

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	12-025
Project Title	Building constituencies for site-based conservation in Myanmar
Country	Union of Myanmar
UK Organisation	BirdLife International
Collaborator(s)	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)
Report date	7 October 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	WWW.BirdLifeindochina.org

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

Conservation assessment of Eastern Himalayas EBA undertaken

GIS analysis of forest cover in Eastern Himalayas undertaken in conjunction with Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian Institution staff have not been available to participate during the reporting period. It is proposed to re-schedule this work for the next reporting period.

Journal paper drafted (IBAs & Conservation Priorities in the Eastern Himalayas EBA)

The completion of this work is contingent on the analysis mentioned above having been done. It is proposed to re-schedule this work for the next reporting period.

Permission for export of bird specimens obtained

BANCA requested permission but this was not forthcoming during the reporting period.

Diagnosis of bird specimens at The Natural History Museum

Frank Steinheimer, a Research Fellow affiliated to The Natural History Museum and project consultant made a one week visit during August to begin an analysis of Myanmar collected material.

Journal paper drafted (Collection of birds from the Eastern Himalayas EBA)

The completion of this work is contingent on the analysis mentioned above having been done. It is proposed to re-schedule this work for the next reporting period if the specimen permission is forthcoming.

Design, production and distribution of Pink-headed Duck poster and flyer

During the reporting period an A0 full colour poster and A5 flyer was designed, published and distributed in areas of Kachin State and Sagaing Division. It was also published in popular magazines. This forms part of an attempt to rediscover the Critically Endangered Pink-headed Duck. A \$ 1,000 reward is being offered to anyone who can show the species to the project team. This initiative forms part of the continuing attempt to locate Important Bird Areas in the Eastern Himalayas Endemic Bird Area. The fieldwork to follow-up on this activity is timetabled for the next reporting period.

A suitable site for the establishment of a third and fourth SSG in the Eastern Himalayas EBA identified

Two new villages in the buffer zone of Natmatuang National Park have been identified and site support group activities are underway. New site-support groups (SSGs) have been established at Hla Laung Pan and at Khun Ein. Village-level workshops to introduce the SSG idea and agree support were undertaken and village level contracts signed between BANCA and villagers. Water storage tanks were constructed by SSGs with project funds and perennial tree nurseries were established. Maize was provided for consumption and planting for next season. Anti-poaching patrols were undertaken by the original two SSGs and the two new SSGs and monitoring by park and project staff continued throughout the reporting period.

Conservation awareness materials developed in appropriate local languages and extended to villagers in the Eastern Himalayas EBA

Four teachers selected from the villages where the SSGs operate, invited to the project office in Yangon to assist

with the design and production of conservation awareness materials. Children's school exercise books with conservation messages were produced in colour in Burmese. In addition an A0 full colour poster was produced and a wall-hanging with conservation messages was produced.

Toolkits to expand approach to other IBAs prepared

Project information leaflet designed and printed (50 villages)

Rescheduled for the next reporting period.

Additional support to protected areas within the Eastern Himalayas EBA leveraged

Publication of the document Myanmar: investment opportunities in biodiversity conservation

A publisher was selected in Yangon and a contract signed. A government approved proof has been produced. This will be published and distributed during the next reporting period.

Asia Bird Fund provides funding for Autumn IBA survey

BirdLife Asia Division provided \$ 5,000 towards of the cost of the Pink-headed Duck survey to be undertaken during the next reporting period.

Scientific information fed into national conservation strategies, plans and programmes

Continued lobbying of Myanmar government to endorse proposals for an expanded Lenya NP

Senior BANCA and BirdLife staff met with Forest Department officials and sought other ways to influence the senior leadership. U Uga, U Htin Hla and Jonathan C. Eames visited The Myanmar Ambassador, H. E. Ne Win at the Embassy in London. This provided the ideal opportunity to introduce the project and the goal of establishing an extended Lenya National Park.

Dissemination of the document Myanmar: investment opportunities in biodiversity conservation

This will take place in the next reporting period.

Darwin Initiative and British Embassy featured in national and international press

The project was featured in the Myanmar Times on 13 June, and U Uga was quoted in the Myanmar Times on July 18.

Ornithological surveys of representative habitats in the Sundaic Lowlands EBA conducted and IBAs identified

Short survey to determine northern limits of Gurney's Pitta undertaken.

It was decided not to attempt this proposed work because of the prevailing security situation.

Additional support to existing protected areas within the Sundaic Lowlands EBA leveraged

British Bird watching Fair successfully held at Rutland Water Nature Reserve

The 2005 British Birdwatching Fair was held at Rutland Water Nature reserve on 19-21 August 2005. This year's BirdFair aimed to raise money for the proposal to establish Lenya National Park. More than 18,000 people attended the three-day event raising GBP 150,000.

Global Conservation Fund obtains permit from US Dept of Treasury to support BirdLife protected areas project in Tanintharyi Division

GCF has now applied for an Office of Foreign Assets Control permit from US Treasury Department.

SSGs in the Eastern Himalayas EBA report conservation outcomes

To be reported in the annual report.

Press releases highlighting outcomes of SSGs reported in the news

The project was featured in the Myanmar Times on 13 June.

Small grant proposals to strengthen SSGs in Eastern Himalayas EBA developed

Funding proposals developed by BANCA/BirdLife to British Embassy, Yangon.

The proposal developed by BANCA and BirdLife and submitted to the British Embassy in Yangon was funded (US \$ 12,000).

BANCA awarded membership of the BirdLife Partnership

RSPB facilitated organizational development workshop for BANCA executive committee

A strategic planning workshop for BANCA Executive Committee members was held. This was facilitated by three staff from RSPB (Birdlife in the UK) and BirdLife Asia Division Partnership Development Officer. BANCA was awarded Affiliate status at the BirdLife Asia Council and Partnership meeting in Tokyo.

BANCA Executive Committee members attends Asia Partnership meeting in Japan
U Htin Hla (BANCA) attended, the BirdLife Asia Partnership and Council Meeting in Tokyo.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The only notable problem over the last six months has been the ongoing political situation. [Redacted]

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

No, and no changes to the original agreement are required or expected.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: **no/yes, in..... (month/yr)**

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: **no/yes, in.....(month/yr)**

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin’s management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year’s annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.
See Annex below.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**