

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Annual Report

1. Darwin Project Information

Project title	<i>Building constituencies for site-based conservation in Myanmar</i>
Country(ies)	<i>Myanmar</i>
Contractor	<i>BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK</i>
Project Reference No.	<i>162/12/025</i>
Grant Value	<i>Financial Year 2003/2004 = GBP 23,462</i>
Start/Finishing dates	<i>1 October 2003-30 September 2007</i>
Reporting period	<i>1 October 2003 – 31 March 2004 (six months)</i>

2. Project Background

- Briefly describe the location and circumstances of the project and the problem that the project aims to tackle.

To conserve global biodiversity, BirdLife International has identified a global network of Endemic Bird Areas (EBAs). These landscapes contain aggregations of endemic biodiversity and, therefore support a disproportionately high percentage of life on Earth. Within EBAs, BirdLife seeks to identify networks of Important Bird Area (IBAs). Within any given EBA, the identification of IBAs is an important first-step towards developing site-based conservation. The process for identifying IBAs involves a broad local constituency in order to obtain the most accurate information available and to ensure local ownership of the process and conservation priorities that the process sets. Crucial to this is the identification of specific communities who know the site well, depend on natural resources to support their livelihoods, and are committed to the long-term conservation of the area. Such SSGs are a form of community-based organization, which, together with good governance, can achieve the goals of sustainable development. BirdLife has demonstrated the utility of SSGs in achieving the goals of the CBD in Europe and Africa, and is now adapting this approach to the Asian context. Project outputs, including biodiversity assessments and a partial IBA network, will meet Myanmar's need to produce a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and policy to protect 5 percent of total land cover within the protected areas system. This project will tackle these issues by directly supporting the development of a pre-existing indigenous non-governmental organization called the "Bird Enthusiasts and Nature Conservation Association." The geographical focus of the project will be the Eastern Himalayas (Chin and Kachin States) and the Sundaic Lowlands (Tanintharyi Division) EBAs

3. Project Objectives

- State the purpose and objectives (or purpose and outputs) of the project. Please include the Logical Framework for this project (as an appendix) if this formed part of the original proposal or has been developed since, and report against this.

The main objectives of the project are: 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; and 2) to develop SSGs at 4 sites of global conservation importance, empowering communities to manage natural resources and improve their quality of life.

This project will identify a network of IBAs within the Eastern Himalayas and Sundaic Lowlands EBAs of Myanmar, two remote natural landscapes about which little is currently known. The IBAs will be identified through biological surveys and strategically assessed to identify those sites where the probability of conservation success is highest. The project will facilitate the establishment of SSGs at a minimum of 4 IBAs. These initiatives will produce a significant amount of original scientific data (including newsworthy discoveries), strengthen the capacity of Burmese nationals to develop community-based conservation activities, and provide a low-cost and sustainable model for site-based conservation planning and management in Myanmar. The logical framework for this project is presented as Appendix 1.

- Have the objectives or proposed operational plan been modified over the last year and have these changes been approved by the Darwin Secretariat?

The objectives and operational plan have not been modified.

4. Progress

- Please provide a brief history of the project to the beginning of this reporting period. (1 para.)

In early 2002, the project leader undertook a 3-week mission to Myanmar comprising: 1) a week of meetings in Yangon with representatives of INGOs, local NGOs, donor community, and Government, including the Head of Branch for the National Committee for Environmental Affairs and Director of the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division; 2) a week visiting Moyingyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary and Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary in the Irrawaddy Plains EBA; and 3) a third week exploring Mount Victoria and Natmataung National Park in the Eastern Himalayas EBA, which included consultations with the national park warden and village leaders. In late 2002, the principles undertook a second 3-week expedition to the Eastern Himalayas EBA, including additional consultations with local leaders, actions that are critical to the successful establishment of stakeholder bodies, termed Site Support Groups (SSG) in the EBA. An expedition to the Sundaic Lowlands EBA was undertaken in May 2003, which resulted in the rediscovery of the Critically Endangered Gurney's Pitta (this is reported on later in this report).

- Summarise progress over the last year against the agreed baseline timetable for the period. Explain differences including any slippage or additional outputs and activities.

