



Gulf of Mottama Project (GoMP)

Embassy of Switzerland, Swiss Cooperation Office Myanmar

Sustainable and wise use of wetland area for the benefit of community livelihoods and conservation of coastal natural resources in the Gulf of Mottama, Myanmar



One of the greatest challenges in the current reform process in Myanmar is the governance of natural resources. In the globally significant wetlands of the Gulf of Mottama (GoM), this project strengthens the capacities of government and communities to effectively manage, govern and value its coastal natural resources to sustainably improve livelihoods of people depending on them, while reducing the pressure on natural resources and conserving its unique environment and threatened biodiversity.

Background

The GoM in the Southeast of Myanmar is one of the most important intertidal mudflats in the world, and its estuarine section was recently designated under the Ramsar international wetland convention. Its ecosystem provides a wide range of services, supporting food, water supply,

flood protection, supporting the livelihoods of 1,500,000 people living across the coastal area, as well as the future generations. Despite all these benefits, wetlands are under threat and pressure by uncoordinated governance and unsustainable use of coastal natural resources, over-fishing, and habitat destruction. Local coastal communities are fishers, farmers, landless and disadvantaged people, relying on diverse livelihoods strategies as fishing, farming, casual labour and migration. Yet, communities are vulnerable to overexploitation and loss of assets. Women and landless are most vulnerable.

Goal

The overall goal of the project is that the unique biodiversity of the Gulf of Mottama (GoM) is conserved and sustainably developed in order to benefit human communities that depend on it.

This will result in improved livelihood security for vulnerable women and men in targeted coastal areas of the GoM, through sustainable and equitable use of natural resources and diversification of livelihoods.

Outcomes (objectives) of the planned phase

- Outcome 1: Livelihoods are secured and diversified to build communities' resilience
- Outcome 2: Coastal natural resource use is sustainable and well-managed and biodiversity is conserved
- Outcome 3: Coastal natural resources governance is coordinated and effective, and Awareness on the GoM valued is raised

Achievements

- Designation of a section of the GoM as Myanmar's fourth Ramsar site in 2017
- Participatory development of the GoM Coastal Natural Resources Management Plan (CNRMP)
- Establishment of a fishery co-management protection zone by Government and communities
- Formation and capacity building of Village Development Committees with sub-groups (fishers, farmers and landless) in all project villages
- Initial investment provided for Vision Fund Myanmar (3,900 households received small credits)
- Conduction of technical capacity building trainings on good agriculture practices, market and alternative livelihoods, supporting income-generation activities

Expected results

- Increase income through improved/diversified fisheries, on- and off-farm livelihoods by skills and market system development
- Practise inclusive co-management of Coastal Natural Resources at village/township/district/State levels
- Increase communities resilience through ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Management (DRM)
- Strengthen governance institutions
- Support adaptation and enforcement of policies and laws on CNRM

Approach

The Gulf of Mottama Project (GoMP) is transforming a system of exploitation of natural resources to make it viable and beneficial in the long term for local communities tackling at once aspects of biodiversity, governance and livelihoods. The implementation of CNRMP in Phase II will trigger and support change towards sustainable and equitable use of the coastal resources, ensuring an integrated management and coordinated governance, considering the needs, aspirations and interests of local communities including of ethnic minorities. The livelihood of coastal inhabitants, fishermen, farmers and landless women and men will be improved through targeted advisory services, skills training, linkages to private sector and access to micro-credit, access to safe and affordable water and awareness of safe sanitation and hygiene. Community members will increase their capacity through trainings on community-based management and disaster and erosion prevention. Understanding and value of the

GoM wetlands ecosystem benefits will increase. The issues of ownership of and power to manage and control natural resources and sharing their benefits will be tackled respecting a conflict sensitive project management (CSPM) approach, including a series of discussions, meetings, trainings, and public consultations processes not only between the government and Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) but also between the government, communities and private sector actors.

Target groups

Direct beneficiaries are at least 80,000 coastal inhabitants in Mon State and of Bago Region: small and medium scale fishermen, small-scale farmers, landless and land-poor households, women headed households and youth (at least 50% female, 30% disadvantaged). Other target groups are farmers, fishers, conservation associations and Coastal Natural Resources Management Committees. Stakeholders are state/regional government authorities, Non-state Actors, private sector, CSOs and universities.

Project at glance

Project Title

Gulf of Mottama Project (GoMP)

Duration and total Budget

Phase I: 15.02.2015-14.04.2018, CHF 4,600,000

Phase II: 15.04.2018-31.12.2021, CHF 8,050,000

Implementing Agency

Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, in partnership with: the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Network Activities Group (NAG), Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)

Project Partners

Yezin Agriculture University (YAU), Mawlamyine University, School for Agricultural, Forestry and Food Sciences (HAFL), Switzerland; Prince of Songkla University, Thailand; Washington State University, USA; Vision Fund Myanmar

Project Locations

Coastal area of Mon State and Bago Region

IMPRESSUM

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Swiss Cooperation Office Myanmar
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