



Capacity Building Training on Wetland Conservation

(Part of the Community-based Integrated Catchment Management for Conserving the
Upper Chindwin River Project)

28-31 July 2023

at

Meeting Hall of Environmental Conservation Department, Hkamti, Myanmar

Organized by

Myanmar Environment Institute (MEI) and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) with
support from Environmental Conservation Department



Background

The Upper Chindwin Basin exhibits a diverse array of wetlands and ecosystems, each possessing distinct characteristics. Additionally, the Basin encompasses the most significant habitats for biodiversity, commonly referred to as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA). It is imperative to implement measures aimed at preserving local wetlands, safeguarding a wide range of habitats to support biodiversity, restoring Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA), and ensuring the sustainability of livelihoods.

The Darwin Upper Chindwin Basin project aims to conserve ecosystems to support livelihoods and implement community measures for the conservation of wetlands that support and sustain resilient livelihoods in Myanmar's Upper Chindwin Basin. Biodiversity and ecosystem services assessments in the selected region will inform the Community Action Plans (CAP) co-developed with stakeholders to establish sustainable agricultural, land and water management practices.

In December 2021, a rapid village assessment was conducted to facilitate the prioritization of villages for subsequent project activities. The primary objective of the RVA was to gather field data in order to identify wetlands that should be given priority for conservation and community management. The wetlands were evaluated against the Ramsar assessment criteria. Specifically, five wetlands were identified as high priority areas for conservation: Wat Lar Inn, Naung Taw Inn, Naung Sa Pin Inn, Hman Pin Inn, and Naung Lon Inn.

Subsequently, a comprehensive baseline assessment was conducted in the four priority villages and their corresponding wetlands in the monsoon season of 2022. The assessment involved the implementation of focus group discussions (FGD) and questionnaires as data collection methods. These instruments consisted of a combination of fixed response and open-ended questions. The questionnaires were specifically formulated to gather data on various socio-demographic and economic attributes, as well as livelihood dependence and practices.

Another key question was to identify strategies to improve sustainable livelihoods that align with the goals of wetlands conservation. Baseline assessment also assessed respondents' understanding of the benefits associated with wetlands and their overall attitude towards the conservation of wetland ecosystems.

Through the baseline assessment the gaps with respect to stakeholders understanding of



wetlands ecosystems, their services and conservation practices were identified.

The proposed training aims to enhance stakeholders' knowledge and awareness of wetlands, biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods, and integrated land and water management for wetland and biodiversity. Training will also focus on conservation, management and field survey techniques with community and government stakeholders' through case studies.

Objectives

1. Building capacity and upgrade skills at local CSO, ECD staff, Village Committee members and community level in valuing wetlands conservation
2. Raising awareness and deeper understanding on biodiversity protection and ecosystems
3. Enhancing sustainable livelihoods management

Trainers/Resource Persons

The training will be led by MEI experts with support from SEI team.

1. Dr. Win Maung, MEI Chairman
2. Mr. Thura Min, MEI Consultant
3. Mr. Pyae Toe Aung, MEI Consultant
4. Mrs. Than Htway Lwin, SEI Project Coordinator
5. Mr. Hein Htet Soe, SEI Project Assistant

Participants

About 30 persons are expected to join.

1. NSNO Chairman and four staff
2. ECD staff officer and five staff
3. Four villagers from Nar Myitter village (1 village head, 2 VCM, 1 youth)
4. Four villagers from Tharyarkone village (1 village head, 2 VCM, 1 youth)
5. Four villagers from Ham Pin village (1 village head, 2 VCM, 1 youth)
6. Four villagers from Maing Naung village (1 village head, 2 VCM, 1 youth)



PROGRAM

28.07.2023 (Friday)		
Time	Agenda	Resource Person
Until 10:00	Participants Registration	Mrs. Than Htway Lwin, SEI Mr. Hein Htet Soe, SEI
Session 1		
10:00-10:15	Welcome address	ECD, MEI and SEI
10:15-10:30	Introduction of the project and baseline assessment results	Mrs. Than Htway Lwin, SEI
10:30-11:15	Introduction to the training and lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why wetland are important and guideline for wetland conservation 	Dr Win Maung, MEI
11:15-11:30	Introduction of case studies	Dr Win Maung, MEI
11:30-11:45	Group formation of participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Photograph 	Dr Win Maung, MEI
12:20-13:30	Lunch	
Session 2		
13:30-14:00	Explanation of Case study assignments	Dr Win Maung, MEI
14:00-15:00	Group work Each group is required to engage in a comprehensive discussion regarding the primary issues (step 1) and restoration measures (step 2) pertaining to five wetlands, Wetlar, Naung Sa Lein, Hman Pin, Naung Taw, and Naung Loam	
15:00-15:15	Coffee break	
15:15-15:30	Short presentations by each group	All
15:30-16:00	Questions and Answers	All
16:00-16:10	Wrap-up	Dr Win Maung, MEI
16:10-16:20	Evaluation of Day 1 – participant survey	Mrs. Than Htway Lwin, SEI
16:20-16:30	Preview of Day 2 and key activities	Dr Win Maung, MEI
16:30	End of the day	



