

Small Grant Fund for EAAFP Working Groups & Task Forces

2025 Application Form

A. Details of Applicant

Institution/ organisation:	Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association		
Contact Details			
Name:	Dr.	Aung	Thiri Dawei
Position:	Mr./Ms./Dr.	Family Name	Given Name
Email Address:	Chairman of BANCA, Southern Asian Coordinator of Baer’s Pochard Task Force		
	thiridaweiaung@bancamm.org		

Brief Background of the Institution/organisation	<p><i>Please include relevant experience in wetlands and waterbird conservation, local community engagement, etc. Add website and social media links if available.</i></p> <p>Since 2016, BANCA conducted an extensive survey at 25 inland lakes in central Myanmar including Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). It found some sites with potential as important wintering grounds for Baer’s Pochard, critically endangered particularly at the Pyu Lake, where at least 12 individuals were observed, and Paleik Lake near Mandalay city were two Baer’s Pochard were observed with over 5000 other waterbirds in late January 2016. Apart from the number and species of bird present, notes were taken on human activities, threats and impacts, and environmental parameters. At Pyu Lake, to conserve the wetlands and migratory waterbird species under a unique, ground-up community-based model, BANCA has established the “Shwe Kanthayar Nature Conservation Association (SKNCA)” in 2017. BANCA has formed “Paleik Lake Nature Conservation Association (PLNCA)” in 2022. These groups consist mainly of local people living around the lake, works to drive community-based conservation efforts, including efforts to address illegal hunting of waterbirds, wider problems associated with unsustainable use of wetlands and climate change Vulnerable Assessment.</p> <p>Furthermore, BANCA involved in Mandalay Regional Wetland Committee which is chaired by Minister of Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation, Mandalay Region and secretaries by the Director of Forest Department and relevant government departments, and the committee members by Wetland Conservation Committee -Myanmar programme, BANCA, IUCN and MBNS. This committee focused on sustainable management and long-term conservation and wise use of wetlands in central Myanmar.</p> <p>During the crisis (Covid – 19 & Military coup), BANCA changed the remote monitoring programs for all of the research and conservation programs that means we provided all of the CBO member’ empowerment by strengthening the capacity building and leading to community – based biodiversity conservation programs throughout in Myanmar.</p> <p>As results, BANCA have more effectiveness communication and working with the CBO members to figure out the community engagement into inland wetland conservation to be designation the East Asian Australasian Flyway Network Site (EAAF – 154 & 155) and 7th Ramsar Site (No – 2533) are the first recognition in central Myanmar. Recent, BANCA have successfully implemented the community involvement into international importance of inland wetland in Mandalay region in 2025 that will be next Ramsar Site in central Myanmar.</p>
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Furthermore, our CBO members have very energetically and powerful for implementing the community – based monitoring programs for migratory water bird species, stop illegal bird hunting and raising the inland wetland conservation awareness to their neighbor living by wetlands important to critical endangered species: Baer’s Pochard and other globally threatened migratory diving duck species such as Ferruginous Pochard, Common Pochard, Greyleg Goose, Common Crane, Tuffed Duck, etc.

B. Prior Funding from EAAFP

Please indicate if you have received prior funding from the EAAFP via the Small Grant Fund for Working Groups and Task Forces and/or the World Migratory Bird Day Small Grant Fund. Please include the project title, type of Small Grant, and year of receiving the funding. List of received

C. Applicant’s Membership of EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces

By ticking this box, you confirm your membership of a Working Group and/or Task Force of the EAAFP:

Please list the name/s of the WGs and TFs of which you are a member:

D. Relevant EAAFP Working Group or Task Force Chair/Coordinator - Details

Please contact the EAAFP Programme Coordinator at godwit@eaaflyway.net if additional guidance is needed concerning this section.

Name of Working Group or Task Force: _____ **Baer’s Pochard Task Force** _____

Title of Chair/ coordinator (Ms, Mr, etc.) _____ Family Name _____ Given Name/s _____

Email address of Chair/Coordinator: _____

E. Project Proposal Details

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

Depth sense of community (CBO) influence on community engagement into the inland wetland resource conservation in Mandalay region.

