



# APPLICATION FORM

Small Grants Fund for Working Groups & Task Forces

*For office use only*

Application received	
Application assessed	

## NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

1. Applications must be reviewed by the relevant EAAFP Working Group or Task Force Chair or coordinator, who will provide a statement of the relative merit of the application against the assessment criteria, prior to submission.
2. Applications will be assessed by at least three members of the EAAFP Management Committee, Technical Committee and/or external referees that are not party to any of the proposals. If the reviewer is affiliated with a proposal, they must recuse themselves from the process.
3. EAAFP Working Group or Task Force are eligible for funding to go towards meetings, research, monitoring, site management, training and CEPA events and materials.
4. Students, with the support of the relevant Working Group or Task Force, are only eligible for funding toward studies being undertaken at a research institution or travel to a conference to present original research.
5. Grants are awarded on the strict understanding that funds will be exempt from institutional administration charges, unless Partner government law so requires.
6. Funds are limited and not all applications may be funded.
7. Applications should be targeted towards EAAFP key species or habitats, regions, or emerging threats or other specified Partnership objectives. All applications should demonstrate how it would contribute to Partnership objectives and the implementation of the Partnership document and Strategic Plan.
8. Applications with in-kind contributions and other matching financial are preferred.
9. The maximum amount annually provided by the Small Grants Fund to an applicant or for a specific project is \$5,000 (USD).
10. Conference attendance will be supported to a maximum of \$1,000 (USD) and is only for task force or working group members delivering their own work as a presentation, paper or poster.
11. Lead investigators are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from government authorities, indigenous communities, ethics committees etc., to undertake approved research or monitoring studies.
12. Successful applicants will be required to provide a short write up of their project outcomes in the EAAFP newsletter and website and to report to the relevant Working Group or Task Force, and are strongly encouraged to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals.

**Call for proposal is on 3 January. Applications close at 5pm (Seoul Time) on 3 February annually. A follow-up application process may be available 6 months later should funds remain. Announcements of funding will be made by 3 March.**



# APPLICATION FORM

Small Grants Fund for Working Groups & Task Forces

For office use only

Application received	
Application assessed	

## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The merit of applications will be judged on the following criteria, with an overall ranking of 1 (highest priority) to 5 (lower priority) scale:

- The novelty and strength of the science employed
- The likely value of the project to migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF
- The alignment of the project with priority Single Species Action Plans or overall Working Group and Task Force objectives
- The alignment of the project with the EAAFP Strategic Plan
- The justification for the grant funds requested relative to the overall budget of the project
- The track record of the lead investigator and the likelihood of the project achieving its objectives
- Leveraging of in-kind contributions and other matching financial

## ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

- Are migratory waterbirds and their habitats the focus of your project? Yes  No
- Will your project improve our understanding of factors important to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF? Yes  No
- Have you previously applied for an EAAFP Small Grants Fund? Yes  No

If yes, provide details of which award you applied for, and if you were successful how much funding you received:

How does this application differ from your previous application?

**Applicants must answer 'yes' to all of the following statements in order to be eligible to apply:**

- The applicant agrees to provide a final report within 3 months of the completion of the project. Yes  No
- The applicant agrees to submit 1 – 2 page article and photographs for inclusion on EAAFP's website and/or write a brief article for the EAAFP's newsletter. Photographers will be acknowledged. Yes  No
- The applicant will acknowledge the support of the EAAFP in any publications, presentations and reports arising from this work. Yes  No

## PERSONAL DETAILS

**Title:** Dr. Hamza Abdulmula  
(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

**Institution:** Universiti Malaysia Terengganu  
**Institutional address:** School of Marine and Environmental Sciences, Kuala Nerus,  
**PhD** Kuala Nerus Terengganu 21030  
**Degree type:** Suburb or town State or country Postcode

