

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Sapai Min
Project Title	Local People-Based Approaches to Investigate and Address Wildlife Trade and Consumption in Tanintharyi Region, the Southern Part of Myanmar
Application ID	33064-D
Grant Amount	£10,000
Email Address	Jassie.jasmine@gmail.com
Date of this Report	02/03/2022

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
To develop a baseline study of wildlife trade and wildlife consumption using local people-based approaches in three districts: Dawei, Myeik and Kawthaung				As the first survey of wildlife consumption attitudes in Tanintharyi Region, southern part of Myanmar, the findings are very useful for future wildlife conservation activities and combating of illegal wildlife trade.
To evaluate the status of wildlife trade and wildlife consumption in Tanintharyi Region, southern part of Myanmar				We completed surveys on wildlife consumption attitudes in three districts in Tanintharyi Regions. A total of 332 local people from three districts were interviewed using a standard questionnaire set with 24 questions completed face-to-face with each respondent. Four types of recent consumer behavior were recorded: (1) using wild animals as food (five questions), (2) using medicine or tonic products containing wildlife ingredients (five questions), (3) wearing ornaments and garments made from wildlife (four questions), and (4) keeping wildlife as pets (four questions) including the respondent personal information charts were addressed in the multiple-choice questionnaire. Observer's attitudes to wild animals were also collected through open ended questions (six questions). Most questions are the multiple-choice question types, and some are open question types. Identified the status of wildlife consumption in each district.
To help inform government and non-government organization strategies for reforming the currently unregulated wildlife (bushmeat) markets and to improve controls of illegal				These findings will provide strategies and ideas for reforming the currently unregulated wildlife market and to improve controls of illegal wildlife trafficking. Moreover, these findings could be evaluated on the wildlife consumption in Tanintharyi Region

wildlife trafficking				and compared with the wildlife consumption of other regions and states of Myanmar. Moreover, the report in Burmese is in preparation, we have to plan an introductory meeting with the relevant government authority and plan to hold some workshops presenting the results.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

One challenge that we faced was a language barrier in the Tanintharyi Region survey, as people speak Kayin, Dawei and Myeik dialect rather than the national Burmese language. However, we addressed this issue with the help of our local teams forming with our students who live in the survey sites. A broader challenge was that frequently people in all districts are hesitant to reply to questions related to wildlife consumption – it is considered a taboo topic, because of fear of legal repercussions. We addressed this issue by using local team members from each district who took keen interest in collecting the information and were familiar with local customs and realities, and who successfully put the survey participants at ease. Besides, we hired the local informants from each district to make it easier to get the information when it was necessary. Finally, there was a slight delay in conducting the interview surveys because of COVID-19 pandemic as well as the political instability in the country.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

According to the project results, following are three most important outcomes,

- Current status of wildlife consumption in Tanintharyi Regions are clearly identified as well as the attitude of local people dependent on wildlife are evaluated.
- Classified which wildlife species were included in wildlife consumption such as food, medicine, ornaments and pets.
- Our survey found that, 94 % (n= 312 respondents of total 332) of people consumed wildlife meat as their subsistence used and this was universal across the three districts. We also found out that the driver for this consumption is the tradition that people see in eating wild meat, and it was not an issue of cost, since wild meat was more expensive. The main reason why people buy wild animals was reported by food (82%, n=271), followed by pets (10% n=34), medicine (9% n=30) and ornaments (2% n=6).

4. What do you consider to be the most significant achievement of this work?

5. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

At this stage, local communities were involved only as the survey respondents. However, the findings of the project will permit the development of wildlife conservation activities and public awareness programs that are fine tuned to local attitudes in these three districts.

6. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, based on the outcome of the projects, we plan to conduct the public awareness programmes such as training, education talks and campaigns not only in Tanintharyi Region but also other regions where we already conducted the wildlife trade and wildlife consumption surveys in Myanmar. Moreover, based on the findings of those projects, planning to continue the livelihood and sustainable programme for the local people who depend on wildlife as their subsistence used only. We intend to apply for a Completion Grant.

7. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

We plan to publish the findings in a peer reviewed journal which will help to reach a broader audience. Besides, we plan to share our findings with government agencies and non-governmental organisations working on combating the illegal wildlife trade. Moreover, these findings will help to integrate in wildlife conservation strategies. We also have to plan an introductory meeting with the relevant government authority and plan to hold some workshops presenting the results.

8. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

Although the project period was from December 2020 to December 2021, the project was implemented from February 2021 to January 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the political instability in the country. However, the grant was used for only 12 months as per the initial timeline.

9. Budget: Provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Travel costs of Dawei, Myeik and Kawthanug	4751	4051	- 700	It was used for 12 months

Accommodation costs (Dawei, Myeik and Kawthaung)	2734	2534	- 200	
Food (Dawei, Myeik and Kawthaung)	1985	1985		
Field materials	30	30		
Local team costs (Dawei, Myeik, Kawthaung)		500	+500	
Local informants' cost		400	+400	
Management fees (5%)	500	500		
Totals	10000	10000		Exchange rate as at the time of the project: 1£ - 1665.77 MMK

10. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

We will prepare a proposal for a Completion Grant to promote wildlife conservation public awareness programs with local communities and partners and to implement the livelihood and sustainable programmes for local communities who mainly depend on wildlife as their subsistence used in Myanmar. In addition to wildlife conservation education, we assumed that it is more important to get alternative employment opportunities for them.

11. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

I will use the Rufford Foundation logo in all my presentations related to this project such as national and international events in the future. Moreover, I will acknowledge the grant and the Rufford Foundation in the manuscript at a peer-reviewed journal (currently under preparation for peer review).

12. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Dr. Su Su Naing: Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Dawei University / Field Assistant

Dr. Kyi Thar Khaing: Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Kalay University / Field Assistant

U Htay Hla Aung: Local Team Leader (Dawei District)

U Aung Thu Kyaw: Local Team Assistant (Dawei District)

U Bo Bo Kyaw: Lecturer, Department of Zoology, Myeik University / Local Team Leader (Myeik District)

Daw Nway Thingan Oo: M. Res Student, Department of Zoology, Myeik University/ Local Team Assistant (Myeik District)

Daw Khin Su Su Lwin: M. Res Student, Department of Zoology, Myeik University/ Local Team Assistant (Myeik District)

Daw Kyu Kyu San: Final year student, Department of Zoology, Myeik University/ Local Team Leader (Kawthaung District)

U Zaw Phone Myint: Local Team Assistant (Kawthaung District)

13. Any other comments?

I am deeply grateful to The Rufford Foundation for the financial support which made this project possible. Illegal wildlife trade has been and remains a serious concern in the country, and with projects like this we are starting to obtain the necessary information required for designing targeted conservation strategies (e.g., awareness raising campaigns, sustainable programmes and so on).