Progress since the start-date of 1 October 2003 (a six month reporting period) is summarized below. We have reported against the project milestones as they were presented in the project proposal, since this permits greater resolution than reporting against outputs. In addition, the project has accomplished several project start-up activities including negotiation of a memorandum of understanding, and opening and equipping an office in Yangon.

1. Ornithological surveys of representative habitats in Eastern Himalayas EBA conducted and IBAs identified.

*In January and February staff from BirdLife International in Indochina, together with colleagues from the Bird Enthusiasts and Nature Conservation Association and staff from Natmataung National Park undertook an ornithological expedition to Mount Bwe Pa in central Chin State. Bwe Pa, previously unexplored, rises to over 3,000 m asl and the team hoped to find an avifauna fully representative of the Eastern Himalayas EBA. The month-long expedition surveyed the southern slopes of the mountain which support grassland, pine and oak-rhododendron forest and the wetter northern slopes which support evergreen forest. A diverse selection of Restricted-range species was discovered including Blyth's Tragopan *Tragopan blythii* (18 birds seen), Striped Laughingthrush *Garrulax virgatus*, Brown-capped Laughingthrush *G. austini*, Streak-throated Barwing *Actinodura waldeni*, and Grey Sibia *Heterophasia gracilis*. The White-browed Nuthatch *Sitta victoriae* was not located. Other Globally Threatened Species found included Mrs Hume's Pheasant *Syrnaticus humiae* and White-backed Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*. Participants received training in survey techniques and specimen preparation. A collection of 56 bird skins was made. Hunting pressure on mammals appeared high and growing Chin villages are placing an ever increasing burden on forests to provide fuelwood and house construction materials. However the relatively good state of forests, combined with a less than completely representative avifauna will lead to a focus on the more easily accessible Natmataung National Park for future site support group activities. Mount Bwe Pa meets several criteria and qualifies as an IBA.*

2. A suitable site for establishment of a SSG at at least one Eastern Himalayas EBA identified.

Although Mount Bwe Pa meets several key criteria of an IBA it was felt that the relatively low human pressure on the forests and wildlife, the failure of the expedition to find an avifauna fully representative of the Eastern Himalayas EBA, combined with the remoteness of the site (three days by road from Bagan) make it a relatively lower priority for the establishment of a site support group. Particularly when compared with Natmataung National Park in southern Chin State. Natmataung National Park supports an avifauna fully representative of the Eastern Himalayas EBA, is threatened by unsustainable levels of hunting and the encroachment of shifting cultivation. Additionally this site is only a half day's journey from Bagan, We have discussed with the warden of the national park the possibility of developing a site support group at Natmataung and he is very keen that his protected area be selected to pilot such an initiative. We therefore believe that in selecting Natmataung National Park we will be addressing a higher conservation priority and that our chances of success will be enhanced by a strong local commitment to work with our project.

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

*During May 2003 BirdLife and BENCA project staff undertook a survey of lowland forest habitats in southern Tanintharyi Division in the Sundaic Lowlands EBA. The objective of this work was to identify IBAs based on the presence of the Globally Critically Endangered Gurney's Pitta *Pitta gurneyii*. A total of 10-12 pairs of Gurney's Pitta were located at four of the five sites surveyed. These four sites*

represent at least two IBAs. This work, although within the scope of the project and conducted within the original timetable for project activities was in fact supported financially by BirdLife International since, at the request of the Darwin Initiative, the project start-date was put back to 1 October from 1 April 2003.

4. Conservation assessment of Sundaic Lowlands EBA published.

During the reporting period and as part of the conservation assessment of the Sundaic Lowlands, BirdLife collaborated with the Smithsonian Institution to evaluate and determine the extent of remaining lowland forest habitats in southern Tanintharyi. The results of this analysis are presented in a journal paper currently in prep.. Further details are given below.

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

During 2003 BirdLife and BENCA completed an application to the Global Conservation Fund administered by Conservation International. The overall conservation goal of the project is to promote and secure the long-term conservation of the unique biological attributes of the Sundaic Lowland forests of Myanmar, initially through expanding the area of lowland forest under protection. Ideally, the lowland forest habitat will be contiguous to already-existing protected areas of hill evergreen forest in the Tanintharyi National Park and Lenya Wildlife Sanctuary. Ultimately the area under protection will be expanded to include related montane forest, mangrove forest, and coastal regions, to be fully representative of the biodiversity and habitats of the Tenasserim range. BirdLife was successful with its application and has secured US \$24,700 to begin project development activities in May 2004.

