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**Strengthening Sustainability of Protected Area Management in Myanmar**  
**The 5<sup>th</sup> Project Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019**  
**Novotel Hotel, Yangon**

Meeting Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Project Board for Strengthening Sustainability of Protected Areas  
Management in Myanmar (GEF-5 Project)

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1. The Forest Department (FD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) signed the five-year term project document for the ‘Strengthening Sustainability of Protected Area Management in Myanmar’ Project in June 2015. In line with the project document, the Project Board (PB) was formed in October 2016 to ensure that the project is implemented in a timely and effective manner. The first Project Board Meeting was held at the Forest Department Director General Office in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Project Board Meeting was held on 22 September 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Project Board Meeting was held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw. The 4<sup>th</sup> Project Board Meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in Yangon. The 5<sup>th</sup> Project Board Meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in Yangon.
2. **Meeting participants included** project board members, representatives from FD, UNDP, and WCS. The list of the participants is attached as Appendix 1.
3. **The summary of the meeting is as below:**
  - a. Project updates and management responses for Mid Term Review (MTR) and 4<sup>th</sup> Project Board decisions
  - b. Q3 and Q4, 2019 work plan and budget
  - c. Project exit strategy for adaptive management for conservation issues in project sites
  - d. Further process for the Conservation on Biodiversity and Protected Area Rule related SOPs (like FPIC and buffer zone management) development, and Myanmar Biodiversity Fund
  - e. Sustainability of project activities after the termination of project period
  - f. Agreement on next Project Board Meeting date in early December 2019
4. **In his opening remarks, the Director General of FD emphasized the following:**
  - a. GEF-5 Biodiversity Project is well-aligned with national policies and strategies for biodiversity conservation and protected area management.
  - b. Achievements of the project especially on legislation of protected areas, development of the national IUCN red list species and ecosystems, reviewing the national protected species listed by the law, and capacity development strategy along with ongoing trainings.
  - c. Significant progress on establishing the Myanmar Biodiversity Fund at DICA on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 as “MYANMAR BIODIVERSITY FUND LTD GTY” (Company Registration No. 121253917) that will play an important role for biodiversity conservation in the future.

- d. Local communities' concerns on their customary rights and space for communities mentioned in the new law.
- e. Arrangement of the Philippine ICCAs Study Tour in early June as a learning exchange program on Indigenous Peoples Community Conserved Areas and Territories with local leaders from the Rawang, Shanni and Karen community to understand how this exciting new concept can be developed in Myanmar, shared experiences and discussed next steps at an ICCAs Workshop on 18<sup>th</sup> July in Nay Pyi Taw led by Forest Department.
- f. Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary is demonstrating success in reducing threats by more patrol coverage, evidence of breeding population of key species like tigers, bears and gibbons, increases in encounter rate of other key species and increasing local community participation.

5. **In his opening remarks, the UNDP Resident Representative highlighted the following points:**

- a. Reflected on the significant achievement of the legal process and impressive exercise led by FD cooperating with WCS, WWF, FFI and LCG.
- b. Progress of capacity development and the institutionalized training programs
- c. Leading Mission on Myanmar – Philippines learning exchange program on Co-Management of Protected Areas and Indigenous Peoples Community Conserved Areas and Territories, and follow up ICCAs Workshop on 18<sup>th</sup> July in Nay Pyi Taw.
- d. Adaptive management of the project activities for the remaining 11 months of the project period.
- e. Begin planning the project terminal evaluation in early 2020
- f. Sustainability of the project activities after the termination of project period

6. **Summary of discussions in the 5<sup>th</sup> Project Board meeting**

- a. **Further steps for "Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Rules":** The consultation process has been conducted well with the collaboration of the conservation partners under guidance of FD. The SoPs development particularly buffer zone management, FPIC process for community PA, and community engagement guidelines should be drafted while the official procedures are being processed for final approval of the rules.
- b. **Myanmar Biodiversity Fund:** The MBF was legally registered on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019. It is discussed on linking MBF to UNDP donor mapping and hold meeting with donors and private sector partners.
- c. **National Red List on Endangered Species:** The process is running in accordance with the first training on the national red list assessment procedures since 2017. As a result, the draft assessment for some species of reptiles and amphibians and mammals have been developed in July 2018 and January 2019, respectively. The next assessment for bird species will be conducted in early August 2019 and it is proposed to finalize the assessment of three taxon groups by the end of 2019.
- d. **Promotion of ICCA in Myanmar Context:** The new law on PAs highlighted the role of community participation in PA management. This identified the category Community Conserved Area (referred to as ICCA). In order to understand more on community participation and management, the study tour to the Philippines was conducted to understand existing experiences for ICCAs

and followed by the first ICCAs consultation workshop in July. The FPIC process should be strengthened for ICCA and its SoP needs to be developed by recruiting consultant while harmonizing similar FPIC initiatives under UN-REDD with close consultations and guidance of the FD.

- e. **Procurement:** Including 5 vehicles, field equipment should be prepared and ready to handover before end of the project.
- f. **Project Exit Strategy:** The project will end in June 2020; all activities will need to be completed and finalized. Each activity will be reviewed for sustaining the ongoing activities after the end of the project through the sustainability plan.

**7. The following action points were agreed by the Project Board:**

- a) Five vehicles will be transferred from UNDP to FD, formal letter of PB Discussion will document this transfer and approve the process.
- b) Present remaining list of equipment at next PB, at the PB meeting they will agree for disbursement to FD at end of project period.
- c) TAGPA ToR needs to be revisited to secure MTR recommendation by 15 October 2019.
- d) Hold TAGPA meeting for Capacity Building to bring all relevant partners together to coordinate on Training Program.
- e) Link MBF to UNDP donor mapping and hold meetings with donors and private sector partners.
- f) Noted Workplan and Budget for Q3 and Q4, 2019.
- g) Consider underspending on Component 2 to prioritize Component 1 policy actions (rules and SOPs).
- h) Next PB Meeting will be in early December 2019, present clear budget and remaining resources.
- i) Complete the procurement by UNDP for terminal evaluation in Q1 2020.
- j) Complete all remaining decisions from 4<sup>th</sup> PB by 15 October 2019.
- k) Present detailed plan for Exit Strategy and Sustainability Plan by 29 November 2019.

## Appendix 1: Participant List

No.	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw	Director General	Forest Department
2	U Ngwe Thee	Deputy Director	Forest Department
3	Dr. Naing Zaw Htun	Deputy Director	Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Forest Department
4	U Tint Khaing	Assistant Director	Forest Department
5	Daw Khin Nyein San	Staff Officer	Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Forest Department
6	U Zin Phyto Han Tun	Range Officer	Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Forest Department
7	Mr. Peter Batchelor	Resident Representative	UNDP
8	Dr. Biplove Choudhary	Chief of Sustainable Inclusive Growth Unit	UNDP
9	Ms. Pem Wangdi	Programme Specialist	UNDP
10	Daw Phyu Phyu San	Programme Analyst	UNDP
11	U Saw Htun	Country Program Director	WCS
12	U Hla Naing	Deputy Country Program Director	WCS
13	Mr. Robert J. Tizard	Senior Technical Advisor	WCS
14	U Kyaw Moe	Sagaing Landscape Coordinator	WCS
15	Daw Ching Hau Mahn	Grant and Monitoring Manager	WCS

## Appendix 2: Meeting Photos

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