



Results of Yangon Writing Workshop

Jack Laurenson



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE





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This report has been made possible by funding from the European Union and Pyoe Pin.

Published by: IUCN South East Asia in Bangkok, Thailand.

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Citation: L . Jack (2016). *Results of Yangon Writing Workshop*. Thailand: IUCN. 27pp.

Cover photo: Trainees take part in the writing training workshop at MERN's office in Yangon © ATZ

Layout by: Nguyen Thuy Anh

Available from:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

IUCN would like to thank MERN's Aung Thant Zin for arranging the participation of MERN members, the results of which form the basis of this report and to MERN's Chairman Dr Kyaw Tint for his guidance and support through the report preparation.

IUCN would like to acknowledge the financial support provided by the EU that made this training and the articles presented within this report possible. Special thanks should also be extended to Jake Brunner – Deputy Head IUCN Southeast Asia who has relentlessly pushed for improved communications In Southeast Asia for IUCN, as well as their members and partners.

The author also extends his personal thanks to all of the MERN participants, who engaged with this journalistic writing workshop with inspiring enthusiasm and a hunger for improvement. Their important work and their voices, presented in this report, will continue to form a vital part of Myanmar's journey.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

MERN	Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation- Conservation Network
FOW	Friends of Wildlife
NAG	Network Activities Group
MSDN	Mon-region Social Development Network
DEAR	Dear Myanmar
BANCA	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association
FREDA	Forest Resource Environment Development And Conservation Association
MSN	Mangrove Service Network
ECLOF	Environmental Conservation and Livelihood Outreach Foundation

RATIONALE

IUCN and their Yangon-based partner, the Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-conservation Network (MERN), this week present the results of February's writing and communications workshop.

The training took place under the results of a small grant project financed by the EU through its Non-State Actors project Building Capacity and Strengthening Voice of Local NGOs for Improved Environmental Governance in Myanmar (DCI-NSAPVD/2013/316-838), which is implemented by IUCN and MERN.

The training aimed to tackle challenges that MERN members were experiencing with communications and outreach approaches, especially when it came to writing journalistic web articles in English.

A selection of seven diverse, captivating reports has now been produced, representing a strong outcome from the initial collaboration between IUCN and MERN, whilst boding well for the upcoming continuation of the workshops in other countries in the Mekong region.

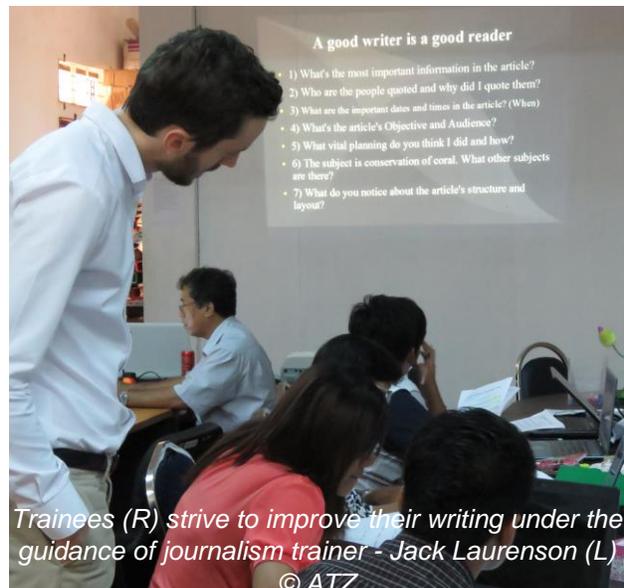
The articles went through multiple draft stages, before undergoing a final edit and completion.

KEEN STUDENTS

The 2-day training - which was extended to 5-days to allow for extra one-to-one input from the visiting instructor – was attended by fourteen participants from eight MERN members from around Myanmar.

Made possible by funding from the EU, as part of an IUCN and MERN project to build capacity and strengthen the voice of MERN's 21 member NGOs, the training aimed to improve their ability to write engaging web articles that effectually summarized their ongoing work, especially experiences and observations from the field.

Turning out to be a learning experience for IUCN too, the trainer discovered that a lot of time was spent discouraging the use of jargon and overly technical, academic or scientific language. Significant efforts were made to make reports less intellectual and more reader-friendly.



