BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT -2015



30th July 2016



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FOREWORD

BANCA is a Biodiversity Conservation Organization which was formed to protect the biodiversity and environment of Myanmar. BANCA received the official registration from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Union of Myanmar on 18 June 2004 and has been active in the conservation field ever since. In doing so, things have been rather up and down for the organization, due mainly to the demise of its two pioneering senior leaders U Uga and Dr. Htin Hla in two consecutive years, followed by changing hands of two younger leaders U Maung Maung Pyone and Dr. Saw Mon Theint, a year later.

In order to fill the senior leadership gap and to navigate the trend of the organization, I was obliged to take up the guardianship role of BANCA on 1 September 2015. Therefore, in years to come, the renewed and re-energized BANCA, with the workforce of young and dedicated multi-professionals will emphasize on conservation, research, education awareness, community development and networking activities with proactive initiatives.

Saw Tun Khaing
Executive Director
BANCA
30.07.2016

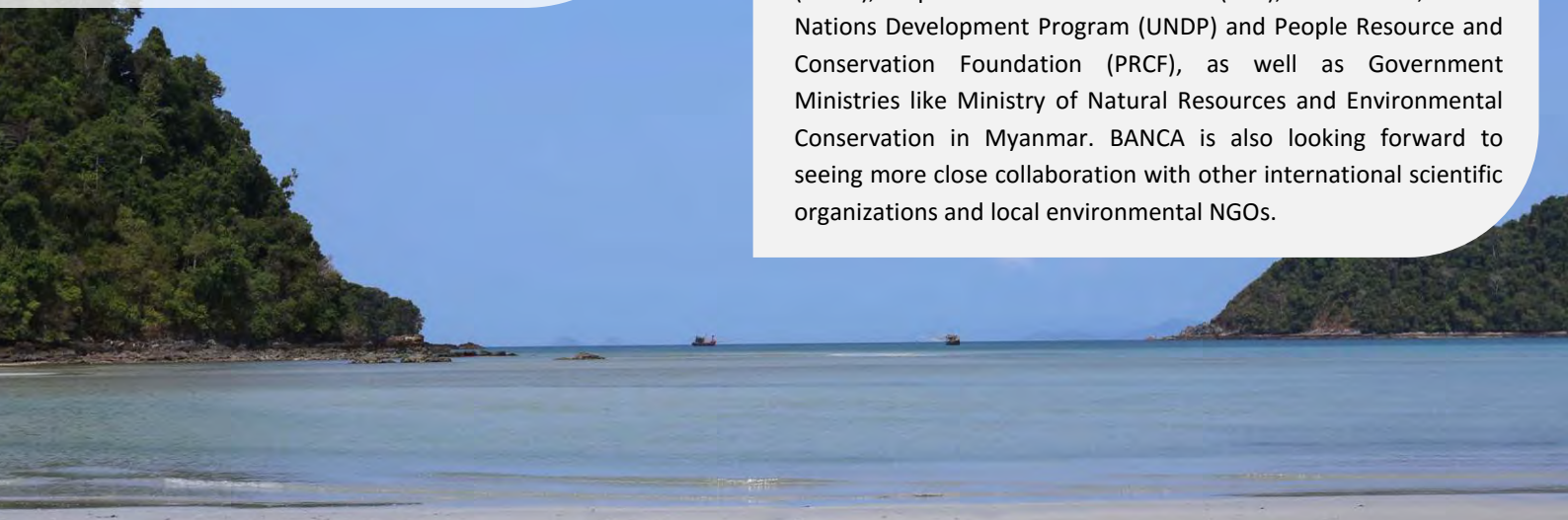
WE ARE WELL-ORGANIZED

BACKGROUND

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) is a non-profit, non-political, non-religious and a local environmental NGO out of a few environmental NGOs working in Myanmar. Although BANCA was officially recognized by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Union of Myanmar on 18, June 2004, BANCA has been active since 2002. BANCA's registered charity number is Local/0145.

BANCA strongly believes that conservation programs can be accomplished successfully only if it is backed up with community development. Regarding BANCA's Administrative Hierarchy, there are 6 knowledgeable persons of Advisory Group (AG), 7 Board of Governance and Senior Management Team members headed by an Executive Director. The backbone of BANCA at the moment is recruited with competent ornithologists along with botanists, foresters, zoologists, social scientists, mammalogists, geologists, environmental scientists, marine biologists and herpetologists among others.

Since its establishment in 2004, BANCA has been in close collaboration with international organizations like BirdLife International, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Care Myanmar, Instuito Oikos, Flora and Fauna International (FFI), Arcona Consulting, Ministry of Environment Japan, British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Ramsar Network Japan, Lighthouse Foundation, Wildfowl Wetland Trust (WWT), World Wildlife Funds (WWF), Tropical Rainforest Foundation (TRP), Green Lotus, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and People Resource and Conservation Foundation (PRCF), as well as Government Ministries like Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Myanmar. BANCA is also looking forward to seeing more close collaboration with other international scientific organizations and local environmental NGOs.



"BANCA strongly believes that conservation programs can be accomplished successfully only if it is backed up with community development."



Our Major Achievements



- Rediscovery of the critically endangered Gurney's Pitta in Tanintharyi Region in 2003 in collaboration with BirdLife International. Due to this discovery, its status has been down listed to endangered level in 2008.
- Publication of "Birds of Myanmar" (2003) in Myanmar language which serves as a field guide and a reference for Myanmar ornithologists and birdwatchers.
- Receiving registered charity number (1883) from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Union of Myanmar on 18, June 2004.
- Receiving the 'Outstanding Award for Biodiversity Conservation' by Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Myanmar in 2005.
- BANCA became BirdLife 'Affiliate' in 2005.
- BANCA was awarded as 'Species Guardian of Spoon-billed Sandpiper' by BirdLife International in 2009.
- Discovery of the Snub-nosed Monkey which is new to science in Emawbum in 2010 in collaboration with FFI and PRCF.
- BANCA was recognized in National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP, 2011) as the second biggest local NGO in Myanmar.
- BANCA's Spoon-billed Sandpiper activities were recognized by Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry in Fifth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (March, 2014).

