

2021 EAAFP Small Grant Fund Application Form

Personal Details of Applicant

Title: Ms. Layusa Cynthia Adeline Amoyo
 (Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

Institution: Isla Biodiversity Conservation, Philippines

Institutional address: 9 Bougainvillea Street, Manuela Subdivision

Degree type: Las Pinas City Philippines
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 Primary contact number Mobile phone number

Email address: cynthia.layusa@gmail.com; anson.tagtag@bmb.gov.ph

Relevant Working Group or Task Force Chair/Coordinator - DETAILS

Please contact the EAAFP Programme Officer if additional guidance is needed in relation to this section (programme@eaaflyway.net)

Name of Working Group or Task Force: Seabird Working Group

Title of Chair/Coordinator: Mr. Kaler Rob
 (Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

Email address: robert_kaler@fws.gov

Eligibility of Projects

- | | | |
|---|------------|----|
| • The focus of the project is migratory waterbirds and their habitats. | Yes | No |
| • The project will improve the understanding of factors important for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF. | Yes | No |
| • The applicant agrees to provide a final report within 3 months of the completion of the project. | Yes | No |
| • The applicant agrees to submit 1-2-page article and photographs for inclusion on EAAFP's website and/or write a brief article for the EAAFP's newsletter. Photographers will be acknowledged. | Yes | No |
| • The applicant will acknowledge the support of the EAAFP in any publications, presentations and reports arising from this work. | Yes | No |

Project Details

Project Title: Please provide a concise and informative title of your entire project (not just the component for which funds are sought)

Identifying priority areas for seabird conservation in the Philippines

Part A. Project Proposal

Details of your entire project (not just the component for which funds are sought) (2.5 page maximum)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Objectives: | <p>This project aims to increase the knowledge and awareness of conservation managers, bird watchers and stakeholders on the status of seabirds in the Philippines.</p> <p>Specifically, the project's objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Share current knowledge and initiatives by researchers, conservationists, and bird watchers and identify priority areas for research that will contribute to a national action plan for seabirds in the Philippines.- Increase capacities of local field staff and volunteers in recording the presence of seabirds in their own regions.- Develop CEPA knowledge products to increase the awareness among field staff, volunteers, birding enthusiasts, and fisherfolk communities on the seabirds in the Philippines. |
| 2. Background: | <p>The Philippines is considered as both a megadiverse country and a biodiversity hotspot, owing to the high diversity of species and ecosystems that are nonetheless threatened by man-made issues and climate change. The Philippines harbors >700 species of birds belonging to 92 families, 51 species of which are seabirds from 10 families (Jensen et al., 2019). Of the 51 species, two (the Christmas Island Frigatebird <i>Fregata andrewsi</i> and the Chinese Crested Tern <i>Thalasseus bernsteini</i>) are Critically Endangered, four are Vulnerable (Leach's Storm Petrel <i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>, Hawaiian Petrel <i>Pterodroma sandwichensis</i>, Saunder's Gull <i>Chroicocephalus saundersi</i> and Aleutian Tern <i>Onychoprion aleuticus</i>), and six are Near Threatened (Laysan Albatross <i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>, Swinhoe's Storm Petrel <i>Oceanodroma monorhis</i>, Tahiti Petrel <i>Pseudobulweria rostrata</i>, Streaked Shearwater <i>Calonectris leucomelas</i>, Spot-billed Pelican <i>Pelecanus philippensis</i> and Dalmatian Pelican <i>Pelecanus crispus</i>) (BirdLife International, 2020). The Philippines is part of the East Asian Australasian Flyway so it is expected to observe migratory birds that use the Philippines en route to their breeding and wintering grounds; the small islets, volcanic rocks, and reefs that surround the seas off major islands are also conducive feeding and breeding grounds for seabirds.</p> <p>On top of pertinent national legislations securing the welfare of wildlife (i.e. Wildlife Act of the Philippines, National Integrated Protected Areas System), the Philippines is also a signatory to international agreements that aim to protect species and their habitats: Convention on Migratory Species, Ramsar Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention on the International Trade of Wild Fauna and Flora. While the government and non-profit organizations strive to conserve wetlands and associated species, a gap in our research and conservation efforts, and general awareness toward seabirds persist. This group of marine-dwelling birds is not well studied owing to the difficulty in tracking these species and/or getting to sites where seabirds typically congregate. Studying seabirds also require advanced knowledge in seabird identification (i.e. molting phases, migration season and routes) and employing more sophisticated spotting and photographic equipment, which are often prohibitive for some local researchers.</p> <p>Despite these limitations, there have been initiatives by organizations and birdwatchers to document seabirds in the Philippines. These efforts are typically localized and, except for the annual bird count in Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, do not constitute targeted and long-term monitoring efforts (i.e. Nakagun et al., 2016, Tabaranza, 2019 (unpublished report), Sabater et al., 2011 (unpublished report)).</p> <p>To the best of our knowledge, attempts to consolidate seabird studies and efforts in the Philippines, has not been done, thus, this shall be a first attempt to determine potential sites for seabird research and identify and address gaps in research and conservation at the local and national levels.</p> <p>This proposed project shall be co-implemented with the Biodiversity Management Bureau, who serves as the National Focal Point for the EAAFP.</p> |
| 3. Project plan, timeline and methods: | <p>Please include the proposed timing of project commencement, start and completion of fieldwork (if applicable), project completion. Please also comment on the flexibility of the timeline of the project.</p> |