The enthusiastic participants were mentored and supported as they tackled complex issues such as drought, mangrove conservation, river pollution and sustainable farming, as well as protected area management and deforestation.

By the workshop's end, participants could better report on the initiatives they were involved with and demonstrated significant progress with their understanding of journalistic writing and how it can be applied to their own communications strategies.

CHALLENGING ISSUES & IMPORTANT STORIES

The attendees, who are all working in important advocacy, research and outreach projects around Myanmar, did not shy away from engaging with difficult subject matter.

Despite English not being their first language and Burmese being of most use on a day-to-day basis, the writers dived straight into the process of writing articles about complex but compelling issues.

Friends of Wildlife (FOW) produced an important article titled [Saving Burma's Deep Forest](#). The author, Khant Nyar Aung, explored the conservation challenges faced by one of his country's most biodiverse forests. Covering over 1,181 square kilometers, Mahamyaing is home to many endangered species, including the elusive clouded leopard.

Another FOW participant, Thawdar Nyein, wrote about how her organization is engaging communities in the [Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary](#). Conservationists there are striving to help villages balance their need for wood, food and other forest resources with Myanmar's conservation goals. Through education and engagement, locals are starting to realize it's logical to conserve the sanctuary for later generations.

Yuzana Wai and Khin Yae Kyi Tar from MERN worked together on a compelling piece about [the white-browed nuthatch](#); endemic to Myanmar but now only surviving in a handful of locations. It's classed as Endangered by IUCN.

MSDN writers are pleased to present to a larger audience a report that highlights a concerning example of [what can happen to communities when they lose their mangrove forests](#). In many Myanmar coastal villages, it has had shocking results on both nature and communities.

Thiri Sandar Zaw, writing for BANCA, documented the surveying efforts being undertaken by researchers as they better determine [the conservation status of the Baer's Pochard](#); a migratory duck that's listed as Critically Endangered by IUCN.

Seine Lai of DEAR decided to write about an interesting success story, bringing attention to how [small-scale sustainable crab farming](#) is having beneficial effects on fishing communities that his organization works with.

And finally, Kyaw Thet Naing, a field research officer from FREDA, presents a troubling summary of important findings in his article, [Assessing a Threat: Mercury in the Irrawaddy River.](#)

MOVING FORWARD

Building on the experience in Yangon, IUCN moved ahead with a similar event in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in March and will return to Myanmar in April for follow-up input with participants.

Whilst participants made real, tangible progress with their understanding of journalistic writing approaches and their ability to apply them to their own work, IUCN views this as the start of an ongoing process of improvement that will require further commitment.

STORIES IN DETAILS:

1.1. Saving Burma's Deep Forest

Trainee: Khant Nyar Aung - Friends of Wildlife



Forests such as Mahamyaing in central Myanmar are a priority for conservation in the country but deforestation has already ravaged much of the biodiversity here.. (Photo: CC License)

Myanmar is one of the most beautiful and biodiverse countries in Southeast Asia.

We are surrounded by lush green forest, deep blue ocean and rugged mountains that are home to many varieties of animal species, which are mostly able to live peacefully together with humans.

But Myanmar also faces striking conservation challenges and preserving our nature - especially forests and the species that depend on them – has never been more difficult.

Myanmar lost 7.445 million hectares (28,750 sq. miles) of forest between 1990 and 2010, according to research by the United Nations, and many areas are still threatened by deforestation, despite increased efforts to protect them.

In the heart of our land is a particular deep forest called Mahamyaing, meaning Shangri La. Situated in Sagaing Region, the forest covers 1,181 sq. km.

Mahamyaing is home for many endangered mammals including 50-70 Asian elephants, clouded leopards and golden cats. Dhole (also known as Asiatic wild dog or red wolf) a highly social animal, live in large packs deep in this expansive forest.

There are many banteng too, also known as wild cattle, and guar - the tallest species of wild cattle in Southeast Asia. They are working-animals which have been domesticated in several places in Southeast Asia, but in Mahamyaing they remain wild and free.

Serow, curious goat-like mammals that are used for the sign of Capricorn in zodiac astrology, are also native to this wonderful forest.