29.07.2023
(Saturday)

Time	Agenda	Resource Person
8:30-9:30 Departure to Field	Field Survey Tools and Techniques. Data Collection and Management (At ECD compound and its environs)	All
Session 3		
09:30-10:00	Ramsar Wetland Sites in Myanmar (step 3) + stakeholder benefit analysis (step 4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Group work</u>: decide which benefits are relevant in their case study for wetlands around Hkamti and for whom: Opinions and concerns from relevant stakeholders. 	Dr Win Maung, MEI
10:00-10:45	Short presentation by all the groups	All
10:45-11:00	Group discussion and Q&A	All
11:00-11:15	Coffee break	
Session 4		
11:15-11:45	Valuation for Wetland: Total Economic Value (TEV) (Step 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Group work</u>: make rough estimate of the benefits of each of five wetlands scenario on in monetary/non-monetary terms: calculation of Total Economic Value (TEV) 	Dr Win Maung, MEI
11:45-12:30	Short presentation by all the groups	All
12:30-12:45	Group discussion and Q&A	All
12:45-13:45	Lunch	
Session 5		
13:45-14:15	Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem (Step 6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Group work</u>: Rapid Assessment for local wetlands around Hkamti, identify public and private benefits (and costs) and analyze main socio-economic implications ('winners and losers') for each scenario 	Dr Win Maung, MEI
14:15-15:00	Short presentation by all the groups	All
15:00-15:15	Group discussion and Q&A	All
15:15-15:30	Coffee break	
Session 6		
15:30-16:30	Sustainable Solutions in Conservation: Community Based Wetland Management (step 7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Group work</u>: develop ideas for Co-Management to implement 'your' scenario: who should participate and how? Development Fund? 	Dr Win Maung, MEI
16:30-17:00	Short presentation by all the groups	All
17:00-17:15	Group discussion and Q&A	All
17:15-17:30	Evaluation of Day 2 – participant survey	Mrs. Than Htway Lwin, SEI
17:30	End of the day	



30.07.2023
(Sunday)

Session 7

09:00-10:45	Wetland Plants and Wildlife of the five study wetlands (step 9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Group Work</u>: develop ideas and list of plants and wildlife for the five wetlands around Hkamti area 	Dr Win Maung, MEI
10:45-11:15	Short presentation by all the groups	All
11:15-11:30	Group discussion and Q&A	All
11:30-12:00	Coffee break	

Session 8

12:00-13:00	Photos (terrestrial and aquatic) of five wetlands and Information (land and water quality) on the wetlands around Hkamti (conducted by MEI and SEI) (step 10) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and giving information to all groups 	Dr Win Maung, MEI
13:00-13:30	Group discussion and Q&A and Wrap-up	All
13:30-14:30	Lunch	

Session 9

14:30-15:30	Institution, Policy and Conservation in Myanmar (step 11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Group Work</u>: Develop recommendations for possible policy instrument and institutional changes needed in order to implement your scenario. • (Focus mainly on village level wetland management and role of village committees and finding pathways how ECD can support the implementation of CAP 	Dr Win Maung, MEI
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Session 10

15:30-16:30	Videos on other Wetlands; Compare with the Wetlands around Hkamti (step 12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Group Work</u>: Develop recommendations and Questions 	Dr Win Maung, MEI
16:30-16:45	Evaluation of day 3- participant survey	Mrs. Than Htway Lwin, SEI
16:45-17:00	Conclusion and closing	All



31.07.2023

(Monday)

09:30-11:30	Review and Discussion on the Training Course (step 13) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and Question/Answers with NSNO 	Dr Win Maung, MEI
11:30-12:00	Coffee break	
Session 12		
12:00-13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjusting the Training Course for the Community (step 14) • Suggestions and Recommendations • Conclusion and Wrap-up 	Dr Win Maung, MEI
13:30-14:30	Lunch	
14:30-16:15	Draft Agenda and Approach for Community Training in selected villages (step 15)	Dr Win Maung, MEI
16:15-16:30	Evaluation of Day 4 – participant survey	Mrs. Than Htway Lwin, SEI
16:30-16:45	Conclusion	