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**STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL ENGAGEMENT IN
BAER'S POCHARD CONSERVATION
IN CENTRAL MYANMAR**

**DATE OF SUBMISSION
(2/02/2023)**

BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

ADMIN@BANCAMM.ORG

1. Summary

Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) have interactively with the Community – based Organization namely the Shwe Kantharyar Nature Conservation Association at the Pyu Lake for conservation the wetland resources and its environment in Mandalay region. Therefore, BANCA have developed the empowerment of CBO members through the capacity building training and engagement of local communities through the awareness raising near at the Pyu Lake in Tada – Oo township, Mandalay region. Thus, we provided the training of trainers and coaching training to CBO members about the wetland biodiversity conservation and its resources management training, organization development training including with the administrative and organization procedure training, financial management training and research training: bird watching training, SMART patrolling and hunting assessment training in 2022. Furthermore, BANCA performed the education awareness activities about the inland wetland and its biodiversity conservation at the seven villages are irrigated villages of Pyu Lake in Tada – Oo township, Mandalay region. In no circumstance, they, CBO members, are well known the conservation is importance for their life that is refer with their interesting, participation, communication and preparation their future works.

Moreover, BANCA organized the Asian Water Bird Census in January, 2023, and monitored the Baer’s Pochard and migratory water bird species survey at the Pyu Lake, Paleik Lake and Banaw Inn (Lattaung Inn) are priorities wintering habitats for Baer’s Pochard and globally threatened the diving duck species in central Myanmar.

1.1. Background

The Pyu Lake is the last remaining habitat for migratory water bird species after the other wetland have been drained for cultivation in central Myanmar. Three main types of wetland habitats are seasonally emergent vegetation (*Typha angustifolia*), marginal vegetation (*Ottelia chordata*), Water Lily, and open water with green algae group in Pyu Lake. The habitat supports a rich biodiversity as a roosting habitat for migratory water bird species, breeding and refuge area for fish species and provides ecosystem services to the seven villages of local livelihoods around the lake. Survey result the water bird population from 2016 – 2022, Pyu Lake meet the criteria of the EAA Flyway Site Network.

The criteria are A2: it regularly supports the global important bird species such as Critically Endangered Baer’s Pochard, vulnerable species Woolly-necked Stork and Common Pochard, A 5: support to over 20,000 population of migratory water bird annually and A6: meet 1% of Baer’s Pochard in Mandalay region.

Refer to

- It regularly supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered bird species
- It regularly supports over 20,000 migratory water bird
- It regularly supports 1% of the EAAFP population of a migratory water bird

Thus, this project is raising an education awareness programs on importance of Pyu Lake ecosystem services and migratory water bird species especially the Baer’s Pochard at the irrigated villages of Pyu Lake and strengthening the CBO engagement in conservation the Baer’s Pochard and site management for long – term in central Myanmar.

1.2. Objectives

To develop an opportunity for local communities’ engagement in migratory water bird conservation and site management in Pyu Lake in central Myanmar The project aim to:

- (1) Raise the local awareness about an importance of wetland and migratory water bird species at seven villages in Pyu Lake in Mandalay region.
- (2) Monitor the water bird species survey and habitat threats in Pyu Lake and Paleik Lake.

(3) Stimulate the awareness on protection the water birds species and effectiveness of bush meal as a seasonal food to reduce the bird consumers through the standing sign boards in all villages.

(4) Training on wetland conservation, financial management and organization procedures to Shwe Kanthayar Nature Conservation Association to encourage the site management in harmony with the values of migratory water bird species and local community.

2. Project progress

Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association communicated with the members of Shwe Kanthayar Nature Conservation Association, is community – based organization for conserving the inland wetland and it biodiversity in Pyu Lake, and prepared the education materials: power point presentation, pamphlets and games in May 2022. We delivered a series of lectures about the biodiversity conservation and natural resources management including with the inland wetland, its ecosystem services, conservation benefit of wetlands and migratory water birds and other biodiversity to CBO members in June.



