



Figure 1. Myeik University Masters' student, Ms Phyu Phyu Thin, with fellow postgraduate students, presenting the results of their training programme to an audience of Myanmar and European university staff and Myanmar students at an MuEuCAP workshop hosted by Myeik University (4-10 September, 2019).



Seventh Quarterly Newsletter (WP7.3): (1 August – 31 October 2019)
comprising 7th Quarterly Progress Report (WP6.3)
Finalised January, 2020: BOKU

Summary of Activities of the MuEuCAP Project (1 August – 31 October 2019): As always, this was a busy three months for the MuEuCAP project. Highlights of the 7th Quarter included:

- one workshop, which was hosted by Myeik University (4-10 September, inclusive).
- the submission of the final version of a revised and enhanced Curriculum in Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Protection to the Myanmar Board of Studies for Higher Education
- the selection of 18 postgraduate students from the three Myanmar universities to take part in internships at various Myanmar-based conservation NGOs and CSOs
- the opportunity for 8 Myanmar university staff to take part in a second study visit to the European Union partner universities in Austria and Spain in February, 2020 was posted on the MuEuCAP website and Facebook page.

Workshop hosted in Myeik University (4-10 September): The aim of the workshop was course development (WP2.3) and training Myanmar staff and students in hard skills and transferable skills, especially those relating to BioCEP-623 – 'Project management & implementation' within the new/enhanced BioCEP curriculum (Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation) (WP2.8.1).

The workshop revisited the BioCEP-623 course, looking in detail at the project cycle (as discussed in Mandalay October 2018 and reported in WP1.5). It reinforced learning in Tasks (1)-(6) (see below), which had been previously covered from January-June 2019 in sub-workshops, namely:

1. Research question and literature research (Jan/Feb 2019)
2. Testable hypothesis/measurable indicators (Jan/Feb 2019)
3. Planning of analysis & statistics (Jan/Feb 2019)
4. Design of (empirical) study (Jan/Feb 2019)
5. Preproposal (homework) and presentation (during field session)
6. Data collection/Sampling/fieldwork (Mar/Jul2019).

Meanwhile, it focused in detail on Task 7:

7. Data and statistical analysis (WP2.8.1)



Figure 2. Various scenes from the training workshop in Myeik University (September, 2019). Top left: Prof. Dr Christoph Kleinn (UGOE) making a presentation; Top right: Dr Jamie Muriel and Dr Martina Ferraguti assisting Myeik University staff with their tasks; Bottom left: Ms Thin Lae Lae Wai writing up her findings on the white board; Bottom right: Dr Lutz Fehrmann (UGOE) working with staff and students.

Additional tasks accomplished included:

- Outreach (press release(s) and TV, social media ongoing) (WP7.4 & 7.5)
- Gathering footage of at least one (promotional) video (WP7.2)
- Listing and assess equipment for training sessions and new classes (WP2.7)
- An expert visit by MBNS expert (WP5.1/WP5.2).

Outcomes: During the workshop the Myanmar staff and students:

- analysed species count data
- analysed vegetation/forest cover/environmental variable data
- analysed bird parasite data



Figure 3. Further scenes from the training workshop in Myeik University (September, 2019). Top left: Project coordinator, Dr Swen Renner (BOKU) making a presentation; Top right: Dr Marcela Suarez-Rubio (BOKU) helping Myeik students and staff with their tasks; Bottom left: a presentation summarising some of the analysis; Bottom right: Two of the participants – Dr Soe Naing (left) of Myeik University and Prof. Dr Thant Zin, Head of Zoology, University of Mandalay.

- analysed a compilation of all three data sets listed above
- analysed remote sensing data and/or additional data acquisition

They also looked at further aspects of:

- developing a research question/thesis topic in environmental science
- searching for adequate literature and avoiding plagiarism (including ethics)
- developing a testable hypothesis from the research question
- developing measurable indicators

- planning statistical/remote sensing/analysis for the thesis/project.

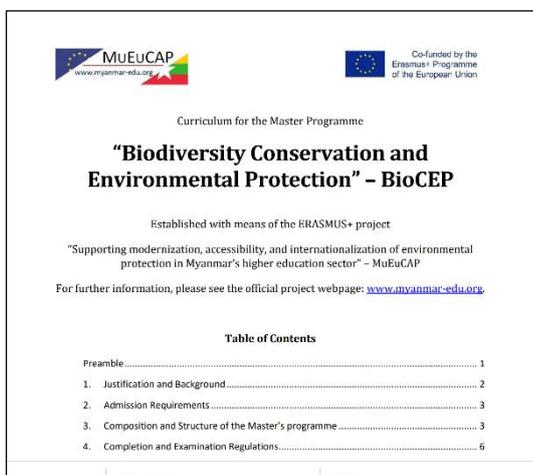


Figure 4. The enhanced/new curriculum in BioCEP.

