

EAAFP Small Grants Fund 2020 - Application

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title:	Ms (Mr, Ms etc)	- Family name	Thiri Dae We Aung Given Name/s
Institution:	Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)		
Institutional address:	Building (F), Room (102), Parami Condo, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar		
Degree type:	Yangon Suburb or town	Yangon State or country	11051 and 11052 Postcode
	+95-9-420080979 Primary contact number	+95-9-798894093 Mobile phone number	
Email address:	admin@bancamm.org; thiridaweiaung@bancamm.org		

Relevant Working Group or Task Force Chair/Coordinator - DETAILS

Please contact the EAAFP Programme Officer if additional guidance is needed in relation to this section (programme@eaaflyway.net)

Title:	Mr. (Mr, Ms etc)	Hearn Family name	Richard Given Name/s
Email address:	Richard.Hearn@wwt.org.uk		

PROJECT DETAILS

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

Conservation of Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*) at two key wintering sites in Central Myanmar.

Part A. Project Proposal

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

- Objectives:** Develop conservation activities and EAAFP Flyway Network Site status at Paleik Inn and Pyu Lake, central Myanmar
- Background:**

Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*) has declined drastically in recent years. The global population is now estimated at less than 1,000 individuals and the current IUCN Red List status is Critically Endangered. In the 1990s Thailand and Bangladesh had hundreds of wintering birds, but in recent years the number has dropped to only a few birds wintering annually.

Myanmar is another country with a good wintering population of Baer's Pochard in the past but limited information available between 2004 and 2016. During past censuses of waterbirds in Myanmar, Baer's Pochard was recorded at Kyee ne Inn, Taung Kan – Se daw gyi and Myittha Lake (Myanma Wetland Inventory 2004).

In early 2016, Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA, BirdLife in Myanmar) conducted an extensive survey at 25 inland lakes in central Myanmar (the Ayeyarwaddy River Basin) including eight KBAs - Yemyet, Inle Lake, Taung Kan Sedawgyi, Paleik Inn, Myittha Lake, Nyaung Yan Min Hla Kam, Kyee Ni Inn and Taung ta man Inn. It was found there are still sites with good potential as important wintering grounds for Baer's Pochard, particularly at the lake Pyu Kan, where at least 12 Baer's Pochards were observed, and Paleik Inn near Mandalay City were two Baer's Pochard were observed with over 5,000 other waterbirds in late January 2016. Apart from the number and species of bird present, human activities, threats and impacts, and environmental parameters were also noted. Human activities at Pyu Lake are very low due to belief of spirit in the lake. The lake

is also good for other globally threatened and rare bird species of conservation concern such as Ferruginous Pochard (*Aythya nyroca*) and Falcated Duck (*Mareca falcata*).

Pyu Lake and Paleik Inn have rich diversity and are important for wildlife; particularly for migratory and resident waterbirds. Over 30 species of waterbird have been observed, with large congregations of migrants present during the northern winter. This includes especially high numbers of Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*), Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) and Falcated Duck and globally threatened and near threatened species; Baer's Pochard, Ferruginous Pochard and Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*).

In Wetland Inventory 2004, Pyu Lake does not include as important wetland site. However, internationally important numbers, *i.e.*, exceeding 1% of the flyway population estimate (Wetlands International 2016), were recorded for Baer's Pochard (12,1% = 5). Pyu meet the 1% criterion for sites of international importance (Ramsar criterion 6 and IBA criterion A4 (i) and recording a small community of globally threatened species (Ramsar Criterion 2 and IBA criterion A1).

Central Myanmar is a dry region and consequently small ponds sometimes become totally dry as water is drained for agriculture and other uses. In 2019, the Mandalay government formed the Mandalay Wetlands Conservation Committee, chaired by the Minister (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation), and secretaries by Director of Forest Department and relative government departments and NGOs/INGOs (BANCA, MBNS, IUCN and WCS) as members. This committee will focus on the sustainable management and long-term conservation and wise use of wetlands in central Myanmar.

Waterbird surveys by BANCA from 2016 to 2019 have confirmed that central Myanmar is still an important wintering ground for Baer's Pochard, but there are lots more things to be done, including law enforcement to stop illegal hunting, involving local communities in conservation, livelihood projects to support people living by wetlands important to Baer's Pochard, and establishing some protection system.

