



Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)

Annual Report 2019

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	1
Foreword	2
Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association	3
Major Achievements in 2019	9
Saving Species	11
Saving Sites and Habitat	22
Education, Awareness, Advocacy, Community Development and Empowerment Activities	29
Organizational Capacity Enhancement	36
Membership Status	42
Financial status	43
Annexes	44

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

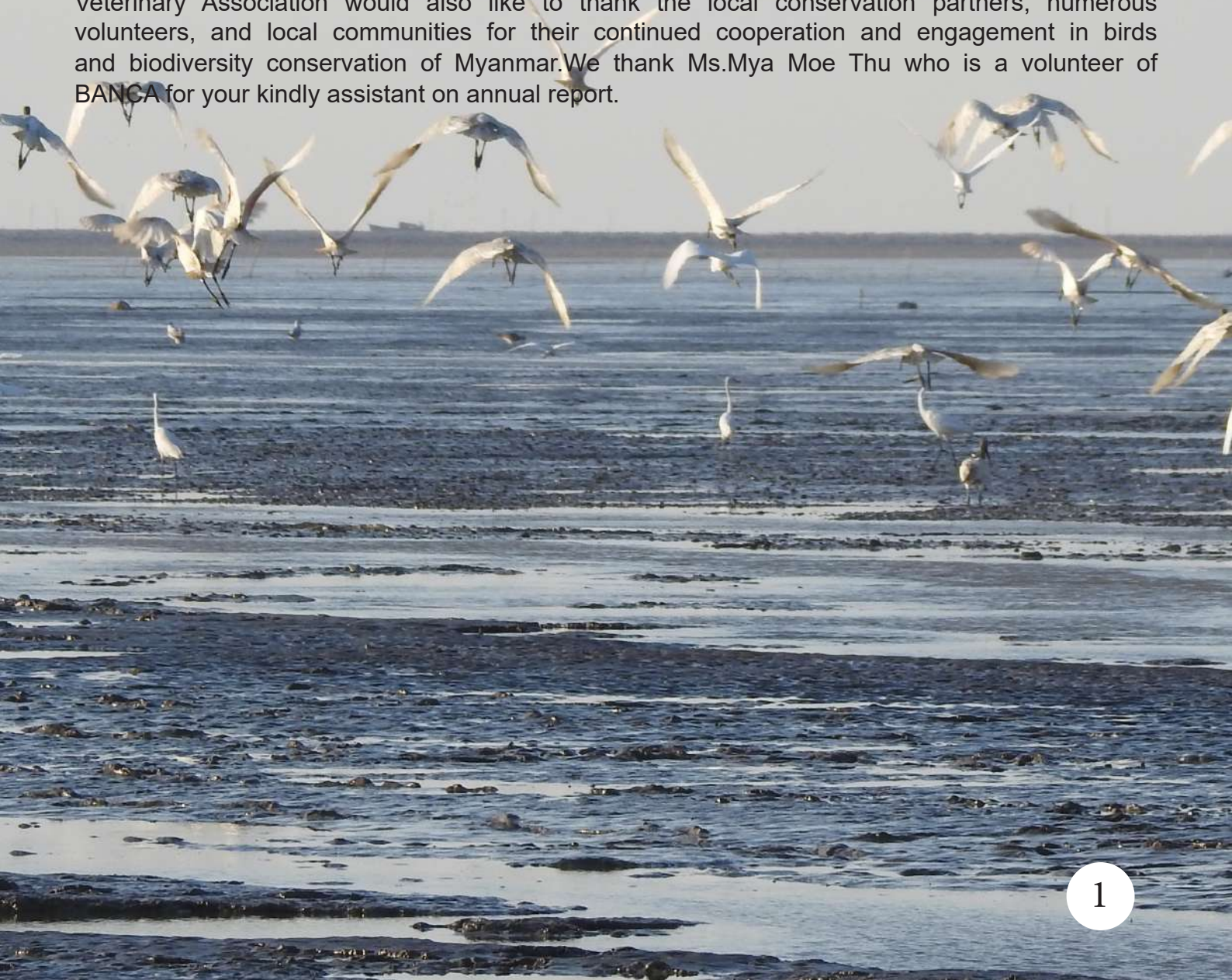
BANCA	Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association	MVWG	Myanmar Vulture Workin Group
BLI	BirdLife International Asia Program	NEA	Norway Environmental Agency
BOG	Board of Governance	NWCD	Nature Wildlife Conservation Division
CBO	Community Based Organization	OBC	Oriental Bird Club
CEPF	Critically Ecosystem Partnership Fund	RBANCA	Rakhine Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association
CR	Critically Endangered	RCJ	Ramsar Center Japan
DU	Dagon University	RT	Rainforest Trust
DOF	Department of Fishery	RSPB	Royal Society for Protection of Birds
EAAFP	East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership	SAVE	Saving Asian Vulture Extinction
ECD	Environmental Conservation Department	SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
EESC	Environmental Education and Sustainable Centre	SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
EN	Endangered	TAGPA	Technical Advisory Group of Protected Area
FD	Forest Department	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
FFI	Flora and Fauna International	VU	Vulnerable
IBA	Important Birds and Biodiversity Area	WAP	World Animal Protection
ICFC	International Conservation Fund for Canada	WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
IUCN	International Union for Conservation Union for Conservation of Nature	W.S	Wildlife Sanctuary
IVS	Institute of Veterinary Science	WWF	World Wildlife Fund
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area	WWT	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
KECNKR	Environmental Conservation Network of Kayan Region	YU	Yangon University
LCG	Local conservation group		
MBNS	Myanmar Bird and Nature Society		
MERN	Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-Conservation Network		
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation		
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture		
MOALI	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation		
MOE	Ministry of Education		
MOEJ	Ministry of Environment Japan		
MONREC	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation		
MU	Mawlamyaine University		

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our deepest appreciation for the continuous support of our valuable Patrons, Advisors and Senior Management Team. We are equally grateful to BirdLife International, Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB), Toyota Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), International Conservation Fund for Canada (ICFC), Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), Norway Environmental Agency (NEA), Critically Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), Oriental Bird Club (OBC), Rainforest Trust and Minnesota Zoo Fund.

We sincerely thank for the support to our conservation works, especially community based organization, Kelatha Forever, Shwe Kan Thayer Nature Conservation Association, Paleik Lover Association, Rakhine Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (RBANCA), Environmental Conservation Network of Kayan Region (ECNKR), Location conservation groups for Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation and Gurney's Pitta conservation groups.

Finally, our deepest appreciation goes to the instrumental organizations, namely, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Nature Wildlife Conservation Division of the Forest Department, Ministry of Livestock, Breeding and Veterinary Department, Ministry of Education, Yangon University, Dagon University, Pakkhoku University, Mawlamyaing University, Sittwe University and Institute of Veterinary Science, Myanmar Veterinary Council and Myanmar Veterinary Association would also like to thank the local conservation partners, numerous volunteers, and local communities for their continued cooperation and engagement in birds and biodiversity conservation of Myanmar. We thank Ms. Mya Moe Thu who is a volunteer of BANCA for your kindly assistant on annual report.



Foreword

This is the third annual report after the organization of Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) was reformed and restructured in 2015 after two pioneering senior leaders were changed. By the request of the remaining young people, U Saw Tun Khaing took charge of the post of Executive Director on 1st September 2015. After serving for 3 years, he left BANCA on account of his family matters thereby shouldering the management in the hands of two young leaders in 2017. To pursue the management of BANCA, the Board of Governors was formed and starting from 1 August 2019, one of the young leaders, Dr.Thiri Dawe Aung was elected as Executive Director of BANCA as a successor.

This annual report reflects the research and development of BANCA during the last 12 months in 2019. The achievements during this period were; the identification of Helmeted Hornbill areas in Southern Myanmar through rapid assessment, strengthened the capacity of biodiversity conservation in Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary, regional situation analysis on the hunting problem of migratory birds in Myanmar, Spoon-billed Sandpiper conservation in Gulf of Mottama and Nanttha Island, Management Plan of Popa Mountain Park, and for the proposed development of Vulture conservation and Yellow-breasted Bunting research for the coming years ahead.

This annual report for 2019 is the outcome of activities rendered by the BANCA guided by the supervision of the Board of Governors of BANCA. Hopefully, the senior management team will cooperate with other line Ministries and Departments, particularly the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) and Wildlife Conservation Division of Forest Department together with international and local NGOs in carrying out the programs of Biodiversity for conserving the rich biological resources of Myanmar.



Dr. Thiri Dae We Aung
Executive Director
BANCA



BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION



Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) is a non-profit, non-political, non-religious, and an environmental NGO 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 1/Local/0141. BANCA strongly believes that conservation programs can be accomplished only if it is backed up with community development. BANCA has 7 members of Board of Governance and 6 members of Senior Management Team. The latter is headed by an the Executive Director of BANCA. The backbone of BANCA is its competent ornithologists along with botanists, foresters, zoologists, social scientists, mammologists, geologists, environmental scientists, marine biologists and herpetologists among others. Since its establishment in 2004,

" BANCA is a fully partnership of BirdLife International is the world's largest nature conservation Partnership in Myanmar. The strength of BANCA is made up of members and the organization that conserve sustainable biodiversity in nature."

BANCA has been in close collaboration with international organizations like BirdLife International Indo-China Program, BirdLife International Asia Program (BLI), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK (RSPB), Instituto Oikos (Italy), Flora and Fauna International (FFI), Arcona Consulting, BBC Wildlife Funds, Darwin Initiative, Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (WWT), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), World Animal Protection, California Davis University, International Conservation Fund of Canada (ICFC), Ramsar Center Japan (RCJ), Norway Environmental Agency, Ministry of Environment Japan, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Oriental Bird Club (OBC).

BANCA also works with Government Ministries like the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI). Myanmar and Ministry of Education. BANCA is also looking forward to seeing more close collaboration with other international scientific organizations and local environmental NGOs.

VISION

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

Teamwork

We believe that by acting unitedly 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 fulfill our vision. All our relationships are based upon mutual respect.