Timeline: April 2021 – August 2022

1. Action planning meeting – knowledge-sharing and action planning workshop among various NGOs, research and advocacy groups, and government offices with specific interest on seabirds in the Philippines. The workshop will identify the gaps and needs in research and conservation of seabirds in Philippine waters. May/ June 2021
2. Feedback and validation workshop – presentation of key findings and agreements from the national action planning workshop to stakeholders. The input from this exercise will be used to finalize the action plan. Ideally, this sub-activity will be held during the 29th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium in 2021. Exact dates and venue to be announced. An alternative would be to present the findings online and generate feedback through an online survey platform, and to host a small-group writeshop at a different date. October/November 2021.
3. Drafting and finalization of National Seabird Action Plan Report – report writing, mapping and synthesis of workshop outputs. For finalization and approval/ adoption by national agency by April 2021 – May 2022.
4. CEPA Knowledge Product development – this project aims to develop two knowledge products:
 - A. The 'All About Seabirds' booklet for students and local community members will help increase appreciation on the diversity and distribution of seabirds in the Philippines. Development phase May – November 2021.
 - B. The field manual on seabirds will contain survey protocols and basic seabird identification guides to help field and protected area managers document the presence of seabirds in their own area. Inputs from the action planning meeting and validation workshops will be incorporated here. Development phase: May – November 2021. Printing and distribution target by May 2022.
5. Pilot field course on Seabird Survey Methods and Protocols– Conduct of training on seabird identification, bird photography, and survey protocols in at least 1 target field site for at least 15 field personnel and volunteers. The Field Manual will be launched and distributed during the training - May/June 2022.
6. Final report writing and dissemination: July-August 2022

4. Likely benefit to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitat / or key research outputs:

This is the first time a knowledge-sharing and action planning writeshop dedicated for seabirds will be organized in the Philippines. The workshop aims to identify research and management gaps and needs so that future efforts to study and conserve these species and their habitats are in sync and concerted. The knowledge-sharing will allow researchers and managers share their research techniques, as well as challenges, which organizations may learn from or improve upon.

Some of the sites where seabirds congregate are already established as protected area and declared as sites of international importance for migratory birds (i.e. Negros Island, Tubbataha Reefs), however, identification of priority sites for seabird research and conservation may further lead to the identification of additional areas of national and EAAF Partnership importance for seabird/ migratory bird conservation (i.e. Babuyan Group of Islands, Davao Gulf, Zamboanga Peninsula), which may aid in the protection of these key habitats.

This project will contribute to the EAAFP Strategic Plan (2019-2028), specifically:

- Objectives 1 and 2: By identifying sites of seabird importance in the Philippines, this project will contribute to the development of sites of importance for migratory birds and priority EAAF Partnership species of seabirds.
- Objective 2: By sharing information and identifying the gaps and needs in seabird research and conservation, the project will build the habitat and seabird management capacity of resource managers, decision-makers, NGOs and other stakeholders.'
- Objective 3: Through the development of CEPA materials on seabirds in the Philippines, this project will contribute to enhanced communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory birds/ seabirds and their habitats.
- Through this knowledge-sharing platform, this project will develop a wide approach to enhancing the knowledge, awareness and conservation status of seabirds in the Philippines.

