

# Conservation of biodiversity and improved management of protected areas in Myanmar

## An action plan for the delivery of improved management and wise use of valuable wetlands

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Project outcomes

1. The governments of Myanmar and Norway are cooperating in the field of *Conservation of Biodiversity and Management of Protected Areas in Myanmar*. Implementation of the project is the responsibility of the Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA) through close cooperation with the Myanmar Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC – formerly the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF)) and the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD). The project commenced in 2015 and is due to continue until 2018.
2. The expected overall project outcomes are:
  - Conservation of biodiversity and management of protected areas are in line with Myanmar's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).
  - Management is in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
  - Management is in line with the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar).
3. The overall project outcomes will be achieved through the delivery of the following four outputs:
  - Output 1: General management capacity increased
    - Increased capacity at central and local levels, so that biodiversity within and outside 20 protected areas can be managed in line with the CBD.
  - Output 2: Improved management of valuable wetlands
    - Improved management of wetlands in accordance with the Ramsar Convention and as identified and described in the National Report (2014), including especially wetlands within three protected areas.
  - Output 3: Knowledge on biodiversity in six protected areas is improved
    - Improved knowledge on status and trends of biodiversity in six selected protected areas to support development of monitoring plans.
  - Output 4: Overall management of six protected areas strengthened
    - Strengthened overall management of six protected areas, including awareness raising, stakeholder involvement and cross sector cooperation to support development of management plans.



## 1.2. Terms of reference

### *Inception Workshop*

4. The action plan presented in this report builds on work conducted in late 2015 and the recommendations laid out in *Conservation of Biodiversity and Management of Protected Areas in Myanmar: Towards improved management and wise use of valuable wetlands*<sup>1</sup>. This action plan will make a direct contribution to the delivery of Output 2 described above.
5. In order to develop the detail of the action the plan the following Terms of Reference (ToR) were followed:
  - A team of Ramsar-related experts, together with NEA, prepared and facilitated an Inception Workshop in order to define the critical path and associated responsibilities for delivery of the prioritised action plan set out in *Conservation of Biodiversity and Management of Protected Areas in Myanmar: Towards improved management and wise use of valuable wetlands*<sup>1</sup>. The objectives of the Inception Workshop were to:
    - describe and explain the various actions to staff from MONREC/NWCD and the NGOs;
    - discuss and refine priorities;
    - identify ‘within-country leads’ who can take ownership of actions;
    - identify additional partners and collaborators essential for delivering all the actions;
    - review the budgetary implications; and
    - establish a critical path and associated timeline for delivery.
  - The Inception Workshop was divided into three distinct sessions (see Appendix 1). The three sessions covered:
    - Session 1: Presentation by the Ramsar-related expert team [hereafter Ramsar Expert Team] of the various actions and tasks; general discussions relating to the scope of the actions and tasks; identification of additional actions and tasks as necessary; clarification of the overall action plan.
    - Session 2: Setting priorities; identifying responsibilities; considering additional collaborators and support; identifying synergies with other projects, programmes and initiatives.
    - Session 3: Finalising the action plan, timelines for different activities and ensuring preparedness for delivery.

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<sup>1</sup> McInnes, R.J., Davidson, N.C & Hails, A.J. (2016) *Conservation of Biodiversity and Management of Protected Areas in Myanmar: Towards improved management and wise use of valuable wetlands*. Unpublished report produced for the Norwegian Environment Agency and MOECFAF. RM Wetlands & Environment Ltd: Littleworth, UK. 49pp.

6. The Inception Workshop was attended by representatives from governmental departments, wetland site managers and non-governmental organizations (see Appendix 2). The outcomes and outputs from the Inception Workshop are provided in this report.

### *Overall mission*

7. A mission to Thailand and Myanmar was conducted between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The mission was undertaken by Professor Nick Davidson, Dr Sandra Hails and Rob McInnes in cooperation with MONREC/ NWCD and NEA. All three members of the core Ramsar specialist team are independent consultants but they possess considerable experience in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the wise use of wetlands.
8. In addition to facilitating the Inception Workshop process outlined above, the Ramsar-related Expert Team and staff from NEA also met representatives of IUCN in Bangkok prior to commencing the Inception Workshop to investigate possible synergies and opportunities for mutually beneficial collaboration. Among the specific issues considered were:
  - National Wetland Committees;
  - Gulf of Mottama Ramsar Site designation; and
  - Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI).
9. Additionally, the Ramsar Expert Team and NEA met with representative of the Designated Ramsar Authority in Thailand, to discuss potential contribution/assistance to the initiatives in Myanmar regarding implementation of obligations under the Ramsar Convention.
10. On arrival in Myanmar the Ramsar Expert Team and NEA met the representative from the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), one of the Ramsar Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs), to discuss possible mutual support and collaboration.

## 2. Action plan

### 2.1. Context

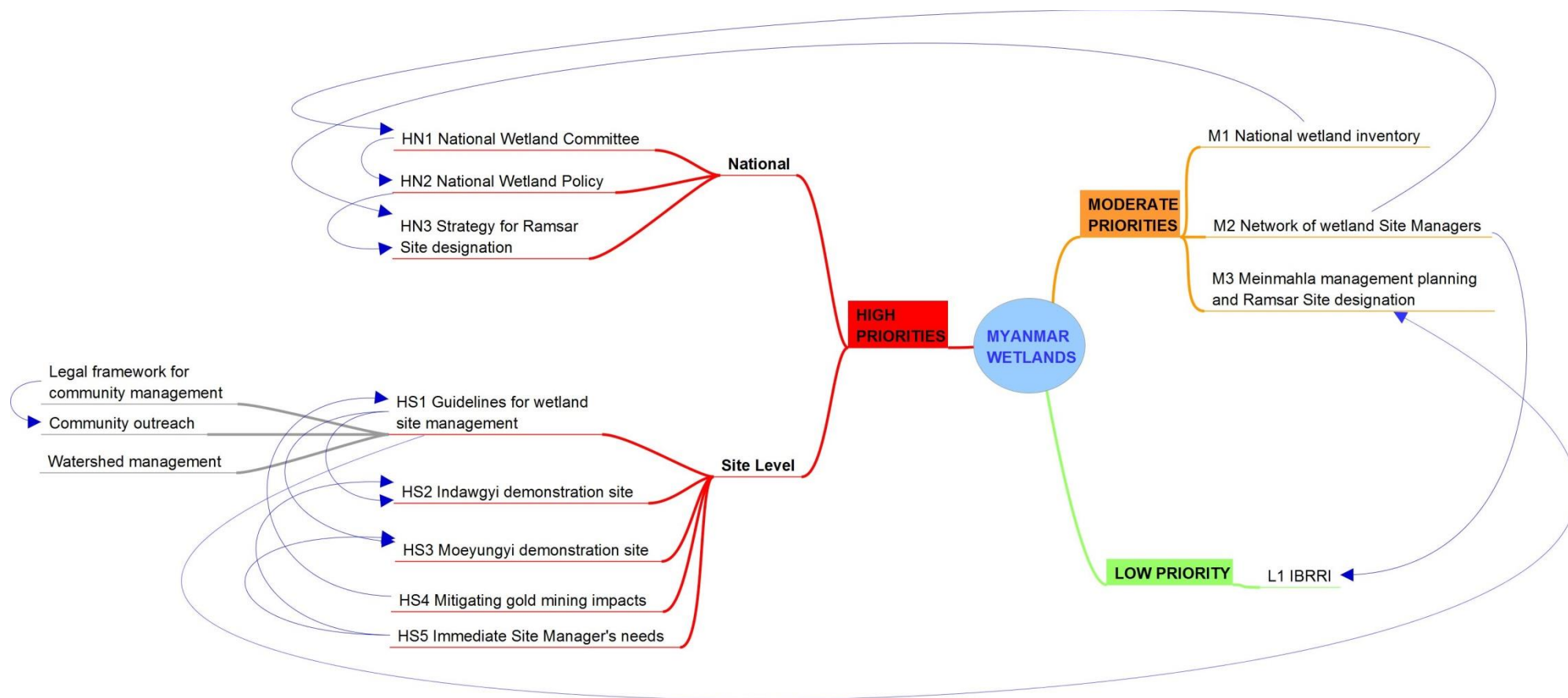
11. The Action Plan has been developed through an iterative process based on workshops, expert knowledge and the need to address and satisfy the overall objectives of the *Conservation of Biodiversity and Improved Management of Protected Areas in Myanmar* project (2015-2018). The priorities have been described and reviewed by the stakeholders present in the Inception Workshop.
12. The final prioritisation of actions proposed in this report is based on the overall desires of the Government of Myanmar, including actions expressed in both the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the National Report to the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP12) of the Ramsar Convention, the ambition of Myanmar to contribute fully to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention's 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan (2016-2024), as well as the need to ensure that the Norwegian funding is managed in an expeditious manner and the requirement to follow a logical and sequential process of delivery.
13. The priorities have been divided into four main categories:
  - High National – These are actions that have the highest priority and apply at the national level.
  - High Site – These are actions that have the highest priority and apply at the individual wetland site level.
  - Moderate – These are actions that have a moderate priority and apply at the national and site levels.
  - Low - These are actions that have the lowest priority and apply at the international level.
14. In order to deliver on the priorities, some tasks, whilst of lower priority are considered to be urgent insofar as they act as enabling activities which facilitate the delivery of higher priority actions.

### 2.2. Action Plan

15. Twelve Actions have been identified and assigned to one of the priority classes above. These are listed in Table 1. Each Action has been divided in one or more Task. Each Task has been described in terms of the work required, who should lead on the delivery, who should participate, any pre-conditions or linkages with other Actions or Tasks, the timetable and a suggested budget. A brief summary of the Actions is provided in the narrative below and detailed summary tables are set out in Appendix 3 in order of priority for each of the twelve Actions and their associated Tasks. The inter-relationships among the various Actions and Tasks are illustrated in Fig. 1.



**Figure 1. Synergies and links among Actions.** (Blue arrows indicate links among tasks).



**Table 1. Summary of the Actions and associated priorities.**

Priority	Code	Action
<b>High National Level</b>	HN1	National Wetland Committee
	HN2	National Wetland Policy
	HN3	Strategy for Ramsar Site designation
<b>High Site Level</b>	HS1	Guidelines for wetland site management
	HS2	Indawgyi demonstration site
	HS3	Moeyungyi demonstration site
	HS4	Gold mining mitigation measures
	HS5	Immediate Site Managers' needs
<b>Moderate</b>	M1	National wetland inventory
	M2	Network of wetland site managers
	M3	Meinmahla management planning and Ramsar Site designation
<b>Low</b>	L1	Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI)

16. The timetable for each Task is set out in broad terms in Appendix 3 based on quarter (or three month periods). The following terms are used:

- Q1 – January, February, March
- Q2 – April, May, June
- Q3 – July, August, September
- Q4 – October, November, December

#### **HN1 National Wetland Committee**

17. National Wetland Committees (NWCs) are recognized as key implementation mechanisms for the Ramsar Convention. In the Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016-2024) NWCs are identified as one of the six priority areas of focus for Parties as a key mechanism for enhancing in-country cooperation in wetland management. A document on the setting up, diversity and benefits of NWCs was published in 2011 and provides useful information on membership and operation based on the experience of Parties with established NWCs. The National Report to COP12 indicates that currently Myanmar does not have a NWC, though the ambition is clearly there.
18. This Action will develop a structure which is proposed to include a national high-level policy and decision-making NWC, supported by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) (with specific expert Working Groups established for thematic areas, as needed); and subsequently this structure could be replicated at provincial level, with a representative of each provincial NWC becoming a member of the national NWC.
19. IUCN will be working closely with MONREC to deliver this Action with support from other ministries, NGOs, NEA as appropriate and members of the Ramsar-related Expert Team. The proposed timetable recommends that the NWC is established in 2016 and that its first full meeting is conducted in Q3-Q4 2017.

