

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Final Report

1. Darwin Project Information

Project Ref. Number	162/12/025
Project Title	Building constituencies for site-based conservation in Myanmar
Country	Myanmar
UK Contractor	BirdLife International
Partner Organisation(s)	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)
Darwin Grant Value	GBP 157,236
Start/End dates	1 October 2003-31 March 2007
Project website	www.BirdLifeindochina.org
Author(s), date	Jonathan C. Eames, U U Ga, U Htin Hla, Khin Ma Ma Thwin, Aung Kyaw Nyunt and Luu Thi My

2. Project Background/Rationale

The geographical focus of this project were two biodiversity “hotspots”, the *Eastern Himalayas* and *Sundaic Lowlands* Endemic Bird Areas (EBAs) in Myanmar. Specifically, the project worked in four Important Bird Areas (IBAs). These were the Natmataung National Park, located in southern Chin State, the Mount Imawbun Area and lowland wetlands in northern Kachin State, and the lowland forests in and around the proposed Lenya National Park in southern Tanintharyi Division in the far south of Myanmar.

The project aimed to address three problems. These were the lack of recent information on the specific location and status of sites of international conservation importance; A lack of capacity amongst local non-government organizations working on biodiversity conservation in Myanmar, and; A lack of involvement of local people in the management of protected areas and a belief that through their increased empowerment, better conservation and improved livelihoods could be achieved.

The need for this project was identified by BirdLife International. Specifically, the need for this project was identified by the BirdLife Indochina Programme Manager, who was the Project Team Leader. The Project Team visited Myanmar prior to the project to research the need for the project which involved rounds of consultation with the project stakeholders including the local project partner.

Evidence for a demand for this work and the commitment from the local partner is amply demonstrated by the successful implementation of the project as presented in the three Annual reports to Darwin, and by the development, funding and implementation of subsequent related project proposals by the local counterpart organization for follow-on activities.

3. Project Summary

The purpose and objectives of the project were to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) to prioritize, plan and undertake high quality applied research and use the results to achieve greatest benefits for conservation, and to develop Site-support Groups (SSGs) at four sites of global conservation importance, empowering communities to manage natural resources and improve their quality of life. The first objective was fully realized. The second objective was *modified* during the project period so that SSGs were developed at one site only within one Endemic Bird Area (EBA). This was not considered a *significant change* to the objectives but altered the operational plan slightly. This change was reported to Darwin in the annual reports. The project had five outputs/outcomes and overall success with achieving these is detailed in the table below. The logical framework has been included as Appendix 5.

Table 1: Overall Progress in Achieving Project Outputs/Outcomes

Outputs/Outcomes	Measurable Indicator	Result
1.1 Published conservation assessments of 2 EBAs.	1.1 Minimum of 4 staff from local partner institution trained to conduct surveys, analyze data and draft assessment reports.	1.1 A minimum of 12 staff, including 8 from BANCA comprising U Uga, U Htin Hla, Khin Ma Ma Thwin, U Aung Kyaw Nyunt, U Haung Mang, U Sein Myo Aung, U Saw Moses, Khin Min Min Thwin, U Shein Gay Ngai, U Maung Nu, U Samyo Zaw, and U Ngwe Lwin received training. <i>Myanmar: Investment Opportunities in Biodiversity Conservation</i> was published, with U Uga as co-author. Project staff contributed to the two journal papers in press. BANCA staff drafted and secured funding <i>themselves</i> for two project proposals.
1.2 Establishment of 4 IBA SSGs within the 2 EBAs.	1.2 Conservation activities undertaken by 4 SSGs.	1.2 Conservation activities undertaken by the SSGs first at Okpo and Hilaung villages were scaled-up in 2006 as the result of a new collaboration with CARE Myanmar and UNDP. By project closure 16 villages were operating anti-poaching patrols. In return 14 villages have received development inputs aimed at improving livelihoods. The patrols have advised hunters of the illegality of their actions and have confiscated traps from the forest. There has been one conviction and a custodial sentence imposed.
1.3 Strengthened capacity of BANCA staff to undertake conservation planning	1.3 Conservation planning activities lead by BANCA staff.	1.3 U Uga (BANCA Chairman) and U Shein Gay Ngai (Warden of Natmataung National Park), plus locally recruited staff, identified villages using established criteria. They then convened village-level meetings to learn more about village development and household issues, before jointly designing and agreeing development inputs to be provided by the project, in return for village-level support to reduce hunting pressure in the national park.
2.1 Conservation undertaken by SSGs at 4 priority IBAs.	2.1 Local stakeholders develop and implement conservation activities at 4 IBAs.	2.1 See 1.2 and 1.3 above
2.2 Increased community awareness to protect birds/environment at priority IBAs.	2.2 Conservation awareness materials used by local villages.	2.2 Awareness materials developed and distributed to 100 teachers during 2 workshops. Conservation awareness materials produced under the British and USA Embassy funded projects.
2.3 Follow-on proposals to scale-up SSG approach in other IBAs developed.	2.3 Minimum of two proposals to replicate SSG approach to other IBAs and support BANCA.	2.3 US \$ 40,000 secured from TMF/Dutch government to scale-up SSG activities in Natmataung National Park buffer zone. The British Bird watching Fair and Global Conservation Fund has provided US\$ 400,000 and US\$ 250,000 for establishment of Lenya National Park. Additional funding secured from other sources.

