



MYANMAR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT



ISTITUTO OIKOS

Istituto Oikos is non profit organization, founded in Milan in 1996, operating in key biodiversity areas in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America to conserve and manage the natural resources as tools of social and economic development.

After several years of field activities and more than 100 projects implemented worldwide, Oikos has gained a valuable experience in the definition and implementation of methodologies and strategies aimed at integrating the environmental dimension into the socio-economic processes.

Istituto Oikos is member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other local and international networks.



BANCA

BANCA is one of the major organizations active in Myanmar in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

BANCA has managed donor-funded conservation projects in collaboration with relevant and reliable international organizations.

BANCA is partner of BirdLife International in implementing the project *Building Constituencies for Site Based Conservation in Myanmar*, aimed at identifying networks of Important Bird Areas in the Eastern Himalayas Endemic Bird Area and the Sundaic Lowlands Secondary Area and promote community based approaches to the conservation of selected sites.

With the support of



**STRENGTHENING
ENVIRONMENTAL NGOs**

ISTITUTO OIKOS

HQs : Via Crescenzago, 1 Milan (Italy)
Tel: +39 0221597581 Fax: +39 0221598963
Myanmar Representative: Lara Beffasti
Mob: +95 9 5076828
Email: lara.beffasti@istituto-oikos.org
www.istituto-oikos.org

BANCA

Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association
Address: 3-C, U Kyaw Hla Lane, 7th Miles
Mayangon Township, Yangon (Myanmar)
Tel: +951 666409
Email: banca@yangon.net.mm





BACKGROUND

The **Myanmar Environmental Project (MEP)** is a EC funded project (2009-2010) with the main objective to support biodiversity resources conservation in a sustainable development framework.

Myanmar has one of the richest biodiversity in Asia, with many endemic species and over 1.400 tree species, 7.000 plant species, 1.000 bird species, 250 mammal species and 400 species of reptiles and amphibians. Although the economy of Myanmar, half covered by forests, relies largely on the rich forest and natural resources, the ongoing unsustainable forestry, mining, agricultural and fishing practices, is resulting in environmental degradation and direct biodiversity loss.

People whose livelihoods depend most on natural resources are affected by the effects of deforestation (floods, droughts and landslides) and more vulnerable to natural disasters, thus contributing to unavoidable poverty.

Deforestation, biodiversity loss and development issues can be effectively addressed through coordinated programmes at different levels, from data collection, awareness raising and grassroots engagement of communities in sustainable use of natural resources.

The project, through a capacity building process and exchange of information, experience and best practices, aims at contributing to ensure the sustainable management of forest resources and protected areas while conserving wildlife and wild plants and enhancing the ways of living of indigenous people, as stated in the Myanmar Forest Policy (1994).

ACTIVITIES

BUILD KNOWLEDGE

Training and capacity building activities are organised to facilitate exchange and transfer of information, knowledge and best practices on conservation and management of natural resources and sustainable development initiatives. Local stakeholders working in and around important forestlands and protected areas are involved in planning and implementation of the activities and, through a participatory process, in the identification of innovative stakeholder-based conservation and development initiatives to integrate biodiversity conservation in management practices. Mechanisms to supply technical inputs to policy makers are jointly defined in order to review and develop plans and policies taking into account forest and biodiversity resources.

PROVIDE TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Data and information on biodiversity resources in Myanmar are collected, organised and analysed to set up an updated database of protected areas, forestlands and important sites for conservation, as a key support mechanism to assess and monitor important conservation areas status and trends. The interdependence between natural ecosystems, socio-economic context and land use patterns is analysed to help in site selection for improvement of protected areas system and for the identification of poverty reduction and environmental conservation strategies. The results aim to support local stakeholders to identify alternative options for sustainable development of local communities and biodiversity conservation.

Two priority key biodiversity areas (Myeik Archipelago and Rakhine Yoma Range) are used as case study areas. More detailed information is

collected in these key areas through specific field surveys; assessment of deforestation rate through satellite images is performed.

The existing monitoring and assessment programmes in the country are analysed to improve and develop a standardised programme, taking into account the existing ones. A comprehensive survey protocol and a rapid assessment programme to address overexploitation of forest resources is defined as output of participatory process.

DISSEMINATE INFORMATION

A publication with the main findings on the status of protected areas and forest resources in Myanmar, and specifically on the two selected key areas, on identified threats for biodiversity and required actions and strategies for conservation and development, is produced and distributed to local and international relevant organizations, to disseminate information and raise international awareness/support.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Increased capacity of local organizations to engage in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development programmes.

- Experience and expertise of local organizations to develop, implement and take an important role in conservation and development activities increased, due to the availability of skilled personnel and necessary equipment.
- Exchange of information on biodiversity status, threats and impacts of land use improved, thanks

to the improved collaboration, networks and information sharing among NGOs, grass roots organizations, protected areas managers, academic institutions and forestry agencies.

- Needs assessment, and relative methodology, for future action plans improved.
- Coordination of programmes improved and possibility to feed the results into national-level advocacy increased.

Increased capacity to coordinate sustainable environmental development investments and activities.

- Reliable scientific and baseline information on the status of the country forest resources, protected areas and important sites for conservation, extension of deforestation and logging, nature and severity of threats, type and effectiveness of conservation actions, available.
- Detailed information on the two selected conservation priority areas available.
- Standardised monitoring and assessment programmes, procedures and protocols defined.
- Database of protected areas and forest resources available.
- Mechanism to identify conservation priorities and coordinate conservation actions improved.
- Capacity to analyse development policies, plans and programs, evaluate their impact on forest resources and biodiversity and propose alternative development initiatives and mitigating measure, improved.
- Publication on the status of forest resources and protected areas prepared.

MYEIK ARCHIPELAGO RESEARCH PROGRAMME



The **Myeik (Mergui) Archipelago Biodiversity Research Programme (MABR)** was voluntarily launched in 1997 by ECoSwiss, after getting endorsement from Ministry of Hotels & Tourism, to investigate the biodiversity, environmental health and socio-economic aspects of the archipelago, employing local and foreign researchers.

The project is mainly focusing on **Lampi Island Marine National Park**, one of the last remaining untouched environment of true wilderness left in the Myeik, Its habitats are very much intact, and if measures are put into place soon, the representativeness and key attributes of this vast island ecosystem can be conserved at this site.

The project carries out scientific research in the archipelago in order to gather the necessary information about the ecological importance of the ecosystem. Parallel it targets the local communities and establishes a collaboration in order to involve them in the process.

Final objective is to draft a Management Plan to ensure the sustainability in the Archipelago.

Supported by Foundation Third Millennium in collaboration with ECoSWISS