3. Project plan, timeline and methods:

Please include the proposed timing of project commencement, start and completion of fieldwork (if applicable), project completion. Please also comment on the flexibility of the timeline of the project.

Project Plan- To conserve the Baer's Pochard, BANCA has develop strategies to enable sustainable development interventions by local communities. Field surveys of waterbirds, wetland ecosystem services and awareness raising events, and the preparation and distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to the local communities in Pyu Lake and Paleik Inn (Key wintering sites). Finally, the proposed new EAAFP Flyway Network Site information sheet will be submitted to central government.

Timeline- .

- Field survey of population and wetland ecosystem will be undertaken in Pyu Lake and Paleik Inn in March 2020 - January 2021
- Preparation of IEC materials and awareness events in the 7 villages of Paleik Inn and 3 villages of Pyu Lake in June, October 2020 and February 2021.
- Submission of site information sheets for two proposed new EAAFP Flyway Network Sites to central government. January 2021.

Methods - The project will be implemented using the participatory approach with the relevant government and local communities. The waterbird surveys will be conducted using the core count method. The threats will be identified and discussed with local stakeholders/ communities.

4. Likely benefit to conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitat / or key research outputs:

In addressing this question, please also identify which EAAFP Key Result Areas the project will contribute to (see the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019 – 2028).

This project for the conservation of Baer's Pochard and other migratory waterbird species will contribute to the the following EAAFP Key Result Areas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key Result Area 1.1: establishing Paleik Inn and Pyu Lake as new Flyway Network Sites in central Myanmar. - Key Result Area 1.2: Regular monitoring on population of Baer's Pochard and other migratory bird species and conservation with the participation of all stakeholders (Mandalay Wetland Conservation Committee, NGOs, INGOs and local communities) - Key Result Area 1.3: Planning of management plan with stakeholder participation (Mandalay Wetland Conservation committee and community based organisation i.e. Paleik Lover Association and Shwe Kan Thayar Nature Lover Association)
5. Alignment with EAAFP priorities:	<p><i>Please indicate which of the EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces priorities are addressed in this project.</i></p> <p>This project is alignment with Baer's Pochard Task Force.</p> <p>Priority actions include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) research to understand ecology, movements and population dynamics, (ii) effective protection and management of Baer's Pochard sites, and (iii) habitat restoration projects at key sites, especially in the wintering range.
6. Explain the part of your project for which you are seeking funds in this application:	<p>In central Myanmar, freshwater wetlands are among the most threatened of Myanmar's ecosystem. Wetlands form important sources of community livelihoods and support migratory waterbird species. But there is no protection system for wetlands in central Myanmar, it can be protected by the way of Ramsar site or community conservation areas. This project will be mainstream wetland conservation into regional development planning in the central dry zone of Mandalay Region. Supporting funding and conservation activities are very limited in that area. Which is why, we are seeking funds in this application.</p>
7. Scientific References cited in the application:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aung, T.D, T.Z. Naing, S. Moses, L. Win, A.M. Tun, T.S. Zaw & S. Chan. 2016. <i>An assessment of the wintering population of Baer's Pochard in central Myanmar.</i> Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association report to Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust. 48 pp. 2. Aung,T.D, T.Z. Naing, S.Moses, L. Win, A.M Tun, T.S. Zaw, M.T. Htet, K.T.T Cho & R. Hearn 2017. <i>Monitoring on the status of Baer's Pochard in Pyu Lake and Paleik Inn, central Myanmar.</i> 3. Aung,T.D, T.Z. Naing, S.Moses, L. Win, T.S. Zaw, 2018. <i>Population status of Baer's Pochard in Pyu Lake and Paleik Inn, central Myanmar.</i> 4. Aung,T.D, S.Moses, L. Win, T.S. Zaw, M.T.H.Zaw, P.E.Nyein. 2019. <i>Population and distribution status of Baer's Pochard in freshwater wetlands of, central Myanmar.</i>

Part B. FOR CONFERENCE APPLICANTS ONLY

Conference Title:	Location:	Date:
Presentation Abstract (250 word maximum):		

Part C. FOR ALL APPLICANTS

Experience Relevant to Project:

0.5 page maximum

BANCA's strength is its long experience and involvement with projects on Baer's Pochard conservation since 2016 and the comprehensive survey of Baer's Pochard in 22 wetlands of central Myanmar including Paleik Inn and Pyu Lake. Further surveys and conservation activities were conducted in 2017 to 2019 by establishing of community-based organisation (Shwe Kan Thayar Nature Conservation Association), awareness of Baer's Pochard and wetland conservation, e.g. by erecting standing educational signboards. BANCA has advocated to regional governments and local communities on the importance of wetlands in biodiversity and community livelihood and also about stopping the illegal bird killing in wetlands, especially Paleik Inn in central Myanmar. Mandalay government has checked the current situation of illegal bird killing at Paleik Inn in 2018 and undertook patrols during the wintering period. In addition, the Mandalay government formed Mandalay Wetlands Conservation Committee, chaired by Minister, Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Conservation and BANCA is one of the members of this committee. In order to highlight waterbird killing in the Mandalay area, BANCA has done surveys of Illegal Bird Killing in local markets, restaurants, pet shops and pagodas. After that, the finding of our results was explained in the meeting of "Reporting a result of Illegal Bird Killing survey". In this meeting, the minister, Ministry of Nature Resources and Environmental Conservation and wetland conservation committee participated and discussed the future activities to prevent increases in bird killing and markets in Mandalay. BANCA also has significant wider experience in the implementation of waterbird conservation activities for Spoon-billed Sandpiper in the Gulf of Mottama and Nan Thar Island, Myanmar.

Please **also** attach a maximum 2-page CV or list non-academic research experience and experience with migratory waterbirds/conservation e.g. work experience, volunteer experience, bird banding, birdwatching.

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 (Foundation Esemble and 8000)	Requested support from EAAFP (EAAFP small grant and 5000)
Equipment: (details) Camera	700	0	700
Consumable items (details) Survey: 3 person x 28 days x 15 USD/person Education: 4 person x 13 days x 15 USD/person	2040	585	1455
Travel and accommodation (details) Survey: 28 days x 100 USD Education: 13 days x 100 USD Accommodation : 35 days x 20 USD x 2 rooms	5500	3000	2500
Computing & clerical (details) Standing sign board, distribution of pamphlets, posters.	759	759	0
Other (details) Education awareness talks for refreshment 10 villages x 200 USD	2000	1656	345
Total amount requested from Small Grants Fund: (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):

Equipment: BANCA has only one camera (good quality) and have to share other kind of species conservation such as Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Gurney's Pitta project. To do this population survey, we need camera for recorded pictures.

Consumable: Three person of survey team will do population and wetland services for 15 days and they would use for daily substances allowances 15 USD per person. In Education team, four people will do education awareness talk in 10 villages. The team would use the daily subsistence allowance for 15 USD per person for 13 days.

Travel and accommodation: In transportation, car will be hired for 15 days for population survey and 13 days for education awareness.

Other: The cost will be used in education awareness talks in 10 villages as refreshment of all participants.

BANCA will contribute office place, office stationaries, staff times, internet access as in kind in this project.

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
Full payment details have been provided on the final page.	Yes
Application is being submitted electronically as one single document.	Yes
Application is being submitted in MS Word format.	Yes
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.	Email was sent to the Baer's Pochard Task Force last two weeks and Coordinator replied that they approved this application.

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

EAAFP will acknowledge the receipt of your application.

Applications close at 5pm (Seoul Time) on 3 February 2020
Results will be announced on 3 March 2020

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Decision: _____

Authorised: __/__/__ _____

Entered: __/__/__ _____

Comments: _____

Lead Investigator Advised: __/__/__ _____

PLEASE COMPLETE PAYMENT DETAILS ON FINAL PAGE

PAYMENT DETAILS



2020 APPLICATION FORM

Small Grants Fund for Working Groups & Task Forces

For office use only

Application received	
Application assessed	

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 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.

NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

1. Applications should be targeted towards EAAFP key species or habitats, regions, or emerging threats or other specified Partnership objectives. All applications should demonstrate how the project will contribute to the implementation of the [EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028](#).
2. The maximum amount annually provided by the Small Grants Fund to an applicant or for a specific project is \$5,000 (USD). If the project budget exceeds this amount, then the supporting funds and funders need to be identified in the Application.
3. Funds are limited and not all applications may be funded.
4. Applications with in-kind contributions and other matching financial are preferred.
5. Grants are awarded on the strict understanding that funds will be exempt from institutional administration charges, unless Partner government law so requires.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces are eligible for funding to go towards meetings, research, monitoring, site management, training and CEPA events and materials.
9. 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.
10. Lead investigators are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from government authorities, indigenous communities, ethics committees etc., to undertake approved research or monitoring studies.
11. Project completion is required within 18 months of the close of the Application period.
12. Successful applicants will be required to provide a short write up of their project outcomes for the EAAFP newsletter and website and to report to the relevant Working Group or Task Force. They are also strongly encouraged to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals.

Call for proposal opens on 3 January. Applications close at 5pm (Seoul Time) on 3 February annually. Announcements of funding will be made by 3 March.

A follow-up application process may be available 6 months later should funds remain.



2020 APPLICATION FORM

Small Grants Fund for Working Groups & Task Forces

For office use only

Application received	
Application assessed	

Guidance to Applicants

1. Eligibility of Projects

- | | | |
|---|------------|----|
| 1.1 The focus of the project is migratory waterbirds and their habitats. | Yes | No |
| 1.2 The project will improve the understanding of factors important for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF. | Yes | No |
| 1.3 The applicant agrees to provide a final report within 3 months of the completion of the project. | Yes | No |
| 1.4 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 |
| 1.5 The applicant will acknowledge the support of the EAAFP in any publications, presentations and reports arising from this work. | Yes | No |

2. Project Assessment Criteria

- 2.1 The contribution the project is anticipated to make to the Key Result Areas listed in the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028.
- 2.2 The alignment of the project with priority Single Species Action Plans or overall Working Group and Task Force objectives. Applications are encouraged to contact the relevant Working Group and Task Force Chair or Coordinator to brief them on the Project Proposal. Please contact the EAAFP Programme Officer if additional information is needed (programme@eaaflyway.net).
- 2.3 The justification for the grant funds requested relative to the overall budget of the project.
- 2.4 Leveraging of in-kind contributions and other matching financial.
- 2.5 The track record of the lead investigator and the likelihood of the project achieving its objectives.

3. Project Assessment Process (for information)

- 3.1 Following initial Secretariat and WG/TF screening and review, the Technical Sub-Committee (TsC) will select at least 1 reviewer per 5 applications (e.g. 4 reviewers for 20 applications). Reviewers should be TsC members or other persons with appropriate expertise and a flyway-wide perspective. Considerations for reviewer selection will include geographic and technical expertise diversity. A lead reviewer will be identified to coordinate the process for each application.
- 3.2 Reviews should ensure calibration on the ranking definitions and scoring criteria prior to beginning reviews.
- 3.3 Ensure that each application is reviewed by a minimum of 2 reviewers, with an offset system so pairs of reviewers are rotated in different combinations (for example, with 20 applications, Reviewer A gets applications 1-10, B gets 6-15, C gets 11-20, D gets 16-5). Reviews are encouraged to review as many additional projects as possible.
- 3.4 Reviewers are to recuse themselves from reviewing any application where there is a conflict of interest. These applications will be assigned to another reviewer.

- 3.5 Conduct independent reviews, including reading the application, scoring, ranking, and notes. Submit reviews to lead reviewer for compilation in a table. Note that all applications should be read prior to scoring to increase perspective. Submit to the lead reviewer, who will share tallied results back with the other reviewers.
- 3.6 Discuss the merits of all applications as a group.
- 3.7 Provide for an opportunity to reach out to applicants with questions, recommendation, or requests for more information. Communicate with the WG/TF Chairs/Coordinators if necessary.
- 3.8 Strive for consensus on overall applications ranking and recommendations on funding.
- 3.9 If there are numerous projects that are scored/ranked closely near the "funding line", then all reviewers should review those projects prior to a final recommendation.
- 3.10 The lead reviewer will compile and deliver the final recommendations for funding to the Secretariat.
- 3.11 Review Team and the Secretariat should examine the process and recommend changes for the next cycle.