006096683450 0060109166005  
**Primary contact number** **Mobile phone number**

**Email address:** a.hamza@umt.edu.my

## Relevant Working Group or Task Force Chair - DETAILS

**Title:** Mr Kaler Rob  
(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

**Email address:** robbkaler@gmail.com

## Relevant Working Group or Task Force Coordinator - DETAILS

**Title:** Mr. Yat-Tung Yu  
(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

**Email address:** bfspoonbill@hkbws.org.hk

## PROJECT DETAILS

**Project Title:** Please provide concise and informative title of your entire project (not just the component for which funds are sought)

Inventory of Seabirds at a potential new flyway site (Pulau Layang Layang), South China Sea, Malaysia

### Part A. FOR CONFERENCE APPLICANTS ONLY

Conference Title:	Location:	Date:
<b>Presentation Abstract</b> (250 word maximum):		

**Part B. FOR ALL OTHER APPLICANTS**

**Details of your entire project (not just the component for which funds are sought) (2.5 page maximum)**

**1. Objectives:**

- Monitor nesting and migrant seabirds (Greater and Lesser Crested Terns, Sooty Tern, Brown Bobbies, Brown Noddies).
- Assess nesting density using subsample of the colony.
- Search for potential breeding individuals of Chinese Crested Tern within the Great Crested Tern colony.
- Assess the threats posed by introduced mammalian predators, development and human disturbance

**2. Background:**

The number of seabird species recorded for Malaysia (Peninsula and Borneo) is 31 species (Birdlife International 2017), including several tern species, frigate-birds, boobies, gulls, shearwaters, tropicbirds and skuas. Most seabirds in Malaysian waters are either winter visitors or passage migrants but some important species breed on several offshore islands (Jeyarajasingam & Pearson 2012). The present status of seabird colonies in Malaysian waters is not fully known, due to lack of regular monitoring programs and the impact of long-term wide-spread egg and chick poaching by local fishermen (Gibsson-Hill, 1950; Wells, 1999). Poaching still occurs widely and is suspected as still causing declines and local extirpation of several species, though there is not enough data to properly assess this threat, but it is still widely practiced (Hamza *et al.*, 2016, 2019).

Layang Layang is situated at the southern edge of the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, approximately 300 km northwest of Kota Kinabalu, Sabah (Malaysian Borneo). It is a small, low island (2 m above sea level) situated on the southeast rim of a reef known as Swallow Reef (Hancox & Prescott 1995). The reef is an atoll composed of ring-shaped atoll made up of 13 reefs with coral walls that plunge more than 1,800 metres to the ocean floor. , and the island is Malaysia declared sovereignty on this atoll in 1984, when Malaysian armed forces landed there and established a Navy base, which was the first human presence on the island. Later, a tourist resort was developed, hosting mainly diving activities in the lagoon located within the reef area.



Several studies have been conducted on Layang Layang, including work on plankton and primary production (Abdullah 2004a), corals (Waheed *et al.*, 2015) seagrasses (Abdul Han 2004), sponges (Zaidnuddin *et al.*, 2004a) sea cucumber (Zaidnuddin *et al.*, 2004b) Giant Clams (Asnawi *et al.* 2004), fish larvae (Oakley and Pilcher, 1996), and birds (Mat-Isa *et al.*, 2007). Bird surveys indicate that the island is one of the most Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Malaysia and this part of the South China Sea.

Species documented include Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*, Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*, Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*, Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus* and Brown Bobby *Sula leucogaster* (Wells, 1991) in addition to breeding Lesser Crested Terns *Thalasseus bengalensis* (Mat-Isa *et al.*, 1997).

The Great Crested Tern *Sterna bergii* on this island represents 10% of the Asian breeding population (BirdLife International, 2017) so the island is important for this species. Moreover, from the recent observations in China, Taiwan and South Korea (Song *et al.*, 2017), the Critically Endangered Chinese Crested Tern *Thalasseus bernsteini* is usually associated with the Great Crested Tern colonies. Given its proximity to other sites for this species, there is a need to assess the possibility that *T. bernsteini* may be present on Layang-Layang. This would greatly add to the significance of the island, placing it at an internationally important level.