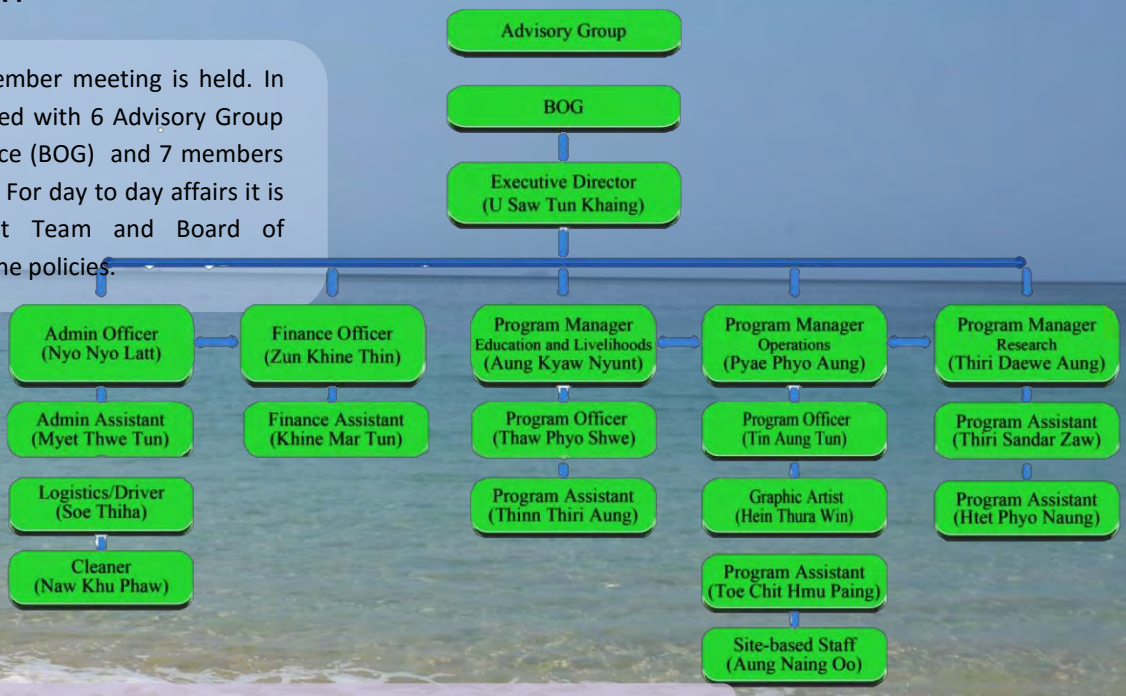


We classify, protect, restore and monitor the sites and habitats important for biodiversity and nature in Myanmar



ORGANIZATION CHART

Once a year an Annual General Member meeting is held. In the year 2015 BANCA was rearranged with 6 Advisory Group Member (AG), 7 Board of Governance (BOG) and 7 members of Senior Management Team (SMT). For day to day affairs it is managed by Senior Management Team and Board of Governance is obliged to review to the policies.



OUR SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



U Saw Tun Khaing received B.Sc (Forestry) from University of Yangon in 1965 and M.Sc (Silviculture) from University of Aberdeen in 1975. Started his academic career as Extra Assistant Conservator of Forest in Forest Department from 1965 to 1971, Assistant Director/ Assistant Silviculturist of Forest Department from 1972 to 1980, and as Assistant Director/Deputy Director of Wildlife and Sanctuaries Division of the Forest Department from 1981 to 1991. Furthermore, he was a Managing Partner of Forestry Consultancy Group from 1992 to 1993. From 1993 to 1994, served as Horticulturist employed by private plant production farm, Prince Plant Production Enterprise of Singapore. From 1994 to 1995, worked as National Project Professional Person (NPPP) in Watershed Management for Three Critical Areas of UNDP. From 1996 to 2004 as Country Program Coordinator of Wildlife Conservation Society and from 2006 to 2010 as Secretary of Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development Initiative (ECCDI).



U Pyae Phyo Aung is a marine scientist, graduated from Moulmein University. Worked as shrimp pond technician from 2005 to 2007. In 2008 joined BANCA as a member and has taken a key role in Conservation of Marine ecosystem. Has played a leading role in Myanmar on Conservation of Spoon-billed Sandpiper and to develop community livelihoods sustainably and in particular to establish Gulf of Mottama as Ramsar Site. Country Representative for Myanmar with the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force which is coordinated under the umbrella of East Asia- Australasian Flyway Partnership. Has taken position as CEPA NGOs National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention, to monitor and report on the implementation of Ramsar Convention's CEPA Programme and sets priorities for Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness and Capacity building.



U Aung Kyaw Nyunt received B.Sc degree in Mathematics from University of Yangon and started working in Forestry Department. Served as Assistant Park Warden at the Forestry Department Headquarters from 1983 to 1986, at Shwe Set Taw Wildlife Sanctuary from 1987 to 1989 and as Assistant Park Warden at Hlaw Ga Wildlife Park from 1990 to 2003. All together he has 21 years' of work experience in wildlife conservation. During his service, he did socioeconomic surveys on westen side of Inle Lake with the help of UNDP in 1991, at Ywa Ngan District, Shan State in 1992 and gave trainings on using fuel efficient/stoves in middle part of Myanmar with the support of FAO. Furthermore, from 2004 to 2008, he did rural area development for conservation of local bird "White-browed nuthatch" supported by BirdLife International within Natmataung National Park. From 2010 to the present, he works closely with the locals for the conservation of Critically Endangered species 'Spoon-billed Sandpiper' in Gulf of Mottama.



Dr Thri Daewi Aung was born in November, 1977 in Dala Township, Yangon Region from U Aung Nyunt Oo and Daw Khin Hnin Si. She received M.Sc in 2002 from Yangon University, M.Research in 2004 and Ph.D in 2012. Her Ph.D title was 'Breeding Ecology of Bird Species'. Furthermore, she attended trainings on GIS, Project Cycle Management and Social Science Research. At present, she is doing research on endangered Gurney Pitta in Tanintharyi and Baer's Pochard in central part of Myanmar.

VISION

"A nation with a flourishing nature & rich biodiversity and where people live in harmony with nature"



MISSION

"Conservation of nature, primarily biological diversity, through action based on research, advocacy, partnership, network building, education, people's participation and public awareness"

OUR VALUES

- **TEAMWORK**

We believe that by acting united for a common goal, we can achieve the best results. We appreciate the diverse and unique talents of our people and build upon them to fulfil our vision. All our relationships are based upon mutual respect.

- **PROFESSIONAL SPIRIT**

We value multi-disciplinary teams and utilise both local and international expertise. We are committed to have a thorough understanding of Myanmar's nature and biodiversity. We use this knowledge to address the root causes of problems and to come up with creative solutions. In all our endeavours we act in a professional way and strive towards excellence.

- **INTEGRITY**

We are honest and are committed to do the right thing. We are accountable to our members, partners and especially to the communities with which we work. We act transparently and are open about our plans, actions and results.