Project Duration: Please provide an approximate duration for your proposed project. This will help us to indicate the approximate reporting schedule.

15th July 2025 to 31st March 2026

Project Proposal:

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

<p>1. Objectives:</p>	<p>Strong sense of community (CBO) fosters the local community perception of inland wetland resource conservation in Mandalay region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raising attitude and capacities of community – based conservation group (Paleik Lake Nature Conservation Association) on the wetland biodiversity value and resource conservation. ▪ Enhancing the community – based wetland conservation program into local people through the education awareness activities at villages around the Paleik Lake. ▪ Monitoring the Asian Water Bird Census at Pyu Lake, Paleik Lake and Banaw Inn in Mandalay region. ▪ Developing the leadership skill for Shwe Kantharyar CBO and Paleik Lake CBO members on inland wetland conservation.
<p>2. Background:</p>	<p>The Paleik Lake is designated as the seventh of Myanmar’s East Asian Australasian Flyway Network Site (EAAF – 154) is a natural freshwater and oxbow lake of Myit Nge River from the Ayeyarwaddy River. The Paleik Lake provides the significant riverine ecosystem particularly the supporting service to plant diversity (Ottelia Cordata). These hydrophytic plants are crucial components of the water purification and high quality of wetland ecosystem and services by providing the food, habitat and shelter for a multitude of migratory diving duck species such as Bae’s Pochard, Ferruginous Pochard, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck and more abundance population of Greylag Goose, Northern Pintail, Glossy Ibis, Black – headed Ibis and also providing the breeding ground for the other waterfowl species such as crake, water hen and water cock species. The Lake records up to 50 water bird species with near (5,000) population within the 480 hectares. Moreover, the local communities mainly utilize the site for agriculture such as rice and seasonal crop plantation in the receding waterbody and for fish farming in inundated pools and small streams around the lake at subsistence income level. Now, BANCA have prepared to propose the next Ramsar Site in central Myanmar because the Paleik Lake have meet the (1,2,4,6) criteria.</p> <p>On the other hands, the local people have the negative perception of migratory bird species because the species destroy their seedling and crops in wintering season, the local people scare and shoot with catapults to migratory water bird species, bird hunting with trapped in aquatic plants with poison (Potassium Cyanide), and look through the bird hunting by stranger from other township. Besides, the local people are limiting the wetland resource conservation program due to the restriction knowledge about the value of wetland ecosystem service.</p> <p>The Paleik Lake Nature Conservation Association formed by BANCA in 2022 are limiting the attitude and less resource person and poor participation on wetland and migratory water bird conservation program. Therefore, BANCA have cooperated with the Shwe Kantharyar CBO would like to reform the CBO members, raise their attitude by giving the CEPA TOT and coaching training and figuring the community – based inland wetland conservation program into the local community to change from negative to positive perception and more</p>

involvement for the long term of Paleik Lake wetland conservation in Mandalay region.

Moreover, BANCA would love to count the Asian Water Bird Census with the local CBO members because for raising their memories for water bird species identification and monitoring the water bird population monthly by themselves during the project period.

3. Expected Outputs and Outcomes:

Please indicate the expected outputs and outcomes of this proposal. Refer to the guidance below:

4. Project plan, timeline, and methods:

Please include the proposed timing of project implementation and completion, as well as the start and completion of fieldwork if applicable. Kindly also comment on the flexibility of the timeline of the project.

Project plans:

BANCA will cooperate with the Shwe Kantharyar CBO members to reform the Paleik Lake CBO members, supporting to advance CEPA TOT and coaching Training to Paleik Lake CBO members on migratory identification training and wetland resource conservation. Then, we (BANCA, Shwe Kantharyar & Paleik Lake) perform the wetland conservation awareness activities and standing the education awareness signboard and vinyl at five villages are surrounded by the Paleik Lake, monitoring the Asian water bird census at Paleik Lake, Pyu lake and Banaw Inn in wintering period. Then, BANCA will provide the leadership training for implementing the conservation program and report writing training to both CBO (Shwe Kantharyar & Paleik Lake) in Mandalay region during the project. In person all CEPA training with CEPA strategies method and report writing training, core count methods for migratory water bird species monitoring.