### ***HN2 National Wetland Policy***

20. Myanmar does not have a National Wetland Policy (NWP). A review conducted by the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) for COP8 demonstrated that the national status of wetlands is affected positively if a NWP or an equivalent national enabling framework is in place. Furthermore, in addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation, Goal 1, Target 1 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 recognises the need to ensure that wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans.
21. To develop and implement a NWP will require input from an expert in the legal aspects of environmental policies and support for MONREC from other national Government ministries. The development of a draft NWP should take place in 2017 with a view to harmonise other policies and legislation and to implement the NWP from 2018 onwards.

### ***HN3 Strategy for Ramsar Site designation***

22. Ramsar's Strategic Framework and Vision for the List of Wetlands of International Importance (COP11 Resolution XI.8 Annex 1) calls on Parties to establish a strategy and priorities for Ramsar Site designation, to support designation of the expected "coherent and comprehensive national network" of Ramsar Sites. Myanmar's COP12 National Report indicates that such a Strategy is planned. Action 5.3.2 of Myanmar's NBSAP 2015-2020 is: [by 2020] "Nominate three additional Ramsar sites to the Ramsar Secretariat".
23. Several available sources identifying important Myanmar wetlands exist (including the Directory of Asian Wetlands (1989); A Wetland Inventory for Myanmar (2004); Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBAs); and MOECF/NEA project priorities), but none are nationally comprehensive of wetlands likely to qualify for Ramsar Site designation under one or more of the nine Ramsar Site designation criteria. To implement effectively the Strategy and Priorities for Ramsar Site designation, it is important that those responsible understand:
  - The overall process established by Ramsar COP decisions;
  - Who has responsibility for each stage of the process;
  - How to identify whether a wetland qualifies for designation, under one or more of the 9 criteria for designation; and
  - How to fill in the required Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) (including what is required information and what is optional additional information).
  - How to use and complete the online RIS submission tool.
24. The Action would be lead by Nick Davidson of the Ramsar Expert Team with support and input from MONREC/NWCD, NGOs, NEA, Site Managers and the Ramsar Secretariat. The work would commence in Q3 2016 and be on-going through to mid 2018.

### *HS1 Guidelines for wetland site management*

25. Site management planning is a vital tool for the maintenance of the ecological character of all wetlands. Currently wetland site management at the protected areas in Myanmar is focussed on annual work plans and not on an integrated or holistic process. Guidelines are required to assist at all levels in the site management planning process.
26. A series of integrated tasks are required to increase capacity, improve effectiveness, provide enhanced communications, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) activities and to integrate with wider environmental management processes. It is important that site managers and rangers are actively involved in the tasks so that capacity can be built at the site level and measureable improvements in the management of protected areas, and especially Ramsar Sites, can be delivered. The tasks include training in:
- The overall approach to integrated wetland site management planning based on adopted Ramsar guidance including participatory approaches to wetland site management planning, how to establish community outreach and legal framework programmes and the rapid field assessment of wetland ecosystem services;
  - Site survey and monitoring techniques. Training to include three main components for surveys and monitoring: (a) vegetation; (b) fauna; and (c) physico-chemical (water quality, physical hydrology, topography, etc.);
  - Further training to be provided to refine the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) approach to address and satisfy wetland-specific activities;
  - Development of novel financing and alternative livelihood mechanisms;
  - Development, planning and implementation of wetland education centres. The training will involve: (a) a study tour for wetland site managers to an Asian (Thailand) wetland education centres in Q4 2016; (b) an overview of wetland education centres; and (c) development of specific activities and CEPA programmes at Indawgyi and Moeyungyi;
  - Integration of wetland site management within wider watershed management; and
  - Harmonisation across different protected area designations.
27. The various tasks should commence in Q3 and Q4 2016 and continue into mid-2018. MONREC/NWCD and site managers/rangers are the primary target audience with support coming from specialist experts, members of the Ramsar Expert Team, NEA, NGOs, CBOs and local stakeholders.

### *HS2 Indawgyi demonstration site*

28. Indawgyi was designated as Myanmar's second Ramsar Site in 2016. A key requirement for Ramsar Sites is the development and implementation of a management plan to ensure the maintenance of the site's ecological character. Flora and Fauna International (FFI) is well advanced in the preparation of a draft management plan that follows the

IUCN Protected Area Guidelines and is based on existing datasets as well as new surveys. An outline structure has been agreed by MONREC and a draft will be available for review by the Ramsar Expert Team by September 2016. The Plan will include an action plan for implementation for a four-year period. The plan needs to reflect commitments under both the Ramsar Convention and ASEAN Heritage Parks and appropriate management practices need to be established to ensure this. Financial mechanisms need to be in place to support development and long-term implementation of the management plan.

29. This Action will require the draft management plan to be reviewed, possible workshops to be organised and capacity building activities to be implemented to ensure that the site manager and the rangers have the appropriate skills, understanding and resources to implement the management in a manner commensurate with best practice.
30. FFI are currently taking the lead on the development of the management plan. The subsequent capacity building and training will continue to involve FFI as well as other relevant actors including *inter alia* MONREC/NWCD, State Government officials, NEA, Ramsar Expert Team members, other NGOs and CBOs.
31. The capacity building and training should occur over late 2016 to early 2017 with implementation in 2018.

### ***HS3 Moeyungyi demonstration site***

32. Moeyungyi was designated as Myanmar's first Ramsar Site in 2004 at the time of Myanmar's accession to the Ramsar Convention, and its Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) updated in 2013. Under the terms of the Ramsar Convention, an RIS for a new site designation or an update for a designated Site must now be submitted in an online electronic format. The RIS should now include: information on any changes to ecological character; additional information on animal and plant species occurring; the ecosystem services provided by the site; precise mapping of the site boundary and any proposed changes to the boundary; and a regular review and update of the designation criteria that apply. Under the Convention, all Ramsar Sites should have a management plan and associated implementation plan. The information included in the RIS underpins and supports the management plan. The objective of this Action is to assist with providing information and further updating the RIS in an electronic format and developing a management plan for the site based on Ramsar's best practice guidance. Opportunities should also be pursued to investigate the feasibility to enhance the ecological character of the site.
33. The work should involve the site manager and ranger with guidance from the Ramsar Expert Team and input from NEA, other MONREC staff, the local community and stakeholders, CBOs and NGOs and the Ramsar Secretariat.
34. The work should commence in early 2017 with a view to implementing the management plan in 2018.

#### ***HS4 Gold mining mitigation measures***

35. The Inception Workshop highlighted the negative impacts of both legal and illegal gold mining on wetlands in Myanmar, including protected sites such as Indawgyi. These threats extend beyond impacts on wetland-dependent species to potential threats to human health and well-being. Elsewhere in the world created or constructed wetlands have been used to both mitigate the impacts of gold mining activities and to create new wetland infrastructure. This Action will gather and synthesise information on the impacts of gold mining at Indawgyi and investigate the feasibility of creating or restoring wetlands in order to mitigate the impacts of gold mining.
36. The work requires the involvement of a specialist expert in using wetlands to reduce the impacts of mining activities as well as support from MONREC, the site manager at Indawgyi, the gold mining companies, FFI and other NGOs/CBOs and NEA. The work is planned for 2017.

#### ***HS5 Immediate Site Managers' needs***

37. During the workshop held at Moeyungyi in December 2015 site managers/rangers from four wetlands identified a range of immediate equipment needs that would assist them in delivering improved site management. A budget of \$10,000 is available for each of the four sites considered (Moeyungti, Meinmahla, Indawgyi and Hukaung). A 'wish list' of equipment has been compiled by the site managers of the sites. This wish list needs to be reviewed and the site managers need to confirm the specific needs within the budget available. This action requires input from the site managers, MONREC and NEA and should be completed by the end of 2016.

#### ***M1 National wetland inventory***

38. The Ramsar Convention has recognised that a comprehensive national wetland inventory is a key pre-requisite for delivering the wise use of all wetlands, through planning and management, and in the identification and designation of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites). Ramsar has adopted a range of guidance on wetland inventory and ecological character description, including recommended data fields to harmonise data and information across inventory, assessment and monitoring. For Myanmar, a valuable start has been made through the 2004 "A wetland inventory for Myanmar", (prepared from field surveys in 2001-2003) but it is recognised that this inventory is not comprehensive, focusses largely on inland wetlands only, did not cover several regions of Myanmar, and that the information compiled for many wetlands covered is limited.
39. To support Myanmar's future implementation of the Ramsar Convention and other international agreements, an update and expansion of the 2004 inventory is needed, both to improve the extent of information for wetlands covered by the 2004 inventory, and to extend its coverage to all regions of Myanmar, both inland and coastal. Such an update forms part of Action 5.3.1 in Myanmar's National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (NBSAP) 2015-2020 for the Convention on Biological Diversity.



40. Several remotely-sensed spatial datasets containing wetland-relevant information for Myanmar are becoming available, including a land-cover map derived from Landsat and Modis imagery (International Water Management Institute (IWMI)), rice paddy mapping using Sentinel-1 imagery (International Rice Research Institute), mangrove mapping (JAXA – Global Mangrove Watch) and tidal flats mapping (University of New South Wales). The approach will aim to utilise the already-developed and tested methodology of the European Space Agency’s Globwetland-II work.
41. Whilst this Action is not considered to be a high priority, there is a degree of urgency regarding commencing the tasks as other Actions depend on the outputs, principally HN3 but also HN2. The initial data collation, integration and processing tasks could commence in late 2016 or Q1 2017. The more detailed development of the inventory and the essential ground-truthing of Earth observation data should take place in late 2017 and throughout 2018.
42. The Action will require experts in GIS and wetland inventory, but could also utilise MONREC/NWCD’s own in-house expertise in order to develop capacity, as well as input from the Ramsar Expert Team, external organisations involved in wetland inventory or EO data acquisition or manipulation (such as JAXA, ESA or IWMI), local research institutes, NGOs and NEA.

### ***M2 Network of wetland site managers***

43. Experience from Ramsar member countries suggests building a Site Manager support network can improve greatly sharing of wetland site management issues and solutions and can contribute to more effective site management. Such an informal network already exists and the Norway-funded project has already contributed to the positive development of this network. There is the opportunity to more formally develop this network and to enhance its effectiveness through a workshop. Such a workshop could be integrated into one of the other workshop activities involving the site managers, MONREC/NWCD and members of the Ramsar Expert Team, possibly in Q4 2016.

### ***M3 Meinmahla management planning and Ramsar Site designation***

44. Meinmahla was identified in the December 2015 workshop as a priority for support in developing management planning processes, and as a candidate for future designation as a Ramsar Site. Under the Ramsar Convention, all Ramsar Sites should have a management plan and associated implementation plan. This action will include the preparation of a draft Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), which will in turn inform the preparation of a participatory management plan and implementation plan.
45. This Action will contribute to the delivery of Action 5.3.2 of Myanmar’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2015-2020: [by 2020] “Nominate three additional Ramsar sites to Ramsar Secretariat”. Whilst of a lower priority than Moeyungyi and Indawgyi regarding the management planning process, there is still the potential to designate the site and to implement a robust management plan by late 2018.