But at the boundary of the forest, where many villages are located, threats to the future of Mahamyaing are looming.

Over recent years, many local people have extracted timber, bamboo and hunted inside the forest. But nowadays, the forest has also become a golden-chest for various logging businesses that are moving in.

Local people have also become involved in the illegal wildlife trade and extraction of timber and bamboo. Their daily income is high by doing such illegal activities and, lacking good alternatives, many are happy to work for these shady businessmen.

Moreover, even women and young adults have started to work for them. Loading wood or bamboo to trucks in exchange for a small payment.

Sadly, many appear to not realize the value of their forest. Few in these villages advocate strongly for forest conservation.

New generations must be engaged with and educated about the importance of conservation, in order to help communities better understand and value sustainability, conservation and biodiversity.

That's why the Forest Department and the Nature Wildlife Conservation Division are trying to protect the forest by setting up systematic approaches to conservation and effective protected area management. But it's impossible without local people's participation.

In order to achieve more local people's involvement, Friends of Wildlife (FOW) continues to carry out activities that relate to community relations, education and engagement. Meetings with village authorities and community leaders for example, are arranged regularly to enable discussion of pressing issues and to find solutions.

Local people here are starting to adapt their lifestyles to better accommodate the deep forest that surrounds them and sustains them. Working with experts and the authorities, these communities will improve the ways they can protect their forest for their future generation.

1.2. Community Challenges in Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary

Trainee: Thawdar Nyein - Friends of Wildlife



The endangered Eld's deer is one of Chatthin's most vulnerable species. Friends of Wildlife are working with local communities to promote the importance of local conservation. (Photo: Wikimedia)

Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary in Kanbau Township, Sagaing Division, is one of Myanmar's most important reserves for threatened wildlife, including one of the largest populations of Eld's deer left in the world.

The park was established in 1941 and covers an area of 268 sq. km that's covered in dense vegetation, such as low, high and flooded *indaing* forests, as well as mixed deciduous forests and grass savanna matrix forests.

There are 25 villages surrounding the border of Chatthin and three villages located inside the Sanctuary's borders, meaning that Chatthin is the primary source of forest products for many local communities who are detached from other markets and resources.



Many local residents rely on the protected area for food, timber, shelter and also for their livelihoods.

In the last decade, the dam named Thaphanseik was built nearby, where villages had been settled, resulting in many having to move and resettle near or inside the Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Many of the villagers lost their farm land, job opportunities and sources of income, meaning that they now need to rely more on the abundant resources provided by the sanctuary to make a living and support their families.

Another reason that the villagers are increasingly relying on Chatthin is that there was a destructive drought in the area a few years ago, which continues to affect the region.

Villagers say that they can't farm effectively and efficiently and that the yield of their harvests is often poor, in terms of both quality and quantity.

As a result, many have begun undertaking illegal activities, such as poaching of protected Eld's deer and other protected wildlife, as well as the extraction of timber, orchids, charcoal and other forest products.

The Eld's deer—one of few deer species indigenous to Southeast Asia—has seen its population decline substantially in recent years, resulting in its assessment as Endangered by IUCN.

Populations of Eld's deer and other wildlife, as well as other important natural resources that form a vital part of Chatthin's threatened ecosystems, are decreasing year by year, according to research.

But many villagers appear to not know the value of their forests, natural resources and the consequences of forest degradation, which highlights a growing need for better education and increased community engagement.

Friends of Wildlife (FOW) works with local communities to understand the challenges they face, while improving conservation capacity and bettering environmental education.

Nature classes in local schools are a vital part of this outreach.

In addition, FOW has established community forestry and support the villagers with livestock challenges, such as helping them to acquire farmable animals like pigs and chickens.

Another priority is setting up home gardens to reduce dependence on forest fauna, and providing stoves that reduce reliance on fuelwood extracted from the wildlife sanctuary.

Although some local people understand and know the vital role that forests play, they are hesitant to change their way of life because of possible financial implications and the needs of their families.

But communities here are, over time and with the help of partners such as FOW, embracing change and learning to protect their environment.

But if people continue to misuse and abuse Myanmar's forests in an unregulated and unsustainable way, they will disappear in the future. With them, the Eld's deer and many other endangered species that depend on them will be gone forever too.

