

**Mid-Term Review  
of the  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation  
Gulf of Mottama Project (GoMP)  
Implemented by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, NAG and IUCN**

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Helvetas, NAG and IUCN feedback and comments on recommendations</b>	<b>SDC's Regdcbge cb dafhbefdg feedback</b>
	<p>The consortium implementing the GoMP overall appreciates the mid-term review. It has been a timely and thematically enriching input to the GoMP. The key lessons, which go beyond what the project anyhow is doing or has planned are the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Project needs to make more explicit the links between the livelihood support and state of the ecosystem. The Ramsar designation isn't the end but an important milestone that raises profile, builds pride, and makes the project responsible at the national level. The project will be asked to share results, lessons learned, etc.</li> <li>2. The existing Coastal Management Plan needs a revision through a participatory approach. The management plan of the enlarged Ramsar site shall become an integral part of the overall coastal management plan (refers to recommendation 1).</li> <li>3.</li> </ol> <p>A gap in the review is the lack of specific attention to fisheries. At least on the level of recommendations there is no mention of the fishery co-management zones. In the view of the project they are the critical link between the local population and the more abstract Ramsar Site or integrated coastal management. The only recommendation directly related to fishery is recommendation #10 on log books, which is valid but an implementation detail.</p>	<p>SDC very much appreciates the overall positive appreciation of GoMP and valuable inputs made to the individual components. The concise presentation of the findings and the concrete and useful recommendations for remainder of Phase 2 as well as for the consideration of planning for Phase 3 is very much valuable.</p>
<b>Recommendation 1</b>	<b>Partially agree</b>	<b>Agree with GoMP-Team</b>

Development and adoption of a single coherent management plan which adheres to Ramsar Convention's published guidance and provides an exemplar for future sites in Myanmar.

The existing management plan is a management plan for natural resources in the GoM. It already covers geographically the Ramsar site (extended). We feel it is consistent with Ramsar guidance but is also tailored to the specific context of a large area with multiple use and interests (fisheries in particular is a key feature, which needs to be

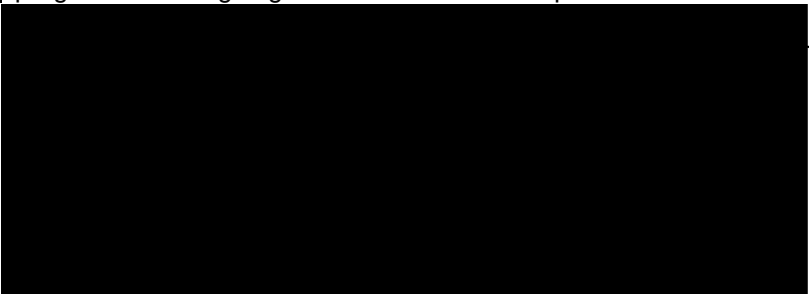


order to enhance institutional buy-in.

**Recommendation 5**

Align GoMP and any exit strategy to natural resource governance, with a particular emphasis on the Ramsar Site, to ensure delivery under the Swiss Cooperation Programme Myanmar 2019-2023.

processes and policies. IUCN will include GoMP as a well-developed case study within the national Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) program it is designing on behalf of Forest Department/Danida.



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protection and restoration in order to inform the Ramsar Site Management Plan.	be strengthened. The biodiversity work needs to include other critically endangered birds, marine mammals and marine turtles. All this enhanced knowledge will flow into the new Gulf of Mottama Management Plan	
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<p><b>Recommendation 9</b> Develop collaborative fishery research priorities to be conducted by <i>inter alia</i> the CRMCs, Department of Marine Science, Department of Zoology, Department of Economics, Department of Geography at Bago and Mawlamyine Universities and, Department of Fisheries and Myanmar Fisheries Federation in Bago Region and Mon State.</p>	<p><b>Partially agree</b> The project has made a significant investment in university-based fisheries research, admittedly with mixed results. The knowledge about economic key species has improved significantly. In view of the implementing partners the key issue is less in conducting research than involving key stakeholders (CRMCs) in priority setting and then even more importantly in sharing research results in an adequate manner (such as the poster sessions in December 2019, of which one was presented in an annex of the 2019 annual report).</p>	<p><b>Agree with the GoMP-Team</b> While building research capacities in the institutions actually conducting research, there may be several ways of collaboration with institution rather than conducting co-researching. GoMP can serve as the facilitation role of informing the important aspects of conservation in either ways between institution and community.</p>
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**Recommendation 10**  
Modify fishing log books in order to collect additional useful information which can contribute to fishery studies and fisheries management.

synergistic SDC-funded  
projects.

	<p>But already this comparatively simple analysis is based on multiple assumptions, which limit the relevance of the analysis to a certain extent.</p> <p>The implementing partners doubt that an even more complex study trying to cover the “multiplicity of values” would provide valuable insights with a reasonable investment of funds.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation 16</b> Undertake a systematic review of the RF governance, prioritization criteria and beneficiaries to ensure that the financing mechanisms are equitable and reach the most vulnerable members of society.</p>	<p><b>Agree</b> This will be integrated in the ToR as described under recommendation 11.</p>	<p><b>Agree</b> It would be interesting to get the view of an external expert not only on the issues mentioned in recommendation 16 but also on the one in recommendation 11: Can the RFs play a role as sustainable financing mechanism for conservation activities?</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 17</b> Complete a review of the CEPA activities and ensure that they result in people taking action for the wise use of wetlands.</p>	<p><b>Agree</b> IUCN and HELVETAS will work with BANCA and National Conservation Society (NCS), which have been hired to do CEPA and use the Spatial Monitoring and reporting Tool (SMART) during patrols, respectively, to ensure effective CEPA implementation. Need to re-boot the Local Conservation Groups (LCGs), ideally using sustainable financing from the revolving funds.</p>	<p><b>Agree</b></p>
<p><b>Recommendation 18</b> Progressively develop local ownership, empowerment and branding in order to embed the project within the local communities.</p>	<p><b>Agree</b> The project will stop using its logo and text on the outputs and move towards using the CRMC with the respective Ministry logos more and more.</p>	<p><b>Partially Agree</b> Agree to decrease project visibility and increase local ownership. However, the visibility of SDC/Switzerland as the donor and the owner of the project should somehow still be assured</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 19</b> Training on marine mammal stranding response and sea turtle by-catch should be conducted in both Bago Region and Mon State.</p>	<p><b>Agree</b> This theme should figure clearly in the fisheries co-management plan and of course coastal management plan. This is part of having sustainable fisheries in the GOM. Training on marine mammal stranding response will be planned accordingly.</p>	<p><b>Agree</b></p>