Integrity

We practice as mandated by the strategic themes and are committed to do the right things. 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.

MISSION

“Conservation of nature, primarily biological diversity, through action based on research, advocacy, partnership, network building, education, people’s participation, livelihood development and public awareness”

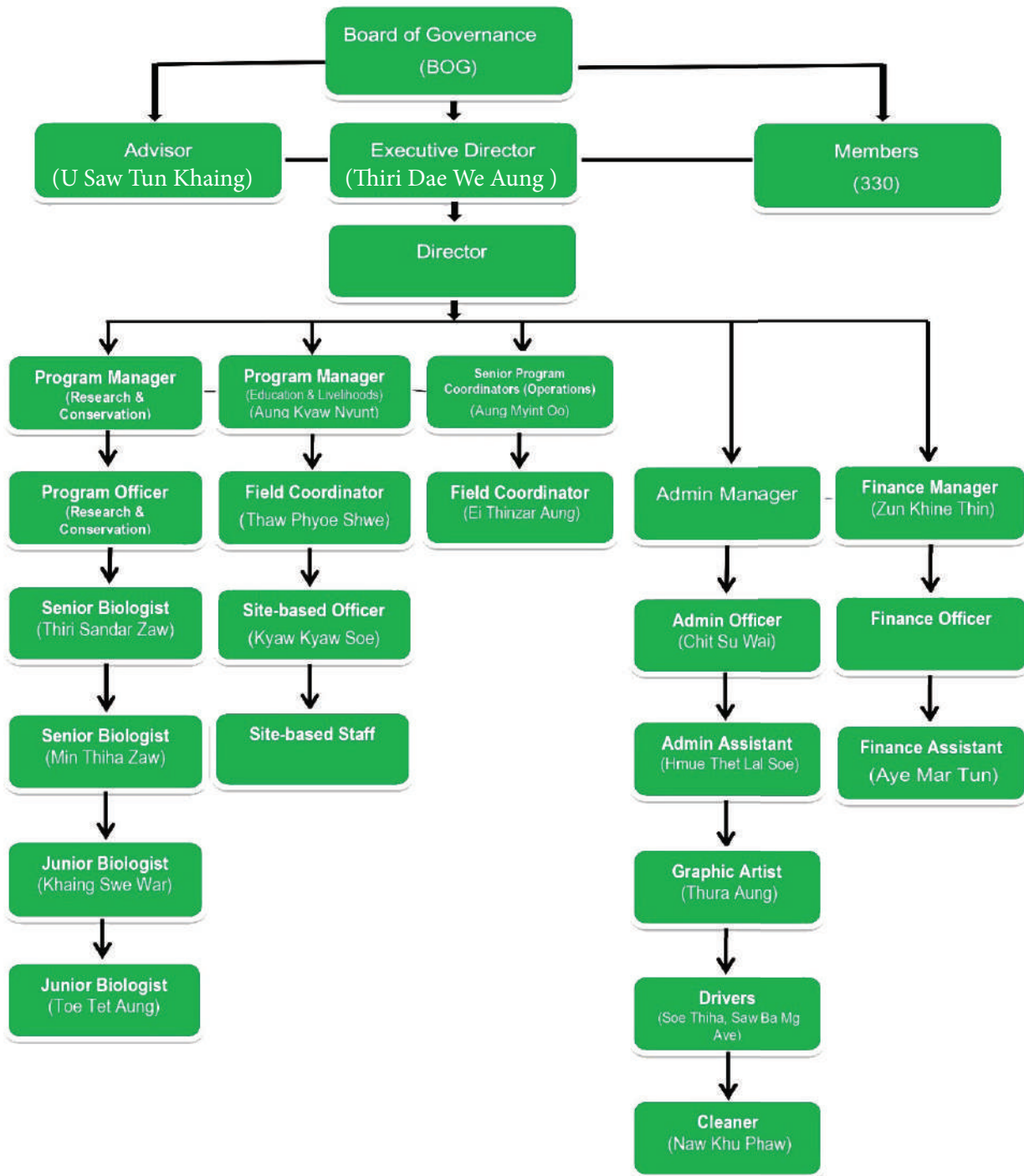
Professional spirit

We value multi-disciplinary teams and utilize 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 endeavors we act in a professional way and strive towards excellence.

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 program successful when there has been a positive, significant and sustainable change. We are focused on achieving results.

Organization Chart



SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



Dr Thiri Dae We Aung (Executive Director)

Dr. Thiri Dae We Aung is an Ornithologist and received Ph.D. (Ornithology) from the University of Yangon in 2010. She Started on research and conservation of bird species as a freelance in Myanmar Bird and Nature Society (MBNS) from 2004 to 2008. She joined as a freelance ornithologist from 2008 to 2012. From 2012 to present, she works for BANCA emphasizing mainly on partnership with BirdLife International. Furthermore, she is a member of the BirdLife International Redlist team as well as IBA/KBA communities. She is one of the executive committee members in Myanmar Bird and Nature Society (MBNS) and Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation Network (MERN). She is a regional representative of South Asia for Baer's Pochard Taskforce and taking a role as a chair of Myanmar Vulture Working Group (MVWG). She is also a member of Fundraising, Advocacy, and Communication Committee (FACC) in the conservation of Asian vulture under the SAVE partner and National Bird Redlist team and Technical Advisory Group of Protected Areas (TAGPA) in Myanmar. She writes articles related to bird and nature conservation in Shwe Phoe Khaung Magazine and Myanmar National Geographic Magazine as well as a member of editor in Shwe Phoe Khaung Magazine.



U Aung Kyaw Nyunt (Program Manager -Education & Livelihoods)

U Aung Kyaw Nyunt received a B.Sc degree in Mathematics from the University of Yangon and started working in the Forest Department. He served as Assistant Park Warden at the Forest 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. Altogether he has 21 years of work experience in wildlife conservation. During his service, he did socioeconomic surveys on the west side of Inle Lake with the help of UNDP in 1991 and in 1992, at Ywa Ngan District, Shan State. He also gave training on using fuel-efficient/stoves in the 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 present, he works for livelihood alternatives and environmental education activities for conservation of Critically Endangered Species "Spoon-billed Sandpiper" and proposal for promotion of Gulf of Mottama as a "Ramsar Site in BANCA.



U Aung Myint Oo (Senior Program Coordinator)

U Aung Myint Oo had joined with BANCA in 2005 as project staff in variety of conservation sectors. He has a lot of experience with the assessment of socio-economic, community forestry in Protected Areas and Biodiversity Hotspot Areas in Myanmar. He also lead Mobile Environmental Awareness Raising Programme and establishment of a Mangrove Nursery, supporting communities' livelihood and mangrove restoration in coastal areas and drawing management plan of Protected Areas in Myanmar. Currently, he is working as Senior Program Coordinator in BANCA playing as leading role in Strengthening the capacity of Community Based Organization in biodiversity conservation and regional situation on the hunting and taking of migratory birds in Myanmar and Safeguarding Nanthar Island for Myanmar's Endangered Shorebirds where located in Rakhine State



U Thaw Phyoe Shwe (Field Coordinator)

U Thaw Phyoe Shwe has a B.Sc (Geology) degree from Mawlamyine University in 2005. From 2014 – 2015, He was engaged in aquarium fish culture in Mawlamyine. He had joined BANCA in April 2014 as Field coordinator in Education And Livelihood section. He has a lot of experience in Education awareness in Mawlamyine Sayta narshin Young group. During the period 2014 to present and Planting project in GOM and YGN region. he is working in raising awareness on species conservation, Ramsar Education and planting project in GOM and Yangon region. He conducted the Eco-socio Biodiversity survey in Kelatha Wildlife Century in Mon state in 2015. He participated in the implementation of Biodiversity Conservation Project in Kayan Region, Wildlife trade and bird hunter project in Central Myanmar and lower Myanmar. He is also a member of the National Land Use Technical Advisory group.



Daw Zun Khine Thin (Finance Manager)

Daw Zun Khine Thin received her B.A (Eco) degree from the University of Economics, Yangon, and Diploma of Accounting (DA) in 2005, Diploma of Business Study (DBS) in 2007, LCCI level I, II & III in 2006 and 2008. She attended training on Mango Financial Management Course (ES1), Mango Successful Grant management (FM8), Project Cycle Management, and QuickBooks Accounting Software. She was working in the Department of Transport from 2000 to 2007, People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF) from 2008 to 2009, and Fauna and Flora International (FFI) from 2009 to 2015. She has 8 years of experience working in INGOs and 5 years in BANCA. She is the head of the finance section. She is responsible for the implementation of the program in line with BANCA's financial policies, ensures that adequate financial controls are in place to maintain propriety and proper accountability of expenditures. She is also responsible for regular monitoring of the organization's funding in order to secure further direction of BANCA's mission and vision.