Fig – 1: Activities photos of inland and its biodiversity conservation training

The seventeen members actively participated the CEPA and coaching training on 12nd to 15th June, 2022 by way of practical and power point presentation. Before and after the training, they took a pre

– test how much do they know and post – test what extent did they understand, put the specific literacy into practice with the pictures. Then, the qualified trainees rehearsed in practice the dialogue about their wetland, Pyu Lake, ecosystem services that the group works report. We did handout to review the pamphlets and answer papers to trainees and selected the three members for leading the awareness programs in their region, in future.



Fig – 2: Group work and dialogue practice photos

Furthermore, we trained the four members about the administrative and organization procedure training on 12nd to 13rd June. The purpose is to know the roles of organization procedure for implementation the project activities to reach the goal of Shwe Kantharyar Nature Conservation Association in the conservation of water bird species and inland wetland activities and to learn how to put into the effect of concept and activities with the systematic way. We published the documents to trainees, shared the experiences with examples and put their ideas/ plans into practices. Mainly lectures are preparation the incoming and outgoing letter and organization structure and its rules, maintenance the equipment inventory list, forecasting the monthly activities, recording the visitor list and project lists and reporting the petty cast (withdraw and expenditure cost) in two days training. After the training, they could report to registration department about their yearly activities in January 2023 and will prepare the permission letter to general administrative department for supporting the wetland and it biodiversity conservation training to other LCG namely Paleik Lake Nature Conservation Association in Singaing Township in February 2023 by the small grant of WWF – Myanmar.

On 14th to 15th June, we coached the financial management training to understand the importance of financial sector and implement it systematically and carry out by the financial sector in

implementation of financial activities with the aim of helping the Shwe Kantharyar Nature Conservation Association for the conservation of water fowl species and environmental conservation activities. including with the daily cash book, yearly financial document. Basically, we explained the accounting purpose and benefit for keeping the accountant books, entry and use for accounting forms and two – column ledger, income and expenditure statement in two days training. After the training, they could use the financial forms: cash advance & request form, official expenditure receipt and report and manage the funds received from the projects, WWF – Myanmar small grant fund, to contribute the other unfunded conservation activities.



Fig – 3: Administrative and financial management training photos

On 16th to 20th June, the two members who are selected the trainees joined in with the BANCA performing the education awareness programs at the seven villages namely Pyu village, Taung kan village, Kyauk kan village, Moe nan chon village, Myin thae village, Ywar tau lay village and Yae ka moe village are irrigated villages of Pyu Lake for raising knowledge about the value of inland wetland services and wetland conservation to humans and migratory water birds. To more understand that designation the conservation sites such as Ramsar and Flyway Network Site are highly productivity their livelihoods and more involve with the long term of inland wetland conservation programs in Mandalay region.

Completely farmers, 35% of local people in six villages, actively participated in and the village header and elders highly recommended of our awareness talk programs as:

- Very pleased that they are getting know about the valuable of inland wetland ecosystem services and migrating the water bird species in their region.

- Frequently, do more make the conservation awareness talks and events for becoming the knowledgeable person in young generation.
- Providing the training and marketing about the value added products with the local raw materials for improving the local economic.
- More local people should conserve and involve in the wetland and its environmental conservation programs because of their agricultural.





Fig – 4: Photos of awareness activities in six villages near the Pyu Lake

In October, we trained the SMART patrolling and hunting assessment training to seven members from CBO (SKNCA) for monitoring the current threats and changes to wetland and its environs and exploring the status of bird hunting at villages and selling in market near the Pyu Lake and Paleik Lake. After the training, the trainees have monitored the patrolling and hunting assessment at market and pagoda in wintering season in Tada Oo township near the Pyu Lake and Singaing township near the Paleik Lake by the WWF – Myanmar project, 2022.