46. The Action would require the input of the site manager/rangers, the Ramsar Expert Team, MONREC/NWCD, NEA, the Ramsar Secretariat, local stakeholders and communities, NGOs and CBOs and local government staff.

### ***L1 Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative***

47. In mid-June 2016, Ramsar's Standing Committee considered the endorsement of the proposed Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI). Covering the territories of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam IBRRI will play a role in implementing the goals of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016- 2024 in the region. IBRRI will be hosted and coordinated through IUCN's Asia Regional Office in Bangkok with two dedicated staff, pending receipt of appropriate core funding. Two key governance bodies will be established, including a steering committee and a technical committee, and each will include a representative of the Ramsar Secretariat. In addition, the Mekong River Commission and its national committees, UNDP and Ramsar's IOPs are anticipated to become potential partners.
48. Following the Standing Committee endorsement and funding decision an inception workshop is planned to allow the partners to finalize and adopt the terms of reference for IBRRI, its strategic vision and work plan 2016-2018. National needs and priorities can be brought to the steering committee for discussion and adoption thus presenting an opportunity for Myanmar to further its wetland work through this body.
49. For 2016, the budget needed is \$125,000. IUCN has already secured \$30,000 from its German and Swiss projects and an annual Ramsar core budget contribution of \$60,000 for 2016-2018 has been requested. This Action will require involvement of IUCN, MONREC/NWCD, Ramsar Secretariat and other IBRRI country members. It will also benefit from the involvement of NEA and the engagement with the existing NorBalWet regional initiative. The commencement and timing of activities will be contingent on funding.

## **2.3. Roles and responsibilities for the Actions**

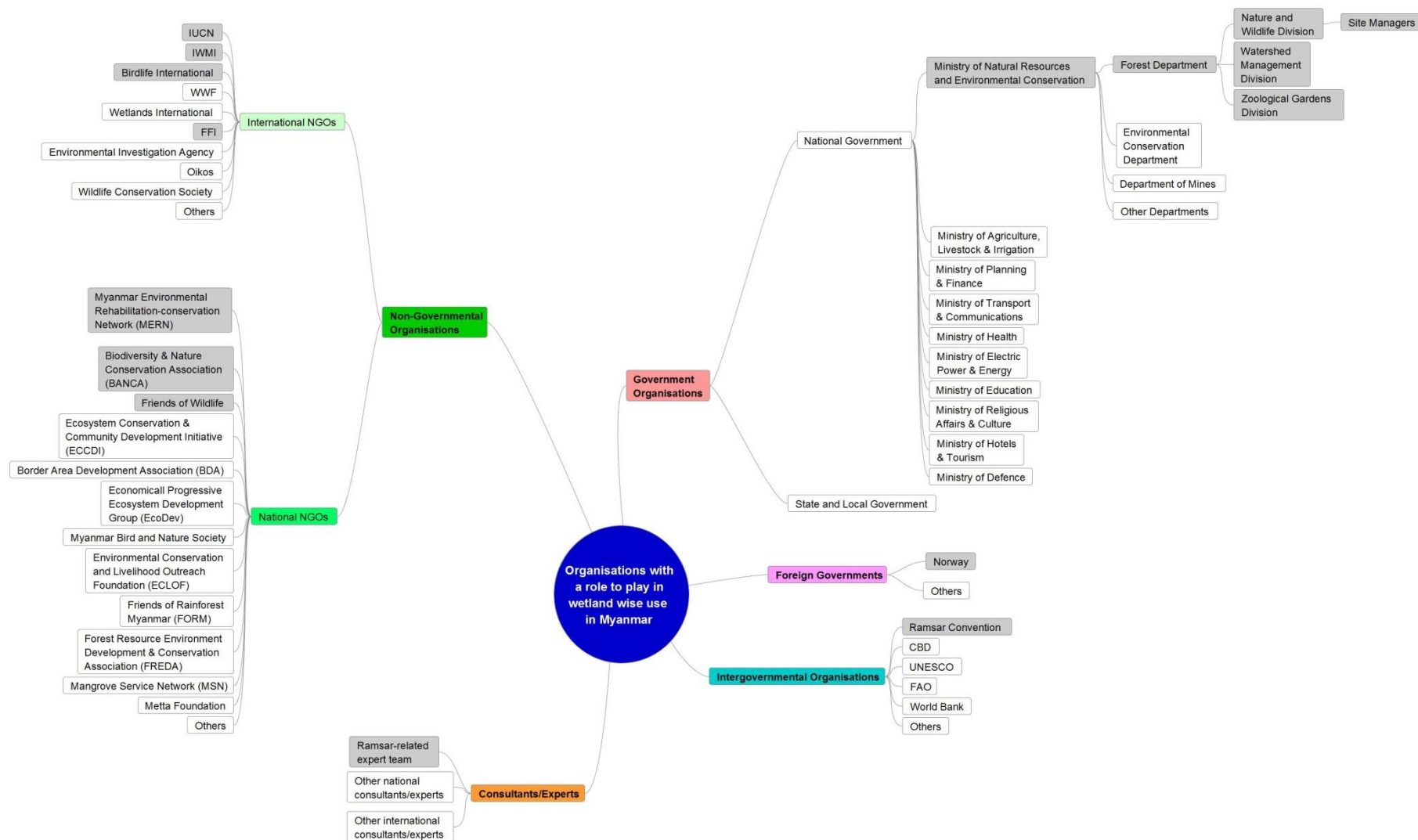
50. The multiple Actions and Tasks identified through the Inception Workshop will place a high demand on certain actors, and especially on MONREC/NWCD and the wetland site managers. It is essential that MONREC consider the implication of these various demands and communicates any concerns to NEA at the earliest opportunity.
51. These various roles and responsibilities have been summarised in Table 2. However, to date only a finite number of organisations and actors have been involved in the Project. Figure 2 demonstrates that whilst the consultative process has already reached out to many organisations, there are many more actors that could potentially assist and contribute to the delivery of the various Actions. In developing and implementing the various Tasks and Actions, consideration should be given to the potential for other actors to bring value and contribution to the overall implementation.

**Table 2. Roles and responsibilities for the Actions. (● Lead responsibility for tasks within the Action; ○ Participant or contributor to the Action).**

Action	MONREC/ NWDC	NEA	Other national government ministries	Regional or local government	Site managers	Ramsar Secretariat	INGOs / NGOs	CBOs	Local communities/ stakeholders	Universities / research institutes	Ramsar Expert Team	Consultants / other experts	Private sector
HN1 National Wetland Committee	●	○	○	○		○	● <sup>1</sup>				○		
HN2 National Wetland Policy	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		○	○	○
HN3 Strategy for Ramsar Site designation	○	○					○			○	●	○	
HS1 Guidelines for wetland site management	○	○			○		○	○	○		○	●	
HS2 Indawgyi demonstration site	○	○	○	○	○		● <sup>2</sup>	○	○		○		
HS3 Moeyungyi demonstration site	○	○	○	○	○		○	○	○		●	○	
HS4 Gold mining mitigation measures	○	○			○		○	○	○		○	●	○
HS5 Immediate Site Managers' needs	○	●			●								
M1 National wetland inventory	○	○			○	○	○			○	●	●	
M2 Network of wetland site managers	○	○			●						●		
M3 Meinmahla management planning and Ramsar Site designation	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○		○		
L1 Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative	○	○				○	● <sup>1</sup>						

Notes: <sup>1</sup> IUCN; <sup>2</sup> FFI

Figure 2. Stakeholders already involved in the development of the Action Plan (grey) and other potential stakeholders (non-exhaustive).



## 3. Budget and timeline

### 3.1. Overview of budgets

52. Budgets are presented for each Action and the constituent tasks. The budgets are also provided on an annual basis as well as an overall estimate. The total estimated annual budgets are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3. Summary of budgets (US\$).**

Action priority	2016	2017	2018	Total
High National	21,400	32,900	18,200	<b>72,500</b>
High Site	46,100	163,300	28,800	<b>238,200</b>
Moderate	1,000	74,000	81,000	<b>156,000</b>
Low	0	0	10,000	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,516</b>	<b>272,217</b>	<b>140,018</b>	<b>476,700</b>

53. Estimated budgets for the twelve actions are provided in US\$ in Tables 4 to 7. The estimates are based on information collated during the Inception Workshop, guidance sought from third parties and from an assessment of the overall requirements for each task. Some generalisations have been applied to generate the budgets. For instance, an in-country workshop has been costed at \$2,500. Similarly, an international consultant/expert has been costed at \$800 per day excluding daily subsistence allowance and travel costs.

### 3.2. Timeline

54. A synthesis of the timeline for the individual tasks and the Actions is provided in associated with budget tables. The timeline provides a critical path through the project and highlights opportunities to combine activities, for instance organising concurrent workshops or training sessions, in order to seek economies of scale and cost savings.

### 3.3. Synergies and stakeholders

55. There are many interdependencies and synergies among the various Actions and tasks. These have been mapped visually in Figure 1. Similarly, there are many stakeholders, some of whom have been actively engaged in the process to dates but many of which have not contributed to development of Action Plan. Moving forward, it is essential that as many relevant stakeholders as possible are engaged and participate in the various Actions and economies of scale are fully explored. The breadth of stakeholders is shown in Figure 2.

**Table 4. High national priority actions – timeline and budgets (all budgets in US\$; blue bars indicate approximate timing of task).**

Action	Description	Task	Annual task budgets			Total budget	2016				2017				2018			
			2016	2017	2018		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
HN1	National Wetland Committee	HN1.1				0												
		HN1.2	3600			3600												
		HN1.3		8600		8600												
		HN1.4			8600	8600												
		Action annual budgets	3600	8600	8600													
		Action total budget				20800												
HN2	National Wetland Policy	HN2.1	9800			9800												
		HN2.2		9000		9000												
		HN2.3			2000	2000												
		Action annual budgets	9800	9000	2000													
		Action total budget				20800												
HN3	Strategy for Ramsar Site designation	HN3.1	4000	3600		7600												
		HN3.2	4000			4000												
		HN3.3				0												
		HN3.4			7600	7600												
		HN3.5		11700		11700												
		Action annual budgets	8000	15300	7600													
		Action total budget				30900												
Total high national priority annual budgets			21400	32900	18200	72500												



**Table 5. High site priority actions – timeline and budgets (all budgets in US\$; blue bars indicate approximate timing of tasks).**

			Annual task budgets			Total budget	2016				2017				2018			
Action	Description	Task	2016	2017	2018		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
HS1	Guidelines for wetland site management	HS1.1	10900			10900												
		HS1.2	2400	7700		10100												
		HS1.3		8000		8000												
		HS1.4		24000		24000												
		HS1.5		7200		7200												
		HS1.6			7200	7200												
		HS1.7			7200	7200												
		HS1.8		28000		28000												
		HS1.9			4000	4000												
		HS1.10		4000		4000												
Action annual budgets			13300	78900	18400													
			Action total budget			110600												
HS2	Indawgyi demonstration site	HS2.1	2400			2400												
		HS2.2		7000		7000												
		HS2.3	2400	2500		4900												
		HS2.4		24000		24000												
		HS2.5			2400	2400												
Action annual budgets			4800	33500	2400													
			Action total budget			40700												
HS3	Moeyungyi demonstration site	HS3.1		8900		8900					X							
		HS3.2																
		HS3.3		13000		13000												
		HS3.4			8000	8000												
Action annual budgets			0	21900	8000													
			Action total budget			29900												

