

## CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Friends of Wildlife
<b>Project Title:</b>	Conservation of vultures at two main sites in Myanmar
<b>Date of Report:</b>	21 March 2016
<b>Report Author and Contact Information</b>	Nay Myo Shwe and Myint Aung, Friends of Wildlife, Shwe Ohn Pin Housing, Yankin, Yangon

**CEPF Region:** Indo-Burma

**Strategic Direction:** Strategic Direction 1 "Safeguard priority globally threatened species by mitigating major threats", specifically Investment Priority 1.1 "Transform pilot interventions for core populations of priority species into long-term conservation programs".

Target species Critically Endangered white-rumped, slender-billed and red-headed Vultures.

**Grant Amount:** \$19,947

**Project Dates:** 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015

**Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):**

Friends of Wildlife (FoW) led the implementation of the project, with technical support from the King Mongkut University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT). The project was implemented following authorization by two government agencies - the Forest Department and the Veterinary Department. Township officers of the Livestock and Veterinary Department supported the baseline diclofenac survey at the study sites.

### Conservation Impacts

*Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.*

By improving the conservation of Critically Endangered vulture species in Myanmar, this project contributed to CEPF Strategic Direction 1, "Safeguard priority globally threatened species by mitigating major threats". We intended to provide supplementary food for vultures ("vulture restaurants") at Naung Kwin Inn near Indawgyi Lake in Kachin State, and near Maing Yaw village in northern Shan State. However due to security issues in Shan State, we focused on Nan Sam in southern Shan State, rather than Maing Yaw.

In addition to supporting direct conservation of vultures, the project also gave local bird watchers an opportunity to see vultures in their natural habitat. Also, by including Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary

staff in restaurant surveys at Naung Kwin Inn and awareness-raising activities around the park, we strengthened their capacity to engage in wildlife conservation work.

***Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.***

This project provided supplementary food for vultures at Naung Kwin Inn near Indawgyi Lake (Kachin State), and Naung Pho Mel village near Nam San, southern Shan State.

The project goal was that "vulture populations in Myanmar remain stable". The project objectives were that "target communities in Myanmar have positive attitudes and beliefs towards vultures", and that "threats to vulture populations at two key sites in Myanmar are significantly reduced".

**Target communities in Myanmar have positive attitudes and beliefs towards vultures**

In order to achieve this objective, we held engagement meetings and gave talks at both target sites. By giving talks at schools, we attempted to change people's attitudes towards these species. We helped the communities form local nest-protection groups, in order to reduce human damage to vulture nests. We worked with journalists in order to try to change people's opinions of these birds at a national level.

**Threats to vulture populations at two key sites in Myanmar are significantly reduced**

In order to achieve this objective, we managed "vulture restaurants" to provide a regular source of food for threatened vulture populations at the two sites for one year. We also used these restaurants to enable us to collect population and demographic information on these populations, to help fill information gaps on vulture populations in Myanmar. Cows were used as bait, after they were checked to be free of diclofenac. At Naung Kwin Inn (Kachin State), we recorded 61 white-rumped vultures, nine slender-billed vultures, and 70 Himalayan griffons. At Naung Pho Mel (southern Shan State), we recorded 51 white-rumped vultures, 13 slender-billed vultures, 11 Himalayan griffons, and three red-headed vultures. Naung Pho Mel is a significant site for vulture conservation in Myanmar, as the largely Nepali people living nearby farm livestock, and do not eat the beef if their cattle die.

In addition, we carried out a brief survey on the availability and use of the veterinary drug diclofenac in nearby towns and cities. We found that diclofenac was mostly used for humans, and was not typically used for cattle.

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

The project goal was that "vulture populations in Myanmar remain stable".

**Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:**

There is a better understanding of the vulture populations at two key sites in Myanmar. The population is stable at the two target sites.

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

The project's objectives were that "target communities in Myanmar have positive attitudes and beliefs towards vultures", and that "threats to vulture populations at two key sites in Myanmar are significantly reduced".

**Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:**

The population is stable at the two target sites, and local people have increased awareness about species conservation. Food shortage threatens vultures in Myanmar. Therefore, supplying food is an appropriate method for supporting species survival and allowing population estimates.