Provide an account of the project's research, training, and/or technical work during the last year. This should include discussion on selection criteria for participants, research and training methodologies as well as results. Please **summarise** techniques and results and, if necessary, provide more detailed information in appendices (this may include cross-references to attached publications).

The Bird Enthusiasts and Nature Conservation Association is a small and recently formed organization. There are only five individuals, all volunteers, who are actively involved with the organization. It is therefore more of a question of making the best of the individuals currently available and developing their personal training needs that match their educational qualification and vocational experience. In our collaboration with Natmataung National staff was allocated to the project by the reserve warden to work with the project. The staff allocated was in the judgement of the project leader suitably qualified, although there was no opportunity to screen them before they joined project activities.

During periods of fieldwork BENCA and protected area staff received training in quantitative bird survey methodologies involving line-transects and point counts. The methodology employed during the expedition to Mount Bwe Pa was based on a modification of the method outlined in MacKinnon and Phillipps (2000). This involves making a list of the first ten species recorded, and then repeating the process until ten such lists have been made. If the accumulating number of species recorded is plotted graphically against the number of lists made this gives a species discovery curve whose steepness reflects species richness and indicates how any more species

are likely still to be found in that locality. This method is not only simple but is a useful tool for illustrating how species diversity is linked to habitat. It also enables the researcher to compare diversity across different sites. It is therefore a useful conservation evaluation tool. Since species which occur on a high proportion of lists are clearly the most abundant or conspicuous species of the local avifauna, this method therefore also provides a quantitative measure of relative abundance).

Participants also received instruction in a point count method for surveying calling birds. The target species, the Globally Threatened Blyth's Tragopan was not calling during the survey period. However, a large amount of anecdotal data based on direct sightings was obtained. Three BENCA and one national park staff also received training in the use of mist-nets, extraction and handling of birds, taking biometrics, collecting voucher specimens and the preparation and storage of study skins. In total, 56 bird skins were prepared. These are currently deposited at the BirdLife/BENCA project office in Yangon. It is planned that diagnosis of this material will occur during summer 2004 at The Natural History Museum in Tring, UK.

During the May 2003 survey, sites were selected for survey Tanintharyi Division based on the occurrence of known Gurney's Pitta habitat determined from recent Landsat satellite images, vegetation maps and 1:50,000 topographical maps. Survey sites had to be in closed canopy lowland forest at an elevation of < 160 m asl, and had to be either flat or with slopes < 10 degrees. Given the limited duration of the survey and its preliminary nature, we also selected sites based on their accessibility (i.e. within 2 km of a drivable road). Surveys were conducted on foot following existing trails and logging tracks and by navigating directly across the forest floor using a compass bearing. Transects were walked slowly (c. 1-2 km/hour). Pre-recorded "lilip" and "skew" calls were broadcast regularly at stations, spaced at approximately 100-m intervals. Both "lilip" and "skew" calls were played at each station. The number of times any call was played at one station, and the length of time spent awaiting a response at any given station varied from 5-30 minutes. The type and number of calls were noted. Also, the sex of the calling bird was recorded by direct observation when possible. The geographic coordinates for each location were documented using hand-held Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Other ecological parameters were also noted including altitude (using GPS and hand-held altimeters) and topography (using a compass and by reference to 1:50,000 topographical maps). Broad habitat type, forest architecture, and components of the under story were noted but not recorded quantitatively. All bird and mammal species observed and heard were also recorded. Particular emphasis was made to recording Globally Threatened and Globally Near-threatened bird species (as defined by BirdLife International 2004). Surveys were carried-out from 06h00 until the rain became too frequent or heavy to continue.

During the reporting period, research was undertaken in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution involving the satellite mapping of remaining lowland forest habitats in the Sundaic Lowlands of Myanmar. We used Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) and Enhanced Thematic Mapper (ETM+) satellite data to delineated remaining forest cover and changes in forest cover in the southern Tanintharyi Division of Myanmar between 1990 and 2000. Satellite images from both Landsat sensors were combined in remote sensing analysis to determine spectral changes in land cover characteristics that are associated with changes in forest cover. Once these changes were identified and spectral signatures for the forest cover and the forest cover change class had been derived, we used supervised classification procedures to produce an intermediate map. This intermediate map provided accurate delineation of current forest cover, as of 2000, and past forest cover as of 1990.

