



BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT -2016



July 2017



Partnership for nature and people



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This is the second Annual Report attempted by BANCA, after the organization was reformed and restructured in 2015. As did happened before 2015, the organization was trailing along the edge of an abyss, ie: dissolution due to the demise of two pioneering senior leaders in consecutive years, followed by changing hands of two young leaders in 2014.

Incidentally, I was requested by the remaining young people of BANCA, to hold the reins and duly filled the senior leadership gap in 2015. And fortunately, at that time, the project granted for 2013-2015 by Amatae Programme of British Council for the Organization Development (OD), made it possible for BANCA to stand firm on its own feet. For that generous support, BANCA still owes a lot for British Council. Since then, the Organization has been moving forward with the workforce of the young professionals who are now playing the leadership roles of Biodiversity Conservation in the country.

The present Annual Report for 2016 is the outcome of the activities rendered by these young folks of the organization. Therefore, I truly hope that with this group of young generation, in cooperation with other national and international NGOs in carrying out the programme of Biodiversity Conservation, will move forward and be able to conserve the rich biological resources of our country, Myanmar.

Saw Tun Khaing

Executive Director

BANCA

7th July 2017

BACKGROUND

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) is non-profit, non-political, non-religious and a local environmental NGO out of a few environmental NGOs working in Myanmar. Although BANCA was officially recognized by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Union of Myanmar on 18, June 2004, BANCA has been active since 2002. BANCA's registered charity number is 1Local/1401.

BANCA strongly believes that conservation programs can be accomplished successfully only if it is backed up with community development. Regarding BANCA's Administrative Hierarchy, there are 6 knowledgeable persons of Advisory Group (AG), 7 Board of Governance and Senior Management Team members headed by an Executive Director. The backbone of BANCA at the moment is recruited with competent ornithologists along with botanists, foresters, zoologists, social scientists, mammalogists, geologists, environmental scientists, marine biologists and herpetologists among others.

Since its establishment in 2004, BANCA has been in close collaboration with international organizations like BirdLife International, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Care Myanmar, Instituto Oikos, Flora and Fauna International (FFI), Arcona Consulting, Ministry of Environment Japan, British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Ramsar Network Japan, Lighthouse Foundation, Wildfowl Wetland Trust (WWT), World Wildlife Funds (WWF), Tropical Rainforest Foundation (TRP), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and People Resource and Conservation Foundation (PRCF), as well as Government Ministries like Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Myanmar. BANCA is also looking forward to seeing more close collaboration with other international scientific organizations and local environmental NGOs.

VISION

“A nation with a flourishing nature & rich biodiversity and where people live in harmony with nature”

MISSION

“Conservation of nature, primarily biological diversity, through action based on research, advocacy, partnership, network building, education, people’s participation and public awareness”

OUR VALUES

1. TEAMWORK

We believe that by acting united for a common goal, we can achieve the best results. We appreciate the diverse and unique talents of our people and build upon them to fulfil our vision. All our relationships are based upon mutual respect.

2. PROFESSIONAL SPIRIT

We value multi-disciplinary teams and utilise both local and international expertise. We are committed to have a thorough understanding of Myanmar’s nature and biodiversity. We use this knowledge to address the root causes of problems and to come up with creative solutions. In all our endeavours we act in a professional way and strive towards excellence.

3. INTEGRITY

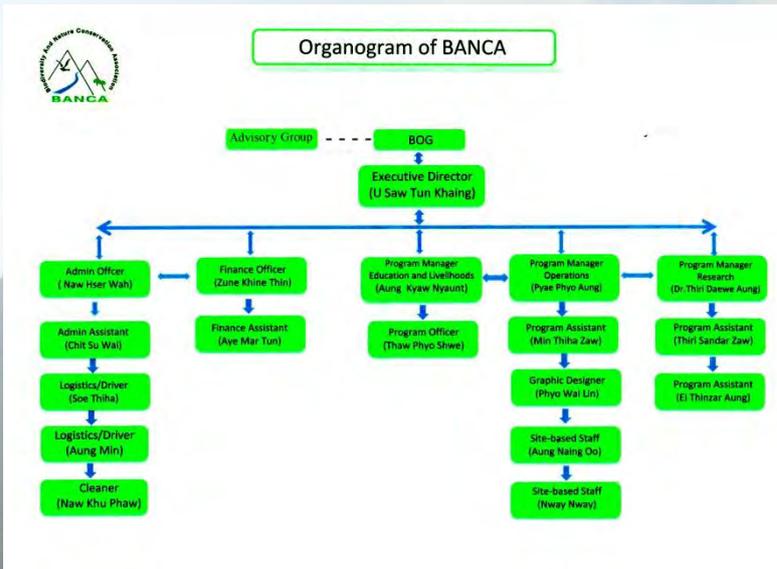
We are honest and are committed to do the right thing. We are accountable to our members, partners and especially to the communities with which we work. We act transparently and are open about our plans, actions and results.

4. POSITIVE IMPACT

We strive to make a positive impact on nature, biodiversity as well as on the communities with which we work. In all our activities we take into account specific local settings. We consider a programme successful when there has been a positive, significant and sustainable change. We focussed on achieving results.

ORGANIZATION CHART

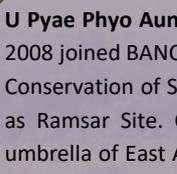
Once a year an Annual General Member meeting is held. In the year 2015 BANCA was rearranged with 6 Advisory Group Member (AG), 7 Board of Governance (BOG) and 7 members of Senior Management Team (SMT). For day to day affairs it is managed by Senior Management Team and Board of Governance is obliged to review to the policies.



