



Assessment study on land tenure, natural resources management and agricultural practices in Kyauktaw and Paletwa townships, Myanmar

**within the “Enhancing livelihood, income generation and resilience of
the vulnerable population in South Chin and North Rakhine” project**

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Gret – ToRs for an assessment study on land tenure, natural resources management and agriculture practices in Kyauktaw and Paletwa Townships - “Enhancing livelihood, income generation and resilience of the vulnerable population in South Chin and North Rakhine” project

Since 1995, GRET has been working in Myanmar in the fields of agriculture development, nutrition, microfinance and water & sanitation in Yangon, Chin and Rakhine States, in the Dry zone and in Ayeyarwaddy Delta. A representation office is established in Yangon to supervise actions and work in relationships with donors, authorities and partners.

GRET and its partners are now starting a multi-sectorial project in 3 Townships of Myanmar: Paletwa and Matupi in Southern Chin state and Kyauktaw in Northern Rakhine state, for 4 years (October 2016 – September 2020). **The villages of Kyauktaw and Paletwa Townships will be mostly selected in the areas along the Kaladan River, in the Northern part of Kyauktaw and Southern part of Paletwa, to have a coherent sub-project area.**

1. The context

Rakhine state is the second most populous State after Shan with a population of 3.1 million. Rakhine’s main economic activity is agriculture and fisheries. Poor infrastructure, particularly road, poor connectivity to the rest of Myanmar, lack of electricity, poor communication facilities are perceived to be major challenges for Rakhine State’s socio-economic development.

Chin State’s total population is about 465,000 people. Chin state is a mountainous area characterized by its remoteness and communication constraints. Infrastructure is very poor, with no fully paved roads, making access difficult. Identified as one of the most vulnerable State in Myanmar, Chin State faces numerous challenges with the majority of its population still relying on farming and breeding activities for consumption and income generation purposes. Various surveys done by development actors have highlighted the economic vulnerability of the families resulting from unsustainable management of resources, weakened public services (especially basic services) and low access to technical knowledge.

Moreover, Chin and Rakhine state populations are weakened by frequent disasters. Crisis such as the 2007-2010 bamboo blooming which caused the destruction of paddy fields and storages by the rats is a recurring threat for the communities. Moreover, the Komen Cyclone in July 2015 has caused important damages in the villages after heavy rain and floods, leading to supply shortages and mass displacement.

In Kyauktaw and Paletwa Townships, the predominant farming system is slash and burn cultivation. The main crop is paddy. There are other cash crops, like elephant foot yam, peanuts, chilly, beans, sesame, ginger. Home gardens are present in most of the households (home consumption or sale).

Approximately one million people live along the Kaladan river that is crossing both States, the majority of who are dependent on the river for their livelihoods: as a fishing-ground, a means of transport, and a source of water for irrigation and household consumption. The primary way to reach Paletwa is from Kyauktaw along the Kaladan river (Paletwa has become accessible via jeep on an unpaved road from Matupi, but not during the monsoon season). Most villages are connected via a network of small rivers, and in some cases footpaths. The main mode of transportation for local people is motorized canoe.

2. The project presentation

The project will improve the living conditions of 8000 households and their communities. **The overall objectives (impact)** aims at (i) contributing to poverty alleviation, food and nutritional security and income generation in the Northern Rakhine State and the Southern Chin State, and (ii) contributing to resilience of the vulnerable households to cope with peace opportunities and new investments in the region and to secure the natural resources access and use. **The specific objective (outcome)** is to increase the vulnerable households’ living conditions and resilience in Kyauktaw, Paletwa and Matupi Townships through securing livelihoods and income generation, and strengthening the endogenous mechanisms, the CBOs/CSOs’ and dialogue capacities.

The **5 intermediary outcomes (results)** are as following:

- 1. Farm production, income and diversified food have sustainably increased in Kyauktaw, Paletwa and Matupi Townships through the establishment of sustainable and improved techniques, crop diversification, access to training and advisory services**

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Farming households will benefit from diversified integrated means within the agriculture component: infrastructures, equipment, inputs and trainings to improve their production level, and lead to more diversified food consumption and income generation. Their capacities will be enhanced to negotiate with traders and money lenders, to face natural resource management challenges and natural disaster risks.

2. The households of Paletwa and Kyauktaw Townships have improved access to sanitation and safe water and have better practices in terms of safe water use, sanitation and hygiene

Knowledge will be increased about safe water use, sanitation and hygiene practices and local services and means will be developed to improve access to sanitation and to face drinking water scarcity, insufficient health services access, and health consequences of unappropriated sanitation practices in the Kaladan River area.

