

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association	
Project Title:	Providing training to trainers for monitoring Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Gulf of Mottama	
Date of Report:	8-July 2015	
Report Author and Contact Information	Pyae Phyo Aung Program Manager pyaephyo.banca.org@gmail.com	Tin Aung Tun Species officer sankolay@gmail.com

CEPF Region: Indo-Burma Hotspot. Gulf of Mottama (MMR20), Myanmar

Strategic Direction: 8

Grant Amount: \$17,985

Project Dates: 1st August 2014 - 31st May 2015

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

Local communities are the main stakeholders in this project, particularly the local conservation group members.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is supporting BANCA with funding and technical support through a three-year project for conservation of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, funded by the Darwin Initiative. This project ended in March 2015. Activities supported by this CEPF grant were integrated into the activities of the Darwin Initiative project.

BANCA reports to BirdLife International and the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force on progress towards conservation of this species. We used guidelines and experience from BirdLife International to help us support local conservation groups.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

The project contributed to Strategic Direction 8 "Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels" by building the capacity of BANCA, and strengthening coordination of, and the capacity of four local conservation groups in the Gulf of Mottama.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

Local conservation group members are better able to monitor shorebirds and carry out education and awareness raising activities. Some villagers have greater awareness about environmental issues and shorebird conservation. Local conservation groups have the necessary field equipment (binoculars and spotting scopes) to operate effectively, and their members know how to use it properly.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

The project goal was that "Shorebird populations in the Gulf of Mottama (including wintering populations of the spoon-billed sandpiper) are effectively conserved, as a result of the work of strong community-based civil society organizations"

Conservation of the spoon-billed sandpiper in the Gulf of Mottama requires a long-term vision. Local conservation groups are a key part of that vision and will be a key element of sustainability. It is essential to develop local capacity for shorebird monitoring, as an important conservation activity for ensuring the survival of the spoon-billed sandpiper.

Additional potential long-term impacts could be the development of eco-tourism at this site (enabling LCG members to act as guides for bird watchers and generate revenues for the local communities from tourism), and promoting local interest and pride in protecting shorebirds including the spoon-billed sandpiper.

Local conservation groups are a model for conservation which is promoted by BirdLife International throughout the world. As part of the BirdLife partnership, BANCA will have the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other local civil society organizations, and also be able to contribute to BirdLife's body of knowledge and experience of this approach.

More the area is expected to be designated as a Ramsar site soon. This will be one result of growing interest from the international community and the government of Myanmar to protect the environment and support the communities living there.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

As a result of this project, local conservation groups established at this site by BANCA now trust each other much more, and contact each other when they have new information about shorebirds. They are better able to collaborate, and their members have improved skills regarding bird monitoring and identification, recording monitoring data, and giving educational talks to their peers.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

This project is one element of several related activities implemented at the site during the project period. Funding from the RSPB (partly through the Darwin Initiative) supported livelihood activities (especially for ex-hunters), supported the process for establishing a Ramsar site, and conducted a census of the spoon-billed sandpiper.

The planned Objectives of this project were as follows:

1. At least four local conservation groups in the Gulf of Mottama have the capacity to effectively monitor shorebirds and implement community outreach activities, with a focus on spoon-billed sandpiper.
2. Local conservation groups have the capacity to effectively carry out a public education campaign in Kyaik Hto.

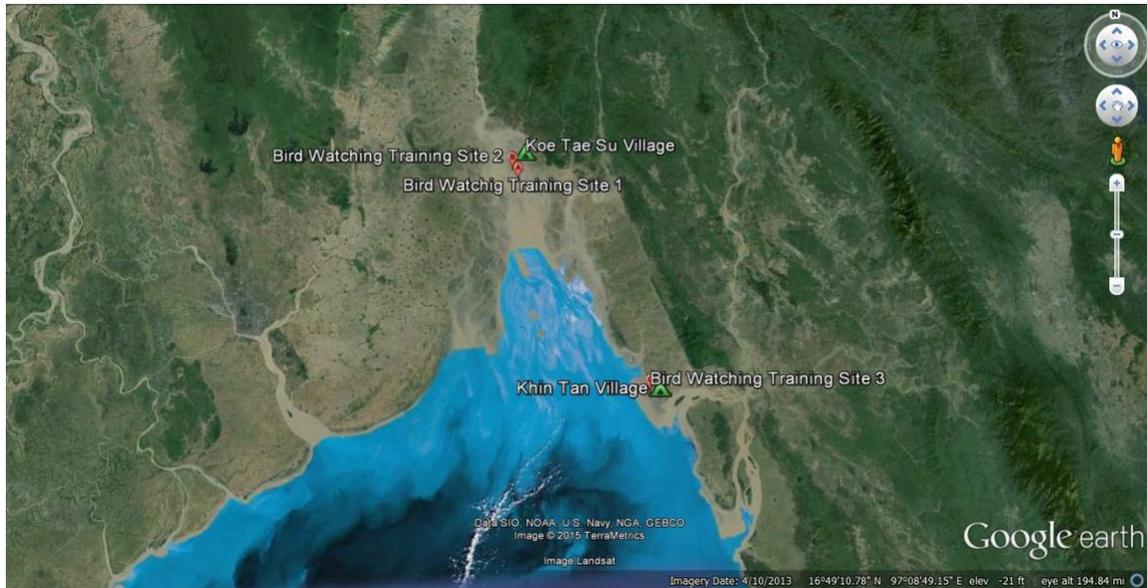
Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