Daw Chit Su Wai (Admin Officer)

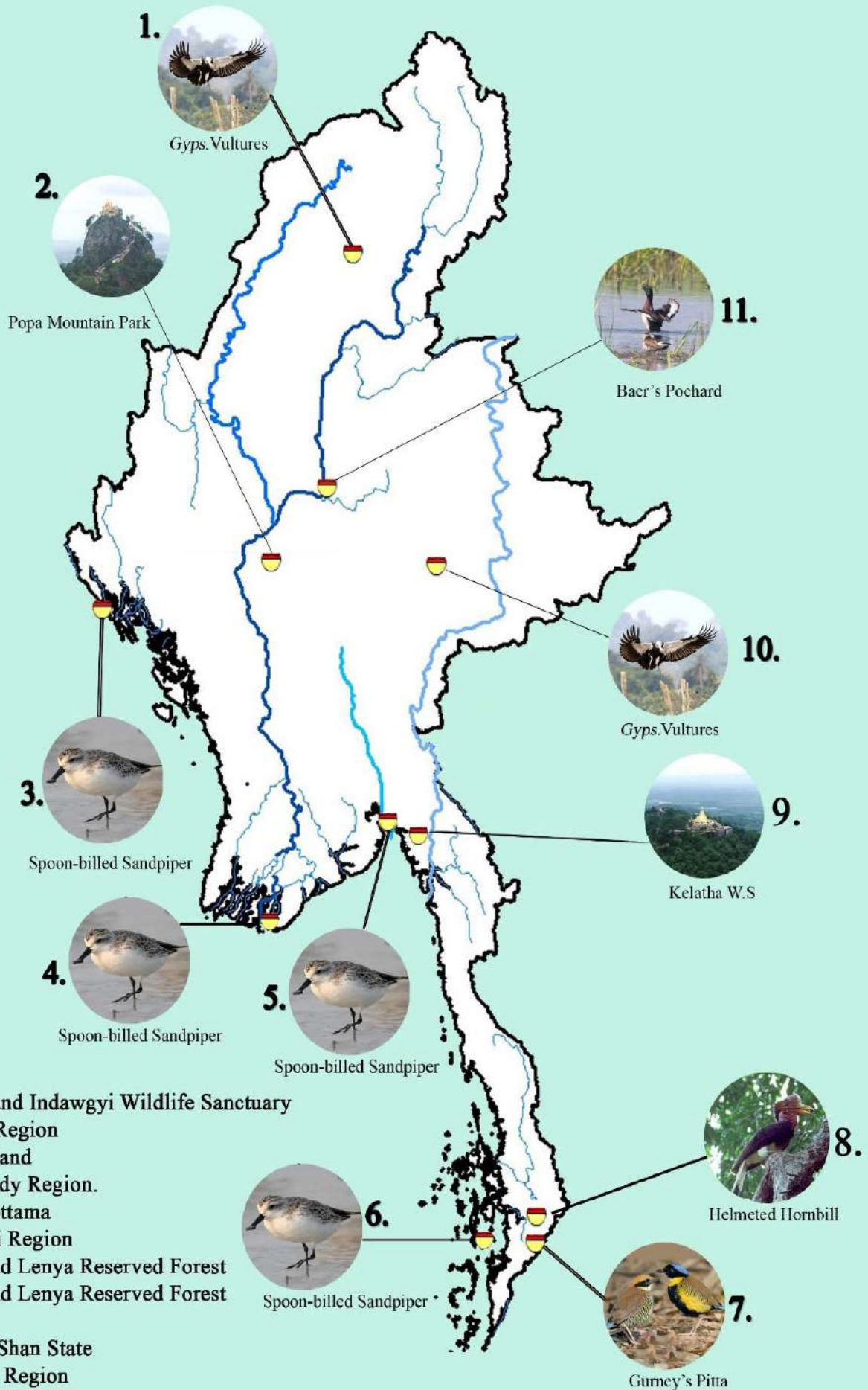
Daw Chit Su Wai received her B.Sc (Zoology) degree from Dagon University in 2015. Before devoting her work fulltime she attended accounting and language classes and then joined BANCA as an admin assistant from 2016 to 2018. During this period, she learned office administration and human resource management. She received a diploma in Human Resource Management in 2018 From 2016 to the present, she works as an admin officer. In this role, she is responsible for administration service, including human resources, logistics, policies, contracts, personal management, training in admin and HR for CBO, fill in to project needs in administration role and support to senior management team.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

- Became a member for establishing of the Mandalay Region Wetland Conservation committee, Mandalay Region.
- Became a member of the national consultant in Land use technical Advisory Group
- Formed the community-based organization for biodiversity conservation of Ahlat coastal area, Paung Township, Mon State
- Initiated the assessment of the effect of toxic drugs (NSAIDs) on vulture in Myanmar
- Formulated the Vulture Conservation Action plan, Myanmar (2019- 2025)
- Institutional strengthening of Kelatha Forever, community-based organization for the conservation of Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Planted a total of 16,640 trees in Mon State, 1,000 trees in Yangon Region, and 1,200 trees in Mandalay Region
- Initiated the formation of Yangon University Bird Watching Club.
- Achieved a stable population of Spoon-billed Sandpiper in the Gulf of Mottama and Nanthar Island, Rakhine due to our active and successful conservation activities
- BANCA initiated conservation work on Nanthar Island and collaborated with the Forest Department in designating it a proposed Marine National Park in October 2019
- Received a donation of Toyota Hilux Double Cab (2.4L Diesel Turbo) for conservation works in Myanmar from Toyota Motor Corporation.
- Became a member of SAVE (Saving Asian Vulture Extinction) partner



BANCA PROJECT SITES 2019



1. In and around Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Mandalay Region
3. Nanthar Island
4. Ayeyarwaddy Region.
5. Gulf of Mottama
6. Tanintharyi Region
7. Ngawun and Lenya Reserved Forest
8. Ngawun and Lenya Reserved Forest
9. Mon State
10. Southern Shan State
11. Mandalay Region



source - Internet



Saving Species



BAER'S POCHARD CONSERVATION

The Study of non-breeding Baer's Pochard in central Myanmar



The avian species migrated along the flyway for finding the best resources for successful breeding, taking advantage of different food sources, and moving to more suitable habitats at different times of the year. Around the world, the migratory bird species migrated along (9) major Flyways. East Asian Australian Flyway is one of the routes that migratory of diving duck species and waterbird species are traveling on an annual basis within the nine major flyways. During the migration, waterbird species rely on a system of highly productive wetlands to rest and feed, building up sufficient energy to fuel the next phase of their journey. One of the diving duck species of the Baer's Pochard is a long-distance migratory species. The Baer's Pochard breeding sites predominantly occur in northern/central China, with breeding at traditional sites in south-east Russia also possible (though unconfirmed in recent years).

Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*) is a Critically Endangered species whose global population underwent a rapid decline (mostly in the 1990s and 2000s) and may now number fewer than 1,000 individuals in the wild. Baer's Pochard survey was carried out in (25) Inland lakes since 2016 January to date. The survey is on monitoring the information on population and distribution of Baer's Pochard and other migratory waterbird species on status and assessment of the facing threats in the Central Myanmar by BANCA. In central Myanmar, Baer's Pochard were recorded at Pyu Lake and Paleik Inn in 2016 by In 2017/18, (BANCA) have collaborated with the Shwe-kan-tharyar Nature Conservation Association on the maintenance of sustainable conservation of the globally threatened species of Baer's Pochard and other migratory waterbird species in Pyu Lake.

The study of Baer's Pochard was conducted in January and March 2019 in a total of (21) wetland sites by BANCA. Besides the study of Baer's Pochard, all resident and migratory waterbirds were also studied. The objectives are actualizing the document on current distribution and threats of Baer's Pochard at wetland areas in central Myanmar, stimulating active public involvement in research and conservation of Baer's Pochard and other migratory waterbird species. In this study, we used the core count method by using telescopes. Furthermore, the information of Baer's Pochard observation was also collected from the Asian Waterbird census of Indawgyi Lake, Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary, and Inle Lake. According to the findings of Baer's Pochard study, a total of four study sites such as Indawgyi Lake (northern Myanmar), Inle Lake (eastern Myanmar), Pyu Lake and Paleik Inn (central Myanmar) were recorded as priority sites for area of Baer's Pochard and also diving ducks species.

IDENTIFICATION OF KEY HELMETED HORNBILL AREAS IN SOUTHERN MYANMAR THROUGH THE COMMUNITIES INTERVIEW AND AN OCCUPANCY ASSESSMENTS

The Critically Endangered Helmeted Hornbill of South-east Asia is a very special and unique bird species. This species is confined to the Sundaic lowlands i.e., from south Tenasserim in Myanmar, peninsular in Thailand, Sabah, Sarawak, and peninsular in Malaysia, Kalimantan, and Sumatra in Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam.

Helmeted Hornbill has tough-sturdy bill, in-built shopping bag to carry supplies in and reduce plastic usage, huge elongated – keratinized, Helmet – like casque, funky spiky hairdo despite having to wear a helmet all the time, extremely long tail, even by hornbill standards.

Helmeted Hornbill are slow breeders, producing just one chick every season and prefer nest cavities with knob-like projections over them. In typical hornbill fashion, the female lock herself up to protect herself and to the family round the clock. Helmeted Hornbill is likely omnivorous but have a preference for strangler figs that are most dispersant in the rainforest. Hornbills are forest farmers because of the seeds that they disperse grew into fruit trees that feed a myriad of organisms including humans, and the forests that they grow this way hold sequester huge amounts of carbon, combating climate change.

Helmeted Hornbill prefers only the largest and tallest trees to make nest. Unfortunately, the trees are of economic value for logging. Furthermore,



Helmeted Hornbill has poached their helmet-like casque, mostly liquid which is used to make carved relics that are the latest status symbols among the Chinese elites. Therefore, Helmeted Hornbill' population is rapidly declining because of the species' habitat loss, heavy hunting, and illegal trade. In 2018, the action plan for Helmeted Hornbill was prepared under the auspices of the Helmeted Hornbill Working Group and was published in August 2018 (Jain et al. 2018).

In Myanmar, Helmeted Hornbill can be found at Sundaic Lowland Forest, in southern Tanintharyi Southern Tanintharyi region have a rich diversity of forest types like Tropical Evergreen forest, Sundial level lowland forest, semi-evergreenforest, mangrove forest, etc., with the extent depending on topography, geological features, and climatic factors. It has a tropical monsoon type of climate and also known as the home for a great diversity of flora and fauna It has national parks: Ngawun Reserve Forest, Lenya Reserve Forest and Lampi Marine National Park. There fore, BANCA carried out an occupancy assessment of Helmeted Hornbill from 3th May to 11th June 2019 in Southern Tanintharyi Region.