This project was best described by and addressed Articles 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 17 under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

This project has been successful in terms of meeting both its objectives. The capacity of BANCA to prioritize, plan and undertake high quality applied research and the results to achieve greatest benefits for conservation was achieved within the lifetime of the project as evidenced by a published journal paper, their contribution to a published BirdLife strategy, and their admission to the BirdLife Partnership as the appointed BirdLife Affiliate in Myanmar. At the start of the project BANCA did not meet standards of eligibility set by the BirdLife Partnership, but did reach these during the life of the project. Within the lifetime of the project sixteen SSGs were established in the buffer zone of Natmataung National Park. Thus the second objective, in a slightly modified form was achieved and significantly exceeded.

The significant *additional accomplishments* of this project have been the increased credibility and profile of BANCA and BirdLife within Myanmar amongst Government of Myanmar agencies, donors, and non-government organizations. Evidence of this is provided by the *appointment* of the BANCA Chairman to assist the coordination of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Planning (NBSAP) process by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the *appointment* of BANCA by the Government as the lead agency to produce an Environment Impact Assessment for a proposed dam on the Chindwin River, \$650,000 was *leveraged* from the British Birdwatching Fair and the Global Conservation Fund for the establishment of Lenya National Park, BirdLife was also invited by the European Commission to develop a major new conservation project in Myanmar (estimated budget E 1,000,000).

4. Scientific, Training, and Technical Assessment.

Research

The project conducted ornithological research at Mount Bwe Pa in Chin State during the first quarter of 2004, mounted three expeditions to the Mount Imawbun area of north eastern Kachin state during the winters of 2005, 2006 and 2007, conducted lowland wetland surveys in Kachin State between 2003 and 2006, and conducted status surveys for Gurney's Pitta *Pitta gurneyii* in southern Tanintharyi Division during 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007. These expeditions included suitably qualified American, British, German and Myanmar staff who where all members of the teams at various times and who worked alongside Myanmar staff from BANCA and the Forest Department.

Mount Bwe Pa was selected for survey because it is a one of the highest peaks in the Chin Hills and at the time was ornithologically unexplored. The location was a candidate site for protected area establishment, IBA designation and SSG establishment. A collection of nearly 60 bird skins was made. Birds were trapped using mist nets. The site supports a suite of endemic and globally threatened species characteristic of the Eastern Himalayas EBA. Mount Imawbun was selected for survey because of its great height, strategic location on the edge of the Eastern Himalayas and Yunnan Mountains EBAs and because a body of data already existed on the site which had been collected by the Verne-Cutting Expedition during the 1930s. During the three year survey period almost 300 bird specimens were collected from base-camps at varying altitudes which aimed to sample the full bird biodiversity of the mountain. The wetland survey work aimed to re-discover the feared extinct Pink-headed Duck *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea* and collected a large body of anecdotal data on the status and distribution of Globally Threatened birds in the basin of the Chindwin River. The Gurney's Pitta survey work involved collection of point count data on transects and analysis of forest cover data using GIS.

The results of this research have included the rediscovery of the Gurney's Pitta and its

down-listing from Critically Endangered to Endangered by BirdLife International. The creation of an important collection of bird specimens, the publication of one peer reviewed journal paper in *Bird Conservation International* and the acceptance for publication of two further peer reviewed journal papers in *Bird Conservation International* and the *Natural History Bulletin of the Siam Society*. These two papers are attached as appendices. An additional four papers are currently in preparation. Additionally original data collated by the project was incorporated and published in two important strategic documents. These were *Myanmar: Investment Opportunities in Biodiversity Conservation* and *Important Bird Areas in Asia*.

Myanmar: Investment Opportunities in Biodiversity Conservation by Andrew W. Tordoff, Jonathan C. Eames, Karin Eberhardt, Michael C. Baltzer, Peter Davidson, Peter Leimgruber, U Uga, U Aung Than, BirdLife International (2005) 124 pp. This document was an output of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Profile process for Myanmar and the Indo-Burma Hotspot which BirdLife lead. This document amounts to a *de facto* terrestrial biodiversity action plan for Myanmar. So this output can be considered an important milestone in supporting Myanmar reach targets under the Convention on Biodiversity Convention (CBD).

Important Bird Areas in Asia, published by BirdLife International in 2004, identifies 2,293 sites, covering 7.6% of the region's total land area. It took 8 years to complete, involving hundreds of ornithologists, volunteers and government staff in 28 countries and territories across the entire Asia region, including Myanmar. In addition to Darwin it received support from the governments of Japan, Denmark and the Netherlands, as well as the private sector in Japan.

The expatriate staff involved in the research programme comprised: Jonathan C Eames (British), Team Leader and Programme Manager for BirdLife International *in Indochina*, Andrew W Tordoff (British), formerly Conservation Advisor for BirdLife International *in Indochina*, Tim Appleton M.B.E (British), Reserve Manager, Rutland Water Nature reserve, UK, Karin Eberhardt (German and USA), Myanmar-based conservation and development specialist, Dr Frank Steinheimer (German) Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Museum für Naturkunde, D-10099 Berlin and formerly The Natural History Museum UK.

Training and capacity building activities

During the project period the following BANCA and Forest Department staff received training: U Uga, U Htin Hla, Khin Ma Ma Thwin, U Aung Kyaw Nyunt, U Haung Mang, U Sein Myo Aung, U Saw Moses, Khin Min Min Thwin, U Shein Gay Ngai, U Maung Nu, U Samyo Zaw, and U Nay Moe Shwe, U Thura Win Htun and U Ngwe Lwin. BANCA is a small organization and the small pool of people available restricted available choice. However staff were screened and selected based on their qualifications and interests. Staff received training in preparation of museum study skins and spirit specimens, interpreting satellite imagery, survey techniques (point counts and line transects), workshop planning, technical report writing, researching and drafting journal papers, bird identification, making presentations, proposal writing and project management. Because of the small number of staff involved we were able to provide one-on-one training and much of it took the form of on-the-job-training. Staff were assigned tasks as part of structured terms of reference and assessed regularly. In some cases following assessment some staff were re-assigned to more suite their interest and abilities.