1.3. Lending a Hand to the White-browed Nuthatch

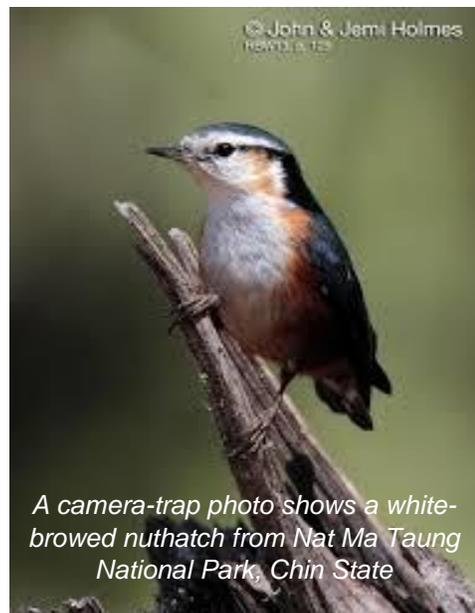
Trainee: Yuzana Wai and Khin Yae Kyi Tar, Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-conservation Network, MERN

The White-browed nuthatch, one of the many endemic bird species of Myanmar, is on the verge of extinction.

Now found only in the Northern Chin Hills, a mountainous region of Chin State near the Indian border, the little bird is engaged in an ongoing battle for its very existence.

The bird's population has been decimated by deforestation and habitat degradation and remaining numbers of this beautiful bird are also rapidly declining in its final stronghold of Chin State.

Assessed as Endangered by IUCN in 2000, the White-browed nuthatch population in Myanmar is estimated to consist of fewer than 10,000 mature individuals, according to surveyors.



A camera-trap photo shows a white-browed nuthatch from Nat Ma Taung National Park, Chin State

Now, the main driver of potential extinction is shifting cultivation and agricultural systems where plots of land are cultivated temporarily, then abandoned and allowed to revert to their natural state while the cultivator moves to another location.

This transient system of farming is effective when eco-systems are treated responsibly and given enough time to recover. Often however, such activities can greatly disturb the bird's natural habits, degrade its habitat whilst interrupting breeding and other natural activities.

The Chin Hills provide several ecological diversities due to their tropical climate, meaning many endangered species such as the nuthatch can be found there in locations such as Nat Ma Taung National Park.

But shifts in land use from utilizing forested land to cleared agricultural land have caused serious degradation and loss of habitat to species that depend on the forests.

"We found that forests up to 2000 m of Chin Hills are almost totally destroyed by shifting cultivation" said Mr. Yan Aung, the Field Officer of Myanmar Biodiversity Conservation Network, a researcher looking into endangered species in Chin Hills.

"More than two third of local residents depend on the agriculture for their livelihood and basic needs," he added.

Gradual decreases in forested area have affected the availability of food, nesting areas and rate of infant mortality of the white-browed nuthatch, resulting in a significant impact on overall population numbers.

"We have become familiar with this bird over the past 20 years, they're noticeable because of their colorful appearance, but they are rarely found these days," said a 40 year-old local villager.

Although Chin State is home to important areas of conservation such as Nat Ma Taung, there is little in the way of effective protection strategies for conserving endangered species. According to experts, it is now vital to conduct detailed population surveys and research in the southern Chin Hills to determine the exact range, status and requirements for conservation of many endangered birds.

Promoting better conservation awareness and knowledge of the law in Chin Hills communities is also required to reduce habitat loss, according to many researchers.

"If the government implements enforcement of regulations on logging, shifting cultivation and hunting within Nat Ma Taung National Park, we can definitely conserve this beautiful endemic species and begin to control the decreasing population" said Dr. Phyoe, a researcher working for the park.

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1.4. What Happens When You Lose Your Mangroves

Trainee: Ain Din - MSDN



Many countries in Southeast Asia have learned the hard way that the loss of their mangrove forests can have damaging and surprising repercussions, for both wildlife and communities.

Countries such as Thailand, Cambodia and Malaysia face their own daunting mangrove challenges; in Myanmar, the vast majority of coastal mangroves have been cleared or severely depleted.