The assessment has been done in the area of Ngawun Reserve and Ngawun Extention Forest, Lenya Reserve Forest, Pakchan Reserve Forest, and Htaung Phyu Reserve Forest. The team selected five study sites in those Reserve Forests. The aim of the project' is to identify the key Helmeted Hornbill sites in south Myanmar and assess their feasibility for long-term Helmetd Hornbill conservation. Firstly, we approached by consulting local communities using the semi-structured interviews on their knowledge of the distribution, abundance trend, local use, hunting, and cultural beliefs of Helmeted Hornbills. Using those results, we carried out the occupancy survey to verify the assessment on species occupied in all of the selected reserve forests. During the study of Helmeted Hornbill, we performed a transect survey in 18 transects lines in the morning and 121 points in the evening. The survey team also recorded other Honbill species on the fig trees and other diverse tree species. As a result of the occupancy assessment, we recorded 15 individuals of Helmeted Hornbill in Ngawun Reserve Forest (with extinction) and Lenya Reserve Forest and 194 individuals of the other six Hornbill species. The surveyed team noted that the immediate threats are logging, wildlife hunting especially for monkeys, forest fire by humans, and encroachment of plantations and road construction in the surveyed areas where conservation of the habitat restoration of Helmeted Hornbill is needed.

REGIONAL SITUATION ANALYSIS ON THE HUNTING AND TAKE OFF MIGRATORY BIRDS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (MYANMAR)

Southeast Asia is a globally important hotspot of avian diversity, supporting well over 2,500 bird species. Wild birds are also integral to maintaining the integrity of Southeast Asia's species-rich ecosystem by providing several important ecological services. Myanmar is the second most important country in Southeast Asia for bird diversity, supporting nearly 1,100 bird species. Myanmar is also important for wintering populations of many migratory species in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway including the globally threatened Spoon-billed Sandpiper (CR), Spotted Greenshank (EN), Baer's Pochard (CR), as well as the little known Masked Finfoot (EN) which is widely believed to be a regional migrant. In the broader context of Southeast Asia, Myanmar's wetlands support globally significant congregations of migratory waterbirds, including shorebirds on the coasts and wildfowl in its inland lakes (e.g. Pyu, Inle, Indawgyi). The widespread and poorly regulated hunting and trade in wildlife poses an increasing threat to wild bird populations. BANCA carried out the project on Regional Situation on the hunting of migratory birds in Southeast Asia funded by BirdLife International with the objectives of (1) to develop an assessment and synthesis of wildlife hunting and protected area legislation, and/or wildlife schedules in each South-east Asian country in relation to the migratory birds to identify key legislative and enforcement

gaps (2) to identify the scale of hunting of migratory birds and develop a quantitative assessment of species being hunted, the legal basis of these hunting activities, the magnitude of take involved and priority locations across Southeast Asia (3) to review (existing) monitoring protocols, if any, and develop a standardized methodological guidelines for monitoring illegal hunting of migratory species, which could be used to determine trends over time and across hotspots (4) to develop road-map(s) for subsequent efforts and action plans to tackle illegal hunting and trade at the national and regional level. The project was carried out in Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region, Mon State, Bago Region, Yangon Region, and Rakhine State based on the desktop review on social media and reports. A total of (31) species of (1,557) birds were recorded in the field survey. Among the (31) species, (14) are completely protected species, (13) are normally protected species, and (4) seasonally protected species by existing wildlife law in Myanmar. According to the results, the Mandalay region is the most prevalent in illegal hunting and trading of birds like pet shops and bird selling shops. It is the transit point for trading wildlife in Myanmar and the illegal birds from the Sagaing region and Magway region were transported to Mandalay.

All the findings were shared with Government including Minister from Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Mandalay Region and Forest Department (FD), General Administration Department (GAD), Myanmar Police Force (MPF), Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC), Professors from the Universities and different stakeholders such as LNGO/ INGOs and then discussed conservation of birds through consultation workshops in Mandalay and Mawlamyine. The CEPA program is organized to promote communities' awareness of the existing laws and the conservation status of the birds in Myanmar. Regular patrolling to strengthen law enforcement in collaboration with Government agencies and setting up awareness signboards in public areas should also be done



SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER CONSERVATION IN GULF OF MOTTAMA & NAN THAR ISLAND

The Gulf of Mottama (GoM) is the largest estuary (wetlands) and the fourth Ramsar Site in Myanmar. It is located in the Yangon Region, Bago Region, and Mon State and the border with Sittaung River and Bay of Bengal. It is a funnel-shaped and the area is very wide (250,000ha) and the mudflat

Tailed Tattler (NT) also were recorded in the Gulf of Mottama during the survey. The Gulf of Mottama meets 6 out of 9 Ramsar criteria.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper is a long migratory bird, breeding in Russia. During wintering season it fly 8000 km for wintering to South and

in the wild. In 2010, it was assessed that at the current rate of population decline, this species could become extinct within a decade (Spoon-billed Action Plan, Myanmar).

Survey Activity

Monitoring on the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*) and other shorebirds population have been carried out in the Gulf of Mottama and Nanthar Island by BANCA since BANCA organized 17 international ornithologists (Singapore, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Germany, U.K. and Myanmar) participated by local people for monitoring of migratory shorebirds survey at the Gulf of Mottama from 20th January to 1st February, 2019.

The team recorded 64 species with a population of 136,383 individual waterbirds during the survey. They also recorded 69 individuals of Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*), among them, including 14 individuals with flags. An estimated 112 individual critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*) were recorded during the survey that is based on 137 flocks count of over 36,000 birds that can extrapolate to 62,000 small waders population by using point count method in this area. Small wader population counting is difficult because they are flying up and down on the mudflat; hence the team recorded small wader and other shorebirds at low tide.



area is 75,000ha. It is a special wetland type where the mudflat is always floating habitat type. The depth of the water is 6 to 8 meters at high tide and 3.3 meters at low tide. GoM can support 100,000 to 150,000 population of waterbirds and thousands of households for their livelihood by fishing. Among them, about 50 percent of global population of Spoon-billed Sandpiper population are wintering in the Gulf of Mottama. Moreover, Great Knot (VU), Red Knot (NT), Black-headed Ibis (NT), Eurasian Curlew (NT), Painted Stock (NT), Black-tailed Godwit (NT), Bar-tailed Godwit (NT), Curlew Sandpiper (NT), Red-necked Stint (NT), Asian Dowitcher (NT) and Grey

South East ASIA. Myanmar has four wintering sites which are Gulf of Mottama, Nanthar Island, Ayarwaddy Delta, and Myeik coastal Region. Moreover, one Spoon-billed Sandpiper was recorded at the new site in the southern part of Blue Island mudflat, Mawlamyine township. In comparison, their population is highest in the Gulf of Mottama than all other wintering sites globally and in Myanmar Nanthar Island is the second-highest population wintering sites in Myanmar. This Spoon-billed Sandpiper is classified as globally Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. That is the highest category of extinction threat for any species still present

SMART Patrolling

Since 2008, the regional conservation organization of Rakhine Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (RBNCA) has been implementing Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*) and other shorebirds conservation surveys at Nanthar Island with BANCA. The 20 SBS individual population was recorded which include 2 SBS with flag on the legs.

BANCA carried out not only shorebird conservation but also patrolling on biological resource use in the Gulf of Mottama, especially birds hunting and illegal fishing by using SMART software.

Total patrol coverage area is 359 km on the Gulf of Mottama mudflats where 13 illegal fishing boats and 14 illegal fishing nets in 8 occasions with 88 fishermen observed at the location of Bilin Township were recorded..



***" SAVE THE
VULTURE "***



VULTURE CONSERVATION

Vulture Conservation Meeting
The first national vulture conservation meeting was held on 3 April 2019 at Royal Naypyidaw Hotel, Naypyidaw. The meeting was held to Encourage awareness on the current status of Vultures in Myanmar, sharing the international experience of the conservation of Vulture led by SAVE and Updating the Vulture Conservation Action Plan. Delegates to the workshop included the members of the Myanmar Vulture Working Group, representatives from the relevant government departments such as the General Administration Department and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, and representatives from Myanmar Veterinary Association. The objectives of the workshop were to raise awareness of the current status of vultures in Myanmar; to share the international experience of the conservation of vultures led by SAVE and to update the previous vulture conservation action plan (2007).

VULTURE CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN MYANMAR

This updated Vulture Conservation Action Plan details the planned vulture conservation activities by the Myanmar Vulture Working Group (MVWG, comprising Nature Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD), Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA), Fauna & Flora International (FFI), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Friends of Wildlife (FOW),

Myanmar Birds and Nature Society (MBNS) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)). It is one of the outcomes of the Myanmar Vulture Conservation workshop held at the Royal Naypyitaw Hotel, Naypyitaw on 3rd April 2019. This new action plan states the most likely causes of the recent declines, the main threats to vultures in the wild, now and in the future, and a program of action designed to prevent extinction and remove the causes of endangerment from the environment. There are three resident vultures in Myanmar; White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), Slender-billed Vulture (*G. tenuirostris*), and Red-headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*) all Critically Endangered. In South Asia, the populations of *Gyps* vultures have undergone a dramatic decline as a result of a veterinary medicine (Diclofenac) used to treat domestic cattle.



The principal threat to vulture populations in Myanmar is believed to be a limited food supply as a result of low wild ungulate populations and limited free-roaming domestic cattle.

Other threats such as persecution, loss of nesting habitat, infectious diseases, and the poisoning of food sources appear not to be as significant in Myanmar. However, the emergence of diclofenac into markets in Myanmar is a potentially serious threat. Conservation needs can be divided into two main areas: research and direct conservation interventions. The principal focus for research in population estimation,



investigation of ranging behavior, and location of nesting sites. Priority conservation interventions are to 1) to understand more Diclofenac use in veterinary practice in vulture distribution areas such as Indawgyi in Kachin and Nan San in Shan State and to raise awareness on the dangers of Diclofenac to vultures, 2) to propose first Vulture Safe Zone (VSZ) around Indawgyi Biosphere Reserve in Kachin State and 3) to establish a program for Vulture nesting sites surveys and protection of nesting sites.

Panel Discussion titled in "Wild life" jointly organized by Myanmar Veterinary Association (Head Quarter) and Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) on 27th July,2019 (Saturday) at University of Veterinary, Yezin, Naypyidaw.