OUR SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



U Saw Tun Khaing received B.Sc (Forestry) from University of Yangon in 1965 and M.Sc (Silviculture) from University of Aberdeen in 1975. Started his academic career as Extra Assistant Conservator of Forest in Forest Department from 1965 to 1971, Assistant Director/ Assistant Silviculturist of Forest Department from 1972 to 1980, and as Assistant Director/Deputy Director of Wildlife and Sanctuaries Division of the Forest Department from 1981 to 1991. Furthermore, he was a Managing Partner of Forestry Consultancy Group from 1992 to 1993. From 1993 to 1994, served as Horticulturist employed by private plant production farm, Prince Plant Production Enterprise of Singapore. From 1994 to 1995, worked as National Project Professional Person (NPPP) in Watershed Management for Three Critical Areas of UNDP. From 1996 to 2004 as Country Program Coordinator of Wildlife Conservation Society and from 2006 to 2010 as Secretary of Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development Initiative (ECCDI).



U Pyae Phyo Aung is a marine scientist, graduated from Moulmein University. Worked as shrimp pond technician from 2005 to 2007. In 2008 joined BANCA as a member and has taken a key role in Conservation of Marine ecosystem. Has played a leading role in Myanmar on Conservation of Spoon-billed Sandpiper and to develop community livelihoods sustainably and in particular to establish Gulf of Mottama as Ramsar Site. Country Representative for Myanmar with the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force which is coordinated under the umbrella of East Asia- Australasian Flyway Partnership. Has taken position as CEPA NGOs National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention, to monitor and report on the implementation of Ramsar Convention's CEPA Programme and sets priorities for Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness and Capacity building.



U Aung Kyaw Nyunt received B.Sc degree in Mathematics from University of Yangon and started working in Forestry Department. Served as Assistant Park Warden at the Forestry Department Headquarters from 1983 to 1986, at Shwe Set Taw Wildlife Sanctuary from 1987 to 1989 and as Assistant Park Warden at Hlaw Ga Wildlife Park from 1990 to 2003. All together he has 21 years' of work experience in wildlife conservation. During his service, he did socioeconomic surveys on western side of Inle Lake with the help of UNDP in 1991, at Ywa Ngan District, Shan State in 1992 and gave trainings on using fuel efficient/stoves in middle part of Myanmar with the support of FAO. Furthermore, from 2004 to 2008, he did rural area development for conservation of local bird "White-browed nuthatch" supported by BirdLife International within Natmataung National Park. From 2010 to the present, he works closely with the locals for the conservation of Critically Endangered species 'Spoon-billed Sandpiper' in Gulf of Mottama.



Dr Thri Daewi Aung is Burmese Ornithologist and presently serve as programme manager in research and conservation section. She received Ph.D (Ornithology) from University of Yangon in 2010. A large part of her work has been in bird conservation, where worked with especially BirdLife International and governments and also collaborated with NGOs, INGOs, Universities and local communities. She is country representative for Myanmar with Baer's Pochard Task Force and in updating of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) to BirdLife International and International Union for conservation of Nature (IUCN). She has effectively contributed to updating checklist of bird species in Myanmar with Myanmar Bird and Nature Society (MBNS). She is one of the executive committee members in MBNS and Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-conservation Network (MERN).



SAVING THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER PROGRAMME IN MYANMAR

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*) is a long distance migrant, which breeds in the Chukotka peninsula in the far north-east of Russia and annually migrates more than 8,000 km to winter in South and South-east Asia, with approximately half of the global population understood to winter in Myanmar. This species is classified as globally Critically Endangered on the Red List of Endangered Species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. In 2010, the breeding population of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper was estimated to be between 120 and 220 breeding pairs, a decline of 78% to 88% since 2000 when the population was approximately 100 breeding pairs.

The main threats to the Spoon-billed Sandpiper were identified as taking place on the non-breeding grounds. In Myanmar the following four main threats were identified; hunting (the most severe and urgent threat), lack of formal protection of coastal sites, inadvertent by-catch from fishing and potentially, in the long-term, loss of habitat through unsustainable coastal development and inappropriate mangrove forest restoration on mudflats. While these threats remain, actions to protect this species in Myanmar have been on-going since 2008, particularly by identifying hunters through socio-economic surveys and providing them with support for alternative livelihoods, raising awareness of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, establishing local conservation groups (LCGs) and taking steps to establish a Ramsar site in the Gulf of Mottama. Another important wintering ground is Nanthar Island located at the western coastal area of Rakhine State.

In year 2016, BANCA carried out the Spoon-billed Sandpiper population and distribution survey at the Gulf of Mottama and the Nanthar Island in collaboration with local partner Rakhine Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (RBANCA). This winter season, 100 SBS were recorded in the upper Gulf of Mottama and 18 SBS were recorded in Nanthar Island. Building on the designation of GoM as a Ramsar Site is part of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)- funded Community-Led Coastal Management Gulf of Mottama Project (CLCMGOMP). The project is implemented by a consortium, comprising the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Network Activities Group (NAG), Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation (HELVETAS) and Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA). The consortium partners support the designation of the northern part of Mon State as a Ramsar site. Sustainable management of fisheries and equitable share of its benefits, livelihood diversification and access to non-fisheries resources, and sustainable conservation and management of the special habitats of the GoM are three interdependent outcomes. BANCA is supporting technical roles for the designation of Ramsar Site and management plan of GoM.



