Department and WCS keep informed all project activities conducted in the area where Lisu peoples live.</p> <p>Shan Literature and Culture Committee: Forest Department and WCS keep informed all project activities conducted in the area where Shan peoples live.</p>
<p><b>Indigenous Peoples</b></p> <p>Main ethnic groups are Rawang, Kachin, Naga, Lisu and Shan in four model Protected Areas. There are total 17 village in Hkakaborazi National Park and major ethnicity is Rawang; 10 villages in Hponkanrazi and major ethnicity is Rawang; more than 70 villages in Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary and major ethnicity is Kachin, Naga, Lisu and Shan; and 25 villages near Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary the major ethnicity is Shan. The project consults with ethnic peoples, their leaders and representatives to receive their support and participation in the project.</p>
<p><b>Private Sector</b></p> <p>Shwe Taung Cement (STC) Company - Biodiversity offsets and potential conservation trust fund mechanisms in collaboration with Forest Department has been discussed in relation to best practice for future protected area management and funding</p> <p>Htoo Zoos and Gardens Business Unit and Sein Lei Tin Lodges - Development of "Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Rules" particularly for Zoological and Botanical Garden establishment</p>
<p><b>GEF Small Grants Programme</b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Other Partners</b></p> <p>The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - The project has collaborated with UNESCO for world heritage nomination process for Hkakaborazi Landscape and engagement with Rawang, Lisu, Jinhaw and Shan ethnic people in the landscape.</p> <p>UNDP GEF Project - Ridge to Reef: Integrated Protected Area Land and Seascape Management in</p>

Taninthayi - The project collaborates with this recent GEF6 project in sharing knowledge and collaborating in Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas rules development.  
FAO GEF Project - Sustainable Cropland and Forest Management in Priority Agro-ecosystems of Myanmar - The project has collaborated with FAO GEF project on curriculum development for Myanmar Forest School and Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas rules development.



## L. 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.