To distinguish lowland forests from other upland forest types in the intermediate map, we used digital elevation data acquired during the Shuttle Radar Topographic Mission (SRTM; Farr and Kobrick, 2000). Collected using two side-looking Synthetic aperture radar instruments and radar interferometry, the SRTM imagery provided elevation data with a spatial resolution of roughly 90 m. The data used in our analysis can be downloaded from the Internet <http://edcsgs9.cr.usgs.gov/pub/data/srtm/Eurasia/>. We combined the elevation data with the forest cover map to identify all lowland forest < 160 m asl and with slopes < 10 degrees. To exclude mangrove forests from the lowland forest map, we used on-screen digitizing technique to delineating mangrove areas that could visually be identified on the satellite imagery. The map of the remaining lowland forest habitat was used in a Geographic Information System (GIS) to determine the extend of the remaining lowland forests, the percentage of these forests lost during the 1990-2000 decade, and to calculate patch sizes for the remaining forest fragments.

- Discuss any significant difficulties encountered during the year.

No significant difficulties have been encountered so far.

- Has the design of the project been enhanced over the last year, e.g. refining methods, indicators for measuring achievements, exit strategies?

The project has only been operational since October 2003. There are currently no proposals to modify the design of the project. It is premature to consider exit strategies.

- Present a timetable (work plan) for the next reporting period.

The work plan presented below covers the period April 2004 to March 2005.

<i>Milestone/activities</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>
<i>Ornithological surveys of representative habitats in Eastern Himalayas EBA conducted and IBAs identified.</i>								X	X			
<i>Conservation assessment of Eastern Himalayas EBA undertaken.</i>										X	X	X
<i>A suitable site for the establishment of a second SSG in the Eastern Himalayas EBA identified.</i>												X
<i>Conservation awareness materials developed in appropriate local languages and extended to villagers in Eastern Himalayas EBA.</i>										X	X	X
<i>Series of workshops result in establishment of 2 IBA SSGs in</i>							X	X	X	X	X	X

<i>Eastern Himalayas EBA and mobilized stakeholder support for conservation.</i>												
<i>Additional support to protected areas within the Eastern Himalayas EBA leveraged.</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Darwin Initiative and British Embassy featured in national and international press.</i>			X			X			X			X
<i>Ornithological surveys of representative habitats in Sundaic Lowlands EBA conducted and IBAs identified.</i>	X	X	X	X								
<i>Conservation assessment of Sundaic Lowlands EBA published.</i>					X							X
<i>Suitable sites for establishment of SSGs at 2 IBAs in Sundaic Lowlands EBA identified.</i>			X	X								
<i>Conservation awareness materials modified and extended to villagers in Sundaic Lowlands EBA.</i>						X			X			X
<i>Series of workshops result in establishment of 2 IBA SSGs in Sundaic Lowlands EBA and mobilized stakeholder support for conservation.</i>						X			X			X
<i>Additional support to existing protected areas within the Sundaic Lowlands EBA leveraged.</i>			X			X			X			X
<i>SSGs in the Eastern Himalayas EBA report conservation outcomes.</i>												X
<i>Press releases highlighting outcomes of SSGs reported in news.</i>												X
<i>Small grant proposals to strengthen SSGs in Eastern Himalayas EBA developed.</i>									X	X		X

5. Partnerships

- Describe collaboration between UK and host country partner(s) over the last year. Are there difficulties or unforeseen problems or advantages of these relationships?

The relationship between BirdLife and BENCA has been open, friendly and professional. We have established mutual trust and any issues have been dealt with in a transparent manner. During October BirdLife and BENCA signed a memorandum of understanding (following Darwin guidelines) to facilitate project implementation (see Appendix 2). We very much hope that BENCA will obtain formal government recognition in 2004. This has been a slow process to-date and continues to present BENCA with a major challenge.

- Has the project been able to collaborate with similar projects in the host country or establish new links with / between local or international organisations involved in biodiversity conservation?

