

Bridging the Information Gap (BIG)

Myanmar

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Policy Details

ECODEV, the Economically Progressive Ecosystem Development of Myanmar, with funding from the United States Embassy's Small Grants Program, has implemented a project for intensifying public awareness and education on climate change called "Bridging the Information Gap (BIG)". The awareness-raising process was carried out from March 2010 to January 2011 in the Shan and Kachin States, as well as the Ayeyawady Division. ECODEV led this project in order to draw more attention and public interest, especially from the part of local authorities and communities, with regards to climate change.

In Myanmar, local communities are still lacking awareness, knowledge, and skills needed to respond to climate change. Thus, the project aims to enhance the understanding of the vulnerability, as well as the coping mechanisms available to the communities when it comes to climate change. This entails strengthening the already existing private-public networks and increasing general public awareness on climate change, and measures required for minimizing the associated risks to local livelihoods.

Quick facts

Zone	Shan state, Kachin state and Ayeyawady Division
Time Frame	2010 to 2011
Theme	Capacity Building, Climate Change
Leading Agency	EcoDev
Financing Agency	United States Embassy in Rangoon

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In order to achieve the project objectives, a technical assessment on climate change risks was conducted at the beginning of the project, combined with a study on local wisdom which could be applied to risk situations. After that, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) various materials concerning climate change were produced and handed out to the local communities. The next activities developed were technical seminars, which served to enhance local intra-community and intercommunity coordination for the creation and strengthening of a climate change response network. Alongside public awareness campaigns, funding support has been provided for local initiatives on community-based adaptation activities.

According to the project evaluation, the level of awareness on climate change among farmers, wage laborers, and dependents is higher now compared to the baseline data. The outcome of the project activities can be described as a general raise in awareness on climate change and its associated risks. The local communities now understand the importance of cooperation and coordination with local authorities, government officials, and community-based organizations and businessmen. In addition, the local communities

are now aware of the critical role private-public networks play in responding to climate change and its associated risks. It can be concluded that the project "Bridging the Information Gap (BIG)" has greatly enhanced public awareness on climate change in the areas covered, and can be extended to other States and Divisions in order to achieve a nation-wide understanding of climate change issues and response measures for the whole of Myanmar.

References

The following documents informed the development of this paper:

Bridging the Information Gap (BIG) Project, EcoDev, 2011. Project Completion Report. Yangon, Myanmar

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