5. Project Impacts

The purpose of the project was to strengthen the institutional capacity of BANCA to prioritize, plan and undertake high quality applied research and use the results to

achieve greatest benefits for conservation, and to develop SSGs at four sites of global conservation importance, empowering communities to manage natural resources and improve their quality of life. The evidence that the project achievements have led to the accomplishment of the purpose are best illustrated by the fact that BANCA is now a BirdLife Affiliate, that during and beyond the lifetime of the project, BANCA staff have published peer reviewed journal papers, that they have contributed to other strategic conservation documents. Their improved skills and confidence acquired under the project has enabled them to formulate new projects and successfully fund raise in Myanmar. This increased capacity of BANCA is recognized by Government of Myanmar agencies and the donor and NGO community. For example the BANCA Chairman was engaged to assist the coordination of the NBSAP process by UNEP and the *appointment* by Government of BANCA as the lead agency to produce an Environment Impact Assessment for a proposed dam on the Chindwin River. BANCA's improved and increased capacity to deliver conservation on the ground is well illustrated by the fact that it now works with UNDP and Care to deliver conservation and development inputs at 16 villages in the buffer zone of Natmataung National Park.

Two important achievements that BANCA project staff worked on during the lifetime of the project to help the host country to meet its obligations under the CBD were their inputs into the document *Myanmar: Investment Opportunities in Biodiversity Conservation* which is a *de facto* terrestrial biodiversity action plan for Myanmar, and latterly their inputs into the new NBSAP process more recently launched by UNEP for Myanmar. Since the completion of the project a number of BANCA staff have continued to work on subsequent biodiversity projects. This is tabulated below.

Table 2: BANCA/Forest Department staff currently working on other conservation projects

BANCA Project Staff	NBSAP project	TMF/UNDP/Care SSG Project	Gurney's Pitta research project	National vulture survey	Pink-headed Duck survey
Uga	X	X			
Htina Hla			X	X	X
Khin Ma Ma Thwin		X			
Aung Kyaw Nyunt		X			
Haung Mang		X			
Sein Myo Aung			X		X
Samyo Zaw				X	X
Nay Moe Shwe			X	X	X
Thura Win Htun			X	X	
Khin Min Min Thwin	X	X	X	X	X
Shein Gay Ngai	X				

The project continues to draw BirdLife and BANCA into an ever closer relationship. BANCA has now won appointment to the BirdLife Partnership as the Affiliate

organization in Myanmar. BirdLife, through its UK Partner the Royal Society of the Protection of Birds (RSPB) recently held a strategic planning workshop for BANCA the output of which was an organizational strategy. If the organization continues to develop there is every hope that over time it will eventually become the BirdLife Partner in Myanmar. BANCA staff have travelled to participate in BirdLife regional meetings in Japan and Hong Kong, which has given them exposure to the conservation NGO movement, in the form of the Birdlife Partnership, and attended and gave presentations at the British Birdwatching Fair in 2005. BirdLife currently implements a programme of four ongoing conservation projects with BANCA, three of which were developed as a direct consequence of the Darwin funded project. BirdLife provides direct support to the BANCA office in Yangon and supports one member of staff there fulltime. Four further BANCA staff are retained as long term consultants to the collaborative programme.

During and since the end of the project BirdLife/BANCA have convened a number of workshops in Yangon. These have been well attended by representatives from Government of Myanmar, donor and NGO agencies. Both the project and the presence of BirdLife have helped to support and stimulate the conservation scene and representatives from across government have responded positively. In the main local conservation NGOs are viewed positively by the Forest Department and other government agencies.

The main social impact of the project has been in amongst the villages in the buffer zone of Natmataung National Park. Whilst the Darwin project was resourced to pilot community-based management approaches, during the lifetime of the project BirdLife/BANCA developed new project proposals and secured funding from the British Embassy, USA Embassy, TMF (Dutch Government) through BirdLife to scale-up this programme of work. The total sum raised being c. US \$ 100,000. By the close of the Darwin project on 31 March 2007 the project was active in 16 villages in Kanpelet and Mindat townships in Chin State. In return for signing a no-hunting agreement these villages have received a range of development inputs from BirdLife, Care and UNDP as detailed below.

Table 3: Beneficiary Villages in Natamtaung National Park buffer zone

Village	Donor	Water storage tank	Infrastructure	Agricultural extension	Health Extension	Conservation agreement signed
Mindat Township						
Onh	UNDP	1	1 Bridge			Yes
Makaing	Care		1 School (Planned)	Potato		Yes
Paleiktwe	Care	1				Yes
Madat	UNDP	1			Planned	Yes
Aye	-					Yes
Hilawng	Care/BirdLife			Maize		Yes
Kun-ein	UNDP/Care	1 water pipes				Yes
Kantpelet Township						
Kwelonetha	UNDP			Potato seed		Yes
Makyar	UNDP			Potato seed		Yes
Kyetchan	UNDP		1 primary school		Provided	Yes
Masartwe	UNDP	1	1 primary school	Provided	Provided	Yes
Htatswhe	-					Yes
Hlalaungpan	UNDP/BirdLife	1	1 primary school			Yes
Yalaungpan	UNDP/BirdLife	1	School equipment			Yes

Okpo	Care/BirdLife			Wheat seed, cauliflower, raddish, cabbage	Provided	Yes
Makyauk-ar	UNDP/Care/British Embassy		1 primary school & equipment	Yams, pigs		

All villagers in the target villages have benefited from improved and secure potable water supply, introduction of improved strains of vegetables, improved animal husbandry techniques, and health care in some cases. Education has directly benefited children and should have long term benefits for all in the community. Women may have benefited disproportionately because of their roles in securing potable water and vegetables for the family table. The indicators are the inputs provided and these are detailed in Table 3 above. These were measured in the field by project staff based on UNDP and Care records.