- **POSITIVE IMPACT**

We strive to make a positive impact on nature, biodiversity as well as on the communities with which we work. In all our activities we take into account specific local settings. We consider a programme successful when there has been a positive, significant and sustainable change. We focussed on achieving results.

SAVING THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER PROGRAMME IN MYANMAR

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper *(Calidris pygmaea)* is a long distance migrant, which breeds in the Chukotka peninsula in the far north-east of Russia and annually migrates more than 8,000 km to winter in South and South-east Asia, with approximately half of the global population understood to winter in Myanmar This species is classified as globally Critically Endangered on the Red List of Endangered Species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. In 2010, the breeding population of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper was estimated to be between 120 and 220 breeding pairs, a decline of 78% to 88% since 2000 when the population was approximately 100 breeding pairs[1]. This represented a decline of 20% to 26% per annum, which was anticipated to lead the species' to extinction within a decade if no action was taken. Hunting of shorebirds in the Gulf of Mottama (also known as Martaban), Myanmar, was identified as the priority and most urgent threat to be addressed in the wintering areas. About half of the global population of Spoon-billed Sandpipers spend their winter there. BANCA is one of the species guardians for Spoon-billed Sandpiper wintering grounds in Asia. BANCA conducted Spoon-billed Sandpiper population in collaboration with BirdLife International, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Wildfowl Wetlands Trust (WWT) and British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force (SBS TF) in Gulf of Mottama and Nanthar Island.

The Gulf of Mottama is located in Yangon Region, Bago Region and Mon State. It is a large and generally undisturbed funnel-shaped estuary with extensive tidal flats. Its tidal cycle is extremely pronounced in speed and amplitude, causing a powerful bore phenomenon which is highly unusual in the region and which makes this one of the most dynamic estuaries in the world, with constant sediment redistribution, channel-shifts, erosion and accretion on a large scale. The high productivity of the system supports a rich biota including abundant invertebrates, important nursery areas for marine fish and up to 150,000 migratory waterbirds in the non-breeding season. These include three globally threatened species and internationally important numbers of 12 species, and the Gulf is one of the world's most important wintering areas for the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper (CR), hosting probably more than half of the remaining global population.The biological productivity of this system supports a rich biota that exemplifies the importance of large estuaries on an international scale as source areas for fish and invertebrates and as non-breeding refuges for tens of thousands of migratory water birds.

Two international designations can raise recognition of the conservation importance of the Gulf of Mottama and support an appropriate management framework: nomination as a Ramsar Site under the *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance*; and nomination as a Flyway Site under the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) Flyway Site Network. In 2013, BANCA began working with the Forest Department, conducting a process to establish the Gulf of Mottama as a Ramsar Site. Participatory boundary demarcation was conducted for much of the Gulf of Mottama. Boundaries for Mon State have been largely agreed by local authorities and communities in Kyaikhto and Bilin Township of Mon State while further work needs to be done working with authorities in Yangon and Bago regions to define the Ramsar Site area. Since progress is more advanced in Mon State, a phased approach is recommended, whereby the area of Mon State is established as a Ramsar Site first and management underway. BANCA successful carried out numerous consultations meeting with stakeholders and Mon State Government agreed to designate Kyaikhto and Bilin areas as first Ramsar site in 2015. Currently Gulf of Mottama is one of the EAAF sites in Myanmar.

Nanthar Island is located in western part of Myanmar Coastal area and close to Sittwe city in Rakhine State. The island is small area about (2419ha) wide which has sandy and mudflat habitats and adjacent to Myanmar and Bangladesh border and mouth of Kalendan River. There are five villages which are close to Nanthar Island and few fishing community from those villages go out fishing near the Nanthar Island area. Nothing is known about Nanthar Island before 2008. In 2008, BANCA and Arcona Consulting teams went to Nanthar and found the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper species, and fortunately recorded 36 SBS in Nanthar. Annually surveys have been made since 2008 to date.

In 2015, with the support of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Community-Led Coastal Management in the Gulf of Mottama Project, a long-term initiative implemented by HELVETAS, NAG, IUCN, and BANCA, is supporting the development of a management plan for the coastal areas of Mon State and Bago Region, and eventually Yangon Region.



"BANCA successful carried out numerous consultations meeting with stakeholders and Mon State Government agreed to designate Kyaikhto and Bilin areas as first Ramsar site in 2015. Currently Gulf of Mottama is one of the EAAF sites in Myanmar."

"Securing long-term protection of key biodiversity areas in the Sundaic Sub-Region of Myanmar"

- **GURNEY'S PITTA IN TANINTHARYI REGION.**

Tanintharyi (Tenasserim) Region is located in southern part of Myanmar and shares the border with Thailand on the east, south-east and Andamen sea on the west. This area is rich in species diversity due to different types of forest, like Tropical Evergreen forest, Sundiac level lowland forest, Semi-evergreen forest, Mangrove forest etc. This richness also depends on topography, geological features and climatic factors. Tanintharyi has tropical monsoon type of climate. It is also known as home for great diversity of flora and fauna. Gurney's Pitta *Pitta gurneyi* is the only bird species endemic to peninsular Thailand and Myanmar. It is considered to be only found in Sundiac level lowland forest. It is designated as Endangered by IUCN Red List and initially thought to be extinct for some time after 1952, but was rediscovered in 1986 in Thailand. In Myanmar, the last sighting of Gurney's Pitta was in 1914 and it was rediscovered in 2003 after a 89-years gap. Despite the discovery of a large population in Myanmar, the situation for this pitta remains precarious since it occupies a very small range in which its habitat of flat, low-lying forest, which is targeted for the development of oil-palm plantations, is already severely fragmented. A very rapid population reduction is anticipated to occur in the near future as a result of land clearance. For these reasons it is listed as Endangered. BANCA already carried Gurney's Pitta distribution and population assessment survey since 2005, in collaboration with BirdLife International and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Under the project of "Securing long-term protection of key biodiversity areas in the Sundaic Sub-Region of Myanmar" the research for Gurney's Pitta was implemented by two ornithologists from BANCA and the scientist of FFI in collaboration with respective government staff and local villagers during the period from 3 May to 2 June 2015. The purpose of this research is to record the population and distribution of Gurney's Pitta at a new location in South Tanintharyi Region.





- **THE ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC VALUE FROM THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICE OF MOEYUNGYI WETLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

Moeyungyi Wildldife Sancutuary is located in southern part of Bago Region, the western and southern parts belong to Bago Township and southern and eastern parts to Waw Township. This site was designated as a bird sanctuary in 1988 and also a Ramsar Site in 2005. The lake is an important foraging place for migratory birds, and collecting the lily in the area provides a job opportunity for local residents. Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary also facilitates transport of people and goods by the boats from villages at the perimeter of the wetland. Natural wetlands have also providing services as suitable "field laboratories" for research, education and environmental monitoring. Now adays Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary has become one of the Flyway Site of East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) Flyway Site Network.

