



## CEPA Activities for Ramsar Site Designation of the Gulf of Mottama BANCA

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Introduction to the Case Study

This project was focussed on designating the Gulf of Mottama as a Ramsar Site to safeguard its wetland ecosystem services and secure its long-term conservation.

What was done and when and where did you do it?

CEPA activities by BANCA began in 2012 in the Gulf of Mottama targeting some of the 100 village communities as well as State and Regional Government authorities to raise awareness about the value of the Gulf for everyone and the value of designating it as a Ramsar Site.

- A mobile education awareness programme was carried out annually in the coastal villages of the Gulf of Mottama
- World Wetlands Day events were carried out at National, State and Regional Levels
- Presentations were made to different government authorities about migratory shore birds across the flyway and the conservation actions of the many different countries.
- Frequent engagement with both the local community and government officials to designate the Gulf of Mottama as a Ramsar Site to ensure the essential cooperation and collaboration with the multi level stake holders involved.

If relevant, identify your main target group

Local Communities, School children, and key Government Officials were our target groups



**Education in schools**

*Photo: BANCA*



**Official Announcement of Ramsar Site designation celebration event by H.E Dr. Aye Zan (Chief Minister of Mon State)**

*Photo: BANCA*

What was the result of the action?

Since 2012, the local government and community are understanding better the benefits of wetlands conservation and migratory species conservation and the direct link with community livelihoods. Building the capacity of local communities, assisting in the formation of Local Conservation Groups are crucial for community led conservation approaches. In 2017, 10<sup>th</sup> May, the Ramsar Convention declared the northern part of Mottama as Myanmar's 4<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Site and continuing this momentum efforts are being made to extend the Ramsar Site to cover the whole of the Gulf of Mottama.

What was the key to success?	Working at local, regional and national levels with local communities and government officials
What was your biggest challenge in achieving success?	It took a lot of time to understand the needs and views of both the local communities as well as government officials for wetlands conservation who are responsible for the Ramsar Site designation process. The latter was complicated because the Gulf of Mottama was not a protected area and the land is managed by the State and Regional Government as well as different administration systems.



**Celebrating a World Bird Migratory Day event**

*Photo: BANCA*

If the result was not completely successful, what went wrong? What have you done/will you do to resolve the problem?	The original plan was to designate the entire Gulf of Mottama as a Ramsar Site but the different administration systems and policies delayed the designation process. Lack of a National Wetlands Policy before 2018 also made the situation difficult. Now the National Government is taking into account developing a National Wetlands Policy and developing a designation strategy for Ramsar Sites in Myanmar.
If relevant, identify your key sponsors/ partners for your activity	BirdLife International, RSPB; Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund; Ministry of Environment, Japan; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; Ramsa Centre Japan; Ramsar Network Japan; Swedish International Development Agency; EAAFP; Darwin Initiative; BBC Wildlife Fund
How is the Case Study useful for other Partners?]	This is a pilot project in Myanmar to designate a Ramsar Site out of a protected area. This case study is useful for the flyway countries how to coordinate and set up the management committees that play s crucial role for wetlands conservation.
Useful links	<a href="#">EAAFP news – Gulf of Mottama designation</a>  <a href="#">Ramsar News – Designation of the Gulf Of Mottama as a Ramsar Site</a>
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