According to WWF, Myanmar's coastal mangroves are some of the most degraded or destroyed mangrove systems in the Indo-Pacific region, facing threats from human activity such as forestry, agriculture and development as well as natural occurrences such as increasing sedimentation of the Irrawaddy River.

In Ain Din, a coastal village in Ye Township, Mon State, a 500-acre mangrove forest used to protect Ain Din, as well as Hnikroke and Yaepawthaung, two nearby villages with a combined total population of about 7,000.

But as has happened in so many parts of Myanmar, the mangroves were encroached upon and cut down.

The loss of these mangroves had immediate impacts for both wildlife and nearby communities. Without the protective mangrove forest, a mile-long stretch of the coastal embankment has collapsed, resulting in over 200 acres of paddy being contaminated by sea water. The land now lies infertile and empty.

Incomes have declined, jobs have disappeared, and families are struggling to educate their children. Many people have moved away from this area altogether, in search of new employment and better opportunities.

Habitats too are struggling as a result of the lost mangroves. There are fewer shrimp and crabs now. They previously depended on mangroves as a nursery habitat. As a result, there are also fewer birds too.

Having seen the effects caused by their loss, many local people now better understand the value of conserving mangroves but need outside help to restore them.

In response, monks and community leaders have recently organized meetings between all three affected villages, resulting in the formation of a 15-member committee that met the township authorities to discuss getting external assistance with replanting the mangroves, rebuilding the embankment and helping their struggling community.

They also contacted Myanmar Social Development Network (MSDN), which organized a workshop in the Ain Din monastery. At this event, participants agreed to contribute money and time to restoration projects. This is vital because government and international donors are much more likely to invest in restoration and recovery if they see that the beneficiaries are making a contribution themselves.

While the future still remains unclear for Ain Din's mangroves, the community now better understands their importance and has committed to work with outside partners to restore this vital habitat.

1.5. Assessing and Monitoring the Baer's Pochard in Central Myanmar

Trainee: Thiri Sandar Zaw - BANCA

In Myanmar, one of Southeast Asia's wildest countries, a total of 188 water bird species, including 88 migratory species, have been recorded to date.

The Baer's Pochard is a much-welcomed winter visitor to Myanmar.

Once abundant globally, in 2012 the diving duck was downgraded to Critically Endangered by IUCN leading to increased surveying and monitoring of the troubled bird.

The acceleration of decline has been determined by measuring the fewer and fewer numbers at breeding grounds. The current global population is estimated to have fallen dramatically to between 150 and 700 mature individuals, according to studies.



The Baer's Pochard tends to breed around lakes with rich aquatic vegetation, in dense grass or in rivers and ponds surrounded by forest. Such areas in Russia and China are often their preferred breeding grounds, but in China the duck has been hunted to the brink of extinction.

In winter, they appear around freshwater lakes and reservoirs, such as those in Myanmar, India and Vietnam.

The 2004 Wetland Inventory for Myanmar reported nine inland lakes with records of Baer's Pochard; Indawgyi, Inlay, Taung-tan, Moeyungyi Wetlands Wildlife Sanctuary, Paleik Inn, Kalartan River, Kyee-ni Inn and Myithar Lake.

Baer's Pochard or Ferruginous Pochard?

The Baer's Pochard and Ferruginous Pochard are easily and frequently confused in the field, which is a challenge to scientists.

Baer's Pochard has a blackish-green head with a mixed chestnut-brown and white flank that can be spotted while it's swimming while the Ferruginous Pochard has a chestnut flank.

Threats to the Baer's Pochard

According to surveying and research being undertaken in Myanmar, the following issues pose a grave threat to the visiting Pochard population:

- Reduction in area of wetland habitats, often due to expansion of farmlands.
- Illegal fishing with electrified nets in fragile wetland ecosystems, leading to a depletion of aquatic wildlife.
- Bird hunting and poaching of eggs.
- Drying up of wetlands due to drought and climate change.

Surveying the Baer's Pochard

Vital population surveys undertaken in January 2016 have provided vital lessons to researchers and communities in central Myanmar.

Nature reserve staff, birdwatchers, conservation organizations, field researchers, local communities and irrigation departments were also engaged as part of the survey.

As part of community engagement strategies, fishermen were given educational materials about adapting their livelihood to better protect local bird populations.