A Case Study of ecosystem services rendered by Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary for the local communities

Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) is focusing on Gulf of Mottama (GOM) since 2008 to establish this area as a future Ramsar Site of Myanmar. The establishment includes protection of globally and critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper and thousands of northern wintering migrants and also for promotion of coastal communities for their training in protection, education awareness and livelihoods.

In the promotion of livelihood sector, BANCA has provided 8 earth-ponds for 8 villages in the coastal area in the form of livelihood development as the area is in crucial need of freshwater. However, the earth-ponds dried up in summer during which the communities had to expect donation of water from highland communities living around Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary, where spring water abound all the year-round. Unused spring water is wasted particularly in Khitthit stream of Winka village, which is only three miles away from the coastal area.

Due to the existence of famous pagodas such as Buddha's sacred hair-enshrined Kelatha, Mya Thabiek, Kelathapha and Kyaik Dae Yon on the mountainous ranges, the area has become a popular tourism site, second to the Rock Pagoda of Kyaikhtiyo in Mon State. As Mount Kelatha is 1181' high at the edge of the Sittaung lowland valley, which also makes it as a seascape view point for further attraction of tourism. Six professional teams were involved in the survey and the findings of each team is presented. Overall evaluation of these findings were again assessed and further overall findings and recommendations were made for the long-term existence of the Sanctuary and sustainable availability of fresh spring water for the coastal communities. BANCA has already set up a base-station at Thein Ngu village in order to carry out the effective education and livelihood activities for the coastal communities. In future, it is planned to transform this site into an Education Center cum village library for local communities and a prospective source of tourism for bird enthusiasts of GoM and Kelatha Community-Led Sanctuary.

As freshwater availability is a crucial issue for the coastal communities whose village lands are virtually inundated by the seawater. The approach of sustainable supply of freshwater for coastal communities from Winka water source is the main concern of BANCA to carry out the socio-biological survey of Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary.



“Discovery of Thaw ka-gyi tree, Amherstia nobilis in orchard farmers-owned natural forest of the Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary”

THE PRELIMINARY POPULATION AND MONITORING OF BAER'S POCHARD, MIGRATORY WATER BIRD SPECIES IN INLAND LAKES OF CENTRAL MYANMAR

Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*) was formerly a relatively common and widespread duck in Asia, although it has possibly not been abundant for a long time, and in fact there has never really been a good understanding of its population size. This species has always been somewhat overlooked by ornithologists, partly owing to difficulties of visiting and surveying the areas in which it occurs. The Critically Endangered Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*) was last recorded in Myanmar in 2001. In order to ascertain the current status of the species in Myanmar, a comprehensive survey was conducted at 22 sites and further information was gathered from others conducting observations three sites in central Myanmar during January, March and April 2016. Direct observations were used to count the total number of each waterbird species, paying close attention to diving ducks due to their similarity to each other. At least 12 individual Baer's Pochard were found at Pyu Lake near Mandalay city. This lake is probably natural and is used for irrigation. It provides important ecosystem support to both migratory and resident waterbird species as well as benefits to the local people, such as food, a regular water supply and protection from extreme weather. Information on Baer's Pochard at Indawgyi Lake, northern Myanmar and Inle Lake, eastern Myanmar from bird surveyors and birding tour guides was also recorded. Past records of Baer's Pochard in Myanmar indicate that this species has declined significantly. Although no evidence was found of trapping or poisoning of Baer's Pochard in recent years, hunting is still likely to be a significant threat. Human presence may also cause negative impacts through disturbance. A thorough remote sensing analysis is required to identify other potentially suitable wetland habitats to be targeted by future surveys of Baer's Pochard. Urgent measures on the potential negative effects on wintering waterfowl must be taken to reduce the pressure of hunting and fishing practices, especially at key wintering sites.



Wetlands and Migratory birds conservation

As defined by the Convention, wetlands include a wide variety of habitats such as marshes, peat lands, floodplains, rivers and lakes, and coastal areas such as saltmarshes, mangroves, and sea grass beds, but also coral reefs and other marine areas no deeper than six meters at low tide, as well as human-made wetlands such as waste-water treatment ponds and reservoirs.

Every year, BANCA carried out the mobile education and awareness programme for wetlands conservation in Gulf of Mottama and Nanthar Island. In order to fulfill the knowledge gaps of the values of wetlands conservation among the community and stakeholders, we carried out the CEPA programme in 49 villages of Gulf of Mottama (Mon State and Bago Region) and 5 villages near the Nanthar Island (Rakhine State).

Every year 2nd February is the World Wetlands Day, BANCA organized WWD event at the Thein Ngu village, Bilin Township on 10th May and also celebrated the World Migratory Birds Day event.



အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ ရေတိမ်ဒေသဖြစ်မြောက်ရေး ခိုမှားပိုင်းဝန်း တူညီပေး

မုတ္တမပင်လယ်ကွေ့အားရေတိမ်ဒေသအဖြစ်သတ်မှတ်နိုင်ပါက

ဆွယ်လွန်ရရှိမည့် အကျိုးကျေးဇူးများ

- ◆ ပြန်မာနိုင်ငံအနေဖြင့် ကမ္ဘာ့အလယ်တွင် ရေဖျော်စိုက်ဖွားအတွက် အရေးကြီးသော ဒေသများအဖြစ် အသိပြုနိုင်ပါသည်။
- ◆ မုတ္တမပင်လယ်ကွေ့နှင့် ဒေသအတွင်းရှိ ရေပူကောင်းစေတီပုထိုးများ အနုပညာလက်ရာများကို နိုင်ငံတကာမှ လာရောက်လေ့လာခြင်းအားဖြင့် နိုင်ငံတော်အတွက် နိုင်ငံခြားဝင်ငွေ ရရှိနိုင်မည့်အပြင် မုတ္တမပင်လယ်ကွေ့ရှိ ဒေသများအနေဖြင့် ရက်လွယ်ရာ ဖြစ်ပေါ်လာမည်။
- ◆ ဒေသများအနေဖြင့် စည်လမ်းညွှန်ဖွားလုပ်ငန်းစဉ်ဖြင့် အလုပ်အကိုင် အခွင့်အလမ်းများနှင့် လူ့စွမ်းအားအရင်းအမြစ်များကို တိုးတက်လာပြီး လူမှုစီးပွားအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးလာနိုင်မည်ဖြစ်သည်။
- ◆ ဒေသအတွင်းရှိ လက်မှုပညာလုပ်ငန်းများဖြင့်လည်အသက်ဝင်လာပြီး နိုင်ငံတကာ စည်ပည့်များကို အမှတ်တရပစ္စည်းအနေဖြင့် ရောင်းချခြင်းဖြင့် ဒေသမိပြည်သူများ အတွက် လူမှုစီးပွားအဖွဲ့အစည်း ဖွံ့ဖြိုးစေမည်။ (ဥပမာ - မောင်းချေပြန်၊ ဝါး၊ ငွေလွှာတိမ်ဒေသကို နိုင်ငံတကာအဖွဲ့အစည်းများ လိုက်နာလေ့လာမှုကို အကြောင်းပြု၍ ဒေသအတွက် လိုအပ်သော အခြေခံဆောက်အုံများကို နိုင်ငံတကာအဖွဲ့အစည်းဖြင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်လာအောင် ဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်မည်။)
- ◆ ဒေသအတွင်းရှိ ပညာရှိကြွယ်ဝသော သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ကို အသုံးပြုခြင်းကို ရှိမရှိ စောင့်ရှောက်မှုများ တတ်တောင်ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးရန်အတွက် သင်တန်းများကို ပေးအပ်မည်ဖြစ်သည်။
- ◆ မုတ္တမပင်လယ်ကွေ့အတွင်းရှိ သဘာဝအရင်းအမြစ်များကို စောင့်ရှောက်မှုနှင့် ရေရှည်ဘက်စုံ အကျိုးရှိစွာအသုံးပြုနိုင်ရေးအတွက် ပြည်တွင်း၊ ပြည်ပ အဖွဲ့အစည်းများဖြင့် အကောင်အထည်ဖော်ဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်မည်။
- ◆ ဒေသအတွင်းရှိ လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးလုပ်ငန်းများကိုလည်း နိုင်ငံတကာ၏ အကူအညီဖြင့် နည်းပညာများပေါင်းစပ်၍ ပိုမိုစေတီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်လာအောင် ဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

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- ◆ စုစုံပေါင်းရေဖျော်စိုက်ဖွားနှင့် ဆောင်းခိုက်များ၏ အခြေအနေကို လေ့လာခြင်းအားဖြင့် ကမ္ဘာ့အလယ်တွင် ပြောင်းလဲမှုအခြေအနေကို မှန်ကန်စွာ ဖော်ပြနိုင်မည်ဖြစ်သည်။ ဒေသအတွင်း ကျောက်မည် သဘာဝဒေသအနုပညာများကိုလည်း ကြိုတင်စောင့်ရှောက်နိုင်မည်ဖြစ်သည်။
- ◆ နိုင်ငံတကာအဖွဲ့အစည်းများဝင်ရောက်လေ့လာခြင်းအားဖြင့် ယခင်ကသတ်မှတ်မိသော သဘာဝ သယံဇာတများကို သတ်မှတ်ခြင်း၊ သားစွပ်ပြေးဆက်ဆံ ဆက်လက်တိုက်ခိုက်သင့်သည့် အကျိုးကျေးဇူးများအရရှိစေမည် ဖြစ်သည်။

Logos: HELVETAS, UCN, rspb, giving nature a home, etc.

“People taking action for the wise use of wetlands”

IMPROVE LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE GULF OF MOTTAMA

The Gulf of Mottama, covering an area within a straight line between the southern point of Pyapon township in Ayeyarwady Region and the southern point of Mudon township in Mon State, is one of the world's most dynamic wetland. It is a large and generally undisturbed funnel-shaped estuary with extensive tidal flats which receive constant mass of sediments from Ayeyarwady, Sittaung and Thanlwin rivers. Its tidal cycle is extremely pronounced in speed and amplitude causing a powerful bore phenomenon. The Gulf of Mottama (GoM) acts as nutrient sink providing spawning and nursery grounds for aquatic species beyond the Gulf and far into the Bay of Bengal. A great number of populations of over 150 villages depend upon the Gulf for their livelihoods and food security such as small-scale and commercial fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture and edible non-timber products such as plants and seaweed.

