



GEF-Satoyama Subgrantee Highlights Report

Conservation and sustainable use of freshwater ecosystems in Myanmar

Organization Name:	Fauna & Flora International
Country:	Myanmar
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<Highlight 1>: Finalize boundaries with communities for establishment of new Fish Conservation Zones in Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Establishment of 4 new Fish Conservation Zones (FCZ) in the important fish habitats for effective conservation of endemic fish species such as *Microphis dunckeri* (pipe fish), *Indostomus paradoxus*, and new fish species for science have been implementing in Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary since 2013 in collaboration with Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary, local Fisheries Department and local communities and technically supported by FishBio. Community agreements with signatures were submitted to the regional government through regional fisheries department for approval and announcement of official notification. Awareness signboards of FCZs including grievance mechanism were stood in collaboration with the District Fisheries Department, local administrative authorities and local communities in April.

<Highlight 2>: Survey fish species and important habitats for fish distribution along the tributaries of Malihka River in Hponganrazi Wildlife Sanctuary in the Upper Ayeyarwaddy Basin.

Hponganrazi Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the upper Ayeyarwaddy Basin is situated in the remote area and difficult to access. No proper survey on fish species composition has been done. Survey team composed of the Department of Fisheries, local University and local FFI staffs has been undertaken fish surveys in collaboration with international fish taxonomist since 2014 and discovered 5 new species for the science and 16 out of 42 species were found new records for Myanmar fish species list even in the first survey. Fish habitats are still good condition in most of tributaries and surrounding forest in the watershed is also intact condition. Fish survey is undertaking in June and July by FFI team in collaboration with the local fisheries department and local communities. According to the limited literature and experience, unidentified collected fish species will be sent to the international scientist for final identification.

<Highlight 3>: Dialogue with local communities for establishment of Fish Conservation Zones and develop Locally Managed Freshwater Areas (LMFA) through connection with all FCZs.

Although fishing is not main livelihood for the local communities, fish population has been declining due to migrant fishers. Main threats of fish declining are blast fishing, poisonous fishing and electric fishing using by the migrant fishers. Other important thing FFI noticed after several discussions with local communities, awareness on fisheries is very weak in the local communities, for example local communities do not know the fisheries notification of country wide closed season for banning from fishing to prevent on matured fish for spawning safely. But local community aware fish population in their surrounding tributaries has been declining. Therefore, FFI team and FishBio started dialogue with local communities in collaboration with local fisheries department on how to establish Fish Conservation Zones (FCZ) in their nearby tributaries for sustainability of fish population for their subsistence fisheries and conserve endemic fish species. Local communities chose locations of important fish habitats in their surrounding tributaries and agreed to establish FCZs supported by the fisheries department for law enforcement and by FFI for technical assistance. Local fisheries department took agreed signatures from 6 communities in June and July and is preparing to submit to the regional government through regional fisheries department for establishment of FCZs.

<Highlight 4>: Organize the Workshop on the “Workshop on the Policies and Practices for Community Based Fisheries and Fish Conservation” in Naypyitaw in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries to include community role and responsibility in the recent Freshwater Fisheries Law.

Workshop was organized on 2nd and 3rd June 2016 in Naypyitaw and relevant government departments such as the

Department of Fisheries, Forest Department, Administrative Department, Police Department and local NGOs and communities from Indawgyi, Hponganrazi Wildlife Sanctuary and Tanintharyi Region were participated and discussed on important of establishment of FCZs and inclusion of community role and responsibility in the Freshwater Fisheries Law. Every participant agreed to establish FCZs for sustainability of livelihood of local communities and important of local community's role and responsibility in the management of FCZs. Communities pointed out important of effective support by authorities for effective law enforcement. Regular awareness raising activities or talks should be organized by local authorities and FFI was also requested by communities. Participants from Indawgyi discussed on the several constraints for effective conservation of Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary. Regional administrative department representative pointed out that follow up meeting with senior officials of the regional government departments should be organized in the regional government office as soon as possible and find solution for effective conservation of Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary.

Photos



FCZ establishment meeting in Indawgyi W/S with community and the District Director of the Department of Fisheries. @ FFI



Regional Fisheries Director explained to the communities for establishment of FCZ in Indawgyi W/S. @FFI



One of the FCZ signboards in Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary. @FFI



Fishing using drift net in the tributaries in Hponganrazi Wildlife Sanctuary. @FFI



Child from the Ziyardam village situated in the Hponganrazi W/S with caught fish. @FFI



Watershed forest along the tributary in the Hponganrazi W/S. @FFI



FCZ policy workshop organized in Naypyitaw in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries. @FFI



Group discussion session. @FFI



Discuss by the local communities. @FFI



Fish survey in the tributary in the Hponganrazi W/S. @FFI



Oreinus cf. meridionalis (Snow trout) recorded in the tributary in the Hponganrazi W/S. @FFI



Endemic fish species of Indawgyi Lake, *Microphis dunckeri* (pipe fish). @FFI