Cont.\			Annual task budgets			Total budget	2016				2017				2018			
Action	Description	Task	2016	2017	2018		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
HS4	Gold mining mitigation	HS4.1		5000		5000												
		HS4.2		12000		12000												
		Action annual budgets	0	17000	0													
			Action total budget			17000												
HS5	Site managers' immediate needs	HS5.1	7000	3000		10000												
		HS5.2	7000	3000		10000												
		HS5.3	7000	3000		10000												
		HS5.4	7000	3000		10000												
		Action annual budgets	28000	12000	0	40000												
			Action total budget			40000												
Total high site priority annual budgets			46100	163300	28800	238200												

**Table 6. Moderate priority actions – timeline and budgets (all budgets in US\$; blue bars indicate approximate timing of task).**

			Annual task budgets			Total budget	2016				2017				2018			
Action	Description	Task	2016	2017	2018		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
M1	National wetland inventory	M1.1		50000		50000												
		M1.2		22000		22000												
		M1.3				25000	25000											
		M1.4				25000	25000											
		M1.5			2000	8000	10000											
		M1.6				5000	5000											
Action annual budgets			0	74000	63000													
			Action total budget			137000												
M2	Network of site managers	M2.1	1000			1000												
Action annual budgets			1000	0	0													
			Action total budget			1000												
M3	Meinmahla demonstration site	M3.1			10000	10000												
		M3.2				0												
		M3.3			8000	8000												
Action annual budgets			0	0	18000													
			Action total budget			18000												
Total moderate priority annual budgets			1000	74000	81000	156000												

**Table 7. Low priority actions – timeline and budgets (all budgets in US\$; blue bars indicate approximate timing of task).**

			Annual task budgets			Total budget	2016				2017				2018			
Action	Description	Task	2016	2017	2018		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
L1		L1.1				0												
		L1.2			10000	10000												
Action annual budgets			0	0	10000													
			Action total budget			10000												
Total low priority annual budgets			0	0	10000	10000												

## 4. Concluding remarks

### 4.1. Implementing the Action Plan

56. The Action Plan has resulted from an integrated and consultative process that has sought to balance the needs of wetland managers, from government ministries to local communities, and the ambition of the Norwegian Project. Many of the Actions and their associated Tasks need to be implemented in a logical and coherent sequence in order to maximise the capacity building opportunities and to ensure prudent use of resources. If changes are proposed, either pro-actively or reactively, the consequence of such change on the sequencing of activities needs to be understood and evaluated.
57. The implementation of the various Actions also brings with it responsibility and a burden of work. There are potential time and resourcing implications on the staff of MONREC/NWCD and their wetland site managers. Consideration needs to be taken at the appropriate level within the Ministry as to how these inputs are to be managed and resourced. An essential element in this is to dedicate named individuals to specific Actions or Tasks as appropriate. This will assist in assessing both the individual and collective workloads.
58. There is also the potential to seek collaboration with a range of other organisations and actors that are involved in wetland management activities in Myanmar. Such involvement could provide skills and resources and assist in dissipating the workload from any under-resourced actor.

## 5. Appendices

### 5.1. Appendix 1 – Inception Workshop programme



Improved management of protected areas in Myanmar

## Inception Workshop – Management of Wetlands

**Follow up on the mission to Myanmar by the Wetland/Ramsar Specialist Team and NEA Experts in December 2015**

**Organized by:** The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) and the Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA)

**Venue:** Nay Pyi Taw, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016

### Background

MONREC and NEA have, based on the report “Towards improved management and wise use of valuable wetlands” (Recall Output 2 of the Project: “Conservation of Biodiversity and Management of Protected Areas in Myanmar”) produced by the Ramsar-related Expert Team, identified the need for an Inception Workshop in order to define the critical path and associated responsibilities for delivery of the prioritised actions set out in the report.

### Objectives

The main objectives of the Inception Workshop are to:

- describe and explain the various actions to staff from MONREC/NWCD;
- discuss and refine priorities;
- identify a within country leads who can take ownership of actions;
- identify additional partners and collaborators essential for delivering all the actions;
- review the budgetary implications; and
- establish a critical path and associated timeline for delivery.



## PROGRAMME

### Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> May

Time	Activity	Responsible
	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
09:00	Welcome, opening remarks and purpose and objectives of the Inception Workshop	NWCD/NEA
	Greetings from the Ramsar Convention (RC)	
	Introduction of participants	All
	Review of the Inception Workshop Programme	NWCD/NEA
	General information	NWCD/NEA
	Photo Session	All
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee break	All
<b>SESSION 1</b>	<b>SETTING THE STAGE – REVIEW OF REPORT</b>	
10:15 – 10:30	Wetlands – a main output of the Myanmar – Norway Project – <i>Conservation of Biological Diversity and Improved Management of Protected Areas</i>	NEA
10:30	Review of the main outcomes of the report <i>Towards improved management and wise use of valuable wetlands in Myanmar</i> - Identification of needs - Recommended actions and tasks - Clarification of proposed priorities	Ramsar-related Expert Team
	Discussion and gap analysis	All
<b>SESSION 2</b>	<b>SETTING PRIORITIES</b>	
11:30 – 13:00	Working session 1: Setting high-medium-low priorities	All
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:30	Working session 2: Assigning responsibilities and identifying collaborators and synergies	All
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break	
15:45 – 16:15	Discussion, summary and evaluation of Day 1	NWCD/NEA/Ramsar-related Expert Team
16:15 – 18:00	Project Management Meeting (closed)	NWCD/FD & NEA only

### Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> May

Time	Activity	Responsible
08:30 – 08:45	Introduction to Day 2	NEA/Ramsar-related Expert Team
08:45 – 09:15	Recap on Sessions 1 and 2	Ramsar-related Expert Team
<b>SESSION 3</b>	<b>ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT</b>	
09:15 – 10:30	Definition of actions and tasks	All
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 12:30	Definition of critical path and timelines for actions and tasks	All
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	

13:30 – 15:00	Budget allocation for actions and tasks	All
15:00 – 15:30	Review of Action Plan	All
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break	
15:45 – 16:30	Discussion on implementation and role of local focal point(s)	All
16:30 – 16:45	Summary and evaluation of the day	NEA/NWCD

## 5.2. Appendix 2 - Inception Workshop attendees

Sr. no.	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Mr. Win Naing Thaw	Director (Ramsar STRP NFP)	NWCD, Forest Department
2	Mr. Tint Swe	Director (Ramsar CEPA NFP)	Training and Research Development Division, Forest Department
3	Mr. Ye Htut	Director	Zoological Gardens Division Forest Department (Ramsar COP12 participant)
4	Mr. Win Myint	Deputy Director	Watershed Management Division, Forest Department
5	Dr. Naing Zaw Htun	Assistant Director	NWCD, Forest Department
6	Dr. Toe Toe Aung	Staff Officer	Watershed Management Division, Forest Department
7	Mr. Kyaw Sein Win Tun	Staff Officer	NWCD, Forest Department
8	Ms. Hsu Sandar Aung	Range Officer	NWCD, Forest Department
9	Mr. Zaw Min Htun	Ranger	NWCD, Forest Department
10	Ms. Thin Thin Yu	Park Warden	Moeyungyi Wetland Sanctuary
11	Mr. Sai Wunna Kyi	Ranger	Moeyungyi Wetland Sanctuary
12	Mr. Maung Win	Park Warden	Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary
13	Mr. Khin Maung Lwin	Ranger	Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary
14	Mr. Sein Htun	Park Warden	Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
15	Ms. L K C Yun	Ranger	Inlay Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
16	Mr. Mya Lwin	Park Warden	Meinmahla Kyun WS
17	Mr. Kyaw Kyaw Naing	Ranger	Meinmahla Kyun WS
18	Mr. Jan Petter H. Hansen	Project Leader	Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA)
19	Ms. Vibeke Husby	Senior Advisor	NEA
20	Ms. Alexandra June Hails-Downie	CEPA (Former)	Ramsar Convention
21	Prof. Nicholas Charles Davidson	STRP (Former)	Ramsar Convention
22	Mr. Robert John McInnes	Consultant, STRP	Ramsar Convention
23	Mr. Myint Aung	Chairman	Friends of Wildlife
24	Ms. Khine Khine Swe		Friends of Wildlife
25	Mr. Pyae Phyo Aung	Program Manager	BANCA
26	Mr. Frank Momberg	Myanmar Program Director	FFI
27	Mr. Ngwe Lwin	Project Manager	FFI

### 5.3. Appendix 3 – Detailed description of Actions and Tasks

Action	HN1 Establish a functional National Wetland Committee (NWC)		
Priority	High National		
Rationale	<p>National Wetland Committees (NWCs) are recognized as key implementation mechanisms for the Ramsar Convention. In the Ramsar Strategic Plan NWCs are identified as one of the six priority areas of focus for Parties as a key mechanism for enhancing in-country cooperation in wetland management. A document on the setting up, diversity and benefits of NWCs was published in 2011 and provides useful information on membership and operation based on the experience of Parties with established NWCs. Currently Myanmar does not have a NWC however IUCN are actively assisting in the development of a NWC and have undertaken a range of enabling works. The proposed Myanmar NWC structure is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. at national level a high-level policy and decision-making NWC, supported by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) (with specific expert Working Groups established for thematic areas, as needed); and subsequently</li><li>B. this structure replicated at provincial level, with a representative of each provincial NWC becoming a member of the national NWC.</li></ul> <p><i>Note.</i> The tasks listed for funding under the Norway-Myanmar project do not at this stage include establishing provincial level NWCs, since this is dependent on the national level NWC agreeing this approach. Nevertheless it may be appropriate to add contingency funding for 2018 for a first meeting or meetings of provincial level NWCs in some provinces.</p>		
Outputs	Description	Recipient	
	1. Functional National Wetland Committee	Government of Myanmar	
	2. Terms of reference for committee members	MONREC	
Overall outcomes	1. Improved co-ordination of wetland wise use across Myanmar 2. Improved delivery of the obligations under the Ramsar Convention		
Pre-conditions/ linkages	The NWC will be the mechanism for reviewing and approving other High Priority Actions, notably the National Wetland Policy and the Strategy for Ramsar Site designations. Establishing the NWC during 2016 will be key to the timely delivery of these, and other, Actions.		
Ramsar expert team focal point	Nick Davidson		
Responsible lead in Myanmar	NWCD, MONREC (names to be confirmed)		
Responsible lead in Norway	NEA		
Tasks	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
Task HN1.1	Hold a workshop with MONREC/NWCD members to identify: (i) membership from within MONREC, from other relevant Ministries and departments, and NGOs; (ii) key roles; (iii) meeting structure and chairing; (iv) regularity of meetings; and (v) meeting content and work plan.	IUCN, MONREC	Ramsar Secretariat; Member of Ramsar expert team
Pre-conditions/ linkages	None		
Timetable	Workshop planned for July 2016		