BioCEP curriculum – Following a meeting, which included Prof Dr Than Zin (University of Mandalay), Pro-rector Prof. Dr Mie Mie Sein (Mawlamyine University), the Project Coordinator and Project Manager, a revised final version of an enhanced/new Curriculum in Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Protection (BioCEP) was prepared for resubmission to the Board of Studies (BoS). It was also published as Item 19 on the Downloads page of the MuEuCAP website <https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>.



Figure 5. Call for students to take part in internships at one of four Myanmar-based NGOs were posted on the MuEuCAP website, on the MuEuCAP Facebook page, and disseminated through word of mouth by the university staff. The first internship (at FFI) began on 28 October and will be reported in detail in the 4th Quarterly report/newsletter.

Internships – First round: As part of the MuEuCAP training programme, 16 internship positions at four Myanmar-based NGOs were advertised on the MuEuCAP Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Mueucap/> and as Item 17 on the Downloads page of the MuEuCAP website <https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>. All postgraduate students, undertaking a Master's course or PhD, in the Departments of Botany, Geography, Geology, Marine Science or Zoology of the Universities of Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Myeik were eligible to apply. They had to demonstrate an interest in one or more of the following topics: environmental science, biodiversity research and conservation, forestry, environmental law, outreach, communicating science to the public, or other related subjects AND be committed to learn new techniques, skills, and approaches.

During Q3 of Year 2, forty students applied, of which 3 came from ineligible universities. Of the other 37, 18 were selected:

- 7 were selected from the University of Mandalay - Zoology Department – 12 applied (7 selected)
- 1 was selected from the Mawlamyine University – Zoology Department – 5 (1)
- 10 were selected from the Myeik University – Geography Department - 2 (1), Geology Department – 4 (2), Marine Science 8 (5), Zoology Department 6 (2).

The selection process was based on the students CV, their letter of motivation and an interview.

The eighteen selected for internships with FFI (Fauna and Flora, International), MBNS (Myanmar Bird and Nature Society), FoW (Friends of Wildlife) and Destination Ayeyarwady were as follows:

- FFI – Myeik Uni (Ms Ne Nan Nandar Nwe, Ms Saw Yu Nandi, Ms Mi Nwe Ni Aung, and Ms Thin Lae Lae Wai) and University of Mandalay (Ms Hnin Phyu Wai and Ms Yupa Tin Soe)
- MBNS – Myeik University (Ms Zin Mar Win and Ms Shweyi Win Htun) and University of Mandalay (Ms Me Thu Maung and Ms Yu Kay Zin Htun)
- FoW – Myeik University (Mr Min Kant Kyaw); University of Mandalay (Ms Khaing Yweh Zaw) and Mawlamyine University (Ms Eindar Cho*)
- Destination Ayeyarwady – Myeik University (Ms Pann Mo Mo, Ms Phyu Phyu Thin, and Ms May Zune Theing) and University of Mandalay (Ms Khin Moh Moh Htun and Ms May Myat Noe). *Unfortunately, Ms Eindar Cho sustained an injury and had to withdraw from her internship at the Friends of Wildlife before it commenced.

Further instructions were issued to the students prior to their internships as Item 20 on the Downloads page of the MuEuCAP website <https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>. The first internship at FFI started on 28 October but will be reported in the next quarterly report/newsletter.



Second call for Myanmar university staff to attend extra training in the European Union

In January 2020, there is the chance for eight Myanmar staff (from the universities of Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Myeik) to undertake a study/training visit to one of three European universities:

- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Austria
- Göttingen University (UGOE), Germany
- University of Extremadura (UEX), Spain.

The study/training visit will

- last 14 days
- will be focused on two 'core subjects' which are part of the new curriculum in *Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Protection* (see Section 3, 'Core Courses' in Item 19 of MuEuCAP website at <https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>). These two subjects are:
 - scientific writing (to be taught at BOKU, Austria)
 - ecology, biodiversity and conservation biology (to be taught in UEX, Spain).

If you want to apply, please read all the text below. It is IMPORTANT.

To apply for one of these eight study visits, you MUST:

1. be a member of the teaching staff who is based in one of the following universities – Mandalay, Myeik or Mawlamyine in a subject related to Environmental Protection (namely Botany, Chemistry, Geography, Geology, Marine Science, Physics or Zoology)
2. have submitted a CV and Letter of Motivation to Dr Marcela Suarez-Rubio (marcela.suarezrubio@boku.ac) by 1 November 2019
3. have a commitment to learn and teach one of the following core subjects:
 - a. scientific writing
 - b. ecology, biodiversity and conservation biology
4. have been a regular attendee of training MuEuCAP workshops since March 2018 – based on Attendance record.