Although complete databases of fish, fisheries and fishing effort are not available, there is evidence that fish catch has decline by up to 90% over the last decade. Coastal communities depending on fisheries have reported changes of fishery resource condition in terms of catch, fish size and species variation. Overuse of very fine mesh nets(6mm mesh size), heavy exploitation by commercial fishers, fishing in closed season, electro and poison fishing, and apparent disregard for sustainability are major reasons contributing to the depletion of fishery resources in the GoM. BANCA carried out the patrolling activities in Gulf of Mottama since 2014, this year monitoring Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool (SMART) patrolling activities with the technical support of Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). To present government departments on the illegal fishing issues in the Gulf of Mottama.





Two bear species inhabit Myanmar: the Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) and the Sun Bear (*Helarctos malayanus*). These species are endemic to Asia and listed as vulnerable in the IUCN red list. In accordance with buyer demands, the Asiatic Black Bear is more popular and more traded among buyers than the Sun Bear. According to a previous regional study, there were three bear farms housing 58 Asiatic Black Bears documented in Panghsang and Mongla cities in eastern Myanmar (Foley et al, 2011). To better understand the bear trade and bear farms in these areas, the BANCA team visited the areas around these cities as well as border areas of China and Lao PDR.

According to information from Traditional Medicine (TM) shop owners and local hunters, about 200 to 300 Asiatic Black Bears are traded yearly within Myanmar. The researchers found evidence of 120 live bears in Mongla city. In one of the survey areas, the researchers located one bear farm housing approximately 100 Asiatic Black Bears. Additionally, the research team investigated markets and shops selling bears in Myanmar and select areas in neighboring countries, with varying prices for different products, including bear bile and gallbladders.



“Local and National authorities need to promote awareness-raising campaigns on the existing wildlife laws and stop buying and exporting bear bile”

BANCA established a tree nursery at the Environmental Education and Sustainability Centre (EESC) to supports the trees for the coastal communities in Gulf of Mottama. All the coastal villages have lack of wind-break trees cover and Bilin township (especially coastal communities) are using fuel wood from the Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary. In year 2016, BANCA and Forest Department provided 6000 trees to coastal communities and will continue more tree plantings in coastal area of GoM.

“Community participation is crucial for conservation activities”



Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park (AKNP) was established as a wildlife sanctuary in 1989 under 1936 Wildlife Protection Act. Then, it was transformed as a National Park and Protection of Wildlife and Wild Plants and Conservation of Natural Areas (2002). AKNP received ASEAN Heritage Park status on 18th December 2003. It is a famous religious site for Buddhism since the holy remains of Lord Alaungdaw Kathapa were kept in the natural cave located inside the park. About 230,000 pilgrims visit the National Park during the religious festival from January to April each year. AKNP was the first declared national park in Myanmar. The park protects the largest tracts of remaining Teak Forest in the country as well as a nationally important population of Leopards, Banteng and Asian Elephants. The park has received a series of donor projects over the past 25 years but most of these had focused on short-term activities and not long-term management solutions. The AKNP has been under pressures due to high demand from surrounding communities and extensive illegal activities such as illegal loggings and NTFP collections. Underlying factors for variety of pressures on the AKNP are high population growth, limited alternative livelihood options, weak law enforcement and protection, low community participation in park management, low conservation awareness and lucrative illegal logging business around the park. Consequently, there were reportedly illegal cutting of high value timber, extraction of poles, posts and fuel wood for household use, illegal hunting, and encroachment for farming. BANCA is working with WCS and Forest Department for **the development of the Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park Management plan**. The annual work plan for AKNP highlighted patrolling, researches, education and awareness raising, fire protection and capacity building. In that management plan, five zones – buffer zone, protection zone, development zone, religious zone and elephant grazing zone – were proposed.



ADVOCACY FOR IMPROVE CONSERVATION POLICIES AND PRACTICE

The new government of Mon State is very supportive in the designation of Gulf of Mottama as Ramsar Site and willing to extend support for Gulf of Mottama Project. BANCA and Forest Department staff organized meetings with the community, explained Ramsar Site designation process and received re-endorsement letter for Ramsar site designation from community in April 2016.

BANCA carried out the ecosystems services of Kelatha Wildlife Sanctuary which is close to Gulf of Mottama in March-June 2016. Overall objectives of the survey is to conserve the Kelatha WS with the participation of community for long-term sustainable conservation and to promote Gulf of Mottama and Kelatha as eco-tourism sites due to the presence of rich biodiversity and archeological sites which rekindle the region of once powerful nation of Mon Kingdom which originated at Thuwunna Bhumi, around Kelatha and its environs. After the assessment survey of Kelatha WS, BANCA formed the Community Based Organization (CBO) with the participation of local community who live in and around Kelatha WS.

On 29 August 2016, BANCA organized the State Level Environmental Conservation workshop was opened by the Chief Minister of Mon State with active participation of the relevant Government officials. In the workshop Gulf of Mottama Ramsar Site designation process and other potential conservation areas in Mon State were discussed. During this workshop, BANCA highlighted the rock mining issues in Kelatha WS.

As Mon State Government strong willness to designate Gulf of Mottama as a Ramsar Site, it requested to provide with official letter along with Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) to Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC). As a result of this endorsement, the eastern portion of GoM in Mon State was declared forth Ramsar Site of Myanmar on 10th May 2017.



In year 2016, BANCA staff attended various capacity building trainings, international workshops and seminars abroad.