Fig – 5: Photos of hunting assessment and SMART patrolling training and practical survey

Moreover, we provided the new two binoculars of Nikon Prostaff 7 S (8* 42) brand and bird watching training to five members of CBO (SKNCA) in January 2023. We organized the Asian Water Bird Census (AWC – 2023) on 23rd January at the Pyu Lake and Banaw Inn (Latttaung Inn) are priority wintering sites for Baer’s Pochard in Mandalay region with the trainees and some interested bird watchers. Then, we monitored the Baer’s Pochard and other migratory water bird and facing the wetland habitat threats survey with the CBO members at the Pyu Lake, Paleik Lake and Banaw Inn in January.





Fig – 6: Activity photos of Asian Water Bird Census at Pyu Lake and Banaw Inn

For Pyu Lake: noted that the water level of Pyu Lake is up to 12 feet in January due to the King Dar Dam's water supply and the villages near the Pyu Lake have enough got the water for their agriculture. Because of the high level of water, many migratory water bird species have not come to migrate yet in Pyu Lake. Recently, we used the core count methods and recorded the 960 individuals of 26 water bird species in Pyu Lake. If possible, the Baer's Pochard and other migratory water bird species will migrate in abundance in February because the water level of Pyu Lake will less than 9 feet and some of the flooded wetland will be extraction the water and changed to farmland.





Fig – 7: Monitoring the migratory water bird survey at Pyu Lake

For Paleik Lake: surprised that the Paleik Lake have no more water because the sluice gates were opened in the late rainy season by the water committee. The committee have comprised with the local farmers to form the Water Users Group for the irrigation system from the Myitnge River to Paleik Lake. In flooding the rainy season, the committee were not opened the sluice gates. Because the committee respected some of the farmers who were the last to plant rice crops and harvested their crops lately. When they opened the gates, the inflow of Myitnge River was low. Therefore, we have no more recorded the water bird species in Paleik Lake. Currently, the water committee have got the water for their cultivation from the Myit River irrigation of the Water Resources Department.



Fig – 8: Habitat threats of Paleik Lake

For Banaw Inn: recorded the 1922 individuals of 30 water bird species on 21st to 25th January. Mostly, the Greyleg Goose have common and some duck species have a few, even though the water has high by the inflow of Myitnge River. Perhaps, the water will be extracted for agriculture and changed to farmland in February, some diving species will migrate there.



Fig – 9: Migratory water bird survey activities at Banaw Inn (Lattaung Inn)

All in all, we will conduct the survey for Baer’s Pochard and other migratory water bird and standing the awareness signboard about the impact of migratory bird consumption in mid of February. It is timing to survey and share the awareness messages to local communities because the migratory water bird species will be crowded at the left water areas.

Table: Recorded the water bird species in January

Sr. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN	Banaw Inn	Pyu Lake
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	LC	600	
2	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	LC	150	120
3	Cotton Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	LC	75	30
4	Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	LC	30	
5	Northern Sholveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	LC	3	120
6	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	LC	2	146
7	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	LC	96	40
8	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	LC	28	33
9	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	VU	1	
10	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	LC	250	30

Sr. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN	Banaw Inn	Pyu Lake
11	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	LC	5	53
12	Ferruginous Pochard	<i>Aythya nyrca</i>	NT	8	
13	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	LC	C	67
14	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	LC	8	
15	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	LC	250	35
16	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	LC	300	40
17	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	NT	25	C
18	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	LC		78
19	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	NT	15	
20	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	LC	3	2
21	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	LC	5	1
22	Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola</i> spp.	LC	1	C
23	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	LC	C	C
24	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	LC	C	C
25	Slaty - breasted Crake	<i>Pozama pusilla</i>	LC		1
26	Grey-headed Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>	LC	10	30
27	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	LC	C	99
28	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	LC	5	10
29	Grey-headed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus cinereus</i>	LC		2
30	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	LC	C	15
31	Snipe	<i>Gallinago</i> spp.	LC	5	
32	Little - ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	LC		5
33	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	LC	45	3
34	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	LC	2	
	Total water bird species			30	26
	Total water bird population			1922	960

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