6. Project Outputs

All project outputs have been quantified in the table in Appendix II using the coding and format of the Darwin Initiative Standard Output Measures. All project outputs were fully achieved. Outcomes 1.2 and 2.1 were slightly modified such that instead of four SSGs being established at four sites in two EBAs, the project established 16 SSGs at a single site- Natmataung National Park, in one EBA. There were several reasons for this that were reported to Darwin. It became clear that the SSG approach was not applicable at the chosen sites in Tanintharyi Division. It was also clear that since the project had only limited resources and because of logistical constraints, better use of project funds could be made by focusing on a single site. Ultimately then the targets for this output were significantly exceeded. There were two other significant achievements, both publications, related to the project. Appendix III provides details of all project publications that can be publicly accessed. The two reports are available from the www.BirdLifeindochina website and from Natural History Book Service website www.nhbs.com. The report *Myanmar: Investment Opportunities in Biodiversity Conservation* was disseminated at workshops in Yangon and Bangkok attended by c. 150 people from Government of Myanmar, donors, and the NGO community. This report may be downloaded free on the [BirdLifeindochina](http://www.BirdLifeindochina) website.

7. Project Expenditure

**Table 4: Project expenditure during the reporting period
(Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)**

Items	Budget	Expenditure	Balance
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8. Project Operation and Partnerships

The principle project partner was the Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) and this did not deviate from the original project design. During the lifetime of the project this organization changed its name from the Bird Enthusiasts and Nature Conservation Association (BENCA). At the start of the project BENCA received formal government accreditation and the name change was conditional on this approval being granted. The new name more accurately reflects the nature and scope of the organization and was widely supported by the membership. BANCA staff were involved in the planning of the project and fully integrated in its implementation for the entire duration. Of the seven BANCA staff named in the project document five of these finally worked on the project. An additional five BANCA staff also worked on the project. The only changes to the implementation of the project, which related to the decision to establish all site-support groups in the Natmataung National Park buffer-zone and to pursue a more traditional protected areas planning approach to Lenya National Park were taken in consultation with and with the agreement of BANCA.

During the second year of the project BirdLife was sub-contracted by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to lead on the implementation of another Darwin funded project entitled Gurney's Pitta Research and Conservation in Thailand and Myanmar. Project number 210-G-GURA. This project is currently being implemented by BirdLife and BANCA. It continues and builds on the research initially begun under the Darwin project reported on here.

The project collaborated with research staff from the Conservation and research Centre, Smithsonian Institution, National Zoological Park, Front Royal Virginia who analyzed forest cover data. The project also collaborated with staff from The Natural History Museum Tring who during the project moved to the *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Museum für Naturkunde*. There was additional collaboration with staff from Rutland Water Nature Reserve, UK. During the lifetime of the project staff also supported the elaboration of the biodiversity profile for the Indo-Burma Hotspot, and research and publication of the document *Myanmar: Investment Opportunities for Biodiversity Conservation*. This was also a collaboration with the Center for Applied Biodiversity Science (CABS) at Conservation International, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). Support for this work was additionally received from The Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Yangon, UNDP and CARE Myanmar. Project staff also support UNEP in the development of the NBSAP process and this latter project required collaboration with the government GEF and CBD focal point, the National Commission for Environmental Affairs (NCEA).

During the final year of the project there was collaboration with livelihood support projects managed by UNDP and CARE Myanmar in the buffer-zone of Natmataung National Park. There were attempts to formalize this collaboration through a memorandum of understanding with the two organizations but this was not ultimately possible. The projects therefore collaborated at an informal level. This informal collaboration took the form of sharing project information and joint planning to ensure that rural development and conservation measures were targeted at a pre-selected subset of villages chosen by BirdLife/BANCA staff.

The BirdLife-BANCA relationship has strengthened during and since the end of the Darwin project. BANCA is now a BirdLife Affiliate and therefore a formal member of the BirdLife Partnership. BirdLife/BANCA have ongoing collaborations with UNDP, CARE Myanmar and RSPB on similar project activities.

UNEP spearheaded the NBSAP process in Yangon in 2006 and BirdLife was the only international NGO to attend the launch workshop. BirdLife/BANCA, together with CARE Myanmar and UNDP continue to work at 16 villages in the Natmataung National Park Buffer Zone. Involving local communities in biodiversity management around protected areas has met with success at Natmataung National Park and represents an approach that BirdLife/BANCA will continue to use. Although BirdLife has not yet drawn on the support of the private sector in Myanmar, it is very likely that we will do so in the future because the private sector is very active in-country, including petroleum and mineral companies who have environmental exposure, and because levels of traditional donor support are very low by regional standards. The potential role for the private sector is more fully explored in the document *Myanmar: Investment Opportunities for Biodiversity Conservation*.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation, Lesson learning

Project progress has been monitored regularly via work plans and against the milestones and outcomes in the project logical framework. The project leader and co-leader were in weekly email and telephone contact and during project probably met quarterly on average. These quarterly meetings would be one day on duration and involve as many other project staff as possible. The project staff based at Natmataung National Park would travel to Yangon to participate in these meetings. In March 2005 there was a site visit to the SSGs by the project leader and another review conducted of the expanded programme of SSG work at this site in July 2007. There will be another site visit and evaluation of the current ongoing SSG activities in November 2007.

