

Grievance mechanism for FFI Myanmar project: 'Conservation and sustainable use of freshwater ecosystems in Myanmar'

Project description

The objectives of this project are:

1. To complete the assessment of freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas in the Upper Irrawaddy and Tanintharyi/Lenya watersheds
2. To pilot locally managed fisheries areas for the sustainable management of freshwater KBAs,
3. To integrate community-managed fisheries areas/community-based fish conservation zones into protected area zonation and management plans and facilitate legal recognition of community fishing rights.

The project has a community-based approach to wetland conservation and will support local communities in the identification and management of locally managed freshwater areas and facilitate government recognition for community fishing rights.

To manage fisheries resources sustainably the project will assist fishermen to identify important fish spawning grounds to enable the community to identify and establish fish conservation zones that will support sustainable fisheries for the benefit of local communities. The process will include the following steps.

1. Scientific and fisheries surveys to identify important sites for the sustainable management of fisheries and freshwater biodiversity. Inform local communities of the survey results.
2. Raise awareness and facilitate initial consultation in all target villages about the benefits of community-based sustainable fisheries (including fish conservation zones)
3. Facilitate the establishment of local fishing committees, through a fully participatory selection process, including encouraging women's representation in the groups.
4. Facilitate the identification of community fisheries management areas (including fish conservation zones) based on indigenous knowledge and the results of scientific surveys based on the principles of free & prior informed consent (FPIC).
5. Facilitate final full stakeholder consultation based on FPIC principles by the local community to establish locally managed freshwater areas including fish conservation zones
6. Facilitate local communities to seek government recognition for locally managed freshwater areas including fish conservation zones.
7. Support the forest department to incorporate the locally-managed fisheries areas (LMFAs/ fish conservation zones (FCZs) into protected area zonation/ management plans and secure the legal recognition by the forest department for local fishing rights and fish conservation zones.
8. Demarcation and signage of LMFAs/ FCZs. Each LMFA/FCZ will have a signboard on the shore, displaying the objectives, regulations and a map of LMFAs/FCZs. The signboard will include the phone/ email contacts for reporting grievances.
9. Monitor the implementation locally managed freshwater areas including fish conservation zones and monitor the effectiveness of LMFAs and FCZs through joint monitoring of catch per unit efforts with local fishermen/women.

The entire process will be fully based on the principle of free and prior informed consent. It is expected that over time the project will increase the fishing catch per unit effort and will have positive social and environmental benefits for local communities, as well as prevent illegal fishing from outside to occur in indigenous/ locally managed fishery areas.

However, the community-led decision making process to establish locally managed fishery areas and fish conservation zones will restrict illegal fishing practices and restrict fishing activities in community-based fish conservation zones.

Grievances mechanism

Any comments, complaints, grievances in relation to the general implementation of the project shall be as a first stage reported by phone or in writing to the FFI Myanmar office.

Contact person by email: mosesvan.ffi@gmail.com

Contact person by phone: Moses Van (grievances desk officer)

Office phone: 0973194749

Office address: Fauna & Flora International (FFI)

No 35, Shane Kone Street (corner with Myaynigone Zay Street)

Yadanar Myaing Condo

Sanchaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar

In the case of grievances reported by phone, the grievances desk officer will fill out a grievance note, including the name, contact details of the claimant, date of complaint and the detailed description of the complaint/ grievance, as well as any comments or suggestions of how to address the complaint. For any grievances submitted by email, please provide the same information in your email.

FFI Myanmar will respond in writing to any claimant within 15 days and take immediate action to address those grievances in consultation with the claimant if any resource restriction has been caused by the project. Claims, responses and actions taken to address grievances will be filed and included in project monitoring.

If the claimant is not satisfied with the response by FFI Myanmar, the grievance may be submitted to Conservation International Japan (CI Japan), the chair of the Executive Team, directly at: GEF-Satoyama@conservation.or.jp

Conservation International Japan

6-7-1-507 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022 JAPAN

TEL: +81-3-5315-4790

For escalating a complaint, the complainant can file a report to CI using the following link:

<https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/10680/index.html>

This grievances mechanism will be shared during initial awareness and all consultation meetings, and provided in writing to all village fisheries committees in all project villages.