5. Alignment with EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces priorities:

This project will support the Philippines' initiatives towards migratory bird conservation and fulfill part of its commitments as member of the EAAF Network Partnership. This project also aligns with the Seabird Workshop Group and CEPA Working Group.

6. Explain the part of your project for which you are

We are requesting funding for the following activities:

- Feedback Presentation and Validation Workshop –meeting and workshop materials, facilitator's fees, logistical and reproduction costs

seeking funds in this Application:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IEC Development – procurement of illustrations, development and design of materials, and cost of printing materials - Field equipment (GPS, binoculars and spotting scope) for local training and field validation - Communications and travel costs
7. Scientific References cited in the Application:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jensen et al (2019): Checklist of Birds of the Philippines. Wild Bird Club of the Philippines. - IUCN (2020) The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2019-3. Downloaded from https://www.iucnredlist.org. - Nakagun, S, CAA LAYUSA and JMV Acebes (2016). Seabird Fauna of the Babuyan Channel and Adjacent Waters. Marine Ornithology 44 (2016): 43-49 - Tabaranza, DGE (2019). Seabird Fauna of Apo Reef Natural Park and Apo East Pass off Western Mindoro, Philippines. Contributed Paper. 28th Annual Philippine Biodiversity Symposium. August 2019, Leyte. - Sabater, ER, MTR Aquino, ME Dela Paz, CL Emata, JA Utzurum, and MLL Dolar (2011). At Sea Community Composition of Seabirds in the NW Bohol Sea. Contributed Paper. Federation of Institutions in Marine and Freshwater Sciences. December 2011, Pangasinan.

Part B. FOR CONFERENCE APPLICANTS ONLY

(For Task Force or Working Group members delivering their own work as a presentation, paper or poster)

Conference Title:	Location:	Date:
Presentation Abstract (250 word maximum):		

Part C. FOR ALL APPLICANTS

Experience Relevant to Project:

I have more than 10 years of experience as a biodiversity conservationist in the Philippines. Since 2007, I have been part of efforts to conserve island species in the Babuyan Group of Islands, northernmost Philippines. Further, I have led projects that aimed to establish a long-term, community-based research and conservation program for the island endemic Calayan Rail *Gallirallus calayanensis*; organize national conferences on biodiversity and conservation; develop a biodiversity toolkit for educators under a biodiversity handbook for Filipino kids. In 2015-2016, I was the national coordinator of the UNEP-GEF Project “Removing Barriers to Invasive Species Management in Production and Protection Forests in Southeast Asia”, wherein I coordinated and organized meetings, workshops, and training for project partners and stakeholders, and was involved in crafting the national strategic plan for invasive species management in the Philippines.

In collaboration with colleagues, we prepared a publication on the seabirds of the Babuyan Islands (Nakagun, et. al 2016). The species list of seabirds was gathered from historical accounts, biodiversity surveys, and opportunistic sightings from volunteer researchers conducting the humpback whale survey. Since then, I have been interested in continuing our work on seabirds, seeing that the study and appreciation of this group remains low even among bird researchers in the Philippines.

I am a Coordinator of the Philippine Red List Committee’s Technical Working Group and a committee member of the Birds subcommittee. I was also a member of the ad hoc committee on birdwatching and bird photography guidelines created by the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Philippines’ Department of Environment and Natural Resources. These committees have resulted to policies and guidelines pertaining to the threatened terrestrial faunal species in the Philippines, and guidelines for birdwatchers and photographers.

From 2011, I have been a board member and officer of the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines, a non-profit, a national membership organization of wildlife researchers, conservationists and managers working on Philippine biodiversity. Through BCSP, I have been responsible for networking and creating partnerships among our members and those working in the field. This, on top of my experience in conducting research and coordination, would be valuable in coordinating and ensuring that the completion of this project.

Please **also** attach a maximum 2-page CV or list non-academic research experience and experience with migratory waterbirds/conservation e.g. work experience, volunteer experience, bird banding, birdwatching.