The project purpose and all project outcomes have been fully or partially achieved and of

the 27 project milestone 18 were fully reached, 7 partially achieved and two not achieved, we believe this demonstrates the value of the project. On this basis we judge that the monitoring undertaken was sufficient to evaluate the project. Since most project outcomes have been achieved then this demonstrates the value of the project.

The main problems encountered with this project were that the project officers at Natmataung National Park could not speak English well or write in English. They could not therefore report in English. A considerable volume of written reports and documentation was of course generated but only a small sample of this could be translated into English. This made monitoring and evaluation more difficult because the British project leader could not read or write Burmese. Furthermore the lack of experience of the Burmese project co-leader in reporting to a specification and in a specific format meant that it was more difficult to understand how the project was being implemented and to provide guidance on aspects of project implementation. Furthermore, certain Burmese working practices such as not routinely minute taking, left gaps in project documentation. It was also difficult to introduce and maintain accepted project management practices such as generating quarterly work plans and budgets and sticking to them. Routine finance management was improved by appointing a BirdLife staff member to be responsible for handling transactions. Guidance was provided to senior BANCA staff on the project cycle and reporting.

The overall experience of this project has been positive. The project implemented as it was designed and very few minor changes were made. The only change in project activities was to concentrate on a single site to establish SSG rather than at a suit of sites across the country. This reflects some over ambition in the original project design rather than any shortcomings of implementation. Given the projects' overall success, this is an endorsement of BirdLife's project design abilities and a demonstration of its project management expertise. It is also an endorsement for future investment by Darwin and other donors in conservation projects in Myanmar.

Issues raised in the reviews of this project have been discussed with our project partners. A major concern of reviewers of this project has been the sustainability of the SSG approach. This of course well understood and a concern for BirdLife too. We have no answers to this other than the hope that with the increased momentum generated by our SSG activities at Natamtaung National Park and an increased realization amongst villagers of their dependence and responsibilities towards the national park, that they will become less dependent on external support. BirdLife has viewed the initial investment of Darwin project funds as experimental but it is clear that a momentum has now been generated such that not only do villages seek to join the project, but recently villages have sought to join the project with the full knowledge that they will *not necessarily* receive any development investment in return for their support. BirdLife judges this to be a small but perhaps significant step. Our work has also lead to the establishment of two local umbrella NGOs under which our SSGs operate and engage with local government. We view this as a real step towards increased participation and accountability of local government. Our commitment to this site is ongoing and we have recently secured a further US \$ 40,000 to continue our work further.

10. Darwin Identity

Acknowledgement of Darwin support and display of the Darwin logo was used whenever applicable and a suitable opportunity arose. For example, the Darwin logo was used alongside project news reports in BirdLife Indochina's quarterly e-magazine *The Babbler*, on news releases and in peer reviewed journal papers. The project made no specific efforts to publicise the Darwin Initiative per se. The project did not support a Darwin Fellow or Darwin Scholar/Student. There is probably broad but low levels of understanding amongst local NGOs, government agencies and donors as to what

the Darwin Initiative actually is. The Darwin project was probably viewed as a distinct project within the wider framework of BirdLife/BANCA's joint conservation programme.

11. Leverage

During its lifetime this project had significant success in raising additional funds for project activities and in raising significant funds for new project activities which were related to the Darwin project. The total sum raised was US \$ 858,050. Specifically these projects were as follows. UK project staff coached senior BANCA in proposal writing and approaching donors. BANCA staff raised US \$ 22,000 for related project activities from the British and American Embassies in Yangon during the lifetime of the project.

Table 5: Funds leveraged during the project

Project	Donor	Funding secured (US\$)	Project developer	Project holder	Concurrent or follow-on project
Gurney's Pitta Research and Conservation in Thailand and Myanmar	Darwin Initiative	47,000	BirdLife/BANCA/R SPB	BirdLife	Concurrent, ongoing
Saving Gurney's Pitta and its Forest Home	British Birdwatching Fair	400,000	BirdLife/BANCA	BirdLife	Follow-on
Establishment and Expansion of Lenya National Park: Conservation of Lowland Sundaic Forest Biodiversity in Myanmar	Global Conservation Fund	250,000	BirdLife/BANCA	BirdLife	Follow-on
Myanmar: Investment Opportunities in Biodiversity Conservation	UNDP	30,000	BirdLife/BANCA	BirdLife	Concurrent, completed
Pink-headed Duck Research	Asia Bird Fund, BirdLife International	20,000	BirdLife/BANCA	BirdLife	Concurrent, ongoing
Natmataung National Park SSG Network	TMF (Dutch Government)	40,900	BirdLife/BANCA	BirdLife	Concurrent, ongoing
Natmataung National Park SSG Network	BirdLife/Jensen Foundation	40,900	BirdLife/BANCA	BirdLife	Follow-on
Establishment and Expansion of Lenya National Park: Conservation of Lowland Sundaic Forest Biodiversity in Myanmar	Nikon/Club 300	7,250	BirdLife/BANCA	BirdLife	Follow-on, ongoing
Strengthening Livelihoods and promoting environmental stewardship at Natmataung National Park	British Embassy, Yangon	12,000	BirdLife/BANCA	BANCA	Concurrent, completed
Support for environmental education at Natmataung National Park	USA Embassy, Yangon	10,000	BANCA	BANCA	Concurrent, completed
Total		858,050			

