

2023 EAAFP Small Grant Fund Application Form

Part A.

A. Personal Details of Applicant

Title: Ms. - Ei Thinzar Aung
(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

Institution: Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)
Institutional address: Room No. (102), Buldiing (F), Parami Condo, Hlaing Township, Yangon Region
Street address or GPO Box

Degree type: Yangon Yangon Region, Myanmar 11051
Suburb or town State or country Postcode

+ 95 9 420 080 979 + 95 9 779727314
Primary contact number Mobile phone number

Email address: eithinzaraung@bancamm.org, admin@bancamm.org

B. 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)

Name of Working Group or Task Force: Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force

Title of Chair/Coordinator: Mr. Zöckler Christoph
(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

Email address: christoph.zoeckler@m-h-s.org

C. Eligibility of Projects

Please select "Yes" or "No" for each of the following questions:

- The focus of the project is migratory waterbirds and their habitats? Yes No
- The project will improve the understanding of factors important for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF? Yes No
- 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 Yes No and reports arising from this work?

D. Project Details

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

Monitoring the Migratory Shorebirds in West Gulf of Mottama Ramsar Site

Project Proposal:

Details of your entire project (not just the component for which EAAFP funds are sought) (2.5 page maximum)	
1. Objectives:	Strengthening the Coastal Communities for Monitoring of Migratory Shorebirds in the Gulf of Mottama Ramsar Site
2. Background:	<p>The Spoon-billed Sandpiper <i>Calidris pygmaea</i> is a long-distance migratory shorebird which is listed as Critically Endangered in the IUCN RedList of Threatened species. It is a highly charismatic species that has declined by nearly 90% since the early 2000s and is now down to about 490 mature individuals (95% CL = 360–620).</p> <p>Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) has been exploring the sites for Spoon-billed Sandpiper as the important wintering ground since 2008. Approximately half of the global population is understood to be wintering in Myanmar and the large majority in the Gulf of Mottama (GoM). The Gulf is one of the most important and unique intertidal mudflat wetland systems in the world. The high productivity of the wetland system supports up to 200,000 waterbirds, of which 12 are Globally Threatened according to the IUCN RedList of Threatened Species including Spoon-billed Sandpiper.</p> <p>BANCA formed Local Conservation Groups (LCGs) to be effective in the conservation works in Mon State in 2013 and built their capacity by providing trainings, education and awareness raising programs. Moreover, BANCA explored the hunters who were relying on bird hunting activities, then changed their livelihood as alternative ways in 2011.</p> <p>BANCA conducted a lot of consultations with relevant government agencies and local communities to be designated the Gulf of Mottama as Ramsar Site. In 2017, the northern part of the Gulf area (42,500 ha) was designated as Fourth Ramsar Site (Site No. 2299) in Myanmar including Bilin and Kyaik Hto Townships in Mon State. In 2020, the Gulf was extended to cover a total of 161,030 hectares including the areas of Thaton and Pong Townships in Mon State and Kawa and Thanatpin in Bago Region.</p> <p>Moreover, the Gulf of Mottama is recognized as the first Flyway Network Site (EAAF117) in Myanmar and Important Bird Area (MM056) as well.</p> <p>In 2022, BANCA formed the very first LCGs in six villages where are nearest and mainly depending on the Gulf. Then, subsequently, BANCA promoted their knowledge and capacity on conservation to be site guards. But, to be utilized the lessons in practically, follow up training program with more relevant topics will be needed for them.</p> <p>Thus, the project will be fulfilled the gap for the strengthening of LCG members in sustainable conservation in the Gulf of Mottama in Myanmar.</p>
3. Project plan, timeline and methods:	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The project will be conducted by three activities as follows;</p> <p>Activity (1) Training on Shorebird Conservation and Methodology of Illegal Bird Hunting and Taking of Birds Survey - October 2023</p> <p>This training will be provided to LCGs to improve their capacity in community outreach and shorebirds monitoring in the Gulf of Mottama. Basic bird watching to identify and conserve the shorebirds, basic</p>