3. Financial services to the rural communities of Matupi Township are set up and operational

Access to financial services will support the Matupi households to develop their livelihood by providing specific loan products adapted to their needs. Gret would like to include Chin MFI as a main stakeholder for this project (contractor or co applicant) due to their long and acknowledged experience and expertise in the Chin context, in order to develop this component.

4. The rural households and their communities located in Paletwa, Matupi, and Kyauktaw Townships (and specifically along the Kaladan River) have secured their access and improved the sustainable use of natural resources through support to information and consultative process

Capacity building and access to information will also be provided to communities to be prepared to cope with their evolutions of the political, socioeconomic and environmental context. Dialogue platforms with the relevant stakeholders and collective strategy and means for gathering learning & documenting evidence will be supported through regular workshops and meetings and through access to means and capacity building for communities and relevant local CBOs/CSOs/NGOs to pursue their local development processes.

5. The households, their communities, the local CBO/CSOs and national NGOs are engaged in regular dialogue and are sensitized on peace process.

The different local key actors and groups of Paletwa and Kyauktaw will not only raise their awareness and capacities on the peace process and the civilian ceasefire monitoring (national and Chin State state) thanks to the implementation of activities through skilled local or national NGOs, but will also be implicated in a regular dialogue process to participate in and support the peace process in their area. The issue of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) because of the recent armed conflicts will be tackled by the project and specific support will be provided to those households.

This project involves **several stakeholders**. Triangle Generation Humanitaire is GRET’s co-applicant and will be responsible for the agricultural and natural resources management components in Matupi with a dedicated staff (including 1 expatriate, 7 operational staff and 6 support staff) and some TGH HQ backstopping. GRET will also identify local partners (NGO/CSO/CBOs) and international stakeholders to implement agricultural development, nutrition sensitization, water and sanitation awareness-raising activities and also for peace and investment challenges in Paletwa and Kyauktaw Townships. Access to financial services will be tested and promoted in Matupi through GRET and Chin MFI support. GRET will be in charge of the global follow up and responsibility, including the overall quality assurance of the studies.

GRET team is involving both international and local staff and will have support and follow up from the GRET country representation and the GRET headquarter. The GRET project team will be composed of 39 staff: 1 expatriate project manager, 11 national staff for the Agriculture/Nut component, 4 staff for the WASH component (including one international volunteer and 3 national staff), and 23 national staff for the accounting, administrative and logistic support.

3. The inception phase of the project

Prior to the effective implementation of the project’s activities, **an inception phase is being conducted** in the different intervention areas, as Kyauktaw, Paletwa and Matupi Townships. This preliminary activity will allow a better understanding of local context, challenges and stakeholders by the project’s teams, to validate and adjust the design of the proposed activities.

This important step will be implemented through different actions, **as diagnosis and studies.**

3.1 Village-based diagnosis (March – July 2017)

The project team started in March **investigating some villages of the project area** to collect a first batch of information. The objective of this first qualitative phase was:

- To have a first approach of the project area
- To reach an open-minded knowledge of the social, economic and political structures
- To have a first view of the opportunities and constraints that the project could face.

At beginning of May, the project team will start with the **village-based diagnosis**. The objectives of this second phase will be:

- To reach a deep knowledge of the village organization, the social groups and their activities (agricultural and non-agricultural)
- To assess the local access to resources (land, forest, water, labor...) and the related management practices
- To have a deep knowledge of stakeholders and local dynamics
- To deeply analyse the stakeholders' perception regarding their situation, needs and necessities
- To deeply analyze the constraints and outstanding issues and that could have an impact on the project's activities and results.

This village-based diagnosis will be conducted by the project's team which will include a participatory approach. Indeed, the communities will be involved in the assessment process and local authorities will be consulted and involved as much as possible during the diagnosis to have their views. The team will select 56 villages in the area of Kyauktaw and 24 in the area of Paletwa. The villages will follow some criteria like number of households, inhabitants, previous government support, presence along the Kaladan river, relative position compared to Kyauktaw and Paletwa townships, etc.

→ *The project team, supported by surveyors, will be responsible to conduct this village diagnosis.*

3.2 Complementary qualitative studies on land tenure, natural resource management and agricultural practices (May-June 2017)

In order to develop the understanding and knowledge of project team about **resources management and land tenure issues, especially in sensible and strategic surrounding areas of Kaladan river, preliminary deeper qualitative studies** will be conducted in the different intervention areas of the project. As for the land tenure, a special attention will be paid to the difference and compatibility issues between the national new land law¹ and the traditional land tenure (which remains respected by the local population).

The project will also allow to launch an **exhaustive analysis of the local techniques and practices, especially regarding slash and burn cultivation system and management of related resources**. This operation will permit to identify sustainable improvement in the existing farming systems, or feasible alternatives to shifting cultivation, through the definition of approaches and selection of appropriate techniques and practices (as agroecology and agroforestry). The results of the research will be analyzed, shared and validated with the communities and the local authorities to ensure their participation in the definition and implementation of the related activities.