As described in more detail below, we made significant progress towards achieving our planned short-term impacts. All planned project activities were completed successfully. As a result, members of four LCGs have significantly improved capacity to monitor threatened shorebirds in the Gulf of Mottama, to implement community outreach activities, and carry out public education campaigns.

Partly as a result of this project, English and Myanmar versions of a bird guide book "Water Birds in the Gulf of Mottama" was published by BANCA. This book was found to be very useful in helping LCG members to identify birds.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: none



Location of project site.

Species Conserved: Spoon-billed sandpiper (the project also supports conservation of other migratory shorebirds, including threatened species such as the Endangered Spotted Greenshank and Vulnerable Great Knot)

Corridors Created: none

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

The project was successful in improving the shorebird monitoring skills of Local Conservation Group members. Previously, most LCG members had some knowledge of local birds, but few were aware of shorebirds before working with BANCA. As a result of training provided by BANCA through this project, LCG members were then able to give presentations on environmental issues, conservation and Spoon-billed Sandpiper in neighboring villages.

A significant challenge faced by the project was the difficulty that most LCG members faced in attending regular training events, given their need to work daily to provide for their families. Also, different LCG members were available to participate in training at different times, making it difficult to find times that suited all members.

Another challenge was a lack of bird guide books in Myanmar language. This made it difficult for local people to accurately identify bird species. As a result of training, LCG members were better able to identify shorebirds, and had better understanding about the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

No

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Objective 1: At least four local conservation groups in the Gulf of Mottama have the capacity to effectively monitor shorebirds and implement community outreach activities, with a focus on spoon-billed sandpiper.

Activity 1.1. Hold workshops with local conservation groups (LCGs) in order to teach them how to monitor shorebirds

We provided basic bird-monitoring training on six occasions. Two members from each LCG who were interested in bird-watching and conservation were selected for the training. There are four Local Conservation Groups in the Gulf of Mottama and eight members were trained in total. The training took place at Koe De Su and Ahlat villages in the Gulf of Mottama. The training team camped and provided the bird watching training on the mudflat. Before going to practical training BANCA team members gave lectures on how to identify shore birds. Participants learnt bird identification, how to use equipment (binoculars and spotting scopes), and about conservation awareness raising during the seven day training course. Each LCG was provided with 2 pairs of binoculars and one spotting scope with tripod.

Activity 1.2. Organize field trips to train local conservation groups in shorebird monitoring field techniques.

Six field trips were organized for shorebird monitoring. BANCA could not give training every month because LCG member were not always available to attend. Bird monitoring training was conducted at high tide. Boats were used to transport participants to the mud flats.

Activity 1.3. Organize focus group discussions, on bird watching trips and SBS monitoring

We organized 6 focus group discussions with LCG members in Koetasu and Ahlat villages. During the focus group discussions we explained the community participatory approach of SBS conservation activities in the Gulf of Mottama which BANCA is implementing, and invited LCGs to participate more in BANCA's other conservation initiatives. BANCA team members facilitated bird-monitoring trips when we came back from the field trips.

Objective 2: Local conservation groups have the capacity to carry out a public education campaign in Kyaik Hto.

BANCA conducted a public education campaign in Koetaesu village near to Kyeik hto. The LCG members were actively involved in the campaign activities, and presented information about Spoon-billed Sandpiper and the global significance of the Gulf of Mottama. About 50 people participated in the campaign.

Activity 2.1: Train local conservation groups how to conduct conservation education and community outreach activities

One member of BANCA's team gave training to LCG members about environmental conservation, according to the LCG members' prior experience and understanding. These training modules included various topics relevant to the Gulf of Mottama, spoon-billed sandpiper, and the importance of wetlands and conservation.