BANCA carried out "***The Assessment of Economic valuation of Moeyungyi Wetland"*** in Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary. The assessment identified that Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary provides annual benefits of at least $22 million ($2,130 ha^{-1} y^{-1}) and that these benefits are received by local communities (c.12,000 households), downstream rice farms, and the international communities through global climate regulation and opportunities for tourism. Besides, the results from this assessment provide information for local and national stakeholders on the broader importance of the conservation of wetlands for the benefit of people, due to the economic and social benefits they provide. By incorporating these ecosystem service values, sustainable management pathways for wetland sites across Myanmar could be achieved. This assessment was implemented by teams of scientists from BANCA and BirdLife International collaborating with local villagers, staff from Moeyungyi and respective government staffs. The purpose of this assessment is "***to raise awareness about the important economic and social values that wetlands***," such as Moeyungyi, provides for people across all sectors and spatial scales. In this study, methods from the Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-based Assessment (TESSA; Peh et al 2014) were used to estimate the biophysical and monetary values of ecosystem services provided by Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary, and to compare such values with those of the most plausible alternative state. This study built on available data from previous rapid assessment studies on the biological and socio-economic status of the Moeyungyi Wetland, conducted by teams of scientists from BANCA. Based on the previous rapid assessment and the preliminary scoping workshop, harvested wild goods (fish, aquatic plants for buffalo grazing, mollusks and lotus stalks), water provision (for domestic use and irrigation), flood protection, nature-based recreation and global climate change mitigation in terms of carbon storage were identified as key ecosystem services to measure.



"TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VALUES THAT WETLANDS"



12 individual of BP occurred in Pyu Lake , Tada Oo township in Mandalay Region.

- **THE PRELIMINARY POPULATION AND MONITORING OF BAER'S POCHARD, MIGRATORY WATER BIRD SPECIES IN INLAND LAKES OF CENTRAL MYANMAR**

Baer's Pochard (Aythya baeri) was formerly a relatively common and widespread duck in Asia, although it has possibly not been abundant for a long time, and in fact there has never really been a good understanding of its population size. This species has always been somewhat overlooked by ornithologists, partly owing to difficulties of visiting and surveying the areas in which it occurs. By the late 1980s it was thought to number no more than 25,000 individuals, possibly fewer, and was recognized as being in decline; as a result it was added to the IUCN Red List in 1994 as Vulnerable. There it remained until 2008, when it was up listed to Endangered, shortly followed in 2012 by uplisting to Critically Endangered, following an assessment that strongly suggested a population of fewer than 1,000 individuals. In addition, uncertainty over the accuracy of identification of some historical records also clouds our understanding. BANCA conducted the population monitoring of Baer's Pochard species in Inland lakes of Central Myanmar in collaboration with BirdLife International on August 2015. According the survey results, 12 individual of BP occurred in Pyu Lake , Tada Oo township in Mandalay Region. It was last recorded in 2003-2004 surveyed for wetland inventory for Myanmar. After the mission of wetlands survey, lack of information for BP since 2004 to 2014.



Building Local Capacity for Conservation and Tourism Development in Myeik Archipelago (COAST):

Mergui Archipelago, located in southernmost part of Myanmar (Burma), comprises over 800 beautiful islands. Due to its virtual isolation, the islands and surrounding seas are alive with an amazing diversity of flora & fauna and very beautiful underwater scenes and marine life. Lampi Island Marine National Park encompasses a section of the Myeik Archipelago including Lampi Island, several smaller islands and the seas around them. The sea between Lampi and the mainland is on average 12 m deep and nowhere deeper than 24 m. Lampi island is generally hilly and rises steeply from sea level up to 455 m. The majority of the coast is rocky, presenting also sandy beaches, bays and inlets. Lampi island has two major perennial rivers and many small seasonal streams. Lampi habitats are mostly intact, and if measures are put into place soon, the representativeness and key attributes of this vast island ecosystem can be conserved at this site. Lampi is an ASEAN heritage site, an Important Bird Area (IBA) and a designated Myanmar ecotourism site.

BANCA's biologists, NWCD staff, Rangers, Acemedic researchers from Insubria University and Yangon University carried out Lampi Marine National Park Framework project in collaboration with Istituto Oikos. The objectives are;

(a) To increase the knowledge of LMNP **bird species** and related populations, setting up a standardized monitoring plan and to gain exhaustive and updated information on **birds** in view of tourist exploration (bird watching activities);
(b) To increase the knowledge of LMNP **terrestrial mammal species**, with specific interest in endangered and vulnerable species, using the combination of two methods: camera traps and presence of signs and tracks detection.
(c) To locate all known **plain pouched hornbill** roosting sites in LMNP, setting up a regular count of the overall hornbill population, in order to monitor the variation in terms of location of roosting site and number of birds during the time;
(d) To determine **flying foxes** colony/roosting site location, to evaluate the colony sizes using a standardized assessment method and set up a monitoring plan in order to monitor the variation in time in terms of location of roosting site and number of bats for both scientific research and touristic fruition.



LAMPI HABITATS ARE MOSTLY INTACT, AND IF MEASURES ARE PUT INTO PLACE SOON, THE REPRESENTATIVENESS AND KEY ATTRIBUTES OF THIS VAST ISLAND ECOSYSTEM CAN BE CONSERVED

Education and Awareness Activities



WETLANDS AND MIGRATORY BIRDS CONSERVATION PROGRAMME IN MYANMAR

BANCA carried out public education awareness activities in Gulf of Mottama and Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary, and initiates Gulf of Mottama to designate as Ramsar site. BANCA also delivers about the wise use of wetlands and important key messages to community in line with CEPA framework covering annually about 50 villages and 50 schools in the Gulf of Mottama.

In January 2015, BANCA initiated the "Welcome to the Birds" event in Myanmar. These events were held in Khin Tan village of Mon State and Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary. Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary is the pioneer Ramsar site of Myanmar. Ahlat village is one of the famous wintering site for Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Annually some keen shorebird watchers from UK went to Ahlat village to see the Spoon-billed Sandpiper. BANCA is trying to promote this village to become an eco-tourism site in future. The event ceremony was opened by the Minister of Forest and Mine from Mon State regional Government and celebrated together with representatives from other departments, school children and local communities. This event was broadcasted in media channels and BANCA delivers key messages for important wetlands and wise use principles. About 350 school children actively participated in adlib competition, focusing on Spoon-billed Sandpiper and postcard flyways exchange activities.