**Please provide the following information where relevant:**

**Hectares Protected:** 5,000 hectares at each site, outside any formal protected area.

Vulture restaurants were established at two sites

**Species Conserved:** White-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*)

Slender-billed vulture (*G. tenuirostris*)

Red-headed vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*)

**Corridors Created:** None

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

There were two general challenges;

1. Security issues in Shan State made the management of vulture restaurants difficult at some sites.
2. The trade in vulture bones in Naung Phoe Mae, southern Shan state, posed a significant conservation challenge. In this area, local communities believe that vulture bones have the ability to cure cancer.

***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***

No unexpected impacts recorded.

**Project Components**

**Project Components:** *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

**Component 1 Planned:**

Target communities in Myanmar have positive attitudes and beliefs towards vultures.

**Component 1 Actual at Completion:**

Meetings were held with 35 representatives from village authorities, youth groups, and civil society organizations (such as the volunteer fire brigade team) as well as village heads at both Maing Yaw (Shan State) and Naung Kwin (Kachin State). The first meetings were conducted at the beginning of the project, in keeping with FPIC principles. The meetings were used to introduce the project,

describe the different vulture species and their ecological role, and explain the need for conservation. Vulture population trends and the reasons for vulture declines were also discussed.

We gave educational talks to 120 participants from Maing Yaw village and 150 participants from Naung Kwin Inn. Because of security concerns, it was only possible to give one talk at Maing Yaw; we subsequently moved to southern Shan (Naung Phoe Mae village near Nam San). We used the talks to introduce students to the concept of ecosystems and to explain the important role played by vultures. Students typically asked questions such as: Why are vultures important? What is the lifespan of vultures? How many eggs do vultures lay? Where do vulture live?

We helped establish Vulture Protection Groups with 25 volunteers from three villages close to Naung Kwin Inn and 25 volunteers from Naung Pho Mel village.. The volunteers helped to erect sign posts, gave talks to other communities, and assisted in protecting vulture nesting trees.

In an effort to change people's belief that vultures bring bad luck, two articles were published in local weekly journals. Both *The Voice* and *The 7 Days Journal* carried articles about vultures and their important ecological role. Please see <http://7daydaily.com/story/32990#.VQ5U3eHDSwo> as well as the scanned article (attached).

### **Component 2 Planned:**

Threats to vulture populations at two key sites in Myanmar are significantly reduced.

### **Component 2 Actual at Completion:**

Vulture restaurants were established near to Naung Kwin Inn and Naung Pho Mel, and managed on a monthly basis for one year. At the beginning of the survey, potential sites were checked before the carcass was put out. Discussions were also held with local communities living in the areas. Once the presence of vulture species had been confirmed, a hide was made with grass or tree leaves as camouflage. The hides were situated against a background of natural forest or bushes. A hole was dug in the hides in which observers could conceal themselves whilst spotting vultures. Carcasses were typically placed approximately 75 meters away from the hides, usually to the north-east in order to minimize odours and to maximize the lighting for vulture species identification. Monthly surveys were conducted by FoW staff together with the local community for the whole year.

During the surveys, counting started at 06:00 and continued until 16:00, for three days continuously. Every two hours, both the number of individual birds as well as the number of flocks were counted, mainly to compare species and population richness in each month. This approach also enabled a comparison to be made of the species richness between the two sites, on both a monthly and seasonal basis. All the counts were carried out from inside the hides and involved two to three observers. The results are currently being written up for publication in a peer reviewed journal.

All recorded nest sites were monitored. However, there were a limited number of nests and nesting trees in the study areas. Three active nests were recorded near Naung Kwin Inn, but it was not possible to determine the number of hatchlings. Awareness raising signs were posted along the main road near the nesting trees.

In Naung Pho Mael (southern Shan State), a number of old nests were found but these were no longer active. The project team believed that more nests might have been present in southern Shan State, but it was not possible to verify this because of security concerns.

*Diclofenac* was found in a nearby township in one pharmacy in downtown Moe Hnyin (the city nearest to the Naung Kwin survey site). The pharmacy stated that the diclofenac was only used for humans and not for livestock. In Shan state, surveys in nearest cities Lashio (near Maing Yaw) and Nam Sam (near Naung Pho Mae ) did not find any *diclofenac* on the market.

***Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?***

All components were realized.

***Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.***

N/A

## Lessons Learned

***Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.***

***Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)***

This project was designed with input from several different stakeholders, including government agencies (Forest Department, and Livestock and Veterinary Department), civil society (village youth groups). We worked closely with the target villages in order to ensure Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) before the project started. Some parts of the project were designed based on work in Myanmar by Birdlife International in 2007. We found this to be a useful approach for designing an effective project.

***Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)***

The project was led by Friends of Wildlife (FOW) in collaboration with stakeholders including civil society organizations, university students, and the Forest Department. We received significant support from local communities at both sites, but especially at Naung Pho Mae, southern Shan State. We found this collaborative approach to be useful in implementing an effective project.

***Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:***

None.

### Additional Funding

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

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
None			

*\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*

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

### Sustainability/Replicability

*Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.*

Using "Vulture Restaurants" to supplement food supply for vultures is essential, because a lack of food is causing a major crisis for vulture populations. However, the price of cows is regularly increasing as a result of illegal export to China. This limits the sustainability of the approach.

Security issues were an unexpected constraint; however, by using the 2007 survey data, we were easily able to identify a new site with vulture populations and to move the project to a new area. Local communities readily understood the project, because some of the methods used were based on the 2007 surveys.

After the end of the project, the Vulture Protection Groups that were established are continuing their nest protection activities. Also, we believe that the attitudes of some local community members towards these species have changed.

*Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.*

None

### Safeguard Policy Assessment

*Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.*

This project triggered CEPF's safeguard on Indigenous Peoples, as we worked directly with Kachin and Shan ethnic minority communities. Before starting the project, we produced a Social Assessment which described the indigenous people in the project area, potential impacts on them, consultation and participation, measures to avoid adverse impacts, monitoring, and grievance mechanism. We implemented the project in accordance with the Social Assessment, including ensuring Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of local communities before project activities commenced, having community members actively involved in project activities, using village meetings as a tool for monitoring safeguard issues, and sharing contact information of FOW staff and MERN (the CEPF Regional Implementation Team in Myanmar) so that people could easily air any grievances. The only issues that arose during project implementation were that a few people attempted to steal meat from the vulture restaurants, and some people complained about the smell of the restaurants. These issues were quickly resolved, between FOW and the community leaders.

<b>Additional Comments/Recommendations</b>
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None

## Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

### **Please include your full contact details below:**

Name: Nay Myo Shwe, Win Ko Ko Naing Htun, Zayar Soe, and Mying Aung  
Organization name: Friends of Wildlife (FOW)  
Mailing address: Room 13, Building 22, Shwe Ohn Pin Housing, Yankin, Yangon, Myanmar  
Tel: +95 01 558091  
Fax: : +95 01 558091  
E-mail: [friendsofwildlife.mm@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwildlife.mm@gmail.com)

## Performance Tracking Report Addendum

### CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

**Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.**

Project Results	Is this question relevant ?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved during the grant term. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	No	-	-	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No	-	-	Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No	-	-	
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	10,000 Ha		All surveyed area are outside PAs. Biodiversity conservation management practices were introduced at both project sites. Each site is estimated to be approximately 5,000 hectares.
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	No	-	-	

**If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table**

**Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities**

**Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.**

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit											
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy Indigenous/ ethnic	Pastoralists/nomadic	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:				security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, etc.	More secure access to water resources or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of natural disasters (fires, landslides,	More secure sources of energy increased access to public services, such as education, health, improvement of traditional knowledge for environmental decision-making due to strengthened civil societies	Other				
								sustainable natural resources	Ecotourism	Park management activities	Payment for environmental								
N/A																			
<b>Total</b>																			

**If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:**

Attached: Article in local news concerning a change in people's belief that vultures bring bad luck.