→ *2 external consultancies will be responsible to conduct these complementary studies within the inception phase period (as very complementary data):*

- *Survey 1: Land tenure, natural resource management and agricultural practices;*
- *Survey 2: the Kaladan river and its watershed management.*

3.3 Baseline survey (June – July 2017)

The last step of the inception phase is a **baseline survey** to target a specific group of stakeholders. The objectives of such phase are:

- To reach deep information and understanding for the respective project components' activities
- To construct and adjust the project indicators
- To support the mid-term review of the project to measure the impact of the action proposed

¹ Republic of Union of Myanmar Farm Land Law, published in March 2012 and enforced since August 2012

- To calibrate the project activities on the beneficiaries’ needs.

→ ***The project team, supported by surveyors, will be responsible to conduct the baseline survey.***

3.4 Validation of the results and design of the activities (August- September 2017)

At the end of the assessment period, the project’s team will be able to determine a list of selected villages for the present project implementation, as the size and methodologies of activities. Findings of diagnosis and studies will be shared at communities’ and local authorities’ level, to be confirmed and to validate the related conclusion. Such process will aim at involving the selected communities and the authorities in the design of the activities, and at promoting their understanding and contribution.

4. Objective of the requested consultancy

The following terms of reference are focused on the Study 1: Land tenure, natural resource management and agricultural practices in Kyauktaw and Paletwa Townships.

The objective of the present study will be the followings:

- Increase the project’s general understanding of the **social, organizational and cultural background of the project** area regarding agriculture, land tenure and natural resource management (NRM);
- Better understanding and analysis of the land tenure, NRM and agricultural **practices**;
- Identify and understand the main **constraints and risks** faced by the communities (especially during the hunger gap and/or disasters situations) and **endogenous strategies and resilience mechanisms** regarding agriculture, land tenure and natural resource management (NRM);
- Provide **recommendations and inputs on the village diagnosis and baseline (enrich the questionnaires) and on the indicators of the project logical framework (necessary adjustments).**
- Provide **recommendations to design the strategy and activities** on the related components of the project (outcomes 1 and 4).

5. Description of the expected outputs of the service provider

The consultant will **consult the existing documentation, conduct the study** (through field observations and meetings and information from relevant key stakeholders and using participatory methods) and **product a report** including operational recommendations for the project implementation.

The expected outputs are:

- **A presentation note of the steps and the contents of the proposed study** that will be the basis for discussions and exchanges on the adequacy between the consultant's methodological proposals and the expectations of the project;
- **An oral restitution** with the project team to discuss on the results of the study and the recommendations;
- **1st draft of the report 15 days after the mission**, stating the followed methodology, the findings regarding agriculture, land tenure and NRM, and the final recommendations for the project inception phase process, implementation and monitoring and evaluation;
- **Final report within 15 days after receiving the comments on the draft report** from the project team.

6. Modalities

6.1 Financial proposal

The financial proposition will indicate:

- The daily fees and DSA of the consultant;
- The travel expenses of the mission;

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- The administrative and reprography expenses;
- Etc.

The maximum total cost of the consultancy **cannot exceed 12 000 Euros**.

6.2 Timeframe and duration of the mission

The requested consultancy startup is the **20th of May 2017**, for a minimum of 15 working days.

6.3 Complete proposal

The consultant will provide a proposal with the following parts:

- The first part will be devoted to the understanding of the terms of reference;
- The second part will be constituted by a methodological proposition and a chronogram;
- The third part will be the financial proposal.

The CV of the consultant will be attached to the proposal with clear reference to all consultancies and experience in line with the present request. The consultant can work in pair (for example international and national experts with complementary profiles) if relevant for the proposed methodology.

All information request need to be addressed to the project manager (montersino@gret.org) until the 30th of April 2017. The project team may provide the following document:

- Project proposal;
- Relevant bibliography and other existing assessment studies regarding the project area;
- Information from the first inception phase.

The proposal deadline is fixed the **5th May 2017**. **The email object must be entitled “Agriculture and natural resource management survey - Myanmar NRSC”** and the proposition be sent at the following email addresses: montersino@gret.org, thouillot@gret.org.

7. Consultant profile

- Master degree or justified qualification in agriculture, rural development, agro-economy, sociology;
- Sociology knowledge and experience are required in case of technical degree;
- Good knowledge of the agriculture system of the humid tropical area;
- Good knowledge of EU funded project implementation;
- Knowledge of South – East Asia, previous experience in Myanmar will be an asset;
- Capacity to work autonomously and strong writing and analysis skills.

8. Contacts

- Enrica Montersino, Project Manager, Myanmar, montersino@gret.org
- Floriane Thouillot, Project officer, France, thouillot@gret.org