12. Sustainability and Legacy

As a result of this project BANCA is a strengthened organization with increased technical capacity to deliver conservation and with increased confidence which will enhance its

ability to work with government and leverage funding from donors in future. This is demonstrated by the fact that BANCA is now a BirdLife Affiliate organization, now has professional staff and an office. It routinely designs and raises funding from donors in Yangon and works with an increasing number of other international NGOs on an ever wider range of conservation organizations at a wider range of sites across the country. BANCA works more closely with government too and has an enhanced reputation with government agencies in the conservation sector. Senior BANCA staff are closely involved with the NBSAP process and BANCA was contracted as a consultancy to undertake an EIA for a government dam project. The project achievement most likely to endure is realization of the need to engage with local communities to develop joint management approaches to protected areas planning.

Project staff are all now engaged on follow-on BirdLife/BANCA projects. Therefore project assets continue to be shared and used on new projects. BirdLife and BANCA currently implement four projects in Myanmar. Contact between the organizations remains on a daily basis. The experiences and lessons learnt in relation to engaging with local communities in the buffer zone of Natmataung National Park have been reported widely across the BirdLife Asia and global partnership and help steer and shape BirdLife future approach to local stakeholder involvement in conservation. Additional funds have recently (September 2007) been secured from the Jensen Foundation to continue the local community based conservation at Natmataung National Park.

Another lasting legacy this project has left is by being amongst the first internationally supported NGO projects in Myanmar, it has paved the way for further projects in this field. It has brought together local NGOs, donors and government, and increased government confidence in working with the international community. It has stimulated dialogue on conservation issues in Myanmar and is, we believe a positive and good example of well designed project, well implemented.

13. Value for money

The Darwin grant value for this project was GBP 157,236 or 314,500. The project has leveraged an additional US\$ 858,050 nearly three times the Darwin grant value for concurrent or related project activities. Or, for every Darwin dollar spent, BirdLife has raised an additional US \$ 2.7. Viewed another way, the original Darwin project spawned ten new project initiatives. By any measure this project has been excellent value for money.

14. Appendix I: Project Contribution to Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Project Contribution to Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity		
Article No./Title	Project %	Article Description
6. General Measures for Conservation & Sustainable Use	5	Develop national strategies that integrate conservation and sustainable use.
7. Identification and Monitoring	30	Identify and monitor components of biological diversity, particularly those requiring urgent conservation; identify processes and activities that have adverse effects; maintain and organise relevant data.
8. In-situ Conservation	30	Establish systems of protected areas with guidelines for selection and management; regulate biological resources, promote protection of habitats; manage areas adjacent to protected areas; restore degraded ecosystems and recovery of threatened species; control risks associated with organisms modified by biotechnology; control spread of alien species; ensure compatibility between sustainable use of resources and their conservation; protect traditional lifestyles and knowledge on biological resources.
9. Ex-situ Conservation	0	Adopt ex-situ measures to conserve and research components of biological diversity, preferably in country of origin; facilitate recovery of threatened species; regulate and manage collection of biological resources.
10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity	5	Integrate conservation and sustainable use in national decisions; protect sustainable customary uses; support local populations to implement remedial actions; encourage co-operation between governments and the private sector.
11. Incentive Measures	10	Establish economically and socially sound incentives to conserve and promote sustainable use of biological diversity.
12. Research and Training	5	Establish programmes for scientific and technical education in identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity components; promote research contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, particularly in developing countries (in accordance with SBSTTA recommendations).
13. Public Education and Awareness	5	Promote understanding of the importance of measures to conserve biological diversity and propagate these measures through the media; cooperate with other states and organisations in developing awareness programmes.
14. Impact Assessment and Minimizing Adverse Impacts	0	Introduce EIAs of appropriate projects and allow public participation; take into account environmental consequences of policies; exchange information on impacts beyond State boundaries and work to reduce hazards; promote emergency responses to hazards; examine mechanisms for re-dress of international damage.
15. Access to Genetic Resources	0	Whilst governments control access to their genetic resources they should also facilitate access of environmentally sound uses on mutually agreed terms; scientific research based on a country's genetic resources should ensure sharing in a fair and equitable way of results and benefits.
16. Access to and Transfer of Technology	5	Countries shall ensure access to technologies relevant to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity under fair and most favourable terms to the source countries and ensure the private sector facilitates such assess and joint development of technologies.
17. Exchange of Information	5	Countries shall facilitate information exchange and repatriation including technical scientific and socio-economic research, information on training and surveying programmes and local knowledge
19. Bio-safety Protocol	0	Countries shall take legislative, administrative or policy measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities and to ensure all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis, especially where they provide the genetic resources for such research.
Total %	100%	Check % = total 100