The survey also worked to begin identifying new potential sites, vital to bird populations, to be protected in Myanmar, such as new Ramsar sites for example.

Findings of such surveys have been identified as very important in developing new action plans for the conservation of animals such as the Baer's Pochard. Better understanding of the causes of decline represent a vital component in addressing the most critical threats to species in Myanmar.

During the survey, understanding was improved of the bird's population status, as was knowledge of ecological requirements, status of habitat loss and degradation and also the water bird distribution, not only Baer's Pochard but also other species.

Acting upon insight such as the kind gained from these surveys enhances the capabilities of conservationists who are striving to move the Baer's Pochard from Critically Endangered to Endangered within 10 years, not only in Myanmar, but globally.

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1.6. Crab Farming: Small but Beautiful

Trainee: Seinne Lai, DEAR - Development for Environmental-friendly Agriculture and Rural Life, Myanmar

"We had never thought that such a thing could bring additional income for us," reported the villagers who first experimented with crab farming in Kwin Yar.

These were just the first families in Kwin Yar involved in crab farming, an activity which seems set to become more popular, after turning out to be practical and very useful, according to recent training participants.

Vital Training

When the village leaders announced crab farming training last year, no one was particularly interested. It was just another opportunity to use up some free time.

But when the training took place in August 2015, delivered by DEAR Myanmar, many participants from both Kwin Yar and Tha Byay Chaing, turned out to learn about crab farming.

After the training, other villagers visited some demonstration farms owned by one of the participants from Kwin Yar. There they learned how to organize the crab farms and how to raise the crabs. They were trained in how to modify the structure of the crab farms to prevent them escaping back to the sea.

The new crab farmers, much to their relief, also don't have to worry about food for crabs as they can eat small fish and prawn, minimising their expenses too.

Crab Pioneers

Some of the other villagers were at first skeptical about the crab farms. But with the support of NGO staff, the "crab pioneers" persevered.

They built the crab farms and the whole family collected unused fish and prawns. They also find bigger crabs in farms which is an added bonus. They know how to identify the mature crabs by pressing the ventral surface to see if it gave firm or soft sensation.

A crab mature with eggs and fat is firm to the touch, and also more profitable to the farmers. After selling mature crabs, the new farmers had recovered their investment cost within 3-4 months.

Supporting the Farmers

To assist the operations of the crab farms, DEAR Myanmar established a saving fund overseen by forest management committees in Kwin Yar and Tha Byay Chaing.

Investing 2,500,000 kyat (\$2,000) into the fund for each village to help operate their mud crab farm activities has been vital in providing ongoing support.

Apart from that, with the rotation of that fund, they can also manage the other mangrove conservation activities which include natural regeneration methods and growing new trees.

Visible Benefits to Villagers

“My wife takes care of the crab farms,” explained Saw Ta Thaw. “But we don’t need to spend our whole time there. We can go for fishing as before. After two months, we found the bigger crabs in farms and we took it out and sell at the crab broker at the village.”

“We found that we can get 100,000 kyats (\$80) from selling the crabs for the first time after two months. We know now that this can give us strong benefits while taking care of our forest,” he added.

“We do not need to give up our regular job, so that it doesn't affect our regular source of income,” explained U Shee Shio. “I can go fishing as usual and the income from the crab farms is additional.”

“My house has needed repairing for a long time but we couldn't afford it. Now I can save 460,000 kyats (\$380) after selling crabs four times with an investment cost of only 120,000 kyats (\$100). I can repair my house before the coming monsoon. My wife is happy, my daughters and sons are happy, and so I am”.

1.7. Assessing a Threat: Mercury in the Irrawaddy River

Trainee: Kyaw Thet Naing - FREDA



An important survey is now being carried out to better understand the extent of mercury contamination in the Irrawaddy, Myanmar's largest and most important river.

At present, mining of gold is being widely carried out in the watershed area of the river, resulting in mercury used in this process being directly discharged into the water, following the extraction process during the mining.

Further research into the issue has been regarded as vital. As mercury contamination in the river increases, determining exact levels of the pollution is more and more important.

Further study of the issue is also important because if mercury contamination in the Irrawaddy is indeed worsening, local people who depend upon the water will experience health problems and side-effects.