Smithsonian Institution

During the course of the project BirdLife has established a close collaborative relationship with a Smithsonian Institution project which is determining rate of forest cover change in Myanmar. To date our collaboration has been in respect of identification of IBAs in Tanintharyi Division. Thus far it has resulted in a journal paper which will shortly be submitted. Our collaboration is on-going and we hope that in 2004 the Smithsonian will assist in conducting a similar analysis of the Eastern Himalayas EBA. In 2003, Jonathan Eames visited the Smithsonian's research facility at Front Royal, Virginia. This collaboration will assist the project meet at least two milestones.

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

During 2003, BirdLife was contracted by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) to prepare an ecological profile and investment opportunities for the Indo-Burma Hotspot, which includes Myanmar. In Myanmar BirdLife collaborated with Care International and held a consultation with about 100 stakeholders mainly from civil society but also including government representatives. This document is in the final stages of preparation and it will be submitted for final CEPF donor council in July 2004. If the chapter on Myanmar is approved (by no means certain at this stage) this could provide several US\$ million for conservation in Myanmar over the next five years and will certainly help leverage funds for the Eastern Himalayas and Sundaic Lowlands EBAs, thereby helping the project achieve two milestones. Funding is however, only likely to come on-line at the end of 2004 at the very earliest.

Conservation International

During 2003 BirdLife completed an application to the Global Conservation Fund administered by Conservation International. The overall conservation goal of the project is to promote and secure the long-term conservation of the unique biological attributes of the Sundaic Lowland forests of Myanmar, initially through expanding the area of lowland forest under protection. Ideally, the lowland forest habitat will be contiguous to already-existing protected areas of hill evergreen forest in the Tanintharyi National Park and Lenya Wildlife Sanctuary. Ultimately the area under protection will be expanded to include related montane forest, mangrove forest, and coastal regions, to be fully representative of the biodiversity and habitats of the Tenasserim range. BirdLife was successful in its application and has received US

\$24,700 and will begin proposal development activities in Tanintharyi Division in May 2004.

Natmataung National Park

Staff from Natmataung National Park participated in the Mount Bwe Pa Expedition in 2004. It has been agreed that the project will extend further training to staff of the national park and it is planned that a member of staff will travel to the UK in 2004 for training in diagnosis of voucher specimens collected. Natmataung National Park has also now been selected for the first site support group activities to be undertaken later in 2004.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

The RSPB (BirdLife partner in the United Kingdom) has developed a proposal, currently under consideration by the Darwin Initiative entitled Gurney's Pitta conservation and research in Burma and Thailand. This project will strengthen and compliment ongoing activities in the Sundaic Lowlands EBA which form part of this current BirdLife project. The new project will involve BirdLife, BENCA and Burmese academic institutions including the Universities of Yangon and Myeik.

6. Impact and Sustainability

- Discuss the profile of the project within the country and what efforts have been made during the year to promote the work. What evidence is there for increasing interest and capacity for biodiversity resulting from the project? Are satisfactory exit strategies for the project in place?

Since the project only began in October 2003 we have been involved in project start-up activities, including negotiation of an MoU, opening an office and organizing and undertaking the first field work. Given these tasks, plus the sensitivity to international NGOs working in Myanmar we considered it prudent not to overtly promote project activities at this stage. However, the field work conducted in the Sundaic Lowlands during May 2003 received widespread media attention and was reported in the principle daily English language newspaper New Light of Myanmar, The Mirror and the Burmese language Lifestyle magazine (see appendix). These articles attracted government attention and senior BENCA staff were invited to report in person to central level authorities. In March 2004 BirdLife International held its world conference at the International Conference Centre in Durban, South Africa. Part of the poster presentation by BirdLife International in Indochina depicting our activities is attached as Appendix 3. It is premature to consider exit strategies.

7. Post-Project Follow up Activities (max 300 words)

This section should be completed ONLY if your project is nearing completion (penultimate or final year) and you wish to be considered for Post Project Funding. Each year, a small number of Darwin projects will be invited to apply for funding. Selection of these projects will be based on promising project work, reviews to date, and your comments within this section. Further information on this scheme is available from the DEFRA website.

- From project progress so far, what follow-up activities would help to embed or consolidate the results of your Darwin project and why would you consider these as suitable for Darwin Post Project Funding?
- What evidence is there of strong commitment and capacity by host country partners to enable them to play a major role in follow-up activities?

8. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

- Please expand and complete Table 1. **Quantify** project outputs over the last year using the coding and format from the Darwin Initiative Standard Output Measures (see website for details) and give a brief description. Please list and report on appropriate Code Nos. only. The level of detail required is specified in the Guidance notes on Output Definitions, which accompanies the List of Standard Output Measures.

Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)

Code No.	Quantity	Description
6A	5 Burmese	Training in bird survey techniques, site evaluation for conservation, use of mist nets, bird handling, preparation and storage of bird study skins, data analysis, drafting technical reports and scientific papers.
8	5 weeks	Jonathan C. Eames
11B	1 paper	Scientific paper submitted to peer reviewed journal in March 2004
13A	1 collection	One collection of 56 bird skins
23	1 proposal	US\$ 24,700 raised from the Global Conservation Fund of Conservation International

- Explain differences in actual outputs against those agreed in the initial 'Project Implementation Timetable' and the 'Project Outputs Schedule', i.e. what outputs were not achieved or only partly achieved? Were additional outputs achieved?
- In Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed. Details will be recorded on the Darwin Monitoring Website Publications Database. Mark (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

Table 2: Publications

Type *	Detail	Publishers	Available from	Cost £
(e.g. journal paper, book, manual, CD)	(e.g. title, authors, journal, year, pages)	(name, city)	(e.g. contact address, email address, website)	

The first journal paper was only submitted in March 2004 so is not yet published. Table 2 has therefore not been completed.

9. Project Expenditure

- Please expand and complete Table 3.

Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period (6 months)

Item	Budget	Expenditure
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- Highlight any recently agreed changes to the budget and explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget

Variation explanation:

(*1): -12.50%: Office rental paid for 12 months

(*2): +43.40%: Expended under budget

(*3): -29.29%: Had to paid air tickets, visa, advance payment for car rental for April trip

(*4): +29.23%: Spent under budget (computer purchased with cheaper price than estimated, etc.)

10. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

- Discuss methods employed to monitor and evaluate the project this year. How can you demonstrate that the outputs and outcomes of the project actually contribute to the project purpose? i.e. what are the indicators of achievements (both qualitative and quantitative) and how are you measuring these?

Five project milestones as detailed in the project document have been attained in the first six months. These milestones have been achieved either on schedule or ahead of schedule.

- Are there lessons that you learned from this years work and can you build this learning into future plans?

11. Author(s) / Date

This report was compiled by;

Jonathan C. Eames

Programme Manager

BirdLife International in Indochina

24 March 2004

Appendix 1
LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

<i>Project summary</i>	<i>Measurable indicators</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Important assumptions</i>
<p><i>Goal:</i></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><i>Purpose</i></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</p>
<p><i>Outputs</i></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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.2 Conservation activities undertaken by 4 SSGs.</p> <p>1.3 Conservation planning initiatives led by BENCA staff.</p> <p>2.1 Local stakeholders develop and implement conservation activities at 4 IBAs.</p> <p>2.2 Conservation awareness materials used by local villages.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.2 SSG workshop minutes, reports and press releases.</p> <p>1.3 Direct observation, BENCA reports and BENCA follow-on initiatives developed and funded.</p> <p>2.1 Workshop minutes, reports and press releases.</p> <p>2.2 Conservation notebooks, posters, brochures.</p> <p>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</p>

<p><i>Activities</i></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>
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Appendix 2

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE BIRD
ENTHUSIASTS AND NATURE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION AND
BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL**

Pertaining to

Building Constituencies for site-based conservation in Myanmar

Appendix 3

Part of the poster display presented at the BirdLife World Conference, Durban, South Africa, March 2004.

Myanmar Programme Activities



A new IBA at Bwe Pa in Chin State has been identified



In 2004 we began fieldwork in the Chin State as part of our activities under our Darwin Initiative funded project entitled, "Building constituencies for site-based conservation in Myanmar."



In 2003 with funding from RSPB and Asia Bird Fund BENCA and BirdLife rediscovered the Gurney's Pitta in Tanintharyi Division. Work will continue in 2004 to determine population size and promote protected area establishment.



Myanmar supports the largest population of Gurney's Pitts



Asia Bird Fund support enabled a survey for the Pink-headed Duck to be undertaken in the wetlands along the upper Chindwin River. Reports were received from two hunters.



BirdLife activities in Myanmar are supported by the Darwin Initiative, RSPB, and the Asia Bird Fund