**International Workshop on the Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands along the Coast of the Bay of Bengal
6-7 June 2016, Mahidol University, Thailand**



**Conservation Asia 2016 Singapore
Society for Conservation Biology Asia section
Association for Tropical Biology and
Conservation Asia-Pacific chapter
(29 June -2 July 2016)**

**10th INTECOL INTERNATIONAL WETLANDS
CONFERENCE
CHANGSHU CHINA
(19-24 September 2016)**



**Baer's Pochard & Yellow-breasted bunting
conservation action plan workshop
Guangzhou China (2-4 November 2016)**

17th BirdLife Asia Regional Partnership Meeting

Colombo, Sri Lanka

21-24 November 2016



7th Asian Bird Fair

Jingshan, Hubei, China

17-21 November 2016



Bird Festival 2016

Uttar Pradesh, India

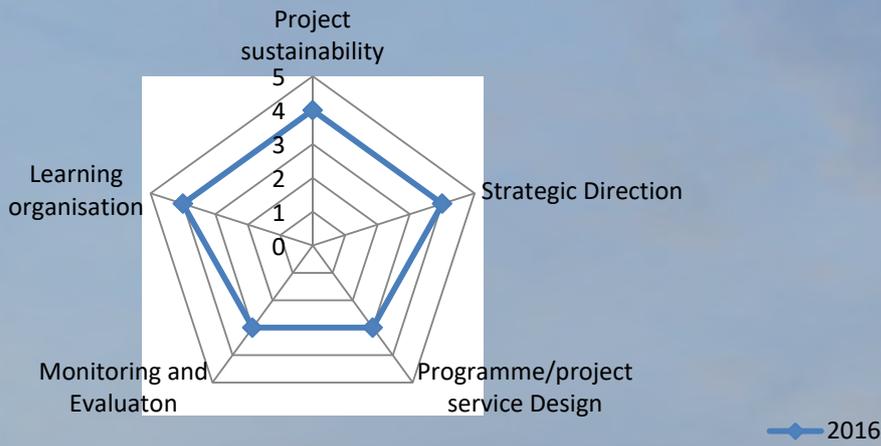
2-4 December 2016



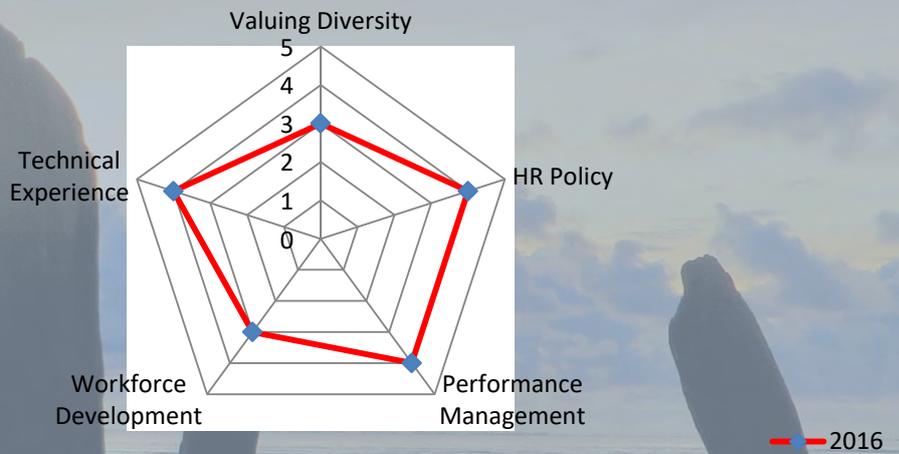
BIRD WATCHING TRAINING



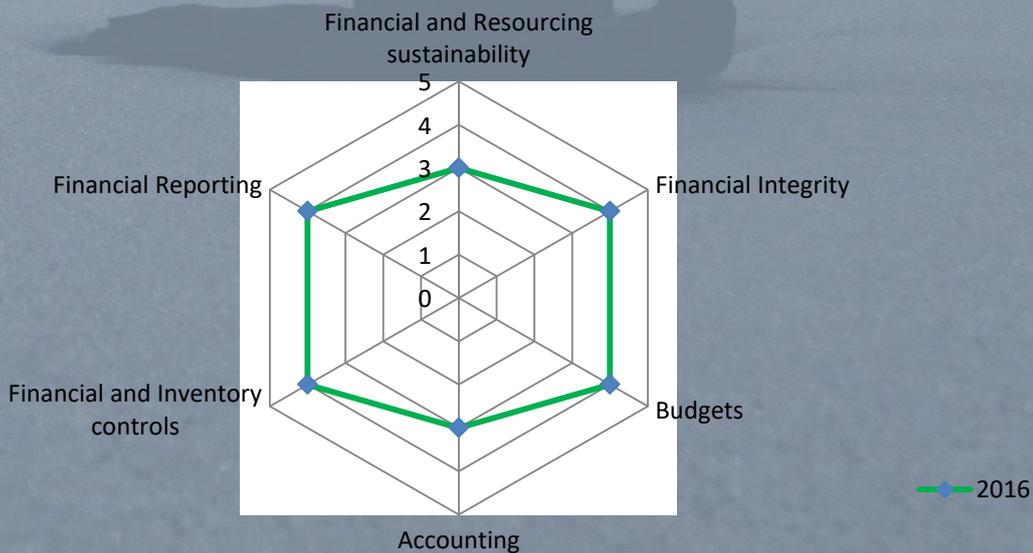
Strategic Planning & Programme Management



Human Resource and Development (2015-2016)