BANCA collaborated with Forest Department in holding the ceremony of World Wetlands Day and Welcome to the Birds on 2 February at the Moeyungyi Wildllife Sanctuary. The school children and community attended the event and BANCA team shared knowledge on the conservation of wetlands and wise use. BANCA's ornithologist delivered the bird watching training in Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary for local community and school children and jointed bird census survey with Forest Department.



Wetlands for our Future
Sustainable Livelihoods





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN CONSERVATION

Provide freshwater ponds and education and awareness for water management system in Gulf of Mottama.



The Gulf of Mottama is a vast area of dynamic mudflats, fed by sedimentation from rivers traversing the central plains of Myanmar. This creates a heaven for the hundreds of thousands of water birds which are found there all year-round, and the site becomes more important during the Northern Hemisphere's winter. However, the Gulf of Mottama is a vulnerable and changing environment where communities have lived by adapting to change over time. And action is needed to maintain the benefits provided by wetlands for economic development and the livelihoods of locals. As the area is coastal region, all the villages have difficulties of access to freshwater particularly in the summer season. BANCA carried out the conservation activities in Gulf of Mottama area since 2008 to date for the conservation of Critically Endangered species Spoon-billed Sandpiper whose population is only 500 left in the world.

BANCA provided eight freshwater ponds (average 5,500 m^3 in size) in early 2014 and 2015 in Gulf of Mottama funded by Darwin Initiative and Sweden government in collaboration with Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Thailand Environment Institute (TEI).For eight villages, BANCA conducted Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) training by using Participatory Hygiene And Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) curriculum. The main objectives of this training are:

a) To facilitate trainings, using PHAST methodology and manual in PHAST steps 1-5 for community volunteers such as Village WASH Committee.

b) To provide recommendations for community volunteers on how to support effective implementation of PHAST steps 1-5 in the target communities (including issues such as gender balance and participation of vulnerable populations)

"WE ENGAGED WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR LONG-TERM CONSERVATION"



Community Participation is Crucial Role for Co-management

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER CONSERVATION

To have effective conservation outcomes, BANCA organized the local community who are interested for conservation and formed seven active local conservation groups (LCG) in Gulf of Mottama with 84 members who are fishers, ex-bird hunters and village leaders. BANCA trained Local Community Groups for basic bird watching and patrolling system and provided boats and motorbikes. This patrolling programme is initial process for long-term conservation management under the Ramsar Site management plan in future. The Local Conservation Groups maintained the boats and equipment for patrolling activities and the boats are also used for fishing for their income. The team members of LCG, local authorities and BANCA staff all together patrol the Gulf during the period of wintering season. The main objectives are to conserve and protect the wintering birds from extinction during the wintering season and assist conservation programs in the Gulf of Mottama effectively. Annually, BANCA submitted the patrolling report to township authorities. Now some Local Conservation Group members are aware of shore bird watching and BANCA continues training the members in order that they become local bird tour guides in future.



MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY ACROSS GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY

ADVOCACY FOR IMPROVED CONSERVATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES:

BANCA carried out numerous consultation meetings and advocacy workshops based on the research activities. It is actively involving for policies, environmental conservation sections in different roles from State level to Union level. BANCA also initiated the National and Regional level Advocacy workshop to designate Gulf of Mottama as Ramsar Site since 2012 and already submitted draft Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) in 2015. BANCA participated in the mainstreaming of **National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (2015-2020).** The revised NBSAP (2015-2020) provides a strategic framework for the conservation of Myanmar's biodiversity to address new and emerging challenges arising from political, economic and social reform in Myanmar, as well as to take into account new opportunities, and align targets and actions with the CBD's Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Senior staff of BANCA are involved for NBSAP working group committee in National level.

BANCA involved in **National Ramsar Workshop** which was held in September 2015 Naypitaw. The workshop had three objectives:

(1)Introduce officials from relevant ministries on the implementation of Ramsar Convention in Myanmar

(2)Provide and update on current Ramsar implementation in Myanmar and identify ways forward and next steps

(3)Discuss scope, purpose, composition and TOR for a national wetland committee.





" MON STATE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT TO DESIGNATE GULF OF MOTTAMA AS RAMSAR SITE IN NEAR FUTURE"

H.E Ohn Myint

Mon State Government

(28th February 2015)

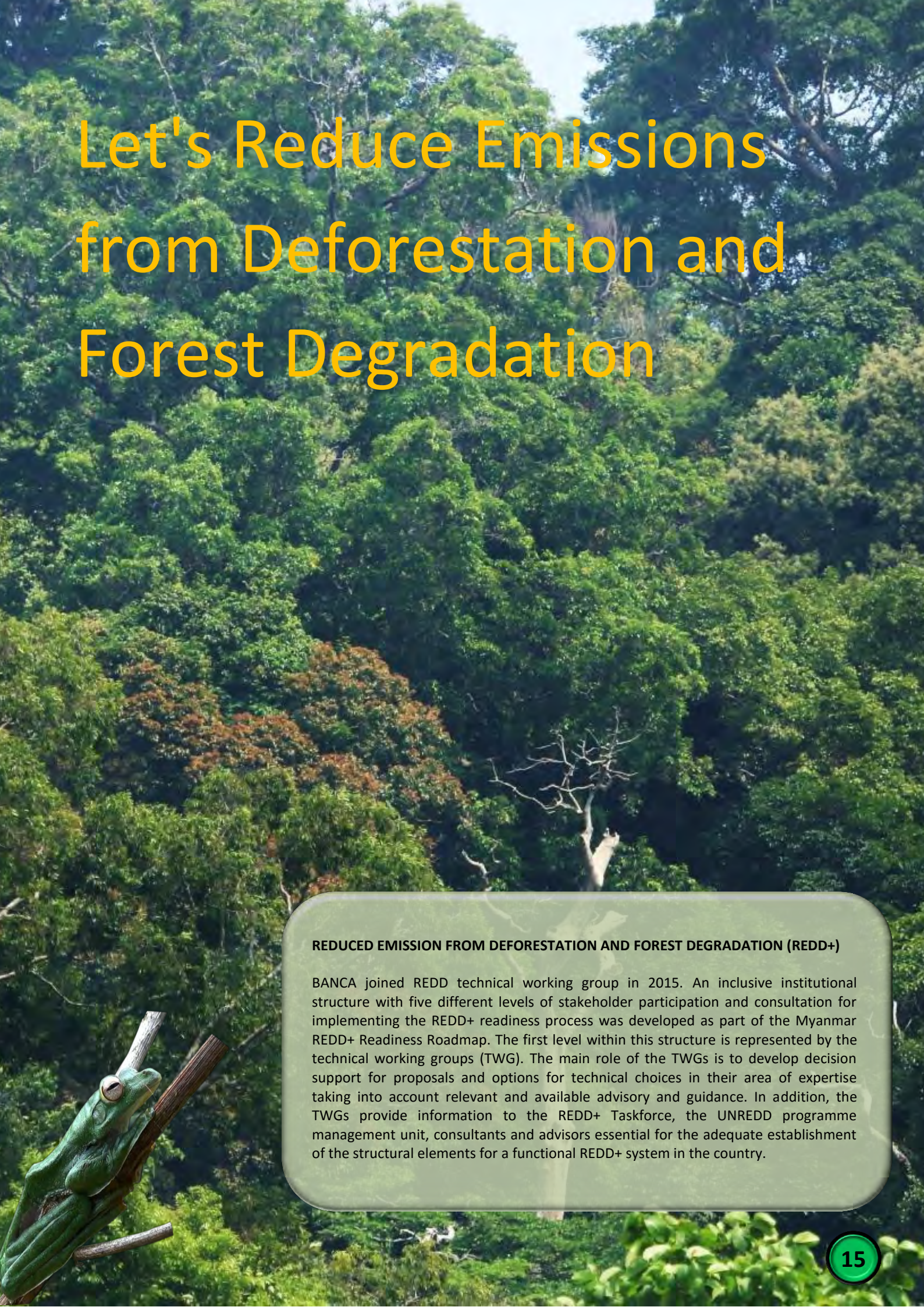
REGIONAL LEVEL MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP FOR THE DESIGNATION OF GULF OF MOTTAMA AS A WETLAND OF INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT (RAMSAR SITE).