**3. Project plan, timeline and methods:**

This project will be conducted in partnership with the Malaysian Nature Society (EAAFP partner organization), represented by Mr. Wong Chee Ho.

Three field missions will be conducted to coincide with the start, peak and end of breeding season for seabirds on the island (Table 1). Basic breeding data will be collected at each visit, and other samples of guano, feathers and egg shells will be collected for comparison with similar items collected from peninsular Malaysia seabird colonies of Terengganu and Pahang.

Table 1. Proposed Project timeline

Visit no.	Tentative Proposed dates	Main field activities
1	2-6 April 2019 (peak breeding season, count 1)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess breeding &amp; population size for all seabird species.</li> <li>2. Select section of colony to assess hatching success (collar).</li> <li>3. Meet resort and military for interviews</li> <li>4. Set up rat live traps for Rats/ assess density.</li> <li>5. Monitor passerines and shorebird species.</li> </ol>
2	13-17 M 2019 (peak breeding season, count 2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cont. Assessing population size for all species</li> <li>2. Estimate hatching success in collar.</li> <li>3. Cont. Monitor passerines and shorebird species.</li> </ol>
3	20-25 June 2019 (end of breeding season)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess population size for all species</li> <li>2. Estimate fledging success</li> <li>3. Cont. Monitor passerines and shorebird species.</li> </ol>

Special attention will be given to determine whether the Critically Endangered Chinese Crested Tern *Thalasseus bernsteini* is present and whether it is nesting within the Great Crested Tern colony.

Nesting density will be measured in single species colony site using standard quadrat method (1m x 1m quadrat). Hatching success will be measured for selected nests, which will be followed in other visits. A collar of plastic mesh can be erected around group of selected nests, when nestling hatched it will be still fed by parents and in consequent visit we can assess hatching success and fledging success.

Live traps with baits will be placed at certain area of the island to collect information on introduced rat/mouse species found there and to recommend the best ways to eradicate them. Direct observations of cats in the vicinity of the colony site or at other corners of the island will be conducted.

The opinions/perceptions of stakeholders towards seabird and their conservation/use (Resort, Navy and Department of Fisheries Layang-Layang Research station) will be sought. This will be through a series of interviews conducted with key personnel.