<b>Budget</b>	IUCN have budget for the workshop		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task HN1.2</b>	Hold a workshop that includes those present in the first workshop and the agreed additional non-MONREC members, and finalise an agreed structure and modus operandi of the NWC and its Technical Advisory Committee.	IUCN; MONREC	NWCD; Other Ministries; NGOs. Member of Ramsar expert team
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Communication and awareness-raising about the importance of wetlands with other relevant Ministries and Departments may be vital in encouraging their engagement and involvement in the NWC.		
<b>Timetable</b>	Workshop planned for Q3 2016		
<b>Budget</b>	IUCN have budget for the workshop. Participation by member of Ramsar expert team: \$3,600		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task HN1.3</b>	Hold first full meeting of the NWC, preceded by first meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	MONREC	NWC members (including other ministries; NGOs (including IUCN); NEA as appropriate; member(s) of Ramsar expert team
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	The TAC and NWC should in 2017 be in a position to review the first phase outputs of Action HN2 (National Wetland Policy) and Action HN3 (Strategy for Ramsar Site designation)		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q3-Q4 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	In-country participation costs TAC \$2,500; NWC \$2,500 Participation by member of Ramsar expert team: \$3,600 Total \$8,600		
<b>Task HN1.4</b>	Hold second full meeting of the NWC, preceded by meeting of the TAC	MONREC	NWC members (including other ministries; NGOs (including IUCN); NEA as appropriate; member(s) of Ramsar expert team
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	None identified at present		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q3-Q4 2018		
<b>Budget</b>	In-country participation costs TAC \$2,500; NWC \$2,500 Participation by member of Ramsar expert team: \$3,600 Total \$8,600		
<b>Action Overall Budget</b>	<b>\$20,800</b>		

Action	HN2 Establish a National Wetland Policy		
Priority	High - National		
Rationale	Myanmar does not have a National Wetland Policy (NWP). A review conducted by the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) for COP8 demonstrated that the national status of wetlands is affected positively if a NWP or an equivalent national enabling framework is in place. Furthermore, in addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation Goal 1, Target 1 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 recognises the need to ensure that wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans.		
Outputs	Description	Recipient	
	1. National Wetland Policy	Government of Myanmar	
Overall outcomes	1. Improved co-ordination of wetland wise use across Myanmar 2. Improved delivery of obligations under the Ramsar Convention 3. Harmonisation of diverse legislative and regulatory frameworks		
Pre-conditions/ linkages	None		
Ramsar expert team focal point	Rob McInnes		
Responsible lead in Myanmar	NWCD, MONREC (names to be confirmed)		
Responsible lead in Norway	NEA		
Tasks	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
Task HN2.1	Review of current sectoral legislation and policies	NWCD; supported by consultant expert in National Wetland Policies and Ramsar Expert Team member	Other Ministries; wider stakeholders
Pre-conditions/ linkages	None		
Timetable	Q3-Q4 2016		
Budget	6 days consultant \$4,800 2 day workshop \$5,000 (including consultant facilitating and T&S) Total \$9,800		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
Task HN2.2	Production of a draft NWP	NWCD; supported by consultant expert in National Wetland Policies, legal specialist and Ramsar Expert Team member	Other Ministries; wider stakeholders; Ramsar Secretariat; NEA as appropriate



<b>Pre-conditions/linkages</b>	HN2.1 will need to be robustly completed		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q1-Q2 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	5 days consultant \$4,000 2 day drafting/writing workshop \$5,000 Total \$9,000		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/participants</b>
<b>Task HN2.3</b>	Harmonisation of laws and policies and subsequent adoption and implementation of the NWP	Government of Myanmar	Ministries
<b>Pre-conditions/linkages</b>	Upon completion of HN2.2 the on-going process of harmonisation and adoption of the NWP will be contingent on developing and modifying existing legal frameworks and instruments. This will be a long-term and on-going process but will require steerage from MONREC and also be contingent on a functional National Wetland Committee (HN1).		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q1 2018 and on-going		
<b>Budget</b>	Facilitation budget to assist MONREC/Director NWCD with the on-going harmonisation and adoption process Total \$2,000		
<b>Action Overall Budget</b>	<b>\$20,800</b>		

<b>Action</b>	<b>HN3 Establish a strategy and priorities for Ramsar Site designation</b>
<b>Priority</b>	<b>High National</b>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Ramsar's Strategic Framework and Vision for the List of Wetlands of International Importance (COP11 Resolution XI.8 Annex 1) calls on Parties to establish a strategy and priorities for Ramsar Site designation, to support designation of the expected "coherent and comprehensive national network" of Ramsar Sites. Myanmar's COP12 National Report indicates that such a Strategy is planned. Action 5.3.2 of Myanmar's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2015-2020 is: [by 2020] "Nominate three additional Ramsar sites to Ramsar Secretariat".</p> <p>Several available sources identifying important Myanmar wetlands exist (including the Directory of Asian Wetlands (1989); A Wetland Inventory for Myanmar (2004); Important Bird &amp; Biodiversity Areas (IBAs); and MOECAP/NEA project priorities), but none are nationally comprehensive of wetlands likely to qualify for Ramsar Site designation under one or more of the nine Ramsar Site designation criteria.</p> <p>To implement effectively the Strategy and Priorities for Ramsar Site designation, it is important that those responsible understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the overall process established by Ramsar COP decisions;</li> <li>• who has responsibility for each stage of the process;</li> <li>• how to identify whether a wetland qualifies for designation, under one or more of the 9 criteria for designation; and</li> <li>• how to fill in the required Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) (including what is required information and what is optional additional information).</li> </ul> <p>Since January 2015 the RIS is required to be filled-in electronically through an online system, for submission to the Ramsar Secretariat. The training will include how to use this online tool (including its off-line version).</p>

Outputs	Description	Recipient	
	1. Strategy and priorities for future Ramsar Site designations	MONREC	
	2. MONREC/site managers training in compiling data and information into the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) database tool	MONREC; site managers	
Overall outcomes	1. Agreed and prioritised list of wetlands for future designation as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) 2. Improved capacity to compile and submit RISs (including RIS updates for already designated sites. 3. Improved delivery of the obligations under the Ramsar Convention		
Pre-conditions/linkages	Ideally a full and up-to-date national wetland inventory (M1) is needed to inform establishment of a full list of wetlands qualifying under Ramsar Site designation criteria. However, the initial tasks for the strategy can be developed alongside the inventory process.  The National Wetland Committee and its Technical Advisory Committee needs to be in place as the bodies responsible for reviewing and approving the Strategy and Priorities for Ramsar Site designation.		
Ramsar expert team focal point	Nick Davidson		
Responsible lead in Myanmar	Myanmar STRP National Focal Point [to be determined]		
Responsible lead in Norway	NEA		
Tasks	Description	Lead	Other actors/participants
Task HN3.1	Draft simple “Guiding Principles” for Ramsar Site identification and prioritisation (derived from Strategic Framework - 2012 version), for review and consideration by national Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and National Wetland Committee (NWC)	Ramsar expert team (Nick Davidson)	MONREC; NGOs
Pre-conditions/linkages	National Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and National Wetland Committee (NWC) needs to be established to review draft output.		
Timetable	Q3 2016 – Q2 2017		
Budget	5 days of Ramsar expert team member \$4,000 Ramsar expert team member participation in TAC/NWC meeting to present results in 2017 \$3,600 Total \$7,600		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/participants
Task HN3.2	Compile (from currently available sources) provisional list of wetlands potentially qualifying as Ramsar Sites, including identification of which Ramsar Site designation criteria may apply.	Ramsar expert team (Nick Davidson)	MONREC; NGOs
Pre-conditions/linkages	National Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and National Wetland Committee (NWC) needs to be established to review draft output.		
Timetable	Q3 2016		
Budget	5 days of Ramsar expert team member [presentation of results to TAC/NWC covered under HN3.1] Total \$4,000		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/participants
Task HN3.3	Agree priority criteria for Site designation, and establish prioritised list of candidate wetlands for Ramsar Site	MONREC: TAC/NWC	Ramsar expert team (Nick

	designation		Davidson); Ramsar Secretariat
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Availability of outputs from Tasks HN3.1 & 3.2		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q3-Q4 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Covered under HN3.1		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task HN3.4</b>	In light of results of updated wetland inventory, revise and finalise site list, strategy and priorities - for National Wetland Committee approval	Ramsar expert team (Nick Davidson)	MONREC; NGOs, through NWC
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Contingent on a full and up-to-date national wetland inventory (M1) being available to inform identification of a full list of wetlands qualifying under Ramsar Site designation criteria.		
<b>Timetable</b>	Provisionally Q2-Q3 2018, depending on progress with M1 (National Wetland Inventory)		
<b>Budget</b>	5 days of Ramsar expert team member \$4,000 Presentation of results to TAC/NWC 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting (HN1.4)) – if required \$3,600 Total \$7,600		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task HN3.5</b>	Capacity-building workshop for Ramsar Site designation procedures	Ramsar expert team (Nick Davidson); MONREC on-line RIS expert	MONREC/NWCD staff; Ramsar Secretariat, NEA as appropriate; site managers; NGOs
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	On-line internet access to the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS) and on-line RIS forms will be an advantage. Since the current RIS format includes ecosystem services as a key element, the planned training in the rapid assessment of ecosystem services will support and could be linked valuably to this workshop. This workshop could be linked with other management planning workshops under Task HS1, given the likely commonality of participants.		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q1 2017 (depending on timing of other relevant training workshops)		
<b>Budget</b>	Workshop (2.5/3 days) \$2,500 for Myanmar participants Ramsar expert team trainer preparation (3 days) and training participation \$7,600 'Help-desk' availability of Ramsar expert team to MONREC staff compiling RISs \$1,600 Total \$11,700		
<b>Action Overall Budget</b>	<b>\$30,900</b>		

Action	HS1 Guidelines for wetland site management		
Priority	High Site		
Rationale	Site management planning is a vital tool for the maintenance of ecological character. Currently wetland site management is focussed on annual work plans and not on an integrated or holistic process. Guidelines are required to assist at all levels in the site management planning process.		
Outputs	Description	Recipient	
	1. Well trained wetland site managers. 2. Recommendations on integration of wetland site management within wider watershed management. 3. Recommendations on harmonisation across protected area designations.	Site managers/rangers, MONREC	
Overall outcomes	1. Increased overall capacity in wetland management. 2. Increased effectiveness of wetland management. 3. Improved provision of wetland CEPA programmes. 4. Improved integration with watershed management. 5. Improved integration across different protected area designations.		
Pre-conditions/ linkages	The guidelines for wetland site management link closely to actual site management plans (HS1 and HS2) but also will support wider recommendations and practice to be considered at a national scale (HN1 and HN2). Implementation of certain activities will be dependent on improvement in the provision of equipment at key wetland sites (HS5). Opportunities to benefit from experiences in neighbouring countries, such as Thailand, will be taken to accelerate the learning process.		
Ramsar expert team focal point	Rob McInnes		
Responsible lead in Myanmar	Wetland site managers, MONREC (names to be confirmed)		
Responsible lead in Norway	NEA		
Tasks	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
Task HS1.1	Training in the overall approach to integrated wetland site management planning based on adopted Ramsar guidance.	Consultant/ expert in Ramsar Site management planning	Site managers/ rangers, MONREC staff
Pre-conditions/ linkages	None.		
Timetable	Q4 2016 – Suggested to be place in October 2016		
Budget	Preparations for workshop \$3,200 Training workshop \$7,700 Total \$10,900		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
Task HS1.2	Training in participatory approaches to wetland site management planning.	Consultant/ expert in participatory approaches to Ramsar Site management planning; Ramsar Expert Team	Site managers/ rangers, MONREC staff, NGOs, CBOs, local stakeholders