15. Appendix II Outputs

Code	Total to date (reduce box)	Detail (← expand box)
Training Outputs		
1a	Number of people to submit PhD thesis	0 None planned
1b	Number of PhD qualifications obtained	0 None planned
2	Number of Masters qualifications obtained	0 None planned
3	Number of other qualifications obtained	0 None planned
4a	Number of undergraduate students receiving training	0 None planned
4b	Number of training weeks provided to undergraduate students	60
4c	Number of postgraduate students receiving training (not 1-3 above)	10
4d	Number of training weeks for postgraduate students	120
5	Number of people receiving other forms of long-term (>1yr) training not leading to formal qualification(i.e not categories 1-4 above)	0
6a	Number of people receiving other forms of short-term education/training (i.e not categories 1-5 above)	160
6b	Number of training weeks not leading to formal qualification	10
7	Number of types of training materials produced for use by host country(s)	Leaflets on wildlife law/protected areas (2,000), Booklets on Natmataung National Park (2,000), Posters (2,000)
Research Outputs		
8	Number of weeks spent by UK project staff on project work in host country(s)	54
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) produced for Governments, public authorities or other implementing agencies in the host country (s)	2
10	Number of formal documents produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording.	0
11a	Number of papers published or accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals	3
11b	Number of papers published or accepted for publication elsewhere	0
12a	Number of computer-based databases established (containing species/generic information) and handed over to host country	0
12b	Number of computer-based databases enhanced (containing species/genetic information) and handed over to host country	0
13a	Number of species reference collections established and handed over to host country(s)	0
13b	Number of species reference collections enhanced and handed over to host country(s)	0

Dissemination Outputs		
14a	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops organised to present/disseminate findings from Darwin project work	8
14b	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	4 Includes an international meeting in Taiwan
15a	Number of national press releases or publicity articles in host country(s)	5
15b	Number of local press releases or publicity articles in host country(s)	0
15c	Number of national press releases or publicity articles in UK	3
15d	Number of local press releases or publicity articles in UK	0
16a	Number of issues of newsletters produced in the host country(s)	2
16b	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(s)	300
16c	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK	N/A
17a	Number of dissemination networks established	N/A
17b	Number of dissemination networks enhanced or extended	N/A
18a	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(s)	0
18b	Number of national TV programme/features in the UK	0
18c	Number of local TV programme/features in host country	0
18d	Number of local TV programme features in the UK	0
19a	Number of national radio interviews/features in host country(s)	0
19b	Number of national radio interviews/features in the UK	0
19c	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country (s)	0
19d	Number of local radio interviews/features in the UK	0
Physical Outputs		
20	Estimated value (£s) of physical assets handed over to host country(s)	Computer and field equipment valued at \$ 25,000 (includes vehicle) has been purchased and is stored in the BANCA/BirdLife office in Yangon.
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisation established	4
22	Number of permanent field plots established	N/A

23	Value of additional resources raised for project	<p>BirdLife has additionally raised GBP 200,000 from the British Birdwatching Fair and US 250,000 from the Global Conservation Fund for a follow-on project at Lenya National Park, and provided GBP 15,000 directly via the Asia Bird Fund. BirdLife has also secured SKr 50,000 from Nikon via Sweden's Club300 and US\$ 30,000 from UNDP in Yangon, US \$ 12,000 from the British Embassy Yangon, US \$ 20,000 from USA Embassy Yangon, US\$ 30,000 TMF/Dutch Government/BirdLife.</p> <p>Total > US \$ 858,050</p>
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15. Appendix III: Publications

Mark (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report

Type *	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. contact address, website)	Cost £
Book	<i>Myanmar: Investment Opportunities in Biodiversity Conservation</i> by Andrew W. Tordoff, Jonathan C. Eames, Karin Eberhardt, Michael C. Baltzer, Peter Davidson, Peter Leimgruber, U Uga, U Aung Than, BirdLife International (2005) 124 pp.	BirdLife International in Indochina, Hanoi	www.birdlifeindochina.org or BirdLife International in Indochina. #4, Lane 209, Doi Can Street, Hanoi, Vietnam Tel: (84 4) 722 3864; Email: birdlife@birdlife.netnam.vn	Free
Book	<i>Important Bird Areas in Asia</i> S Chan, MJ Crosby, MZ Islam and AW Tordoff (2004) BirdLife International ISBN: 946 88854X (2004)	BirdLife International	Natural History Book Service www.nhbs.com	GBP 19.00
Journal Paper*	<i>The Rediscovery of Gurney's Pitta</i> Pitta gurneyi in Myanmar and an estimate of its population size based on remaining forest cover Eames, J. C., Hla, H., Leimgruber, P., Kelly, D. S., Aung, S. M., Moses, S., and Tin, S, N. <i>Bird Conservation International</i> (2005)15:3-26	Cambridge University Press	Cambridge University Press http://www.journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=BCI	Upon request
Journal Paper*	<i>The historical and current status of Pink-headed Duck</i> Rhodonessa caryophyllacea in Myanmar Tordoff A. W., Appleton, T., Eames, J. C., Eberhardt, K., Hla, H., Thwin, K. M. M., Zaw, S. M., Moses, S., Aung, S. M. <i>Bird Conservation International</i> (in press)	Cambridge University Press	Cambridge University Press http://www.journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=BCI	Upon request
Journal Paper*	<i>Avifaunal surveys in the lowlands of Kachin State, Myanmar, 2003, 2005</i> Tordoff A. W., Appleton, T., Eames, J. C., Eberhardt, K., Hla, H., Thwin, K. M. M., Zaw, S. M., Moses, S., Aung, S. M. <i>Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc.</i> (in press)	Siam Society	Siam Society http://www.siam-society.org/announcements/259	Upon request

16. Appendix IV: Darwin Contacts

To assist us with future evaluation work and feedback on your report, please provide contact details below.

