

## Process Framework

### Restriction of Access to/Use of Natural Resources (Voluntary Resettlement policy)

#### **'Conservation and sustainable use of freshwater ecosystems in Myanmar'**

##### **Fauna & Flora International**

1. Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is a long-term existing protected area. While access to natural resources was legally completely restricted, this project will enable a bottom-up FPIC based consultation process for the zoning of the protected area, which includes providing legal access for local fishing communities for most of Indawgyi Lake, while defining small fish conservation zones to safeguard fish breeding zones based to ensure stable fisheries. Local communities benefit from improved fish stocks through spill over from the conservation zones into the lake's open fisheries areas.
2. The zonation process and definition of fish conservation zones will be done through a full FPIC process involving all local community members as well as other local stakeholders. Local communities decide themselves on fish conservation zones, regulations and penalties in the case of non-compliance. If government regulated penalties were to apply this have to be made public during the consultation process and can only be enforced if communities agree with the regulations and government mandated penalties based on FPIC principles.
3. FPIC principles will be applied throughout the entire process:
  - 1) Awareness and initial information campaign about the benefit of fish conservation zones for managing fish stocks in all target villages. This will also include information that fish the access restriction could possibly have a negative impact on the fish catch in the short-term. However, starting in year 2 fish conservation zone should create spill overs and have positive impacts on local fisheries.
  - 2) Initial zonation consultation to define zones based on science (fish/ habitat surveys) and indigenous knowledge;
  - 3) Full village/ stakeholder consultations for fish conservation zone delineation/ regulations;
  - 4) Participatory demarcation and signage of all resource users (voluntary agreement on access restrictions/ regulations and boundaries of fish conservation zones)
  - 5) Grievances mechanisms in place throughout the zonation process.
4. Conservation actions related to fish conservation zones:
  - 1) Awareness and information campaign about the benefit of fish conservation zones for managing fish stocks in all target villages.
  - 2) Community-based monitoring of catch-per unit efforts and the well-being of local fishermen's households to demonstrate the effectiveness of fish conservation zones. If fish conservation zones do not create benefits through spill-overs and reduced catch per unit effort, the conservations zone can be removed or re-located in consensus with the local fisher men/ resource users
  - 3) Community-based patrolling and monitoring
  - 4) The project does not fund law enforcement but will ensure that only community agreed penalties apply

5) If community members, especially poor families experience any negative short-term impacts from the fish conservation zone, these impacts shall be off-set through FFI's livelihood small grants facility.

5. Penalties for non-compliance

Regulations and penalties will be developed by the local communities themselves. If penalties as mandated by the protected area law or fisheries law were to apply, these penalties have to be made public at the beginning of the FPIC framework and agreed by the local fishing communities prior to the designation and enforcement of fish conservation zones.

6. Benefits to off-set opportunity costs incurred by the resource user

In the medium term (within 2 years) benefits of fish conservation zones are likely to outweigh the impact of the voluntary access restriction. Spill-over from fish conservation zones will improve the fish stock and improve community fisheries, measured through monitoring catch per unit efforts. To offset the impacts of voluntary resource restrictions in the first two years local fishing communities are entitled to seek support from FFI's livelihood small grant facility. FFI has successfully tested small grants for pig raising for poor fishing communities in Indawgyi.