		(Sandra Hails)	
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Site managers would benefit from completing HS1.1 in advance.		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q4 2016 – Q2 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Preparations for workshop \$2,400 Training workshop and stakeholder participation \$7,700 Total \$10,100		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task HS1.3</b>	Training in the rapid field assessment of wetland ecosystem services.	Consultant/ expert in assessment of ecosystem services	Site managers/ rangers, MONREC
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Site managers would benefit from completing HS1.1 in advance.		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q1-Q2 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Preparation for workshop \$1,600 Training workshop and site assessment \$6,400 Total \$8,000		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task HS1.4</b>	Training in site survey and monitoring techniques. Training to include three main components for surveys and monitoring: (a) vegetation; (b) fauna; and (c) physico-chemical (water quality, physical hydrology, topography, etc.).	Consultants/ experts in site survey and monitoring techniques	Site managers/ rangers, MONREC
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	During HS1.1 a needs assessment would be conducted to identify the key survey and monitoring skills required to be addressed in HS1.4.		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q3-Q4 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Vegetation training workshop/training course \$8,000 Faunal training workshop/training course \$8,000 Physico-chemical workshop/training course \$8,000 Total \$24,000		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task HS1.5</b>	The Spatial Monitoring and Report Tool (SMART) helps to measure, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement and site-based conservation activities. Training has already been delivered within Myanmar as part of the Project. Further training to be provided to refine the SMART approach to address and satisfy wetland-specific activities.	Consultant/ expert in SMART	Site managers/ rangers, MONREC
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Ideally the attendees will already have participated in the SMART training courses already provided.		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q2-Q3 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Preparations for workshop \$1,600 Training workshop \$5,600 Total \$7,200		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task HS1.6</b>	Training in how to establish community outreach and legal framework programmes.	Consultant/ expert in community	Site managers/ rangers,

		outreach planning	MONREC, NGOs, CBOs, local stakeholders
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Site managers would benefit from completing HS1.1 in advance.		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q1-Q2 2018		
<b>Budget</b>	Preparations for workshop \$1,600 Training workshop \$5,600 Total \$7,200		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
<b>Task HS1.7</b>	Training in developing novel financing and alternative livelihood mechanisms.	Consultant/ expert in novel financing and alternative livelihoods	Site managers/ rangers, MONREC, NGOs, CBOs, local stakeholders
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Site managers would benefit from completing HS1.1 in advance.		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q1-Q2 2018		
<b>Budget</b>	Preparations for workshop \$1,600 Training workshop \$5,600 Total \$7,200		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
<b>Task HS1.8</b>	Training in the development, planning and implementation of wetland education centres. The training should involve: (a) a study tour for wetland site managers to an Asian (Thailand) wetland education centres; (b) an overview of wetland education centre; (c) development of specific activities and CEPA programmes at Indawgyi and Moeyungyi (as part of HS2 and HS3 respectively).	Consultant/ expert in wetland education centre planning and management; Ramsar Expert Team	Site managers/ rangers, MONREC, NGOs; NEA; Thailand Ramsar NFP
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	The development of site specific activities at Indawgyi and Moeyungyi need to be integrated into HS2 and HS3 respectively.		
<b>Timetable</b>	Study tour to Thailand Q4 2016; Other elements Q1-Q2 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Overview training workshop including preparation \$8,000 Study tour \$20,000 Total \$28,000		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
<b>Task HS1.9</b>	Integration of wetland site management within wider watershed management. Consultant to provide recommendations to MONREC.	Consultant/ expert in environmental flows and watershed management	Site managers/ rangers, MONREC, NGOs; NEA
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	The outputs should be provided to the NWC (HN1) and ultimately integrated into site management planning (HS1, HS2, HS3).		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q1-Q2 2018		
<b>Budget</b>	Consultant \$4,000		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
<b>Task HS1.10</b>	Harmonisation across different protected area designations. Consultant to review different designations and to provide	Consultant/ expert in protected area	Site managers/ rangers,

	recommendations for the Government of Myanmar	planning and management	MONREC, NGOs
<b>Pre-conditions/linkages</b>	The outputs should be provided to the NWC (HN1) and could be used to inform the National Wetland Policy (NH2).		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q3-Q4 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Consultant \$4,000		
<b>Action Overall Budget</b>	<b>\$110,600</b>		

Action	HS2 Indawgyi demonstration Ramsar Site		
Priority	High Site		
Rationale	Indawgyi is Myanmar's largest inland lake (12,000 ha). It was designated an ASEAN Heritage Park in 2005, an IBA in 2004, and a Flyway Network Site in the East Asian– Australasian Flyway in 2014. Indawgyi was designated as Myanmar's second Ramsar Site in 2016. A key requirement for Ramsar Sites is the development and implementation of a management plan to ensure the maintenance of the site's ecological character. Flora and Fauna International (FFI) is well advanced in the preparation of a draft management plan that follows the IUCN Protected Area Guidelines and is based on existing datasets as well as new surveys. An outline structure has been agreed by MONREC and a draft will be available for review by the Ramsar Team by September 2016. The Plan will include an action plan for implementation for a four-year period. The plan needs to reflect commitments under both the Ramsar Convention and ASEAN Heritage Parks and appropriate management practices need to be established to ensure this. Financial mechanisms need to be in place to support development and long-term implementation of the management plan.		
Outputs	Description	Recipient	
	1. Ramsar and ASEAN Heritage Park compliant draft Management plan	Government of Myanmar	
	2. Approved, funded Management plan and implementation plan	MONREC, Site Managers, FFI	
	3. Trained Site Manager and Rangers	Site Managers, Rangers	
Overall outcomes	1. Improved delivery of the obligations under the Ramsar Convention 2. Improved understanding of site management planning under the Ramsar Convention 3. Improved capacity of Site Manager in implementation of site management plan 4. Improved capacity of Site Manager and Site Rangers in diverse site management practices 5. Sound financing mechanism identified for management plan implementation		
Pre-conditions/ linkages	Certain elements will require completion of various tasks under HS1		
Ramsar expert team focal point	Rob McInnes (with Sandra Hails)		
Responsible in Myanmar	MONREC, Site Manager Indawgyi (names to be confirmed)		
Responsible in Norway	NEA		
Tasks	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
Task HS2.1	Review the draft site management plan prepared by FFI to (a) ensure it is consistent with Ramsar requirements and (b) identify immediate outstanding site information needs to	Ramsar Expert Team; NEA	FFI



	support development of a robust management plan.		
<b>Pre-conditions/linkages</b>	Availability of the draft management plan from FFI (outline structure already available)		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q4 2016		
<b>Budget</b>	Consultant \$2,400		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/participants
<b>Task HS2.2</b>	Organise workshops/activities as necessary to provide the additional information needs that may be identified in Task HS2.1 to assist in the finalisation of the management plan and ensure consistency with Ramsar requirements.	Ramsar Expert Team; NEA	MONREC; FFI and other relevant NGOs
<b>Pre-conditions/linkages</b>	Completion of Task HS2.1		
<b>Timetable</b>	End of Q4 2016 if possible/ Q1 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Provisional budget, if required, \$7,000		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/participants
<b>Task HS2.3</b>	Organise a workshop to undertake a rapid assessment of ecosystem services (following training through Task HS1.3. This should take into consideration the activity on rapid assessment of ecosystem services already planned at Indawgyi by FFI with dedicated funding from ACB.	Indawgyi site staff	Site Manager and rangers
<b>Pre-conditions/linkages</b>	To follow HS1.3 general training on rapid assessment of ecosystem services and a full understanding of the assessment planned by FFI.		
<b>Timetable</b>	End of Q4 2016 if possible or in Q1 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Consultant \$2,400 Workshop \$2,500 Total \$4,900		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/participants
<b>Task HS2.4</b>	Organise training/capacity building for Site Manager and rangers in full management plan implementation. In addition to broad management skills, this should include enhanced skills in sustainable agriculture, fisheries management, capacity building for local CBOs for forestry and lake fishery activities, and capacity development for education and any additional skills as identified under Task 2. This should take into account the training needs assessment included in the draft site management plan prepared by FFI.	Ramsar Expert Team in collaboration with FFI	Participants: Site Manager and Rangers; NEA
<b>Pre-conditions/linkages</b>	Tasks HS2.1, HS2.2 and HS2.3 completed		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q2 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Four training sessions \$24,000 tbc, taking into account the funding already available through ACB as recorded at the Inception meeting (reported by FFI)		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/participants
<b>Task HS2.5</b>	Develop long-term financing mechanism for management plan implementation	Ramsar Expert Team in collaboration with FFI	MONREC; Site Managers from Indawgyi, Moeyungyi, and

			Inle Lake; State Government representatives from Inle and Indawgyi; NEA
<b>Pre-conditions/linkages</b>	Depends on completed Indawgyi Draft Management Plan		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q1-Q2 2018		
<b>Budget</b>	Consultant \$2,400		
<b>Action Overall Budget</b>	<b>\$40,700</b>		

Action	HS3 Moeyungyi demonstration Ramsar Site		
Priority	High Site		
Rationale	Moeyungyi was designated as Myanmar's first Ramsar Site in 2004 at the time of Myanmar's accession to the Ramsar Convention, and its Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) updated in 2013. Under the terms of the Ramsar Convention, an RIS for a new site designation or an update for a designated Site must now be submitted in an online electronic format. The RIS should now include: information on any changes to ecological character; additional information on animal and plant species occurring; the ecosystem services provided by the site; precise mapping of the site boundary and any proposed changes to the boundary; and a regular review and update of the designation criteria that apply. Under the Convention, all Ramsar Sites should have a management plan and associated implementation plan. The information included in the RIS underpins and supports the management plan. The objective of this Action is to assist with providing information and further updating the RIS in an electronic format and developing a management plan for the site based on Ramsar's best practice guidance. Opportunities should also be pursued to investigate the feasibility to enhance the ecological character of the site.		
Outputs	Description	Recipient	
	1. Updated RIS in electronic format	Ramsar Convention Secretariat	
	2. Participatory management plan and implementation plan	Site Manager, MONREC	
Overall outcomes	1. Improved information on Moeyungyi RS in line with current Ramsar requirements 2. Improved delivery of the RS obligations under the Ramsar Convention 3. Improved long-term management of Moeyungyi RS through development and implementation of a management plan 4. Sound financing mechanism identified for management plan implementation		
Pre-conditions/ linkages	Elements HS3.3 and HS3.4 will require completion of similar tasks under HS1 and HS2		
Ramsar expert team focal point	Rob McInnes (with Sandra Hails)		
Responsible in Myanmar	MONREC, Site Manager Moeyungyi (names to be confirmed)		
Responsible in Norway	NEA		
Tasks	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
Task HS3.1	Workshop to: a) undertake rapid assessment of ecosystem services; b) prepare new Ramsar Site map; and c) fill in	Moeyungyi RS staff; supported by	Ramsar Secretariat