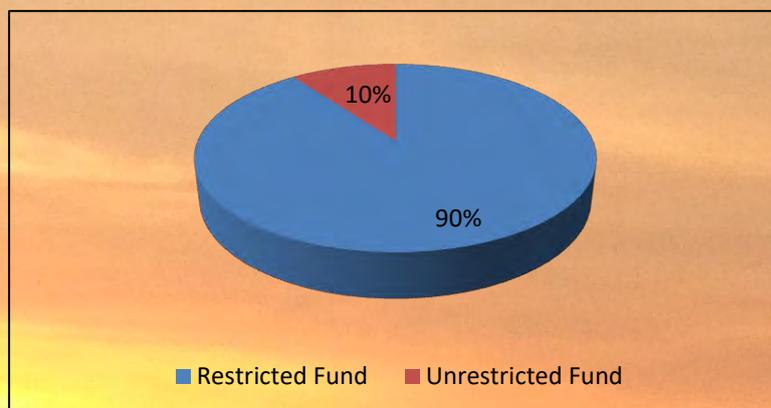
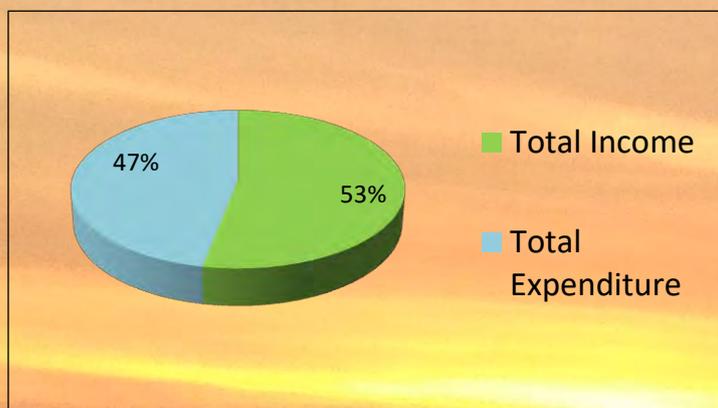
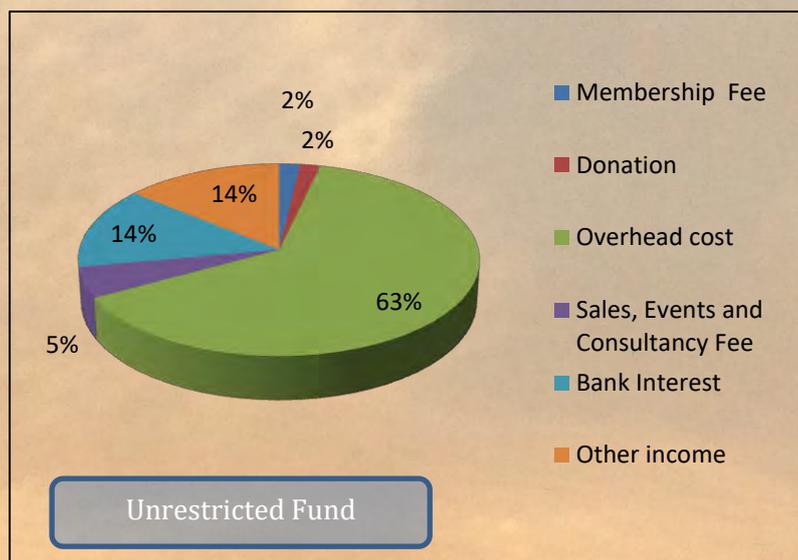


Financial Management and Sustainability (2015-2016)