Timeline:

Preparing the education awareness material, communicating with the relevant stakeholders such as CBO members for training agenda and govern for permission in June 2025.

Reforming CBO (Paleik Lake) and supporting the CEPA ToT and coaching training and leadership training to Paleik Lake members (new & old) in July – August 2025.

Performing the wetland education awareness activities at four villages surrounding the Paleik Lake and two villages near Pyu Lake in September to November 2025.

Providing the bird identification and counting training and report writing training to both CBO members in December to January 2026.

Reporting the all project activities and analysing the data in February to March 2026.

5. Expected benefit to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitat / or

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

<p>key research outputs:</p>	<p>This project for the conservation of inland wetland and globally threatened the migratory waterbird species will contribute to the the following EAAFP Key Result Areas:</p> <p>KRA 3.1: Monitoring on migratory water bird and threats survey is essential for tracking conservation status and the effectiveness of site protection, and needs to be undertaken in coordination with the Asia Waterbird Census and planned flyway-wide survey of Baer’s Pochard. The core count methodology for Baer’s Pochard and migratory waterbirds and their habitat will help to strengthen the nationally coordinated waterbird monitoring programme.</p> <p>KRA 2.1: Raising the education awareness activities contribute for conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and EAAFP’s CEPA action plan as well as Baer’s Pochard Task Force.</p> <p>KRA 5.1 Actively collaborating with local government and local communities to develop participatory approaches to awareness and law enforcement for illegal hunting of Baer’s Pochard and other migratory waterbird species. This will help to reduce the problem next winter and start to better protect threatened and protected populations under national legislation.</p> <p>KRA 5.2 A national species action plan for Baer’s Pochard would help to secure greater support from local stakeholders and government because it can relate better to national policy drivers than the current International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP). This action plan can also help in developing Regional Action Plans for geographical regions as well as national wetland action plan in central Myanmar.</p>
<p>6. 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 alignment with Baer’s Pochard Task Force. Priority actions include:</p> <p>(i) Undertake the comprehensive count of Baer’s Pochard and other migratory waterbird species to monitor their population and its facing threats. Supports implementation of ISSAP: 4.</p> <p>(ii) Strengthening the LCG for cooperation with the local communities and regional government to encourage the species and it habitats management. Support implementation of ISSAP:5.</p> <p>(iii) Raising the awareness activities on conservation of Baer’s Pochard and other migratory water bird species and its habitas among the local community in central Myanmar. Support implementation of ISSAP: 7</p>
<p>7. Explain the part(s) of your project for which you are seeking EAAFP funds in this Application</p>	<p>Comparison of both CBO members (Shwe Kantharyar for Pyu Lake conservation & Paleik Lake conservation), the Shwe Kantharyar team members can lead the research programs and figure out the local community engagement around the Pyu Lake and negotiate with the relevant governs (GAD and FD) in Tada Oo township. But, the Paleik Lake have less participation and don’t move forward that would be getting out of hand the Paleik Lake conservation program. BANCA discussed with them (Paleik Lake) what happens and how do they would. At time, they suggested us that they have less members and limit the knowledge and capacity even though they want to do like the Shwe Kantharyar team. Therefore, BANCA</p>