	available data & information into online RIS tool	consultant expert in Ramsar Site designation and RIS procedures; GIS mapping expert	
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Workshop a) to follow training through Task HS1.2		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q1 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Consultants \$6,400 Workshop \$2,500 Total \$8,900		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task HS3.2</b>	On completion of Task 1 submit the new RIS to the Ramsar Secretariat for review. Finalise the RIS and submit to the Ramsar Secretariat for official designation update.	MONREC	Ramsar Secretariat, Site Manager
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Completion of Task 1		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q2 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	No budget required		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task HS3.3</b>	Develop a Moeyungyi RS management plan that will ensure the ecological character of the site is maintained and where possible enhanced. This will require (i) the collation of currently available information on various local community activities including fishing, duck rearing, lotus gathering, cattle grazing, rice growing as well as water quantity and quality; (ii) the development of processes to gather further essential information to inform management planning processes; (iii) using participatory processes to involve all relevant stakeholders to develop the plan to assist in setting realistic objectives as well as monitoring and evaluating management actions.	Moeyungyi Site staff, with support from consultant in Ramsar Site management planning	MONREC staff, local community leaders, local government staff (including those from other relevant sectors such as agriculture and irrigation), relevant NGOs; NEA
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Tasks under HS1, HS3.1 and HS3.2 completed		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q4 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Consultant 10 days (possibly in two separate sessions) \$8,000 Workshop \$5,000 Total \$13,000		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task HS3.4</b>	Feasibility assessment of developing variable bathymetry at Moeyungyi. This has been suggested by NGOs who believe that the ecological potential of Moeyungyi was not being realised and that with some minor enhancement works the importance of the site could be increased by altering the bathymetry of the lake	Consultant expert in wetland restoration	Site Managers; NEA; local contractors.
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	None, however this action should be specified within HS3.3.		

<b>Timetable</b>	Q1 2018
<b>Budget</b>	Consultant \$8,000
<b>Action Overall Budget</b>	<b>\$29,900</b>

Action	HS4 Gold mining mitigation		
Priority	High -Site		
Rationale	The impacts of both legal and illegal gold mining were identified during the consultative sessions as a posing significant threat to wetlands in Myanmar, including protected sites such as Indawgyi. These threats extend beyond impacts on wetland-dependent species to potential threats to human health and well-being. Elsewhere in the world created or constructed wetlands have been used to both mitigate the impacts of gold mining activities and to create new wetland infrastructure.		
Outputs	Description	Recipient	
	1. General evaluation of the impacts of gold mining on wetlands. 2. Feasibility study and recommendations for actions to mitigate the impacts of gold mining on Indawgyi Lake.	MONREC; Site manager Indawgyi	
Overall outcomes	1. Understanding of the implications of gold mining on wetlands. 2. Reduction in the degradation of wetlands as a result of gold mining. 3. Improved management and wise use of Indawgyi.		
Pre-conditions/ linkages	Provides inputs to the HS2 Indawgyi demonstration site.		
Ramsar expert team focal point	Rob McInnes		
Responsible in Myanmar	MONREC, Site manager Indawgyi		
Responsible in Norway	NEA		
Tasks	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
Task HS4.1	Desk study to collate information on the extent and scale of gold mining activities in Myanmar and to understand better the impacts on wetland ecosystems.	Consultant/ expert in mining impacts on wetlands and constructed wetland design	MONREC; gold mining companies; wetland site managers; FFI
Pre-conditions/ linkages	No pre-conditions. Provides inputs to the HS2 Indawgyi demonstration site.		
Timetable	Q1-Q2 2017		
Budget	Consultant \$5,000		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
Task HS4.2	Initial feasibility study at Indawgyi, including site visit, liaison with Site Manager, to evaluate impacts of gold mining, to assess possible mitigation measures, and especially the use of restored or constructed wetlands, and to provide recommendations on future monitoring and management of	Consultant/ expert in mining impacts on wetlands and constructed wetland design	MONREC; gold mining companies; wetland site managers; FFI; NEA

	wastes associated with gold mining activities at the site		
<b>Pre-conditions/linkages</b>	Develops further initial monitoring undertaken at Indawgyi and builds on results of HS4.1. Provides inputs to the HS2 Indawgyi demonstration site.		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q3-Q4 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Consultant \$12,000		
<b>Action Overall Budget</b>	\$17,000		

Action	HS5 Site managers' immediate needs		
Priority	High Site		
Rationale	During the workshop held at Moeyungyi in December 2015 site managers/rangers from four wetlands identified a range of immediate equipment needs that would assist them in delivering improved site management.		
Outputs	Description	Recipient	
	1. Equipment purchased for four – Moeyungyi, Meinmahla, Indawgyi and Hukaung – wetland sites	MONREC, Site managers/rangers	
Overall outcomes	1. Capacity built at four wetland sites 2. Improved site management		
Pre-conditions/ linkages	None		
Ramsar expert team focal point	Rob McInnes		
Responsible in Myanmar	MONREC/Site managers/rangers		
Responsible in Norway	NEA		
Tasks	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
Task HS5.1	Moeyungyi site manager to review site management equipment needs and purchase and supply the equipment from the list set out below to a maximum budget of \$10,000.	NEA; Site manager/ rangers Moeyungyi	MONREC
Pre-conditions/ linkages	None		
Timetable	Q3 2016 – Q1 2017		
Budget	Equipment \$10,000		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
Task HS5.2	Meinmahla site manager to review site management equipment needs and purchase and supply the equipment from the list set out below to a maximum budget of \$10,000.	NEA; Site manager/ rangers Meinmahla	MONREC
Pre-conditions/ linkages	None		

<b>Timetable</b>	Q3 2016 – Q1 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Equipment \$10,000		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task HS5.3</b>	Indawgyi site manager to review site management equipment needs and purchase and supply the equipment from the list set out below to a maximum budget of \$10,000.	NEA; Site manager/ rangers Indawgyi	MONREC
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	None		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q3 2016 – Q1 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Equipment \$10,000		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task HS5.4</b>	Hukaung site manager to review site management equipment needs and purchase and supply the equipment from the list set out below to a maximum budget of \$10,000.	NEA; Site manager/ rangers Hukaung	MONREC
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	None		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q3 2016 – Q1 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Equipment \$10,000		
<b>Action Overall Budget</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>		

	<b>Estimated unit cost (\$)</b>	<b>Moeyungyi</b>	<b>Meinmahla</b>	<b>Indawgyi</b>	<b>Hukaung</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Guard post	2,500			2	
Solar panels	2,000		4		
Birdwatching tower	10,000	1	1	1	
Electricity generator	5,000	1			
Marker posts	250	2		1	
<b>Patrol equipment</b>					
Boat	2,000			1	3
Boat engine	1,500	1	1	1	3
Electric-powered boat	3,000			1	
Mosquito nets	200		1		
Camping equipment	500		1		
<b>Field/lab/office equipment</b>					
Laptops	500	3	1		1
Microphone/soundbox	150	1			1
Projector; screen	200		1	1	1
Camera	200		1		1
Printer	150		1		
Binoculars	300		1	1	
Telescope	500				1
Posters; leaflets	1,000		1		

Action	M1 National Wetland Inventory		
Priority	Moderate National		
Rationale	<p>The Ramsar Convention has repeatedly recognised that a comprehensive national wetland inventory is a key pre-requisite for delivering the wise use of all wetlands, through planning and management, and in the identification and designation of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites). Ramsar has adopted a range of guidance on wetland inventory and ecological character description, including recommended data fields to harmonise data and information across inventory, assessment and monitoring. The RIS – 2012 revision format is also consistent with this guidance, and may offer a more recent and structured set of data fields for wetland inventory.</p> <p>For Myanmar, a valuable start has been made through the 2004 “A wetland inventory for Myanmar”, (prepared from field surveys in 2001-2003) but it is recognised that this inventory is not comprehensive, focusses largely on inland wetlands only, did not cover several regions of Myanmar, and that the information compiled for many wetlands covered is limited.</p> <p>To support Myanmar’s future implementation of the Ramsar Convention and other international agreements, an update and expansion of the 2004 inventory is needed, both to improve the extent of information for wetlands covered by the 2004 inventory, and to extend its coverage to all regions of Myanmar, both inland and coastal. Such an update forms part of Action 5.3.1 in Myanmar’s National Biodiversity Strategy &amp; Action Plan (NBSAP) 2015-2020 for the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p> <p>Several remotely-sensed spatial datasets containing wetland-relevant information for Myanmar are becoming available, including a land-cover map derived from Landsat and Modis imagery (International Water Management Institute (IWMI)), rice paddy mapping using Sentinel-1 imagery (International Rice Research Institute), mangrove mapping (JAXA – Global Mangrove Watch) and tidal flats mapping (University of New South Wales). The stepwise approach to the inventory is to first use GIS to overlay these and other relevant datasets to identify locations, and size of wetlands (and wetland types), and from this to prioritise wetland localities for ground-truthing. This approach will aim to utilise the already-developed and tested methodology of the European Space Agency’s Globwetland-II work.</p>		
Outputs	Description	Recipient	
	1. Comprehensive National Wetland Inventory for Myanmar 2. A robust wetland inventory methodology, repeatable for Myanmar and potentially transferable to <i>inter alia</i> other Indo-Burma region countries (through the IBRRI)	Government of Myanmar/MONREC Government of Myanmar/MONREC; other Indo-Burma region countries (through the IBRRI)	
Overall outcomes	1. Improved knowledge of location and importance of Myanmar wetlands 2. Improved knowledge of locations for delivering wetland wise use across Myanmar 3. Improved delivery of the obligations under the Ramsar Convention		
Pre-conditions/ linkages	A comprehensive inventory, once completed, is needed to finalise the Strategy and priorities for future Ramsar Site designation (Action HN3), and to inform the implementation of a National Wetland Policy (Action HN2), once established. Therefore, though not of a high priority there is a high degree of urgency to instigate this Action as soon as possible.		
Ramsar expert team focal point	Nick Davidson (with Rob McInnes)		
Responsible in Myanmar	[to be determined]		
Responsible in Norway	NEA		
Tasks	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants



<b>Task M1.1</b>	Develop a GIS-based spatial map of Myanmar wetlands, from an overlay and modelling of remotely-sensed (Earth Observation (EO)) data-layers including <i>inter alia</i> land-cover (Landsat/Modis based information (IWMI); rice paddy mapping (IRRI); mangroves (JAXA Global Mangrove Watch); tidal flats (University of New South Wales); coral reefs (ReefBase); PALSAR-1/2 25m global mosaic data (JAXA); with a digital terrain model (DTM) and other readily available datasets (for instance NASA).	GIS wetland data and information management consultant/ expert	Ramsar expert team; IWMI, ESA, JAXA, Univ NSW
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Precise timing is dependent on the availability of the IWMI land-cover mapping (anticipated end of 2016).		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q1-Q2 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	\$50,000		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task M1.2</b>	Hold scoping workshop to: a) develop design, methods and ground-truth survey protocols and site selection, and procedures for inventory database entry – informed by results of Task M1.1; b) identify other wetland data and information sources for inclusion in site inventory; c) identify appropriate institute/agency to host wetland inventory data and information systems.	Ramsar expert team; wetland inventory expert; database expert; remote sensing expert	MONREC; NGOs; GIS institutes; other relevant agencies/ universities, research institutes; NEA as appropriate
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Timing is dependent on completion of Task M1.1		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q3 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	Workshop costs in-country US\$4,000 Wetland inventory experts (preparation & participation) \$10,000 Ramsar expert team (preparation & participation) \$8,000 Total \$22,000		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task M1.3</b>	Develop Myanmar wetland inventory data and information management tool, potentially derived from data-fields in the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS) database [since many of the data-fields in the RIS are the same as needed for baseline wetland inventory]	Spatial database experts (provisionally UNEP GRID-Geneva -RSIS data and information managers)	Ramsar expert team; MONREC/NWCD database and GIS experts; Ramsar Secretariat; NEA as appropriate
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	None identified		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q1-Q3 2018		
<b>Budget</b>	\$25,000		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task M1.4</b>	Undertake ground-truthing and on-site data collection and delineation for each wetland site identified through Task M1.2, using the standard Globwetland-II methodology.  Sites should include <i>inter alia</i> all those identified as potentially internationally important, and a sample of wetlands of different sizes and wetland geomorphic type in different regions (including those included in 2004 inventory), identified through	Wetland survey experts	MONREC/NWCD; site managers; NGOs; Ramsar expert team; researchers studying the site' NEA as appropriate