Activity 2.2: Produce educational materials for public education campaign.

A bird list of the Gulf of Mottama 2007-2014 was collected and compiled, and used to publish a field guide. The Field Guide to the Water Birds of the Gulf of Mottama was published in January in Burmese. High quality photos were provided by the Thai Wetlands Foundation. 800 copies were produced. Copies were provided to 8 LCG members in the Gulf of Mottama. In addition, 250 copies of the field guide were provided to Sittwe, Patheingyi, Yangon, Mawlamyine, Myeik universities, MoECAF, and NGOs who working in biodiversity conservation. 200 copies were distributed to participants including LCG members at a Ramsar workshop in Mon State, and at "Welcome to the Birds" events.

50 t-shirts were produced with the following message "Bird Monitoring Training in the Gulf of Mottama". These were given to LCGs members and Trainers.

1000 leaflets were produced, with information about water birds of the Gulf of Mottama. These were distributed to the community.

7 posters and banners were produced with information about spoon-billed sandpipers, flyways, field equipment, and "Dos and Don'ts". These were distributed to LCG members.

Activity 2.3: Conduct education campaign, by giving awareness-raising talks in 4 villages of the East coast of Mottama

We gave training in how to give environmental talks to LCGs members, then brought the LCG members to neighboring villages in order to conduct awareness-raising talks. This was done in Koetaesu, Kyarsi Aung, Kyandine Aung, Khintan, Kyeikkathar, Kyunthayar, and Kauhtin villages. 50-80 people attended in each village.

Activity 2.4: Conduct baseline and final surveys of local communities in order to assess the effectiveness of the public education campaign

When conducting the baseline survey in Kyeikhto and near the proposed Ramsar site, we found that the community members were not aware of the Ramsar site, or its relevance to spoon-billed sandpiper conservation. After the awareness-raising talks had been conducted by BANCA and the LCG members, the community members were fully aware of these issues, and signed a petition to support the designation of Gulf of Mottama as a Ramsar site.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

No components were unrealized.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

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Fig1: Global Flyway sites and Spoon-billed Sandpiper migration route



Fig4: Common species in Gulf of Mottama

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

Although most LCG members were interested in participating in this project, many of them couldn't participant for very long in the training. Eventually we were able to secure the participation of two members from each LCG. During the training, we explained how to use field equipment, and how to identify shorebird species. After attending the first training, they were very interested in bird monitoring and conservation. During the training, they were very active in participating. Future projects should be designed to ensure that as many LCG members as possible are able to actively participate in all project activities.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

The participatory nature of project implementation was a key factor contributing to its success. In the future, whenever BANCA staff carry out surveys or implement conservation activities in the Gulf of Mottama, LCG members should be encouraged to collaborate in these activities.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

- ❖ It is important to meet with LCG members and discuss ideal timings for training events before finalizing training schedules.
- ❖ In order to ensure local people can participate in training events and conservation activities, we may have to provide them with MMK8,000–10,000 per day. During the crab catching season, LCG members earn 15,000–30,000 per day.
- ❖ Next time, rather than selecting 2 people from each LCG for the training, it might be better to train each LCG individually, in their village.

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Darwin (RSPB)	A	\$19,071	covered staff cost

****Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

- A Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)***
- B Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)***
- C Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)***

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

Bird-monitoring training courses were useful for LCGs members. They were interested, and active in participating. After the training they were able to confidently identify some bird species. LCG members can now record monitoring data about threatened species. Data sheets were provided to LCG members to survey shorebirds every month. We plan to establish further LCGs at other villages in the Gulf of Mottama.

There is an on-going process to establish a Ramsar site at the Gulf of Mottama. This work was initiated by BANCA with support from the RSPB and is now being continued by IUCN through a project funded by the Swiss government. BANCA will continue to support the process for establishing a Ramsar site. The local conservation groups should become a part of the Ramsar site management plan.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

None.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

Not applicable

Additional Comments/Recommendations

None

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Pyae Phyo Aung

Organization name: Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)

Mailing address: No.943 (A), 2nd Floor (Right), Kyeikwine Pagoda Road, Ward (3),
Mayangone Township, Yangon

Fax: +95-1-663077

E-mail: pyaephyo.banca.org@gmail.com, bancamyanmar@gmail.com

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets				
(Enter Grant Term)				
Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant. Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.				
Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved during the grant term (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	No			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	No			
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	No			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	15,917 ha	15,917 ha	The GoM is outside of Myanmar's existing PA network. The local government wants to promote the GoM as a Ramsar site.
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	No			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