Project Budget (please outline your entire project, not just the component for which funds are being sought)

Item (Please list)	\$ Budget (in USD)	Current support / Requested Support (source and amount)	Requested support from EAAF (source and amount)
Equipment: 2 GPS (\$140 x 2) 3 binoculars (\$200 x 3) 3 spotting scope (\$220 x 3)	\$1,540.00	In-kind: laptop, printer, GPS (1)	\$1,540.00
Consumable items: - Action planning workshop logistics (workshop materials, online application and technical support, facilitator and documentor fees): \$647 - Validation workshop (facilitator's fee, meals, technical support, venue, reproduction cost): \$3,541.67 - National action plan drafting, analysis, and production (technical writer, researcher, layout artist, report production): \$1,400 - Field Manual (editor, layout artist, book designer, illustrator, printing service): \$2589.17 - All About Seabirds booklet (field research and interviews, book writer, layout artist, illustrator, printing service): \$3,443.00	\$11,620.84	WWF-Hong Kong Grant (\$7,350.34) Biodiversity Management Bureau (\$3,125.00)	\$1,145.84
Travel and accommodation - Validation workshop and field training transportation, accommodations, and meals and incidental expenses (for ~15 pax)	\$2,604.17	Biodiversity Management Bureau: \$,1041.67	\$1,562.50
Communications internet, mobile service, printing, courier and delivery costs:	\$990	WWF Hong Kong: \$240	\$750
Other Accounting cost, office supplies, project management, logistics and sundries, Safety protective gears (mask) and disinfectant supplies (alcohol, disinfecting spray), contingency fund	\$4,000	In-kind: office space WWF Hong Kong: \$2,400	--
Total amount requested from Small Grants Fund: (All amounts in USD)			\$4,998.34

Budget justification: Please provide brief description and justification of all major budgetary items requested, indicating any that are essential to the project and/or conference for which you are applying (250 word maximum):

The funding request from EAAF aims to supplement the whole cost of developing a seabird action plan, field training, and crafting of a knowledge products on seabirds in the Philippines. Requested funding from EAAF will go towards the procurement of field equipment that will be used during the field training course. The equipment will be turned over to our local counterparts at the end of the training. EAAF funding will be used for the printing and development of knowledge materials and the conduct of a feedback and validation workshop among key stakeholders. Funding is also allotted for local travel, accommodations, and incidental expenses for the validation workshop and field training to be conducted in 2022.

The Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources committed cash and in-kind support to the action planning workshop and field training. We are also awaiting confirmation from the WWF Hong Kong Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund.

Declaration

I have discussed the contents of this Application with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of relevant Working Group and/or Task Forces and I certify that to the best of my knowledge all documentation and information submitted or made available by me is true, accurate and complete.

By ticking the following box you are agreeing to the above statement:

Application Checklist

All relevant sections of this Application have been completed.	Yes	No
Full payment details have been provided on the final page.	Yes	No
Application is being submitted electronically as one single document.	Yes	No
Application is being submitted in MS Word format.	Yes	No
Application has been discussed with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of relevant working Group and/or Task Forces and these have been carbon copied (cc) to this application submission as evidence they have seen and approved this Application.	Yes	No

Applications that do not comply with these guidelines will be returned to the applicant.

Application Submission

Please email your Application as a single document to:
secretariat@eaaflyway.net

EAAFP will acknowledge the receipt of your Application.

**Applications close at 5pm (Seoul Time) on 5 February 2021
Results will be announced on 3 March 2021 on EAAFP Webpage and via email**

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Decision: _____

Authorised: __/__/__ _____

Entered: __/__/__ _____

Comments: _____

Lead Investigator Advised: __/__/__ _____

PLEASE COMPLETE PAYMENT DETAILS ON FINAL PAGE

PAYMENT DETAILS

To ensure prompt payment of successful applications please complete the following details and submit with your Application.

PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD

Electronic funds transfer (EFT)

GRANT CONDITIONS

In accordance with the application criteria, the following conditions must be met:

- Funds are to be strictly exempt from organisational administration charges.
- You are required to submit one copy by email of the final report within 3 months of the completion of the project.
- You are required to acknowledge the EAAFP and the Small Grant Fund in any presentations, publications, reports or promotional material arising from this work. Please email secretariat@eaaflyway.net in order to obtain an electronic copy of EAAFP logo for use on any display material you will be preparing.
- You may be requested to write a brief article for the EAAFP newsletter.
- You are required to provide EAAFP with an electronic copy of your final report at the completion of your project, as well as a copy of any publications that result from your grant.