	Task M1.1.		
<b>Pre-conditions/linkages</b>	The inventory (M1.1) and ground-truthing approach (M1.2) have to be in place to guide field reconnaissance programme.		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q1-Q4 2018		
<b>Budget</b>	Highly dependent on the number, size and geographical location of the wetlands identified for site survey in Task M1.2. Estimated cost per site based on utilising local expertise: US\$500. If 50 sites need survey, overall budget: \$25,000		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/participants</b>
<b>Task M1.5</b>	Undertake data entry for each wetland site into Myanmar wetland inventory database developed under Task M1.3	Wetland survey and inventory experts	MONREC/NWCD; site managers; NGOs; Ramsar expert team. For some sites, researchers studying the site.
<b>Pre-conditions/linkages</b>	Requires task M1.3 to have been completed		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q4 2017 – Q32018		
<b>Budget</b>	Dependent on number of sites and extent of available data to be entered. Estimated cost based on utilising local expertise per site to be entered: \$200. If 50 sites required entering, overall budget: £\$10,000		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/participants</b>
<b>Task M1.6</b>	Identify additional wetlands from inventory which potentially fulfil Ramsar Site designation Criteria, and transmit to the National Wetland Committee and its Technical Advisory Committee (once established) for inclusion and prioritisation in the Strategy for Ramsar Site designation (Action HN3)	Ramsar expert team; MONREC/NWCD; wetland inventory experts	MONREC; NWC/TAC; site managers, NGOs; For some sites, researchers studying the site; NEA as appropriate
<b>Pre-conditions/linkages</b>	Requires task M1.5 to have been completed. Delivers into Task HN3.4.		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q3-4 2018		
<b>Budget</b>	\$5,000		
<b>Action Overall Budget</b>	\$137,000		

<b>Action</b>	<b>M2 Establish a Network of Wetland Site Managers</b>	
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	
<b>Rationale</b>	Experience from Ramsar member countries suggests building a Site Manager support network can improve greatly sharing of wetland site management issues and solutions and can contribute to more effective site management.	
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
	1. Functional Wetland Site Manager Network	Wetland Site Managers
<b>Overall outcomes</b>	1. Improved sharing of wetland management know-how 2. Improved site management practices	
<b>Pre-</b>	None. An informal network already exists and this initiative should build on this.	

<b>conditions/ linkages</b>			
<b>Ramsar expert team focal point</b>	Sandra Hails		
<b>Responsible in Myanmar</b>	[Names to be confirmed]		
<b>Responsible in Norway</b>	NEA		
<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task M2.1</b>	<p>Organise a half-day workshop with all Site Managers to consider the utility of developing a National Wetland Site Manager Network to support the sharing of information and know-how about wetland site management.</p> <p>For cost and time--effectiveness, this could be usefully included as an additional half-day workshop alongside another workshop for Site Managers under this programme of work.</p> <p>For discussion during the workshop in order to define a <i>modus operandi</i> for problem and solution sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) What information about your wetland could you share with other a wetland manager</li> <li>(ii) Which management techniques have you used effectively that you could share?</li> <li>(iii) What site management challenges are you facing that other managers may be able to help with?</li> <li>(iv) Have you resolved a site management challenge that you could share with other managers?</li> <li>(iv) What challenges are you facing in managing your team of rangers?</li> <li>(v) What challenges have your resolved in working with your rangers that you could share?</li> <li>(vi) Which mechanism(s) could you use to share the above problems and solutions?</li> </ul> <p>From the above half day workshop a simple agreement can be reached to define suitable topics to be shared and to agree upon a simple but effective method to share the information. The utility of the agreed sharing process should be reviewed after one year and refinements agreed upon.</p>	Ramsar Expert Team	MONREC; NEA
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	None		
<b>Timetable</b>	Can be added to any planned workshop involving wetland site managers but recommended to be held in conjunction with HS1.1, Q4 2016		
<b>Budget</b>	\$1,000		
<b>Action Overall Budget</b>	\$1,000		

Action	M3 Meinmahla management planning and Ramsar Site designation		
Priority	Moderate		
Rationale	<p>Meinmahla was identified in the December 2015 Norway-Myanmar wetlands project workshop as a priority for support in developing management planning processes, and as a candidate for future designation as a Ramsar Site. Under the Ramsar Convention, all Ramsar Sites should have a management plan and associated implementation plan. This action will include the preparation of a draft Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), which will in turn inform the preparation of a participatory management plan and implementation plan.</p> <p>This Action will contribute to the delivery of Action 5.3.2 of Myanmar's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2015-2020: [by 2020] "Nominate three additional Ramsar sites to Ramsar Secretariat".</p>		
Outputs	Description	Recipient	
	1. Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) in electronic format	MONREC/Ramsar Convention Secretariat	
	2. Participatory management plan and implementation plan	Site Manager, MONREC	
Overall outcomes	<p>1. Improved information on Meinmahla and its qualification for designation as a Ramsar Site, in line with current Ramsar requirements</p> <p>2. Improved delivery of the RS obligations under the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>3. Improved long-term management of Meinmahla through development and implementation of a management plan</p> <p>4. Sound financing mechanism identified for management plan implementation</p>		
Pre-conditions/ linkages	Tasks M3.3 and M3.4 will require completion of similar tasks under Actions HS1, HS2 & HS3		
Ramsar expert team focal point	Rob McInnes (with Sandra Hails)		
Responsible in Myanmar	MONREC, Site Manager Meinmahla PA (Names to be confirmed)		
Responsible in Norway	NEA		
Tasks	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
Task M3.1	Workshop to a) undertake rapid assessment of ecosystem services; b) prepare Ramsar Site map; and c) fill in available data & information into online RIS tool	Meinmahla PA staff; supported by consultant expert in Ramsar Site designation and RIS procedures; GIS mapping expert	MONREC; NEA
Pre-conditions/ linkages	Workshop a) to follow training through Task HS1.2; Workshop c) will benefit from training under task HN3.5 (Capacity-building workshop for Ramsar Site designation procedures).		
Timetable	Q1 2018		
Budget	\$10,000		
	Description	Lead	Other actors/ participants
Task M3.2	On completion of Task M3.1 submit the draft RIS to the Ramsar Secretariat for review. Finalise the RIS and submit to the	MONREC	Ramsar Secretariat, Site

	Ramsar Secretariat for official designation update.		Manager
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Completion of Task M3.1		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q2 2018		
<b>Budget</b>	No budget required		
	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task M3.3</b>	Develop a Meinmahla PA/Ramsar Site management plan that will ensure the ecological character of the site is maintained and where possible enhanced. This will require (i) the collation of currently available information on various local community activities including fishing and fuelwood cutting as well as water quantity and quality (including pollution from upstream sources); (ii) the development of processes to gather further essential information to inform management planning processes; (iii) using participatory processes to involve all relevant stakeholders to develop the plan (following experience in Task HS1.2) to assist in setting realistic objectives as well as monitoring and evaluating management actions.	Meinmahla Site staff, with support from consultant in Ramsar Site management planning	MONREC staff; NEA; local community leaders, local government staff (including those from other relevant sectors such as agriculture and irrigation), relevant NGOs
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Tasks M3.1 and M3.2 completed		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q3-Q4 2018		
<b>Budget</b>	10 days consultant (possibly in two separate sessions) \$8,000		
<b>Action Overall Budget</b>	<b>USD 18,000</b>		

<b>Action</b>	<b>L1 Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI)</b>		
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Low</b>		
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>In mid-June 2016, Ramsar's Standing Committee will consider the endorsement of the proposed Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI). Covering the territories of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam IBRRI will play a role in implementing the goals of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 in the region. IBRRI will be hosted and coordinated through IUCN's Asia Regional Office in Bangkok with two dedicated staff, pending receipt of appropriate core funding. Two key governance bodies will be established, including a steering committee and a technical committee, and each will include a representative of the Ramsar Secretariat. In addition, the Mekong River Commission and its national committees, UNDP and Ramsar's IOPs are anticipated to become potential partners.</p> <p>Following the Standing Committee endorsement and funding decision an inception workshop is planned to allow the partners to finalize and adopt the terms of reference for IBRRI, its strategic vision and work plan 2016-2018. National needs and priorities can be brought to the steering committee for discussion and adoption thus presenting an opportunity for Myanmar to further its wetland work through this body.</p> <p>For 2016, the budget needed is \$125,000 IUCN has already secured \$30,000 from the German and Swiss projects and an annual Ramsar core budget contribution of \$60,000 for 2016-2018 has been requested.</p>		
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	
	1. Increased opportunities for exchange of wetland knowledge and expertise with Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam	Government of Myanmar, MONREC	
	2. Increased opportunities for technical and financial support for	Government of Myanmar, MONREC	

	specific wetland projects in Myanmar		
<b>Overall outcomes</b>	1. Improved delivery of Myanmar's obligations under the Ramsar Convention		
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Endorsement of the IBRRI by the 52 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of Ramsar's Standing Committee in June 2016		
<b>Ramsar expert team focal point</b>	Rob McInnes		
<b>Responsible in Myanmar</b>	Myanmar's Ramsar National Focal Point (to be confirmed)		
<b>Responsible in Norway</b>	NEA		
<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task L1.1</b>	Sustain a watching brief on the further development of IBRRI and identify opportunities for support and involvement of the Ramsar Wetland Team and/or Norway that will bring benefits to Myanmar's wetlands. Norway has particular knowledge and expertise on the development and management of the NorBalWet Ramsar Regional Initiative that may be helpful for the development of IBRRI as an effective structure for improving wetland management within the region.	IUCN?	Myanmar's National Focal Point for Ramsar; Ramsar Secretariat; NEA; NorBalWet
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Endorsement of the IBRRI by the 52 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of Ramsar's Standing Committee in June 2016		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q3-Q4 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	No budget required		
<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other actors/ participants</b>
<b>Task L1.2</b>	Host the first meeting of the IBRRI	Myanmar's National Focal Point for Ramsar	Ramsar Secretariat; IBRRI members
<b>Pre-conditions/ linkages</b>	Assumes that no alternative has been proposed or adopted.		
<b>Timetable</b>	Q3-Q4 2017		
<b>Budget</b>	\$10,000		
<b>Action Overall Budget</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>		