<p><b>4. Likely benefit to conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitat / or key research outputs:</b></p>	<p>This project will update the status of seabirds breeding and roosting at pulau Layang laying, as the last update dates back to 1997, and it was based on a single visit at the end of the breeding season in June 1996. The research also can have a significant contribution to the status of Chinese crested tern in Malaysia, giving the fact that the species was discovered in Korea and in Borneo Indonesia, and the project site is located at the middle of potential species flyway, from China to Indonesia.</p> <p>This project will be conducted in cooperation with the Malaysian department of fisheries research station, which located on Layang layang, and part of the work is to provide personnel there basic seabird colony monitoring techniques for future collection of data.</p> <p>This project will also identify new threats from predation of eggs and nestlings by mammalian introduced species, such as Rats and Cats.</p> <p>Other non-seabird bird species including passerines and shorebirds encountered will be added to the site checklist</p> <p>All data collected will contribute to nominate this site as a flyway site, based on several migratory seabirds and waders using it within the western pacific region.</p>
<p><b>5. Alignment with EAAFP priorities:</b></p>	<p>Seabird Working Group</p>
<p><b>6. Explain the part of your project for which you are seeking funds in this application:</b></p>	<p>Most of the funding will be needed for travel to the field site and to support publication fees. All other consumables and field equipment will be an in-kind contribution from the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu and the Malaysian Nature Society</p>
<p><b>7. Scientific References cited in the application:</b></p>	<p>Abdul Han (2004) Seaweed and seagrass communities of Pulau Layang Layang Lagoon, Malaysia. p. 1-18. in A. Mohd Pauzi (ed.). Marine Biodiveristi of Pulau Layang-Layang, Malaysia. Marine Research Station Layang-Layang, Fisheries Research Isntitute, Department of Fisheries Malaysia, Penang. 102 p.</p> <p>Asnawi, S., Zaidnuddin, I., Nazuki, S. and Kamarruddin, I. (2004) Giant clam species and distribution at Pulau Layang Layang, Sabah. p.25-28. In: Pauzi, M.A. (ed). Marine Biodiversity of Pulau Layang Layang, Malaysia. Dept. of Fisheries. Malaysia. 25-28 pp.</p> <p>Abdullah, M.P. (2004) Special Patterns of Nutrient, Chlorophyll a and Phytoplankton Density in the Lagoon and Open Ocean off Pulau Layang-Layang, Malaysia. Report for the Department of Fisheries.</p> <p>BirdLife International (2017) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Pulau Layang-Layang. Downloaded from <a href="http://www.birdlife.org">http://www.birdlife.org</a> on 30/12/2017.</p> <p>Gibson-Hill, C. A. 1950. Notes on the sea birds breeding in Malayan waters. <i>Bulletin of Raffles Museum</i>, 23: 5-64.</p> <p>Hamza, A., Mamat, I.B.H. &amp; Abdullah, M.T. 2019. Results of a seabird survey at the southern Seribuat Archipelago, Johor, Malaysia. <i>Marine Ornithology</i> 47: 49-53.</p> <p>Hamza, A. A., C. H. Wong, and A. Ahmad (2016) Rediscovery of least known breeding sites for seabirds in East Coast Peninsular Malaysia. <i>Malayan Nature Journal</i>, 68: 121-129.</p> <p>Hancox, D. J., &amp; Prescott, J. R. V. (1995). A Geographical Description of the Spratly Islands and an Account of Hydrographic Surveys Amongst those Islands. Vol.1, No.6 Ibru.</p> <p>Jeyarajasingam, A., &amp; Pearson, A. (2012). <i>A Field Guide to the Birds of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore</i>. Oxford University Press. 484 pp.</p>

- Mat-Isa, M. Mohd-Tajuddin, A., Burhanuddin, M.N., Tuuga, A., Jumrafiah, A.S. and Maria, J.A. (1997) The birds on Pulau Layang-Layang, South China Sea, Malaysia. *Journal of Wildlife Management & Research*, 1: 26-30.
- Oakley, S., & Pilcher, N. (1996). Marine protected areas for sustainable fisheries management: Layang Layang Reef as a source of larvae in the South China Sea. In Proceedings of workshop on aquaculture and sustainable reef fisheries, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah Malaysia.
- Pilcher N, Oakley S & Ismail G (1999) Layang Layang: A Drop in the Ocean. Natural History Publications, Kota Kinabalu, 126 pp.
- Song, S.K., Lee, S.W., Lee, Y.K., Lee, S.Y., Kim, C.H., Choi, S.S., Shin, H.C., Park, J.Y., Lee, J.H. and Kim, W.Y (2017) First report and breeding record of the Chinese Crested Tern *Thalasseus bernsteini* on the Korean Peninsula. *Journal of Asia-Pacific Biodiversity* 2 (10): 250-253.
- Waheed, Z., Benzoni, F., van der Meij, S. E., Terraneo, T. I., & Hoeksema, B. W. (2015). Scleractinian corals (Fungiidae, Agariciidae and Euphylliidae) of Pulau Layang-Layang, Spratly Islands, with a note on *Pavona maldivensis* (Gardiner, 1905). *ZooKeys*, (517), 1.
- Wells, D. (1991) *Status and Conservation of Seabirds Breeding in Malaysian Waters. Seabird status and conservation: A Supplement* (JP Croxall, ed). ICBP Tech. Publ:213-223.
- Zaidnuddin, I., Izarenah, M.R. and Pauzi, M.A (2004) Sea cucumber resource survey at Pulau Layang Layang. In: Pauzi, M.A. (ed). *Marine Biodiversity of Pulau Layang Layang Malaysia*. Department of Fisheries Malaysia. 28-33 pp.
- Zaidnuddin, I., Pauzi, M.A., Abdul Razak, L. and Yazid, M.Y (2000) Preliminary study on the diversity and distribution of sponges at Pulau Layang Layang, Sabah, Malaysia. *Malayan Nature Journal*, 54 (2): 77-86.