Participants of panel discussion on " Wildlife" at the University of Veterinary Science, Naypyidaw



Dr. Thiri Dae We Aung is talking about the Vulture Conservation related with toxic NSAIDs used in cattle species in farmers

YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING CONSERVATION

The Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*) is a passerine bird that was once distributed over vast areas of Europe and South-east Asia, with a range stretching from Finland to Japan. In the 1980s, the magnitude and speed of the decline is unprecedented among birds distributed over such a large area, except for the Passenger Pigeon, which went extinct due to industrial-scale hunting. The Yellow-breasted Bunting is making it easy to trap

Bunting listed as Critically Endangered due to its precipitously shrunk population by (90%) and its range by (5000) sq km.

BANCA has started the conservation of Yellow-breasted Bunting by holding the conservation workshop, visited field trips, and short talks at the Yangon University in February 2019.

Thirty four participants are from Myanmar Organic Grower and Farming Association, Agriculture Department, Yangon, BirdLife International, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Ministry of Environment from Cambodia, Münster University, Russia, Yangon and Mandalay University, MBNS, WCS, FFI, FOW, BANCA, and social media group discussed and participated in the meeting on



Male of Yellow-breasted Bunting in breeding season

traditionally in large numbers for food using nets because these bird species gather root within huge at night-time during migration and in wintering grounds. The consumption as food of these birds has increased as a result of economic growth and prosperity in South-east Asia and disappeared from Finland and last recorded in 2007. Yellow-breasted

Conservation meeting

BANCA held a conservation meeting on Yellow-breasted Bunting (*Emberiza aureola*) on 26th February 2019 at SAGAWA meeting hall, Yangon, Myanmar. This meeting's objectives are to update the species distribution, awareness-raising on population reduction of YbB and other small migratory land birds,

conservation of Yellow-breasted Bunting in Myanmar. As a result, we recorded the priorities sites and research strategies, Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness strategies, and Law enforcement and management strategies of Yellow-breasted Bunting in Myanmar.

FIELD VISIT TO WA-KE-MA TOWNSHIP, AYEYARWADDY REGION

On 27th February 2019, BANCA organized a site visit trip at Tet-seik village and Kyone-ka-pyin village, Wa-ke-ma Township, Shwe-laung district, Ayeyarwaddy Region for checking the Yellow-breasted Bunting and other bird species with international non-governmental organization and local non-governmental organization. We recorded Yellow-breasted Bunting and other seventy-four bird species at the site visit trip.

SHORT TALKS ABOUT BIRD CONSERVATION IN YANGON UNIVERSITY

On 28th February 2019, BANCA and International organization collaborated with the Zoological Department at Yangon University made an education talk on conservation of Yellow-breasted Bunting and other land migratory bird species in Myanmar and overseas. About two hundred University teachers, final year and masters students participated and discussed on the conservation of Yellow-breasted Bunting and Avian species in nature.




Yangon University students and teachers in a talk on Yellow-breasted Bunting conservation globally at the Yangon University

SAVING SITES AND HABITAT

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN KELATHA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Kelatha Forever is a small civil society organization and has no policies or management system. There is a lack of awareness among Kelatha Forever's members, as well as weakness in publicity and training. Most members joined BANCA for job opportunities such as a case study of ecosystem services rendered by Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary for the local communities and establishment of Environmental Educational and Sustainability Center in Thein Ngu village, Belin township, Mon State. Civil society organizations are playing an increasingly significant role in biodiversity conservation in Myanmar, but their influence is constrained by the availability of skilled staff who can advocate the protection of globally important species and sites in the country. The provision of training and hands-on experience of working on conservation projects, with guidance and support from experts, is critical in developing the capacity of these organizations. BANCA contributed to the capacity building of Kelatha Forever through strategic planning, institutional strengthening, and human resource development.

The project was conducted with the objectives of developing the capacity of the Kelatha Forever Civil Society Organization, in community outreach and monitoring of conservation measures in Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary. An integral part of the project will be raising awareness of the local communities regarding the value of ecosystem services that the Sanctuary provides them. Specific protection measures by the local people will be encouraged for the endemic plant species Thaw ka-gyi (*Amhersta nobilis*) or "Pride of Burma", which can only be found in the wild in the Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary. A comprehensive survey of the population and distribution of this plant species will be carried out within the area of the Wildlife Sanctuary during the project period. Trainings of financial management and office management were done 2 times with 2 staff of Kelatha Forever in April and August 2019 at the Environmental Education and Sustainability Centre, located in Belin Township, Mon State. The capacity building training and bird watching training for Kelatha Forever, local community, and students through 2 knowledge-sharing activities on biodiversity conservation to strengthen their the conservation mindset of the local community and students and sustain and manage the Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary by future generations.

An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. In the center-left, a prominent golden pagoda with a tiered, conical spire sits atop a small, elevated platform. The pagoda's surface is highly reflective, appearing bright yellow-gold. The surrounding forest is thick and vibrant green, extending to the horizon under a slightly overcast sky. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

**kelatha
Wildlife
Sanctuary
and
Pagoda**



Given on the conservation of nature and bird species in a school, near Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary



A student discussing about the conservation of nature and bird in a school, near Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary

Thawka-gyi tree species survey in a tropical evergreen forest at the Kelatha Hill and its environs, within the Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary, was done. U Kyaw Sunn who is a plant taxonomist consultant surveyed with a member of Kelatha Forever who is living near Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary. They recorded a total of (22) Thawka-gyi trees in the area of Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary.

BANCA conducted Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the project for two times, one in June and another in December 2019. The M&E is was focused on Strategic Action Planning and Programme Management, Human Resource and Development, and Financial Management. BANCA and members of Kelatha Forever also consulted in on preparation of the strategic action plan, financial policy, administrative policy, and human resources policy.



**Thawka-gyi
Queen of the flowering trees**

POPA VOLCANIC PLUG (OASIS OF DRYZONE)



MANAGEMENT PLAN OF POPA MOUNTAIN PARK

Popa Mountain Park (PMP), with (4,981) feet above sea level is situated in the center of Myanmar in the tropical region in Kyaukpadaung Township, Nyaung Oo District, Mandalay Region. It is one of the Protected Areas in Myanmar that was established in 1989 with a region of important geological features and traditionally importance, not only for the biodiversity therein but also to support the local communities. Hence, it is necessary to properly manage Popa Mountain Park, as there is excessive reliance on the park as well as external pressures on the park. To conserve and sustain important Myanmar National Treasures such as PMP, the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Department under the Forest Department, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has planned for the development of a Management Plan to fill up the most needed sector for the conservation of Myanmar Protected Areas by funding provided from Norway Environmental Agency (NEA).

PMP staff drew up the PMP Management Plan with technical assistance from (BANCA) for the development of the Management Plan for the 5 years (2018-19 to 2022-23) with the objectives of (1) To protect and restore key species including Pharyn's langur, habitat and ecosystem, (2) To cooperate with Park staff and local communities in Park management operations by separating Core Zone and Buffer Zone, (3) To monitor regularly for the biodiversity of targeted wildlife species and habitats, (4) To enhance the participation of local communities by enhancing their economic status, (5) To be a public awareness section for imparting biodiversity conservation knowledge (6) To enhance general management of PMP.

As for biodiversity Survey, there were (111) birds species under (42) families, (30) herpetofauna species including (*Cyrtodactylus peguensis*) and (*Ptychozoon popaense*)

which were recorded as a new species to science, (25) mammal species belonging to six orders and (13) families, (97) flora species belonging to the (86) genera and (51) families were recorded. Popa Mountain Park is looked upon as an Oasis of Central Myanmar. It is the Protected Area where the tropical ecosystems of Myanmar, its biodiversity, and important species are conserved and protected. Moreover, Popa Mountain Park is the main source of water for (44) nearby villages as well as the city dwellers of Kyaukpadaung. Thousands of people rely on the resources of the Park for their basic needs. The Park also provides valuable ecosystem services for the stability of the socioeconomic development of local communities. Therefore, the conservation of natural resources in Popa Mountain Park is very important on supporting the ecosystem services to local communities to develop their livelihood. It is also important to be a Protected area manage both by governments, and local communities.



Conservation of Coastal wetland (Nanthar Island and May Yu Estuary) in Rakhine State for the conservation of migratory shore bird and other marine species

Nanthar Island and May Yu Estuary is one of the EAAFP flyway network sites in Myanmar. It is located between Sittwe and Yathae Taung townships, Rakhine State. The area boundary is 3,608 ha (1991.76 Ac) located at the May Yu River mouth and Bay of Bengal. Nanthar Island and May Yu Estuary is an important area for both migratory and resident bird species as well as the sea turtle spp and Irrawaddy Dolphin'. It provides food supplies and habitat areas and riverine ecosystem services to local people of seven villages. The Forest Department announced to the public that Nanthar Island is a proposed Marine National Park where it is extended 3 nautical miles from the former EAAFP flyway network site on 1st October, 2019. The total area is 9,299.47 hectares (22979 Ac). The purpose is to sustain the proper use of water resources for local people. BANCA collaborated in the consultation stakeholder meeting with the relevant government authorities, Community Based Organization (CBO) and Local community to designate the Marine National Park of Nanthar Island and May Yu Estuary area on December, 2019. It's partner organization the Local Conservation Group is the Rakhine

Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (RBANCA) which has focused on the community patrolling of bird hunting and sea turtle egg collection at Nanthar Island and May Yu Estuary area. As a waterbird species monitoring results, a total of 35 waterbird species in 2,290 individuals were recorded in the Nanthar island area. Among them, the critically endangered species Spoon-billed Sandpiper was recorded with Yellow flag CU and Light green 27 flag in 21 individuals. Furthermore, the small wader waterbird species Kentish Plover population and Lesser Sand Plover are common.