BANCA successfully carried out community consultation meeting and endorsement of community for the designation of Gulf of Mottama as Ramsar Site. BANCA also initiated and highlighted about the information to the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF) to designate Gulf of Mottama as Ramsar Site and submitted draft Ramsar Site Information Sheet (RIS). Due to the achievements, BANCA collaborated with Mon State Government for Regional level Multi –Stakeholders workshop in Mawlamyine on the 28 February of 2015. The workshop ceremony is opened by H.E U Ohn Myint who is Chief Minister of Mon State and regional ministers, higher level regional parliamentarians, National Focal Point for Ramsar Science and Technical Review Panel (STRP), townships and villages authorities, local conservation group members and media of 89 participants attended. Mr.Lew Young (Senior Advisor of Asia –Oceania) sent the official statement letter for this workshop on behalf of Ramsar Convention.



"Wetlands are unique places where land meets water. Many types of wetlands can be found around the world, from the mountains down to the coast. They include rivers, lakes, rice paddies and fishponds, as well as mangroves, mudflats and coral reefs."

Let's Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation



REDUCED EMISSION FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION (REDD+)

BANCA joined REDD technical working group in 2015. An inclusive institutional structure with five different levels of stakeholder participation and consultation for implementing the REDD+ readiness process was developed as part of the Myanmar REDD+ Readiness Roadmap. The first level within this structure is represented by the technical working groups (TWG). The main role of the TWGs is to develop decision support for proposals and options for technical choices in their area of expertise taking into account relevant and available advisory and guidance. In addition, the TWGs provide information to the REDD+ Taskforce, the UNREDD programme management unit, consultants and advisors essential for the adequate establishment of the structural elements for a functional REDD+ system in the country.

Partnership and Network

IMPROVED WORKING RELATIONS WITH KEY GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION:

BANCA is closely working with Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) since 2004. The representative persons from BirdLife International Asia Region, Dr.Hum Bahadur Gurung (Partnership development Manager) and Mr. Henry Goh (President of Malaysian Nature Society) have visited Myanmar. During the mission, U Saw Tun Khaing (Executive Director) and the BirdLife representative persons have met and discussed for collaboration of biodiversity conservation of Myanmar in future with the focal representative persons, Dr.Nyi Nyi Kyaw (Director General) and U Win Naing Thaw(Director) of Forest Department in Naypyitaw.



EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND AGENCIES

BANCA collaborates with many international organisations. Since 2004, BANCA has been closely working with BirdLife International for sites and species conservation in Myanmar and carried out successful numerous programme. BirdLife International is very keen to promote conservation tasks in collaboration with BANCA in Asia region. And working with Flora and Fauna International (FFI) and People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF) for Myanmar Primate Conservation Programme, had discovered Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey which is new to science in Emawbum of Northern Myanmar. With effective and good relationship with BirdLife International, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), BANCA carried out the designation Gulf of Mottama as Ramsar Site with the community consultation meetings including multi stakeholders. Due to the successful accomplished mission on the Gulf of Mottama project done by BANCA, it has become a key project partner of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Helvetas Myanmar for Community Led Gulf of Mottamma Management Project (CLCGoMP) with the support of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).



WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER



















































Institutional Strengthening

STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

During the period 2015, BANCA staff attended several capacity building trainings, workshops and seminars within Myanmar and abroad. BANCA was given Financial Management Training, Project Cycle Management (PCM), Bird watching training, Statistics and Probability Training and Photography Training. Some BANCA senior staff attended Financial Management (MANGO) Training which was supported by Amatae programme.

NOMINATED CEPA NGO NATIONAL FOCAL POINT (OVERSIGHT PANEL-RAMSAR CONVENTION):

The Convention on Wetlands, called the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources (http://www.ramsar.org). Currently, there are 168 signatory parties of the Ramsar Convention wherein Myanmar became a signatory in 2005. As a member nation of the Ramsar Convention, the Government of Union of Myanmar has an obligation to ensure the conservation and wise use of its wetlands and the resources found in the wetlands. Another obligation is the identification of our wetlands of International Importance for its nomination and declaration as "Ramsar Site" to ensure the conservation and recognition of the wise use of these valuable sites by working in cooperation with local communities, NGOs, scientists and relevant Government Departments.

Pyae Phyo Aung (Program Manager-Operations) was selected as CEPA NGO National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention 2016-2018 to monitor and report on the implementation of the Convention's Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) Programme for Contracting parties of Ramsar Convention.