**Part C. FOR ALL APPLICANTS**

**Experience Relevant to Project (0.5 page maximum):** - Please attach a maximum 2-page CV or list all non-academic research experience and experience with migratory waterbirds/conservation e.g. work experience, volunteer experience, bird banding, bird-watching.

The main investigator is a well-established seabird researcher in Malaysia and previously in the Mediterranean region. He hold a PhD in Tern Ecology and conservation His team worked since 2015 in monitoring seabird colonies in the peninsular Malaysian waters of south china sea, and published set of papers on that aspect.

**PROJECT BUDGET (please outline your entire project, not just the component for which funds are being sought)**

Item (Please list)	\$ Budget (in USD)	Current support / Requested Support (source and amount)	Requested support from EAAFP (source and amount)
Equipment	In kind	0	non
Consumable items	1000	0	1000
Travel and accommodation	4000	0	4000
Computing & clerical	In kind	0	non
Other	non	0	non
<b>Total amount requested from Small Grants Fund:</b> (All amounts in USD)			5000

**Budget justification:** Please provide brief description and justification of all major budgetary items requested, indicating any that are essential to the project and/or conference for which you are applying (250 word maximum):

4000 USD will be used to cover travel (air fares from Terengganu to Layang Layang) the only charter goes to that site is the dive resort charter flights. We will use the cheapest fares possible to travel. 1000 USD will be spent on food and purchase of some consumables and drinking water.



## DECLARATION

I have discussed the contents of this application with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of relevant Working Group and/or Task Forces and I certify that to the best of my knowledge all documentation and information submitted or made available by me is true, accurate and complete.

By ticking the following box you are agreeing to the above statement:

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

All relevant sections of this application have been completed	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Full payment details have been provided on the final page	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Application is being submitted electronically as one single document	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Application is being submitted in either MS Word or PDF file format (it is important that text can be copied – please do not scan this form)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Application has been discussed with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of relevant working Group and/or Task Forces and these have been carbon copied (cc) to this application submission as evidence they have seen and approved this application.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Applications that do not comply with these guidelines will be returned to the applicant.

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Please email your application as a single document to:  
[secretariat@eaaflyway.net](mailto:secretariat@eaaflyway.net)

EAAFP will acknowledge the receipt of your application.

**Applications close 3 February 2019**  
Results will be announced in 3 March 2019

### OFFICE USE ONLY:

Decision: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorised: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Entered: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Lead Investigator Advised: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE PAYMENT DETAILS ON FINAL PAGE**

## PAYMENT DETAILS

To ensure prompt payment of successful applications please complete the following details and submit with your application.

### PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD

**Electronic funds transfer (EFT)**

### GRANT CONDITIONS

**In accordance with the application criteria, the following conditions must be met:**

- Funds are to be strictly exempt from organisational administration charges.
- You are required to submit one copy by email of the final report within 3 months of the completion of the project.
- You are required to acknowledge the EAAFP and the Small Grant Fund in any presentations, publications, reports or promotional material arising from this work. Please email [secretariat@eaaflyway.net](mailto:secretariat@eaaflyway.net) in order to obtain an electronic copy of EAAFP logo for use on any display material you will be preparing.
- You may be requested to write a brief article for the EAAFP newsletter.
- You are required to provide EAAFP with an electronic copy of your final report at the completion of your project, as well as a copy of any publications that result from your grant.