Rakhine State Forest Department, (BANCA-BirdLife Myanmar) and RBANCA, East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force and BirdLife International have organized the site designation ceremony event at Angu Maw village on the 5th of January 2019. Parliament's members, Forest Department, Fishery Department, General Administrative Department, relative departments, villages heads and Local Conservation Groups members, media and community attended the ceremony.

TREE PLANTING DURING THE RAINY SEASON

BANCA has been carrying out tree planting in the rainy season in cooperation with Forest Department since 2016. This is to prevent coastal bank erosion of coastal areas, and the formation of wind-break tree to protect the village BANCA established a permanent nursery at

Base Station at Thein Ngu village in Bilin Township, Mon State, and carried out training for education awareness of tree conservation. In 2019, tree planting was carried out in Mon State, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region in cooperation with Townships Forest Department, local conservation groups, teachers. and school children.



Planting Areas carried out by BANCA were as follows:

- Kyar Si Aung, Koe Tae Su, Win Ka, Kyan Tine Aung, and Kin villages in Belin Township, Mon State.
- Kant Kaw Kyun, Sakan Gyi Village Tract in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region.
- Pyu Kan Village, Tada Oo Township, Mandalay Region.

A total of (8,000) seedlings from the Forest Department in Kyeikhto and Bilin Townships, Mon State, (8,460) seedling from BANCA's nursery, (1,000) seedlings from Forest Department, Hlegu Township and (1,200) seedlings from the Forest Department, Tada Oo Township, and Mandalay Region were distributed to villages for planting. Most of the tree species planted were mangium sha, Mahogany and Mezali.

CONSERVATION OF CENTRAL WETLANDS THROUGH MANDALAY REGIONAL WETLAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The fundamental natural resource is inland wetlands which are part of the natural heritage and play a role in the economy of the country. In particular, the Dry Zone, especially in Mandalay/ Sagaing Region, is home to some of Myanmar's most important wetlands in the Ayeyarwady Basin. It provides the habitats for a rich diversity of threatened wetland bird species, such as the critically endangered Baer's pochard. Its population has declined rapidly in the last 20 years; its IUCN Red list status dropped rapidly from near threatened to critically endangered, with the proposed project sites holding Myanmar's last wintering population. These wetlands also provide critical ecosystem services for the livelihoods of some of the poorest people in the dry zone.

Since 2016, BANCA has carried out intensive migratory waterbird surveys at 22 inland wetlands throughout the Myanmar's dry zone.

Some of these wetlands play a very important role for the conservation of globally threatened species, a critical role for significant Australasian flyway bird populations, and critical ecosystem services, in particular for the livelihoods of the poor local populations. As a result, BANCA discovered at least 12 Critically Endangered Baer's Pochard at Pyu Lakes and two individuals in Paleik Lakes. Internationally important numbers, i.e. exceeding 1% of the flyway population estimate considering a global population of 150 to 700 individuals (IUCN 2018) were recorded for Baer's Pochard. Pyu Lake and Paliek is re-confirming Myanmar's dry zone as the second most critical wintering site besides Southern China.

Mandalay Forest Department initiated the formation of Mandalay Regional Wetlands Conservation Committee, chaired by Minister of MONREC and the Director of Forest Department as Secretary

Organizations such as Fishery Department, Agriculture Department, General Administration Department, Myanmar Police Force, Mandalay City Development Committee, Irrigation Department, Land Records, Environmental Conservation Department, and WCS, IUCN, BANCA, and MBNS also collaborated to conserve both resident and migratory waterbird species and wetlands ecosystem services of Pyu Lake, Paleik Inn, Taung-tha-man Inn, and Sone-ye Inn as well as the sustainable wise use of wetland and conservation in central Myanmar.

Therefore, BANCA participated in the wetland conservation meeting organized by Mandalay Region Wetland Conservation Committee to highlight the important wetlands to protect Baer's Pochard and other migratory birds species in the central Myanmar. Besides, the reporting of monitoring on the situation of Baer's Pochard and migratory waterbird species, and its conservation measures were submitted to this committee



EDUCATION, AWARENESS, ADVOCACY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT ACTIVITIES

World Migratory Bird Day 2019 Event

WMBD is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. It has a global outreach and is an effective tool to help raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them. The 2019 theme of World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is "Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution", to put the spotlight on the impact of plastic pollution on migratory birds and their habitats, WMBD is celebrated twice a year, on the Second Saturday in May and in October

With the funding support from EAAFP, BANCA celebrated WMBD Event twice a year in 2019; in May at the Environmental Education Centre (EESC), located in Theinngu village, Belin Township, Mon State (Gulf of Mottama) and in October at Pyin Pone Gyi High School, Bago Region near Moe Yun Gyi Wildlife Sanctuary. The events were celebrated to reduce plastic pollution on the impact of migratory birds and their habitats, to promote community awareness about the threats faced by not only migratory birds but also other wildlife, the importance of migratory birds and significant information of Ramsar Sites; Gulf of Mottama and Moe Yun Gyi Wildlife Sanctuary.



Students and BANCA team in World Migratory Bird Day in , Bago Region

In the events, the participants involved were from State governments such as the General Administration Department, Forest Department, Environmental Conservation Department and Department of Fishery, Local Conservation Groups (LCG), local communities and school children. The event began with the objectives of the World Migratory Bird Day event, and its theme for 2019. BANCA gave awareness talks about the Importance of migratory birds and their habitats of wetlands, the impacts of plastic on migratory birds and other wildlife, and distributed educational materials to the participants. After the presentations, BANCA shared video presentations to participants to be more knowledgeable about plastic pollution and the purpose and benefits of nature

conservation. Playing game activities such as Spoon-billed counting games, the importance of wetlands games, and matching migratory bird species were also included for students in that event. The students enjoyed playing these games very much and the prizes were also given to the winners. One of the purposes of the WMBD 2019 event was cleaning in wetland habitats. Participants cleaned plastic bags along the coastal area of the Gulf of Mottama and on and off the school campus. All participants involved enjoyed the plastic cleanup activity after they understood the threats of plastic pollution to migratory birds and other wildlife.



Students and BANCA team in World Migratory Bird Day in , Bago Region

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY 2019 EVENT IN MON STATE AND AYEYARWADDY REGION

BANCA celebrated “World Wildlife Day” Ceremony on 3rd May 2019. This event was held at the Basic Education High School in Kin-on-chaung village, Kyeik-hto Township, Mon State. A total of 140 students including 30 teachers and 20 persons from relevant government departments participated at this event. The purpose of the ceremony is to share the knowledge on environmental conservation both wildlife conservation and reduction of the wildlife trade at Kyeik-htee-yoe, Golden Mountain Pagoda as well as the wildlife conservation program. At the event, BANCA education awareness staffs collaborated with the department of Kyeik-htee-yoe wildlife sanctuary to perform



the conservation activities on World Wildlife Day and to distribute pamphlets and vinyl on environment and wildlife conservation to audiences. Besides,

BANCA made participatory conservation activities such as game program, painting, and launch a program on wildlife conservation and nature to students and teachers.



EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITION ON NATURE CONSERVATION IN KAYAN REGION

BANCA and Environmental Conservation Network of Kayan Region (KCNKR) collaborated Biodiversity and Nature conservation Gallery display from the 9th to 10th of April 2020 on the 19 th anniversary of Kayah National day at Lewkahte village, Demoso Township, Kayah State. Endemic Species of Myanmar' Biodiversity and Nature conservation activity BANCA and KCNKR collaborated activity, map of conservation location Biodiversity and Nature conservation network at Kayah Region's etc. were displayed in this gallery. The total number of 885 visitors visited the gallery.

The purpose of the exhibition is as follows:

1. To make the local community recognized and value the biodiversity and natural resources that exist in the Kayah Region.
2. To strengthen networks with conservation networks at the Kayah region
3. To conserve the natural resources in the region with community involvement.



BIRD WATCHING TRAINING AT PAKOK-KU UNIVERSITY IN SAGAING REGION

BANCA collaborated with the Wildlife Conservation Society and Zoological Department at Pa-kok-ku University to conduct the bird watching training to the University final year and masters students from 16th to 18th July 2019 at the Pa-kok-ku University campus and its environs. The bird watching train

ing' objectives were to understand the identification and ecology of bird species in nature, to raise interest on the harmony of human being and biodiversity and to conserve the nature and stimulate interest on research activities of Avian Species.



Bird Watching Training at Pakokku University in Sagaing Region



Bird Watching Training at Pakokku University in Sagaing Region

CEPA PROGRAM FOR CONSERVATION OF SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER IN AYEYARWADY REGION AND TANINTHARYI REGION

Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Bogalay Township, at the eastern Ayeyarwady delta region of Myanmar. This site supports for wintering ground for Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper

threatened migratory shore-birds in the world. BANCA has been working towards long-term conservation of critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper, an important migrating shorebird species and their habitats in

The multimedia such as projector and projector screen, soundbox and amplifiers, microphones, laptop, generator, displaying vinyl and posters, distributing hand-outs, video presentation, questions and answers, and



Talk a bout the conservation wildlife species in World Wildlife day in Ayeyarwaddy Region

(*Calidris pymaea*) and the Endangered Nordmann' Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*) and Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*). This Wildlife Santuary was designated as Ramsar site and Flyway Network site in Myanmar.

The mangroves and mudflats areas near Ni Par village in Boke Pyin Township and Thit Yar Wa village in Myeik Township are also crucially important for waterbirds including Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris pymaea*), Endangered Nordmann' Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*) and other warders gulls and terns.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper is a flagship species for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), which has the highest number of globally

Myanmar since 2008. CEPA program was carried out in collaborated with Township Forest Departments in two regions including (8) villages in Bogale Township, (9) villages in Pyapon Township in Ayeyarwady Region and (3) villages in Myein Towship, (2) villages in Kyun Su Township and (8) villages in Boke Pyin Township in Tanintharyi Region in 2019. This program was aimed at promoting awareness and knowledge attitude on the benefits of the importance of the wetlands for human well-being, the wise use of wetlands, and the conservation status of Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Piper and conserving natural resources for Sustainable use.

discussion session for participants were used to get more attention of the participants.