<p><i>(provide details in the Project Budget section below):</i></p>	<p>decided to provide the wetland conservation training and Shwe Kanthary team contribute their experience as a senior CBO and work together both migratory water bird monitoring and inland wetland conservation programs at Pyu Lake, Paleik Lake and Banaw Inn, Mandalay region in 2025 to 2026. Meanwhile, we (BANCA) as a facilitator for Paleik Lake wetland conservation program, but the Shwe Kantharyar & Paleik Lake will figure out the community – based wetland education awareness activities at six villages: 4 villages in Paleik Lake and two villages in Pyu Lake.</p> <p>Actually, strengthening the capacity, knowledge of CBO members (Shwe Kantharyar) and recognizing the important wetland sites (Pyu Lake & Paleik Lake) as a EAA FNS & Ramsar because of the supporting of EAAF small grant. Therefore, BANCA apply the grant for encouraging the CBO members from ground to up level like the Shwe Kantharyar team members and empowering them into local people toward the long term wetland conservation program in Mandalay region.</p>
<p>8. Confirm that the part(s) of the project for which EAAFP funds are requested can be undertaken even if no co-funding is available</p>	<p><i>Please indicate YES or NO.</i></p> <p><i>If co-funding has been requested or confirmed from other sources, please state the details here. The actual amount should be reflected in the table below (C. Project Budget).</i></p> <p>Recently, we have no other contributing project and funding.</p>
<p>9. Continued project:</p>	<p>Please specify whether this proposed project is a continuation of a previous project funded by the EAAFP Small Grant Fund for Working Groups and Task Forces or the World Migratory Bird Day Small Grant Fund. If it is a continuation, identify which effort listed in part “B. Prior funding from the EAAFP” is being carried forward.</p> <p>Now, I received and have carried out the project activities the Small Grant Fund for EAAFP WGTF (2024) and will finish in May 2025. I assumed that 2024 project can’t contributed for next one.</p>
<p>10. Scientific references cited in the Application:</p>	<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. An assessment of the wintering population of Baer’s Pochard in central Myanmar. 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. Monitoring on the status of Baer’s Pochard in Pyu Lake and Paleik Inn, central Myanmar. 3. Aung,T.D, T.Z. Naing, S.Moses, L. Win, T.S. Zaw, 2018. Population status of Baer’s Pochard in Pyu Lake and Paleik Inn, central Myanmar.

4. Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for Pyu Lake and Paleik Lake in Mandalay region – 2021 by BANCA.
5. Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association 2022: Conservation the Baer’s Pochard at two key wintering sites in central Myanmar. Unpublished report to East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).
6. Site information Sheet of Flyway Network Site and Ramsar Form.
7. Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association 2023: Strengthening the local engagement in Baer’s Pochard conservation in central Myanmar, Unpublished report to East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).
8. Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association 2022: Welcoming the migratory bird for the first time at Paleik Lake in Mandalay region, central Myanmar, published report to East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).

FOR CONFERENCE APPLICANTS ONLY

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

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

F. Experience of Applicant Relevant to the Proposed Project

Our organizations or myself might have been involved for the preservation (Conservation) of the migratory waterbirds, their habitats and East – Asian Australasian Flyway below

- Monitoring the Baer’s Pochard Critically Endangered Species within 25 inland wetlands in central Myanmar by Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) since 2016.
- Some inland wetlands namely the Pyu Lake, Paleik Lake and Banaw Inn (Lattaung Inn) recognized the priorities wintering habitat for Baer’s Pochard and other globally threatened diving duck species in Mandalay region in 2018 by the Mandalay Regional Wetland Committee based on the survey results.
- Initiation the migratory diving duck species and inland wetland conservation activities with local community and forming the Community – based Organization (CBO) namely the Shwe Kantharyar Nature Conservation Association in Pyu Lake since 2017 and Paleik Lake Nature Conservation Association in 2022.
- Monitoring the status of Baer’s Pochard population and its wintering habitat survey yearly with CBO members since 2018. All of the monitoring results and conservation activities have always contributed to Asian Water Bird Census and Baer’s Pochard Task Force Group.
- Providing to CBO members such as CEPA awareness training, coaching training, bird counting and SMART patrolling training as well as the organization development training for effectively engagement into migratory water bird and inland wetland conservation programs.

- Implementing the Climate Change and Vulnerability Assessment at Pyu Lake and Paleik Lake for the conservation of Bear's Pochard and Paleik Lake habitat to be sustain the wise use of wetland resources for communities and biodiversity.
- Designation an international importance wetland sites such as Flyway Network Site (EAAF – 154, EAAF - 155) and Ramsar Site (No. 2533) going through the collaboration of CBO into communities in Mandalay region by the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership Funding.
- I have involved in Baer's Pochard and migratory diving duck monitoring programs and leading to engage the CBO empowerment and local community participation into inland wetland conservation programs in Mandalay region since 2016.

Please also include a recent maximum 2-page CV or list non-academic research experience and experience with migratory waterbird and wetland conservation e.g. work experience, volunteer experience, bird banding, birdwatching.