Our project on mercury analysis aims to increase testing of the amount of mercury that's present in the Irrawaddy and surrounding waterways and to begin reducing such mercury contamination.

Through collection and laboratory testing of water, soil, abiotic and biotic samples along the river from Mandalay to Bhamo, the survey aims to better determine mercury concentrations.

Through outreach and engagement, we then hope to reduce the systematic use of mercury in gold mining along the river, and to thereby reduce the rate of contamination in water that's vital to local people and the gold-mining workers themselves.

Surveying along Irrawaddy River

When the survey began late last year, we firstly went and conducted research along the Irrawaddy River to measure mercury contamination. Our team collected water and sediment samples, which would later be tested for mercury concentration, at a rate of one sample for every hour along the river bank.

Our survey team also studied how to extract the gold amalgam in a mining area and improved our knowledge of how mercury is used in extracting the precious metal.

During initial survey trips, we found that gold mining is frequently being carried out along the Irrawaddy River.

Our team also discovered that waste water from mining is being directly channeled into the river without being cleaned or processed in any way.

There has also been an enormous increase in the number of stone and sand extraction enterprises in some areas of the Irrawaddy River, exacerbating the pollution challenges.

It is essential to give more time to studying the effects of mercury on communities, the local gold mining workers and their families. Through this study, and specifically by analyzing water and soil samples, our knowledge of the amounts of mercury in the Irrawaddy and its effects on people are improving dramatically.



Environmental & Socioeconomic Importance

According to our ongoing studies, mercury levels in the waters of the Irrawaddy are certainly increasing and consequently causing mercury poisoning in humans and animals that depend upon the river.

Further study will allow for more refined and accurate data to be presented and used.

Our researchers think that there is also need to give more attention to mercury and heavy metal contamination in Myanmar's waterways.

Organizations need to explain to gold mining workers and local communities that mercury used in mining can cause environmental pollution and health hazards.

People along this great river, the mighty Irrawaddy, depend on it for their livelihoods.

Fishing, agriculture, tourism, industry, transportation and so on: all are dependent on healthy and safe rivers.

The Irrawaddy especially plays an important role in the lives of Myanmar's people. We all need to do what we can as a society to conserve the blood of Myanmar.

AGENDA

18 – 23 February, 2016

Thursday 18 – Group Workshop Begins	
<i>Note: All participants please arrive at MERN main meeting room from 9:30 for workshop commencing shortly after.</i>	
10:00-10:30	Initial introductions, meet and greet
10:30-11:00	More broad feedback on any initial submissions sent to JL.
11:00-12:00	Hour-long writing presentation from JL with some translation provided by ATZ.
12:00-1:00	Break for lunch.
1:00 -2:30	Guided writing as group under supervision of JL with input and support where needed.
2:30-3:00	Onwards, continue writing independently with JL standing by to answer questions and provide support.
5:00-6:00	Final deadline for initial drafts to be emailed to JL (use laurenson.jack@gmail.com)
Friday 19 – Group Workshop Continues	
<i>Note: All participants please arrive at MERN main meeting room from 9:30 for workshop commencing shortly after.</i>	
10:00-12:00	Reading in pairs. Participants to read, study and take notes from provided news articles. Followed by a group feedback session and short group discussion.
12:00-1:00	Break for lunch.
1:00-2:00	Article drafts from Thursday 18 have been handed back or emailed back by JL with edits and feedback. Discuss as group and prepare to revise.
2:00-3:00	Second group writing session with supervision and input from JL. Working in pairs encouraged.
3:00-4:30	In pairs or small groups, a final review of finalised drafts. JL will refresh and recycle the workshop's key learning points and conclude the group phase.
20 & 21 Feb: Weekend	
Monday 22 – Reserved 1:1 Sessions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Time slots from 10:00 until 16:00 on Monday will be reserved for individual 1:1 sessions with JL for further feedback and writing advice & guidance. – 1 hour time slot reserved for input with MERN website developer. 	
Tuesday 23 – More Reserved 1:1 Sessions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Time slots from 10:00 until 16:00 on Tuesday will be reserved for individual 1:1 sessions with JL for further feedback and writing advice & guidance. 	



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