WORLD WILDLIFE DAY 2019 IN AYEYARWADY REGION

World Wildlife Day 2019 Event was celebrated in collaboration with Forest Department, Meinmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary on 3rd, March, 2019 at the Basic School of Shwe Sar Yan Village, Bogale Township, Ayeyarwady Region (nearby Meinmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary). The 2019 theme of World Wildlife Day was “Life Below Water: for People and Planet”. The event was celebrated to raise awareness about the value of biodiversity and the natural environment and students, teachers and villagers participated.



Talk about the conservation wildlife species in World Wildlife Day in Ayeyarwaddy Region

FLOCK WING BIRD WATCHING

The flock wing activities have been collaborated with all BANCA's members at Yangon Region, from October 2017 to date. The flock wing activity is a teamwork that identifies the bird species and to know the ecology of bird species in nature. The purpose of the flock wing activity is birds watching training to BANCA's members and interested parties, for promoting the environmental conservation knowledge, and meet all BANCA's members on a weekend day in the last week of the month except in the rainy season. The flock wing activity was always carried out in public areas such as parks, gardens and lakes etc. The announcement of the flock wing

activity place can be seen in BANCA's Facebook page one week ahead. Last year, flock wing activity was carried out in Yangon Region from November 2018 to March 2019. There were 5 sites of flock wing activity namely, National Race village, Mya Kyun Thar Park, Hlaw Ga Park, Kandawgyi Garden, and Hlaw Ga Reservoir. The first flock wing activity was carried out in National Race Village on 25th November, 2018. 18 participants participated and the birding team recorded 23 families and 37 species within 7:00 AM to 11:30 AM. The second flock wing activity was carried out in Hlawga Park with 13 participants on 30th December, 2018.

The birding team recorded 18 families and 42 species within 6:30 AM to 11:30 AM. The third flock wing activity was carried out in Kan Daw Gyi Nature Park with 9 participants on 27th January, 2019. The birding team recorded 17 families and 21 species within 7:00 AM to 9:30 AM. The fourth activity of flock wing activity was carried out in Hlaw Ga Park on 24th February, 2019. The birding team has 6 participants and they recorded 17 families and 34 species within 6:30 AM to 9:20 AM. The fifth of the flock wing activity was carried out in Hlawgar Reservoir with 3 participants on 30th March, 2019. The birding team recorded 16 families and 24 species within 6:30 AM to 10:00 AM.



The flock wing activity is birds watching training



The flock wing activity is birds watching training



The flock wing activity is birds watching training

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT

STAFF CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL

Ms. Ei Thinzar Aung participated in Environmental Education Network Workshop in Malaysia from 21st to 25th February, 2019. This workshop was aimed at exchanging experiences on Environmental Education between BirdLife Asia Partners.



Environmental Education Network workshop in Malaysia

Mr. Min Thiha Zaw and **Mr. Thaw Phyo Shwe** also participated in the International Symposium on the Conservation of the Coastal Wetlands of the Bay of Bengal, Dhaka Bangladesh, March 2019.



International Symposium on the Conservation of the Coastal Wetlands of the Bay of Bengal, Dhaka Bangladesh

Dr. Thiri Dae We Aung was involved in the “Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Indo-Burma Phase II Final Assessment Workshop from 28-30 May 2019, Siem Reap, Cambodia.



Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Indo-Burma Phase II Final Assessment Workshop in Siem Reap, Cambodia

Dr. Thiri Dae We Aung and **Ms. Ei Thinzar Aung** participated in “Sustainable Forest Management Regional Workshop in Nepal” 3rd to 4th, December, 2019. The workshop was supported for regional knowledge sharing by bringing together regional BirdLife Partners and forest management and conservation stakeholders to discuss and share experiences on participatory and sustainable forest management with the goal to document best practices, approaches and pitfalls. 3rd to 4th, December, 2019



Sustainable Forest Management Regional Workshop in Nepal

Ms. Thiri Sandar Zaw

also participated on “Behavioural Ecology and Wildlife Survey Design Training” at the King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT) School of Bioresources & Technology in Thailand from 10th to 23rd February 2019. The behavioral ecology is to study the evolutionary relationship between an animal behavior both its environment and socioecology can be viewed as the component of behavioral ecology that explores the effect of the environment of behavioral evolution. The wildlife survey design training is to design the survey methodology for research and conservation activities.



Behavioral Ecology Training in King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT)

Ms. Thiri Sandar Zaw attended the “Regional Bird Photography Contest and Ecotourism Forum” at Baoshan City, Yunnan, China from 17 to 24 December 2019. This contest and ecotourism forum’s objectives are to promote the regional learning in using bird watching and photography tourism for sustainable community development and to exchange with the delegates and collaborate with the members of the networks on engaging science, policy, and practice to promote wildlife-based ecotourism development.



Regional Bird Photography Contest and Ecotourism Forum at Baoshan City, Yunnan, China

Dr. Thiri Dae We Aung participated in the 9th Annual meeting of Saving Asia’s Vultures from Extinction (SAVE) meeting at Timber Trail Resort, Parwanoo, India from 4-6 November 2019



9th Annual meeting of Saving Asia’s Vultures from Extinction (SAVE) meeting at Timber Trail Resort, Parwanoo India



Talk on Vulture conservation in Myanmar in 9th Annual meeting of SAVE meeting in India



Field work for the Yellow-breasted Bunting in Ayeyarwaddy Region

STAFF CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT (IN-COUNTRY)

WORKSHOP AND MEETING

The National Workshop on Development of a REDD+ Safeguards Information System in Myanmar

Ms. Ei Thinzar Aung attended “The National Workshop on Development of a REDD+ Safeguards Information System in Myanmar, from 29th to 30th January 2019”. In this workshop, discussions were made on the results of the assessment of information systems and sources relevant to the SIS

Yellow-breasted Bunting Meeting

Dr. Thiri Dawei Aung, Ms. Thiri Sandar Zaw, Mr. Min Thiha Zaw, and BANCA team organized a meeting on Conservation of Yellow-breasted Bunting at in Yangon, in February 2019.

IWT Action Plan Workshop

Mr. Thaw Phyo Shwe attended the IWT Action Plan Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw on 3rd March 2019.

The launch of the report "Larger than Tigers"

Ms. Ei Thinzar Aung and Ms. Khaing Swe War joined in the launch of larger than tiger

a presentation on the report by Wildlife Conservation Society, followed by a panel discussion on the current state of wildlife protection and biodiversity in Myanmar by representatives of the government, civil society, private sector and the expert community on 5 March 2019.

Vulture Conservation Meeting

Dr. Thiri Dawei Aung, Ms. Thiri Sandar Zaw, Ms. Ei Thinzar and BANCA team organized a Conservation Meeting and Workshop on Vulture Conservation in Myanmar at Nay Pyi Taw on April 2019.

CBPA Rules and ICCA Workshops

Dr. Thiri Dae We Aung joined the CBPA Rules and ICCA Workshops, in October and Ms. Ei Thinzar Aung again joined in the “CBPA Rules and ICCA Workshops, on 17 and 18 July 2019”.

The workshop aims to consult on Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area Rules (CBPA) recommended by Union Attorney General Office (UAOG) and Indigenous Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs)/ Community Protected Areas (CPAs).

IWT Action Plan Framework Meeting

Ms. Khaing Swe War participated in the illegal Wildlife Trade Working Group for IWT Action Plan Framework Meeting at Yangon on 25 July 2019.M

MEITI Meeting

Mr. Toe Tet Aung attended the Myanmar Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Meeting in Sule Shangri-La Hotel on 11 July 2019.

Workshop on National Redlist Assessment of Threatened species

Dr. Thiri Dawei Aung and Ms. Thiri Sandar Zaw participated in the “National Red List Assessment of Avian Threatened Species” at Amara Hotel Nay-pyi-taw on 5-8 August 2019. The workshop aims to establish a baseline to monitor the change of species status, provide a global context for the establishment of conservation priorities at the local level, and to indicate the species status to cover all the major ecosystems of the world.

Identifying the Priorities for Wetlands Conservation in Central Dry Zone

Dr. Thiri Dawei Aung and Ms. Thiri Sandar Zaw participated in the workshop on “Identifying the priorities for Wetlands Conservation in central Myanmar on 24th August 2019. This workshop’ objectives are to know the current status of migratory waterbirds species, identify and conserve the priority wetlands sites in central Myanmar.

IWT Working Group Meeting

Mr. Thaw Phyo Shwe attended the IWT working Group Meeting in WWF office on 30 August 2019.

Draft Policy Framework and Associated Guidelines Meeting

Mr. Toe Tet Aung attended the Myanmar Draft Policy Framework and Associated Guidelines for Implementing the Nagoya Protocol in Hilton Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw on 18-19 September 2019.

The Consultation Workshop on Promoting Biodiversity Conservation in Trans-boundary Areas

Ms. Thiri Sandar Zaw participated in the consultation workshop on “Promoting the Biodiversity Conservation in Trans-boundary Areas” at FRI, in Yezin in September 2019. This workshop is to consult for promoting biodiversity conservation in Tanintharyi Trans-boundary.

IWT Action Plan Workshop

Ms. Khaing Swe War attended the Consultation on workshop for Illegal Wildlife Trade Action Plan in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 October 2019.

Community-Based Conservation Practices and Policies International Symposium

Ms. Ei Thinzar Aung attended the “Community-Based Conservation Practices and Policies International Symposium” in Nay Pyi Taw on 4-5 November 2019. The objectives of this workshop are: Increase Myanmar and international communication on community-based conservation and development works, Promote the implementation of community-based conservation and development approach in combating illegal poaching/wildlife trade. Introduce Myanmar Biodiversity Fund(MBF) and how it may support CBC efforts in Myanmar, Promote the established policy in Myanmar.

National Red Lists of Species and Ecosystem

Ms.Thiri Sandar Zaw attended a workshop on identifying the Key Biodiversity Area-Using Threats Data on National Red Lists of Species and Ecosystem in Myanmar at Nay Pyi Taw Township on 11-12 December 2019.