*CEPA Oversight Panel Link: http://www.ramsar.org/activity/the-cepa-oversight-panel

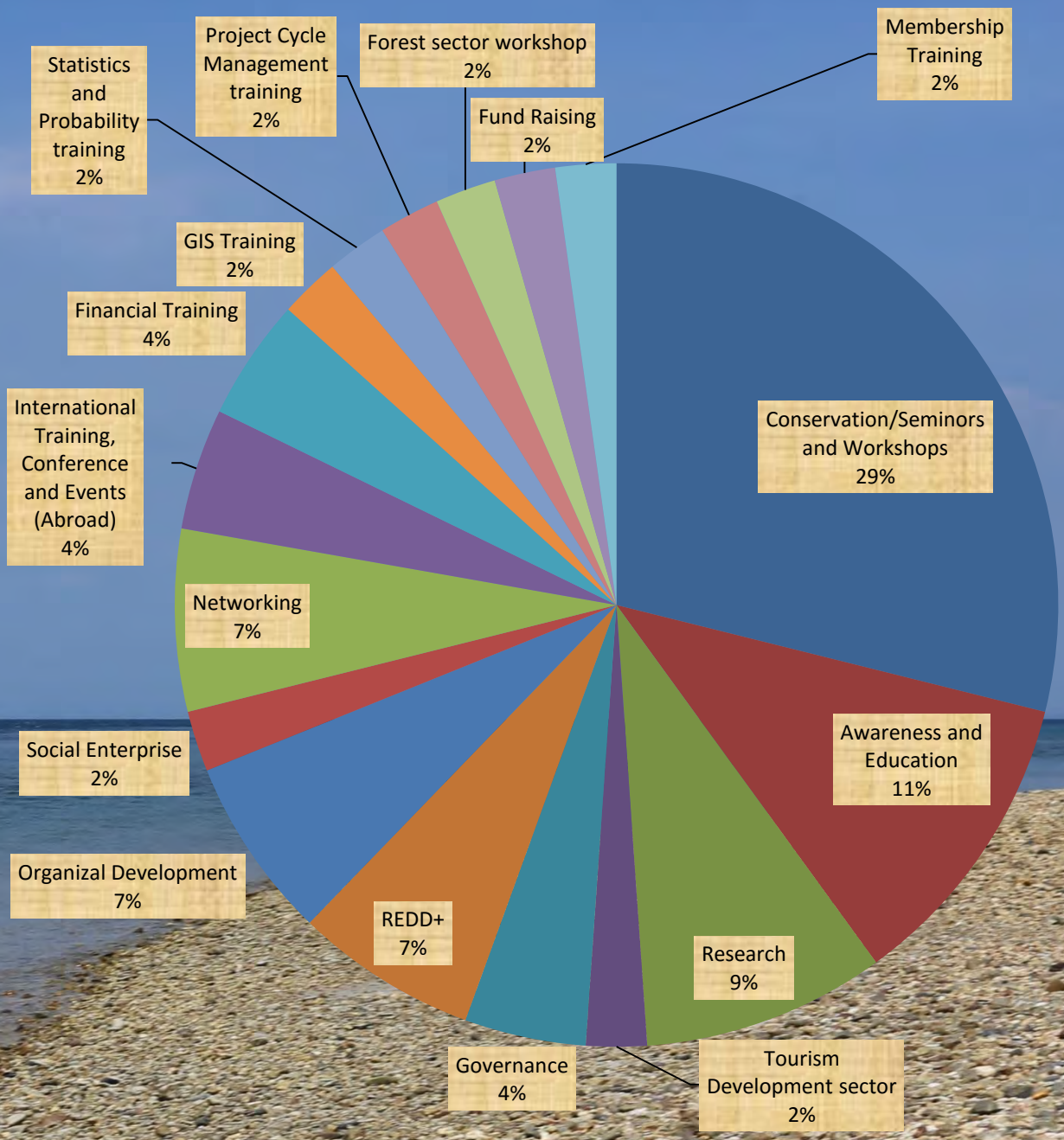
NOMINATED CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER OF MERN:

Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-conservation Network (MERN) http://mernmyanmar.org/ is a national network of local and regional NGOs with an environmental focus. Currently consisting of 21 NGO members with a range of experience and skills, MERN is dedicated to being a leader on environmental challenges in Myanmar. From forestry and environmental policy development, to community improvement, capacity building, and social mobilization, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, as well as social infrastructure projects, our members are engaged with improving many aspects of Myanmar's environment and society.

Dr. Thiri Dae Wei Aung (Program Manager-Research and Conservation) was selected as CEC member of MERN to coordinatate with relevant environmental conservation organizations.

ATTENDED TRAINING COURSE ON MONITORING GREENHOUSE GAS FLUEXS FROM NATURAL AND AGROECOSYSTEM IN CHENGDU INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY (CIB) OF CHINEASE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE (CAS) IN CHINA:

Pyae Phyo Aung (Program Manager-Operations) attended monitoring Greenhouse Gas fluxes from Natural and Agro ecosystem at CIB-China on the December of 2015. This is an intensive training to monitor greenhouse gas and establish to form working group for Hindu Kush Himalayan Region (HKH).



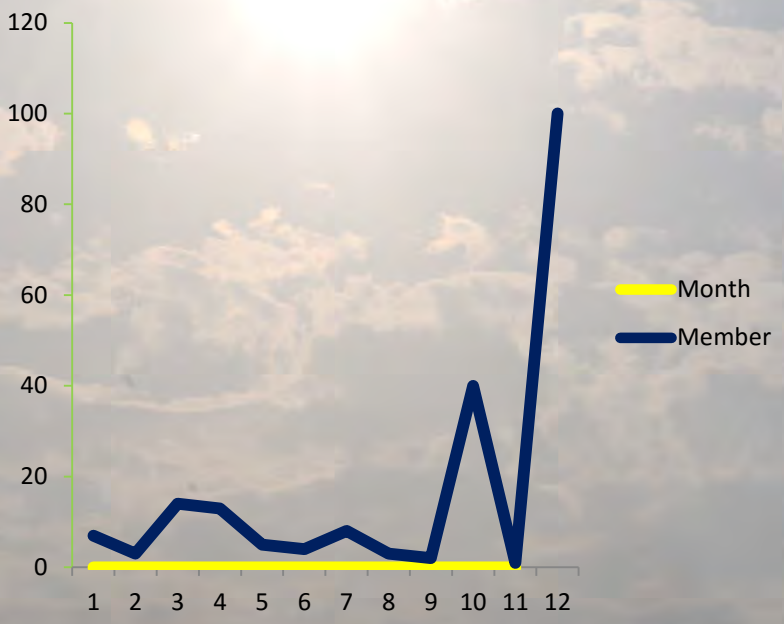
Summary of BANCA Staff Capacity Building Achievement in 2015

DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES/GUIDELINES OF FINANCE AND ADMIN:

During the period of 2015, BANCA has developed Administrative and HR, Finance, procurement, membership policies, and BANCA's charter. The policies of BANCA was adopted by BANCA staff with the facilitation of consultants and approved by Boards of Governance.

