



Small Grants Programme
by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
German Financial Cooperation
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Small Grants Programme by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity at Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary (Myanmar)

Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

An ASEAN Heritage Park (AHP), an East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership and Ramsar site, and a Biosphere Reserve, the 77,525-hectare Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary (ILWS) was established to protect local waterfowl and their habitats. The 12,000-hectare Indawgyi Lake is the largest inland lake in Southeast Asia and the third largest in the world. It is a sanctuary for a diverse range of plant and animal species, including the critically endangered Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*) and the endangered teak (*Tectona grandis*).

The wetland plays a crucial role in providing livelihood and other ecological services to local communities, as well as a critical mechanism for disaster risk reduction.

Unfortunately, ILWS is confronted with a slew of threats such as local mining, overfishing, water pollution, and boundary conflicts, among other issues.

The ILWS' significant biological resources and the challenges it faces make it a suitable pilot site for SGP I. The park received a total of **EUR 667,265.28** in grants.

Meaningful partnerships fostered

The following agencies and organisations worked together to achieve wins through the SGP:

- Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (NWCD-MONREC) (*the implementing agency*)
- ILWS park management
- Fauna & Flora International (FFI) (the service provider that managed the implementation of the SGP in ILWS)
- Community-based organisations and civil society organisations (CSOs) (*grantees*)
- ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
- GITEC Consulting Group

Launched in 2014, the **Small Grants Programme** by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (SGP) is an initiative aimed at sustaining biodiversity in the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHPs) in line with the interests of local communities who directly depend on the selected parks, providing alternative livelihood opportunities to the locals, and strengthening the role of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in promoting biodiversity conservation in the ASEAN region.

SGP I was implemented in four AHPs in Myanmar and two AHPs in Indonesia.

Small grants, big impact

The numerous small grants under SGP I touched the lives of local communities within ILWS and nearby locations and created a wave of impact.



"The main success of the project is that it received collaboration from the local community while gathering information on biodiversity and livelihood development. The community was also consulted for the management plan activities. During the project period, new committees in the state, district, and township levels were formed in the Indawgyi protected area to support relevant government departments and CSOs. The park warden of the Indawgyi AHP was a secretary of the township committee. The new committee provided support to complete the zonation process."

Ngwe Lwin
Country Director, FFI

Sustaining biodiversity, changing lives with small grants

SGP I supports a range of conservation and livelihood activities that fall under several thematic areas.



General Park Management

SGP I increased local communities' sense of ownership of park management as they participated in the co-management of ILWS.

- Supported the development and updating of a Collaborative Management Plan (CMP) by awarding a **EUR 100,000** grant. The CMP was approved and adopted by MONREC in 2018 and served as the basis for succeeding interventions in ILWS
- Supported the plan to establish and operate an Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary Collaborative Management Committee
- Backed plans to establish a law enforcement and patrolling strategy, using the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) method
- Supported the implementation of the Law Enforcement Programme for Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary amounting to **EUR 94,997**
- Backed the creation of a village-based informant network composed of **22** locals to support law enforcement and the formation of a patrol team composed of ILWS staff and community rangers that resulted in significant decline in illegal logging and halted the operations of **two** sand mines and **three** artisanal gold mines
- Protected **81,500** hectares of the sanctuary under the law enforcement programme



Habitat and Species Management

SGP I helped improve environmental conditions in the park by funding rehabilitation efforts.

- Supported community forestry development initiatives amounting to **EUR 88,670** by establishing a community forestry and agroforestry plantation with **13** community forest user groups (CFUGs) and restoring 160 acres of degraded forests, as well as boosting the knowledge and capacities of CFUGs
- Supported the distribution of firewood-saving stoves to **120** households, reducing firewood consumption by **50%**



Livelihood Enhancement

SGP I helped reduce the pressures on the wildlife sanctuary by offering livelihood-related capacity development activities and introducing alternative sources of income that directly benefited 1,560 people.

- Supported sustainable community fisheries management efforts amounting to **EUR 90,618.70**, including the establishment of **10** fish conservation zones and training of local communities on how to produce and sell shrimp paste and fermented fish
- Supported sustainable agriculture and value chain development initiatives worth **EUR 88,674** including pig raising, and organic rice, green tea and turmeric powder production
- Supported community-based sustainable tourism and education worth **EUR 90,665.58** by strengthening village ecotourism committees and building capacities on destination management organisational partnerships, including **five** training activities for the Indawgyi Ecotourism Development Committee (IEDC)
- Supported the production of more than **20** biodiversity-based products such as shrimp paste, green tea, and bamboo crafts



Community Outreach and Conservation Awareness

SGP I enhanced community awareness among local communities about their crucial role in biodiversity conservation.

- Supported the Indawgyi Conservation Awareness Program for Conservation and Sustainable Development initiative with a **EUR 25,000** grant
- The local communities' knowledge of protected area laws and regulation, as well as threatened species, rose significantly and translated to increased collaboration in protected area management
- With support from the SGP, a series of school and village talks were conducted to boost awareness of biodiversity conservation and waste management



Scan this QR code to know more about the various grants and interventions implemented in ILWS.



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