# လင်းတငှက် သုတေသနပြုခြင်းနှင့် ထိန်းသိမ်းခြင်း ပြည်နယ်နှစ်ခုတွင် စတင်

ရန်ကင်း၊ အောက်တိုဘာ ၂၆



ဆာလီ - ဝေမျိုးစေ့

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတွင် မျိုးတုံးပျောက်ကွယ်တော့မည့် စာရင်းဝင် လင်းတငှက်မျိုးစိတ်များ

ကမ္ဘာအဆင့် သတ်မှတ်ချက်တွင် မျိုးတုံးပျောက်ကွယ်တော့မည့် စာရင်းဝင် လင်းတငှက်မျိုးစိတ်များကို ကချင်ပြည်နယ်နှင့် ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်တို့တွင် သုတေသနပြုလုပ်ခြင်းနှင့် ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး လုပ်ငန်းများကို ယခုလမှစတင်ကာ ၁၄ လစီမံကိန်းဖြင့် လုပ်ဆောင်နေကြောင်း Friend of Wildlife မှ စီမံကိန်းတာဝန်ခံ

ဦးနေမျိုးရွှေက ပြောကြားသည်။ အဆိုပါစီမံကိန်းကို ကချင်ပြည်နယ်မြောက်ဘက် နောင်ခွန်အင်းနှင့် ရှမ်းပြည်နယ် မိုင်းယော်ရွာတို့တွင် စီမံကိန်းများစတင်မည်ဖြစ်ကာ နိမိတ်မကောင်းသည့်အယူအဆကြောင့် ဒေသခံများက လင်းတငှက်ကို အဆိပ်ချွန်ခြင်းများ ပြုလုပ်သဖြင့် လင်းတငှက်မှာ မျိုးတုံးနိုင်သည့်

အဆင့် ရောက်ရှိနေကြောင်း ၎င်းက ဆက်လက်ပြောကြားသည်။

လင်းတငှက်ကို ထိန်းသိမ်းရာတွင် ပြည်နယ်နှစ်ခုရှိ ဒေသခံများကို လင်းတငှက်များသည် သဘာဝသန့်ရှင်းရေး ငှက်ဖြစ်ပြီး ကျွဲ၊ နွားများတွင် ဖြစ်တတ်သော ရောဂါကို ကာကွယ်ပေးကြောင်း၊ ငှက်သိုက်များ ထိန်းသိမ်းရန်နှင့် ငှက်အကျိုးပြုပုံများပြောပြကာ ပညာပေးခြင်းဖြင့် ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးလုပ်ငန်းများ ပြုလုပ်နေကြောင်း Friend of Wildlife ထံမှ သိရသည်။

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတွင် ၂၀၀၇ ခုနှစ်အတွင်း လေ့လာချက်များအရ လင်းတငှက်မျိုး ရှိကြောင်းသိရပြီး လေးမျိုးကို မျက်မြင်တွေ့ရကာ လက်ရှိဆောင်ရွက်နေသော စီမံကိန်းတွင် လင်းတငှက်အကောင်ရေနှင့် နေထိုင်တတ်သောနေရာများ မည်မျှရှိသည်ကို လေ့လာမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း ယင်းစီမံကိန်းတာဝန်ခံ ဦးနေမျိုးရွှေက ပြောဆိုသည်။

အဆိုပါစီမံကိန်းကို International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN ) အဖွဲ့အောက်ရှိ CEPF ရန်ပုံငွေဖြင့် လုပ်ဆောင်ခြင်းဖြစ်ကြောင်း ယင်းအဖွဲ့ထံမှ သိရသည်။ ■

<http://7daydaily.com/story/32990#.VQ5U3eHDSwo>

Home » Section » News » အယူအဆလွဲများကြောင့် လင်းတငှက်များ မသတ်ဖြတ်ရန် ပညာပေးမည်

### အယူအဆလွဲများကြောင့် လင်းတငှက်များ မသတ်ဖြတ်ရန် ပညာပေးမည်

By နိုင်နိုင်စိုး On Wed, 2015-03-04 12:00 Issue No. No.672 Wednesday, March 4, 2015



Photo- K.R. Deepak

ရန်ကုန် - မျိုးပြုန်းတီးလုနီးပါးအ ခြေအနေရှိနေသည့် လင်းတငှက် များကို အယူအဆလွဲများကြောင့်