Project Title	Building constituencies for site-based conservation in Myanmar
Ref. No.	<i>162/12/025</i>
UK Leader Details	
Name	Jonathan Charles Eames
Role within Darwin Project	Project Leader
Address	BirdLife International <i>in Indochina</i> , #4, Lane 209, Doi Can, Hanoi, Vietnam
Phone	
Fax	
Email	
Partner 1	
Name	U Htin Hla
Organisation	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association
Role within Darwin Project	Co-team leader
Address	A/6-2 Anawrahtar Housing, Hledan, Ward no 2, Kamayut Township Yangon, Myanmar
Fax	
Email	

Appendix V Logical Framework

<i>Project summary</i>	<i>Measurable indicators</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Important assumptions</i>
<p>Goal:</p> <p>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the conservation of biological diversity, • the sustainable use of its components, and • the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 			
<p>Purpose</p> <p>1. To strengthen the institutional capacity of BENCA to prioritise, plan and undertake high quality applied research and use the results to achieve greatest benefits for conservation.</p> <p>2. To develop SSGs at 4 areas of global conservation importance, empowering communities to manage natural resources and improve their quality of life.</p>	<p>1. Sustained capacity of BENCA in conservation planning and management, including their ability to independently conduct field surveys and develop sound conservation initiatives.</p> <p>2. Effective conservation management at 4 IBAs, serving as pilots to be monitored, strengthened and replicated in other areas of global conservation importance.</p>	<p>1. BENCA's survey reports, published papers and conservation awareness materials. Objectives reached by BENCA with regards to achieving BirdLife Partner status.</p> <p>2. Workplans, outcomes and milestones of SSGs; village meeting and monitoring reports; press releases and media features; donor support for follow-on initiatives.</p>	<p>Institutional and social frameworks allow innovative, community-based approaches to conservation. Social, economic and political relations vis-à-vis foreign governments and institutions continue to improve. Government buys into the concept of SSGs. Donor interest in supporting biodiversity conservation programming in Myanmar increases.</p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p>1.1 Published conservation assessments of 2 EBAs. 1.2 Establishment of 4 IBA SSGs within the 2 EBAs. 1.3 Strengthened capacity of BENCA staff to undertake conservation planning. 2.1 Conservation undertaken by SSGs at 4 priority IBAs. 2.2 Increased community awareness to protect birds/ environment at priority IBAs 2.3 Follow-on proposals to scale-up SSG approach in other IBAs developed.</p>	<p>1.1 Minimum of 4 staff from local partner institution trained to conduct surveys, analyze data and draft assessment reports. 1.2 Conservation activities undertaken by 4 SSGs. 1.3 Conservation planning initiatives led by BENCA staff. 2.1 Local stakeholders develop and implement conservation activities at 4 IBAs. 2.2 Conservation awareness materials used by local villages. 2.3 Minimum of 2 proposals to replicate SSG approach to other IBAs and support BENCA.</p>	<p>1.1 Survey data, field reports and published assessments. 1.2 SSG workshop minutes, reports and press releases. 1.3 Direct observation, BENCA reports and BENCA follow-on initiatives developed and funded. 2.1 Workshop minutes, reports and press releases. 2.2 Conservation notebooks, posters, brochures. 2.3 Proposals.</p>	<p>BENCA able to retain staff and hire more talented individuals. Scientific information from evaluations is fed into national conservation strategies/plans. Development of SSGs is not counter-acted by other threats that are outside the scope of community-based approaches to conservation (e.g. construction of dam/road/ pipeline; forest fire).</p>
<p>Activities</p> <p>Field survey and experiential training programme</p> <p>Institutional capacity building of local organizations</p> <p>Workshops</p> <p>Conservation Awareness</p> <p>Information generated</p> <p>Publicity</p>	<p>Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable)</p> <p>Yr 1 & 2: Ornithological surveys of representative habitats in Eastern Himalayas and Sundaic Lowlands EBAs conducted and IBAs identified; suitable sites for development of SSGs at 2 IBAs in Eastern Himalayas EBA and at 2 IBAs in Sundaic Lowlands EBA identified.</p> <p>Yr 1 & 2: 4 IBA SSGs established and actively undertaking conservation; Yr 3: skills and knowledge base of BENCA staff in biodiversity assessment, conservation planning and proposal development increased; BENCA awarded membership to the BirdLife International Partnership.</p> <p>Yr 1, 2 & 3: Series of workshops result in establishment of 4 IBA SSGs in Eastern Himalayas and Sundaic Lowlands EBAs and mobilized stakeholder support for conservation.</p> <p>Yr 1, 2 & 3: Conservation awareness materials modified and extended to villagers in at 4 IBAs.</p> <p>Yr 1, 2 & 3: Conservation assessments of Eastern Himalayas and Sundaic Lowlands EBAs published; scientific information fed into national conservation strategies, plans and programmes.</p> <p>Yr 1, 2 & 3: Darwin Initiative and British Embassy featured in national and international press.</p>		

Appendix VI Publications

The Rediscovery of Gurney's Pitta Pitta gurneyi in Myanmar and an estimate of its population size based on remaining forest cover Eames, J. C., Hla, H., Leimgruber, P., Kelly, D. S., Aung, S. M., Moses, S., and Tin, S. N. *Bird Conservation International* (2005)15:3-26.

The historical and current status of Pink-headed Duck Rhodonessa caryophyllacea in Myanmar Tordoff A. W., Appleton, T., Eames, J. C., Eberhardt, K., Hla, H., Thwin, K. M. M., Zaw, S. M., Moses, S., Aung, S. M. *Bird Conservation International* (in press).

Avifaunal surveys in the lowlands of Kachin State, Myanmar, 2003, 2005 Tordoff A. W., Appleton, T., Eames, J. C., Eberhardt, K., Hla, H., Thwin, K. M. M., Zaw, S. M., Moses, S., Aung, S. M. *Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc.*(in press).