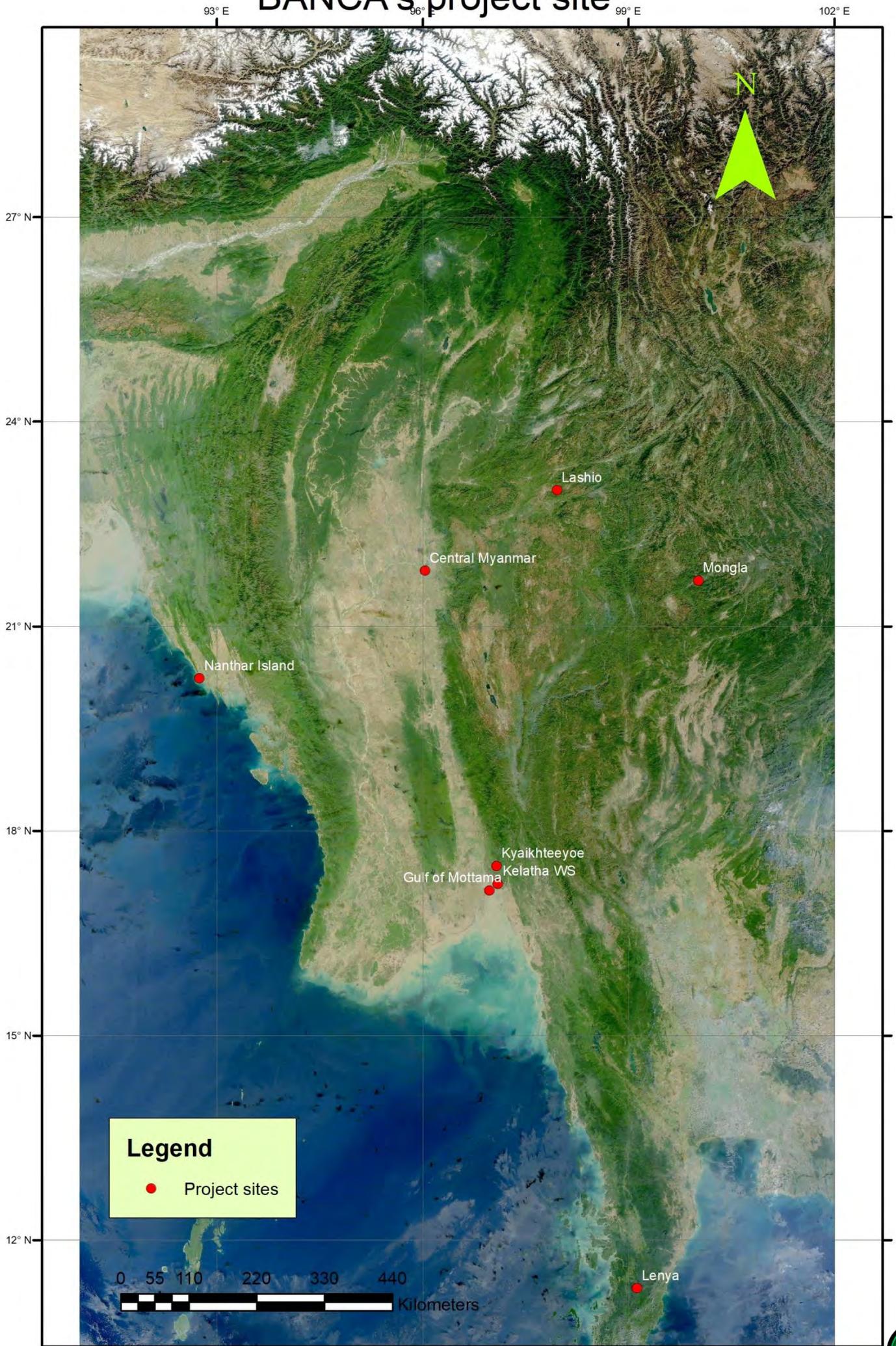
MEMBERSHIP & FINANCIAL STATUS

Membership 2016	
January	9
February	5
March	3
April	40
May	1
June	9
July	33
August	11
September	4
October	28
November	8
December	22
Total member	173



No	Project lists	Total \$
1	Amatae Project	267,853
2	RSPB (SBS survey in Myanmar)	6,810
3	CLP (Baer's Pochard Survey)	6,960
4	WWT (Baer's Pochard Survey)	7,032
5	WWP (Baer's Pochard Survey)	1,000
6	OBC(Baer's Pochard Survey)	2,873
7	MBZ (SBS Survey in Myanmar)	8,500
8	Gala Dinner/ BirdLife Tokyo_Awareness Welcome to the birds (2015~2016)	7,672
9	RSPB(Surveys of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Myanmar)	14,400
10	RSPB (Coordination Programme)	8,450
11	RSPB(Coordinating conservation of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Myanmar)	10,952
12	CLCMGOMP	45,005
13	Disney Fund (Spoon-billed Sandpiper conservation in Rakhine)	17,840
14	ICFC (Spoon-billed Sandpiper conservation in Rakhine)	12,400
15	RRC-EA Wetland Fund	10,000
16	WCS Myanmar (Small Grants Programme of the ASEAN centre for Biodiversity)	27,918
17	Investigation of the bile industry and bear trade in Myanmar	10,588
	Total	466,254

BANCA's project site



BOARD OF GOVERNORS, ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

Sr.No	Name	Position	Representative Organization
1.	U Tin Aye	Chairperson	Myanmar Forest Association (MFA)
2.	Dr. Saw Lwin	Member	Myanmar Floriculturist Association (MFA)
3.	U Mehm Ko Ko Gyi	Member	Ecosystem Conservation and Community Development Initiative (ECCDI)
4.	U Saw Win	Treasurer	EGUARD Environmental Services Company Limited
5.	U Than Myint	Member	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
6.	U Myint Swe	Member	Retired Director of Forest Department
7.	Dr. Nay Soe Maung	Member	Rector (University of Public Health)

COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sr.No	Name	Position
1.	Daw Dae Wei Thant Cin	Chief Editor (Aung Pin Lae Magazine & Myanmar Green Network)
2.	U Saw Moe Myint	Advisor (Myanmar Green Network)Kayin Regional Parliament
3.	Dr. Khin Maung Nyo	Writer and Literary Presenter
4.	Dr. Than Htut	Honourable Professor (University of Public Health)
5.	Daw Than Myint Aung	Writer and Yangon Municipal Council Member
6.	Daw Cho Cho Tin	Writer

COMPOSITION OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

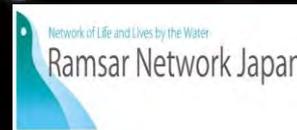
Sr.No	Name	Position
1.	U Saw Tun Khaing	Executive Director
2.	U Pyae Phyoe Aung	General Secretary
3.	U Aung Kyaw Nyunt	Member
4.	U Thaw Phyoe Shwe	Member
5.	Dr.Thiri Dae We Aung	Member
6.	Daw Zun Khine Thin	Member
7.	Daw Naw Hser Wah	Member

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, we would like to thank the donors for their support of BANCA's conservation mission. And thanks for the Board of Governance for policy guide line and Senior Management Team for their in-kind contribution.



WE WORKING TOGETHER WITH





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