IWT Task Force Working Group RoundTable Meeting

Mr. Thaw Phyoe Shwe and Ms. Khaing Swe War attended IWT Task Force Working Group Round Table Meeting in at Nay Pyi Taw on 13 December 2019.

Nagoya Protocol

Mr. Thaw Phyoe Shwe participated in Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Advising from their Utilization in Sedona Hotel, Yangon on 16 December 2019.

Identifying the Key Biodiversity Area Workshop

Dr. Thiri Dawei Aung and Ms. Thiri Sandar Zaw participated in the workshop on “Identifying the Key Biodiversity Area: Using Threats Data on National Red Lists of Species and Ecosystem” in Myanmar at Amara Hotel at Nay-Pyi-Taw on 11th -12th – December 2019. This workshop’s aim is – to identify the criteria, to review those KBAs, and scope out other potential KBA sites, to reduce and evaluate the sites that might trigger the latest criteria and to form a new protected area in the future.



STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING

Bird Ringing Training at Indagyi Wildlife Sanctuary in Moe-yin Township, Kachin State

Ms. Thiri Sandar Zaw joined the “Bird Ringing Training” at Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary in Moe-yin Township, Kachin State from 19-26 – April 2019. This training’ objectives are to contribute to the important function of basic avian science, particularly studies of behavior, breeding, molt, condition, and taxonomy, to build on bird ringing practices and to understand the population changes by monitoring the survival rates and bird movements

SMART Training:

Mr. Minn Thiha Zaw joined the “Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool” Technical Training Manual for SMART in Moe Yun Gyi Wildlife Sanctuary, from 23 to 27 April 2019.

Forest Integrated Assessment Tool Training

Mr. Toe Tet Aung attended 3 days training on the forest Integrated Assessment Tool (FIAT) Training in Inya Lake Hotel from 1-2 August 2019 and participated in the Field Trip in Hlaw Ga Park on 31 July 2019.

R Training

All program staff joined 2 days of training of on occupancy method design with “R” software in BANCA in August 2019.

The Corridor Map-athon Training

Ms. Thiri Sandar Zaw and Ms. Khaing Swe War attended The Corridor Map-athon Training in Nay pyi Taw on 26th to 30th – August 2019.

Adobe Photoshop Training

All program staff and office staff joined 3 days training of using “Adobe Photoshop Training” from 23-25 September 2019.

World Environment Day

U Thaw Phyo Shwe attended the “World Environment Day Ceremony” in Diamond Jubilee Hall, Yangon University on 5 June 2019.

World Ozone Day 2019

Ms. Khaing Swe War joined the “World Ozone Day” in Yangon on 16 September 2019. The purpose of the 2019 Ozone theme had two connotations that our work of protecting the ozone layer also protects the climate and that the Montreal Protocol is a “cool” treaty as exemplified by its outstanding success.



CAPABILITY SELF-ASSESSMENT 2019

1. Strategic Planning & Program Management

We have an outcome-focused strategic direction, set out in a plan which reflects our vision, mission, and values and needs of our communities, this in turn guides the development of programs and projects that deliver tangible results for our communities.



2. Human Resource and Development

We have passionate, committed, well-motivated, and skilled staff which enables us to continue to develop our ability to deliver outcomes for people using our services and for our communities.



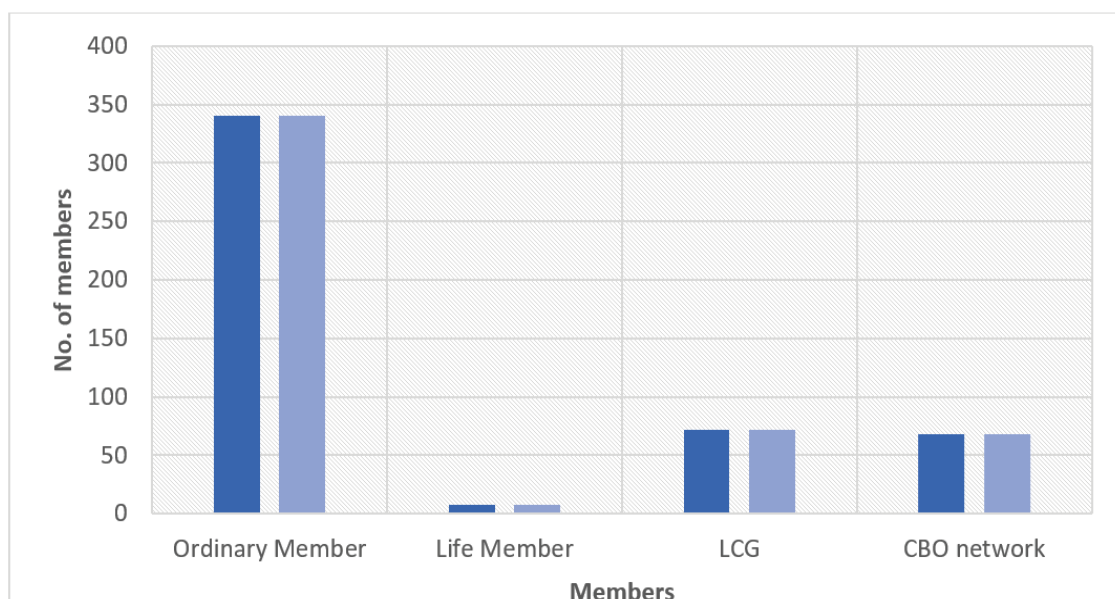
3. Financial Management and Sustainability

We have effective and transparent financial systems and processes to maintain the financial viability and sustainability required to deliver high-quality results for people and communities.



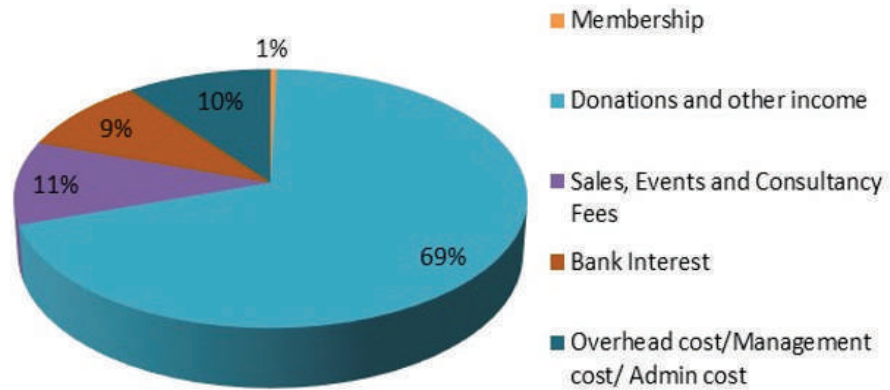
MEMBERSHIP STATUS

BANCA, as a membership-based organization has always urged people from all walks of life to join us as valuable members. This year 8 Life members and 340 ordinary members, 72 numbers of LCG, and 68 numbers of CBO networks joined BANCA. Inclusive of all the categories this year, we have 448 members. Every year new members with their interest in birds and conservation from diverse fields join BANCA. BANCA is a BirdLife International Partner, a global network of over 120 organizations, which makes its members a part of a global movement of bird and biodiversity conservation. The figure below provides membership detail for 2019.

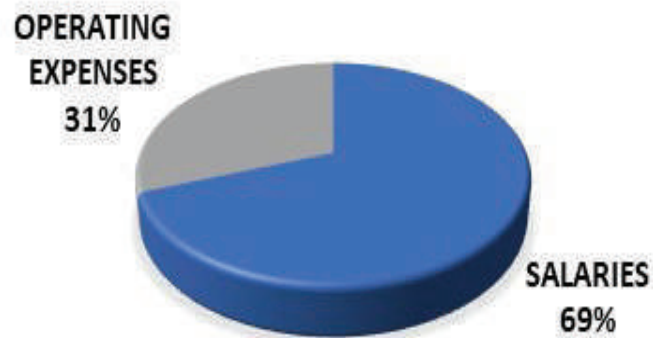


FINANCIAL STATUS

BANCA -Income



BANCA -Expenditure



No.	Period	Income (USD)	Expenditure (USD)
1	2016-2017	354,593	321,590
2	2017-2018	305,845	193,831
3	2018-2019	412,942	299,016

Annexes

Governing Body

Members of Board of Governance

Sr.No	Name	Positions	Representative Organization
1	U Tin Aye	Chairman	Deputy Chairman Myanmar Forestry Association
2	U Saw Win	Treasure	Deputy Director (Retired) Forest Department
3	U Than Myint	Member	Country Coordinator(Retired) Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
4	U Mehm Ko Ko Gyi	Member	Director (Retired) Forest Department
5	Dr. Saw Lwin	Member	Chairperson Myanmar Floristic Association
6	U Myint Swe	Member	Director (Retired) Forest Department
7	Dr. Nay Soe Maung	Member	Director General (Retired) Public Health Division

Sr.No	Name	Positions
1	U Saw Tun Khaing	Advisory

Sr.No	Name	Positions
1	Dr. Thiri Dae We Aung	Executive Director
2	U Aung Kyaw Nyaunt	Program Manager (Education & Livelihoods)
3	U Aung Myint Oo	Senior Program Coordinator
4	Daw Zun Khine Thin	Finance Manager
5	U Thaw Phyoe Shwe	Field Coordinator
6	Daw Chit Su Wai	Admin Officer

Partnerships in 2019

Swiss Agency For Development Cooperation (SDC)



Norway Environmental Agency (NEA)



Critically Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)



TOYOTA Foundation



Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF)



Royal Society For Protection of Bird (RSPB)



International Conservation Funds Canada



California Davis University



Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)



Oriental Bird Club (OBC)



Mohamed binzayed Species Conservation Fund



Rainforest Trust



Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS-Myanmar program)



Minnesota Zoo Fund



Dagon University



Pakhoku University



Yangon University



Yangon University



Mandalay University



Mawlamyung University





Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)

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