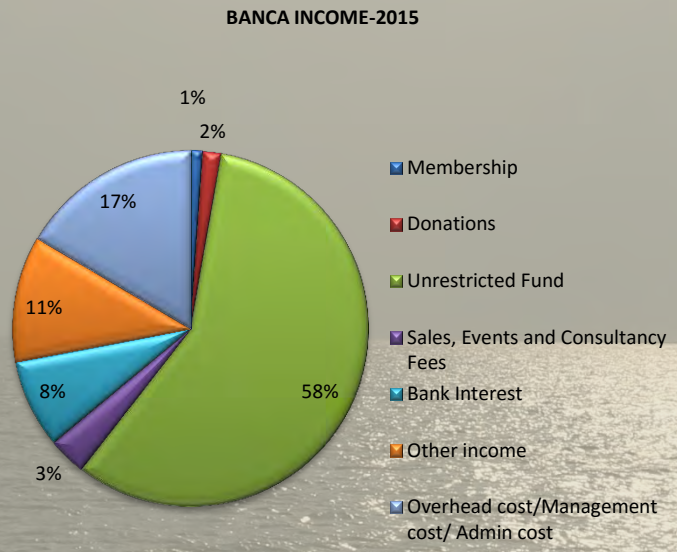
MEMBERSHIP:

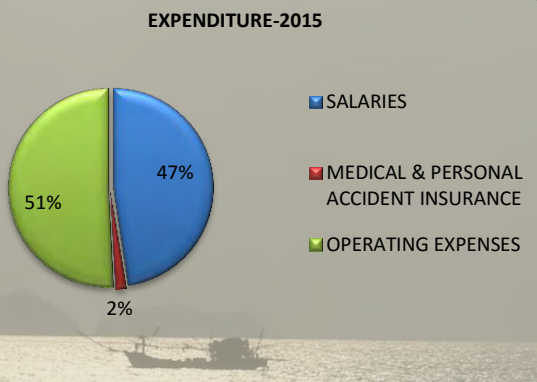
Since established in 2013, BANCA has over 350 members from different regions of the country. Most of the members are living in the remote areas and difficult to contact for attending the annual meeting. Some of the members have lack of communication with BANCA and didn't received any information of the Association. In 2014, BANCA initiated adopting membership policy and invited existing and new members. According to the 2015 calendar year, BANCA has 100 members.



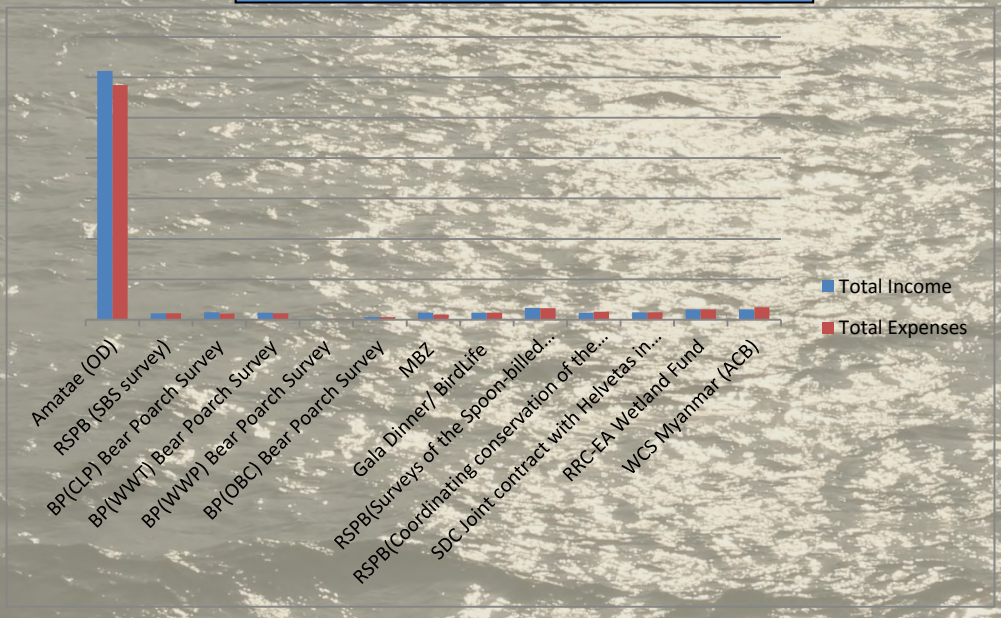
FINANCIAL

BANCA adopted the financial policy with the support of Amatae





PROJECTS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE



MEDIA COVERAGE



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, we would like to thank donors especially Amatae Programme for their support of BANCA's conservation mission. And thanks for the Board of Governance for policy guide line and Senior Management Team for their in-kind contribution.

BANCA's Project Sites



ANNEX 2: BOARD OF GOVERNORS, ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

COMPOSITION BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

Sr.No	Name	Position	Representative Organization
1.	U Tin Aye	Chairperson	Myanmar Forest Association (MFA)
2.	Dr. Saw Lwin	Member	Myanmar Floriculturist Association (MFA)
3.	U Mehm Ko Ko Gyi	Member	Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development Initiative (ECCDI)
4.	U Saw Win	Treasurer	EGUARD Environmental Services Company Limited
5.	U Than Myint	Member	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
6.	U Myint Swe	Member	Retired Director of Forest Department
7.	Dr. Nay Soe Maung	Member	Rector (University of Public Health)

COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sr.No	Name	Position
1.	Daw Dae Wei Thant Cin	Chief Editor (Aung Pin Lae Magazine & Myanmar Green Network)
2.	U Saw Moe Myint	Advisor (Myanmar Green Network)Kayin Regional Parliament
3.	Dr. Khin Maung Nyo	Writer and Literary Presenter
4.	Dr. Than Htut	Honourable Professor (University of Public Health)
5.	Daw Than Myint Aung	Writer and Yangon Municipal Council Member
6.	Daw Cho Cho Tin	Writer

COMPOSITION SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Sr.No	Name	Position
1.	U Saw Tun Khaing	Executive Director
2.	U Pyae Phyo Aung	General Secretary
3.	U Aung Kyaw Nyunt	Member
4.	U Thaw Phyoe Shwe	Member
5.	Dr.Thiri Dae We Aung	Member
6.	Daw Zun Khine Thin	Member
7.	Daw Nyo Nyo Latt	Member



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