	<p>Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool (SMART) patrolling mainly focus on data entry level, and survey techniques of illegal bird hunting and taking of birds in markets will involve in the training's topics.</p> <p>Method: Powerpoint presentations, awareness videos and quiz games will be involved in the training. Moreover, pamphlets and handouts related to the training's topics will be shared to the trainees.</p> <p>Activity (2) Shorebirds Monitoring Survey and Patrolling – October 2023 to January 2024 This activity will be provided to improve the protection of species and their habitats from threats. Method: Monthly shorebird monitoring survey and patrolling activity will be conducted by community-based approach to record migratory birds in wintering season and also strengthen enforcement in the Gulf.</p> <p>Activity (3) To assess and identify the illegal birds hunting in villages and local markets - October 2023 to January 2024 This activity will be conducted by LCGs in and around their villages during migratory seasons to . Method: Interview survey: This activity will carry out by using questionnaire to the villagers who know illegal bird hunting markets and information, bird sellers and hunters (if possible). Market survey: This activity will carry out in local markets based on interview survey results.</p>
<p>4. Likely benefit to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitat / or key research outputs:</p>	<p><i>In addressing this question, please also identify which EAAFP Key Result Areas the project will contribute to (see the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019 – 2028).</i></p> <p>The project will contribute to the following EAAFP Key Result Areas.</p> <p>KRA 1.3: Regular monitoring on migratory shorebirds and patrolling in the west Gulf of Mottama by local conservation groups</p> <p>KRA 1.4: Supporting the livelihoods of local communities as site guards in the Gulf of Mottama</p> <p>KRA 1.5: Developing the protection of migratory shorebirds and site by sharing the results from patrolling and illegal bird hunting to government authorities and relevant stakeholders</p>
<p>5. Alignment with EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces priorities:</p>	<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 aligned with Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force, and Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds.</p> <p>This project will provide data for EAAFP's key species including Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Endangered Great knot and Spotted Greenshank where can be found in the Gulf of Mottama. Moreover, it will support information on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds.</p>
<p>6. Explain the part of your project for which you are seeking EAAFP funds in this Application (provide details in the Project Budget section below):</p>	<p>According to the result, of monitoring and evaluation led by the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force (National Focal Point) in early 2021, the LCGs are poorly coordinated and LCGs members are voiceless in Village Development Committee which were established under the Gulf of Mottama project funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). On the other hand, villagers are struggling economically in times of Covid-19 and political turmoil in Myanmar and there are reports of birds were being caught and sold at the local market. Illegal fishing and unsustainable hunting is an immediate and severe threat to wild bird populations in Myanmar. Furthermore, in the western part of the Gulf of Mottama, there is a lack of community-based conservation for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and other migratory shore bird species. Therefore, we are seeking fund through this application.</p>
<p>7. Scientific References cited in the Application:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Zockler, C, et al. (2016). The Wintering Distribution of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper. The winter distribution of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper <i>Calidris pygmaeus</i>. Bird Conservation International, Available on CJO 2016 doi:10.1017/S0959270915000295 2. Aung et al. (2017). Monitoring Programme for the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper in its most important wintering grounds in Myanmar. unpublished report for BANCA. 3. Aung, P. P., et al. (2019). MONITORING OF MIGRATORY SHOREBIRDS AT GULF OF MOTTAMA
<p>8. How will any continuing COVID restrictions be</p>	<p>All of the project activities will conduct according to the guidelines of Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar. Keep in touch with the local CBO to get the update information on Covid and political that it is time to make the project activities.</p>

managed for project delivery?:

Travel restriction due to COVID pandemic and political instability. The project staff will take medical test of COVID and take quarantine in Township and village.
If the project sites are very restrict, we deliver the lecture to CBO members who will lead the awareness programs to other villages.
Meetings/Training delay or unable to take place face to face due to COVID. The project staff will support digital communication like online planform and organize the local conservation groups for practically by following the guide line of Health Department.

Part B. FOR CONFERENCE APPLICANTS ONLY

(For Task Force or Working Group members delivering their own work as a presentation, paper or poster)

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

Part C. FOR ALL APPLICANTS

Experience Relevant to Project:

0.5 page maximum

BANCA has been carrying out the conservation of Critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*) and other migratory wetland birds since 2008 in Myanmar. The sustainable activities such as changing the vocational work for the bird hunters, providing trainings for bird watching, capacity building, regional development activities were provided to local communities.

In 2010-2011, socio economic and exploring bird hunter survey was conducted and provided alternative livelihood who were maily relying on bird hunting for income source in east and west Gulf of Mottama. Then, education and awareness programs to bird hunters and also local communities. In 2013, BANCA formed Local Conservation Groups (LCGs) to support the sustabinal conservation of Spoon-billed Sandpiper and its habitats in the Gulf of Mottama. A lot of consultation with local and national to be designated the Gulf as Ramsar Site in Myanmar. Moreover, 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 in Mandalay region in central Myanmar. Mandalay government has checked the current situation of illegal bird killing at Paleik Lake 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.

Ms. Ei Thinzar Aung, Program Officer will be charged in the project. She is working for wetland conservation for Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Myanmar especially for CEPA program since 2018 and closely collaboration with Forest Department for designation of Ramsar Sites in Myanmar. She has good communication and relationship with local communities of the project sites. She also involved in climate change vulnerabitly assessment in wetand in Mandalay Region and regional situation anaylysis on the hunting and take of migratory birds in 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.

E. Project Budget (please outline costs of your entire project, not just the component(s) for which funds are being sought from EAAFP)

Item (Please list)	Budget (USD)	Co-funding acquired	Co-funding applied for	Support requested from EAAFP
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			(source and amount in USD)	(source and amount in USD)	(USD)
Consumable items (details)	Training - 22 persons * 3 days * 7USD/person	1300			1300
Travel and accommodation (details)	Accommodation, Transport YGN-Bago-Yangon, Local transports for LCGs	2100			2100
Computing & clerical (details)	Printing poster, pamphlets and handouts	300			300
Other (details)	Daily wages for LCG in training, patrolling, and market survey	600			600
Total amount requested from EAAFP Small Grants Fund: (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):

Consumable items

Training will invite 22 persons for 3 days and use 7USD person for a day.

Monitoring Shorebird survey will carry out for 4 months. 7 days per month with 5 persons for each time and use 5 USD person for a day.

Market survey will carry out for 4 months - 12 persons in 6 villages * 7USD person for a day.

Travel and accommodation: Hiring one boat per trip for 4 months. One boat will use 250 USD. And transport for staff from Yangon to Bago region and local transport for LCG will use as lump sum amount.

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

F. 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 box you are agreeing to the above statement:

G. Application Checklist

All relevant sections of this Application have been completed.	Yes	x	No
Full payment details have been provided on the final page.	Yes	x	No
Application is being submitted electronically as one single document.	Yes	x	No
Application is being submitted in MS Word format.	Yes	x	No
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	x	No

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 (KST) on 6 February 2023
Results will be announced on 7 March 2023 on EAAFP Webpage and via email

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 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.