G. Project Budget

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

Item (Please list)	Total Project Budget (USD)	Co-funding confirmed from sources other than EAAFP (source and amount in USD)	Co-funding applied for from sources other than EAAFP (source and amount in USD)	Funding requested from EAAFP (USD)
Equipment: Camera (1) for Shwe Kantharyar CBO Binoculars (1) for Paleik Lake CBO	800			800
Consumable items: CEPA TOT & coaching training: 4 per * 8\$ x 7 days Birdwatching training: 2 per * 5 days* 8\$ Leadership & report writing training: 3 per * 3 days* 8\$ Awareness activities: 9 days x 7 per *8 \$/ per/day	800			800
Accommodation: for all members for all activities	200			200
Transportation for all activities	1700			1400
Refreshment for awareness 6 villages & communication cost for all members	900			900
Standing signboard & vinyl	400			400
Total amount requested from EAAFP Small Grants Fund: (in USD)				4500

Budget justification: Please provide a 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 words maximum):

The camera need for Shwe Kantharyar CBO to record the migratory diving duck species for identifying the species and recording the species as well as the conservation activities because they no camera and poor resolution the activities images and binoculars for Paleik Lake CBO to identify the bird species because the Paleik Lake have one binocular that is not enough birdwater and less participation the birding activities.

Consumable: Four person of CEPA awareness team from BANCA will support the training to CBO members at 7 days, bird watching trainer (2 per) will train them within 5 days, leadership and report trainer (3) per will provide 3 days, awareness activities (BANCA, both CBO members) total (7) person will conduct the education awareness at six villages with 9 days and standing the education signboard and vinyl within those activities.

Accommodation: All trainer members will stay the monastery at Pyu Lake in Tada Oo township but should donate the charges for stay.

Transportation cost is lumsamp for all activities.

H. Application Checklist

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| All relevant sections of this Application have been completed. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Full payment details have been provided in Section I Payment Details. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Application is being submitted electronically as one single document. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Application is being submitted in MS Word format. | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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

I. Payment Details

J. Grand conditions

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

1. Funds are to be strictly used for the purposes of implementation of the project as per the application form and budget provided.
2. Grants are awarded on the strict understanding that funds will be exempt from institutional administration charges unless a Partner government law so requires.
3. Lead investigators are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from government authorities, indigenous communities, ethics committees etc., to undertake approved research or monitoring studies.

4. You are able to undertake and complete the project, with the funds received from the SGF. This should be possible even if you do not receive co-funding from other sources that you propose/may have applied for from other sources, as mentioned in Section F. budget table in the application.
5. Project completion is required within 18 months of the close of the application period, which would be 19 September 2026.
6. You are required to submit to the EAAFP Secretariat at secretariat@eaaflyway.net and copy the Programme Coordinator at godwit@eaaflyway.net and the Relevant Working Group or Task Force Chairs/Coordinators with the following:
 - a final report within 3 months of the completion of the project;
 - a short write-up with photos for the EAAFP newsletter and website as well as a report to the relevant Working Group or Task Force within 3 months of the completion of the project; and
 - a copy of any publications that result from your grant.
7. You are required to acknowledge the EAAFP and the Small Grant Fund in any presentations, publications, reports or promotional material arising from this work.
8. You are required to include a logo of the EAAFP on any display material you will be preparing. Please email the EAAFP Secretariat at secretariat@eaaflyway.net and copy the Programme Coordinator at godwit@eaaflyway.net to obtain an electronic copy of the EAAFP logo.

K. Declaration

Applicant's Full Name:

I have discussed the contents of this Application with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of the Working Group and/or Task Force and they have been carbon copied (cc) to this application submission as evidence that they have seen and supported this application.

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 statements:

L. Application submission

Please email your application as a single document to the respective Working Group or Task Force Chair/Coordinator and **copy** the EAAFP Secretariat at secretariat@eaaflyway.net and the Programme Coordinator at godwit@eaaflyway.net.

The EAAFP Secretariat will acknowledge the receipt of your application.

Applications close at 5:00 pm (KST) on 19 March 2025

Results will be announced by 22 May 2025 on the EAAFP webpage and communicated via email