Figure 6. A call for Myanmar staff to visit Europe for extra training in two of the core curricula courses 'scientific writing' and 'ecology, biodiversity and conservation biology' was made through the MuEuCAP website and Facebook as well as directly to the staff via word of mouth.

Second study visit of Myanmar staff to European Universities: As part of the MuEuCAP project, a further eight staff from the Universities of Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Myeik were offered the opportunity take part in the second study visit to the European Union partner universities in Austria (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, BOKU), and Spain (University of Extremadura, UEX), in February, 2020. This opportunity was widely circulated, including on the MuEuCAP Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Mueucap/>. Information was also provided as Item 21 on the Downloads page of the MuEuCAP website <https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>. The study/training visit is to last 14 days and will focus on two 'core subjects' which are part of the new curriculum in Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Protection (see Section 3, 'Core Courses' in Item 19 of MuEuCAP website at

<https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>). These two subjects are:

- scientific writing (to be taught at BOKU, Austria)
- ecology, biodiversity and conservation biology (to be taught in UEX, Spain).

The candidates are to be selected based on their submission of CVs, Motivation letters and interviews.

Summary of Progress

- **Indicators predicted:**
- Course development workshops (WP2.3)
- Approval and accreditation process initiation (Board of Studies) (WP2.5)
- Training to improve academic and technical skills and competences (WP2.8.1)
- Training in quality assurance (WP2.8.1)
- MUP staff exchange visits to EUPs for specialised training (WP2.10)
- Practical testing of individual courses (of the curriculum) with students (WP3.1)
- Evaluation of uptake of skills and competences by students and staff (WP3.2)
- Expert from NGO/CSO visiting MUPs to give a lecture (at each MUP, parallel) (WP5.1)
- Alumni talks and guest lectures (at each MUP, parallel) (WP5.2)
- Internships of students at NGO/CSO (WP5.3)
- Quarterly progress reports written and circulated to Steering Committee (WP6.3)
- Website updated (WP7.1.1)
- Social media channels updated (WP7.1.2)
- Quarterly project newsletter written (WP7.3)
- Communication with public/media (WP7.4)

- Training staff in outreach (WP7.5)
- Coordination meeting (Steering Committee) (WP8.1)

- **Indicators reached:**
- A course development workshop (WP2.3) together with training to improve academic and technical skills and competences (WP2.8.1) took place in one training workshop in Myeik University (September). This continued the practical testing of individual courses (of the curriculum) with staff and students (WP3.1)
- Following discussions with senior Myanmar staff, and taking into account the Board of studies initial comments on the first submission, a revised BioCEP (Biodiversity conservation and Environmental protection) curriculum was prepared for subsequent submission (WP2.5)
- Training in quality assurance (WP2.8.1) continued as part of ongoing workshops
- Eight MUP staff were prepared 'homework' for their upcoming exchange visits to BOKU, Austria and UGOE, Germany for specialised training in November (WP2.10)
- Before and after questionnaires were circulated to all participants at training workshops to evaluate, in general terms, learning outcomes. To date, there has not been a detailed evaluation of uptake of skills and competences by students and staff (WP3.2)
- Experts from NGO/CSO have been identified to give lectures (at each MUP, parallel) (WP5.1); however, since no funding is available for such talks, these have been postponed
- Alumni training from Dr Thein Aung (MBNS) has taken place at the Myeik University workshop (WP5.2)
- Students were selected for the first internship programme, which will be based at four Myanmar-based NGOs/CSOs. The first internship (at FFI) started on 28 October (WP5.3)
- 6th Quarterly progress report (WP6.3) was written, circulated to the Steering Committee and posted as Item 18 on the MuEuCAP website at <https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>
- Website (WP7.1.1) is regularly updated at www.myanmar-edu.org with valuable 'downloads' added regularly to the 'downloads' page at <https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>.
- Social media channels (WP7.1.2), mostly Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Mueucap/> is regularly updated
- Logo (WP7.1.3) is available on all outputs – see www.myanmar-edu.org
- Further video was filmed for inclusion in future Youtube presentations about the MuEuCAP project
- 6th Quarterly project newsletter (WP7.3) was written and posted on MuEuCAP website at <https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>. It is based on the 6th Quarterly Report (WP6.3)
- Communication with public/media is on-going (WP7.4) – examples illustrated on www.myanmar-edu.org/publicity
- On-going training of staff in outreach took place at the Myeik University workshop in September (WP7.5)
- The Steering Committee will meet in November, 2019 in Vienna (WP8.1).