



Report on the Second Steering Committee Meeting of MuEuCAP 13 October, 2018 at University of Mandalay

Present:

Dr Swen Renner, Project Coordinator, University of Natural Resources and Natural Sciences, Austria
Dr Sai Sin Lin Oo, Project National Coordinator, University of Mandalay (and representing Dr Thida Win, Rector, Mandalay University)
Dr Paul Bates, Project Manager, University of Natural Resources and Natural Sciences, Austria
Dr Bay Dar (representing Dr Ni Ni Oo, Rector), Myeik University
Dr Mie Mie Sein, Pro-Rector, Mawlamyine University
Dr Lutz Fehrmann (representing Professor Christoph Kleinn), University of Göttingen, Germany
Dr Alfonso Marzal, Associate Professor, University of Extremadura, Spain

Absent/Regrets:

Dr Thwe Thwe Win, Lecturer, University of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, Yezin
Dr Ni Ni Oo, Rector, Myeik University
Dr Thida Win, Rector, Mandalay University
Dr Christoph Kleinn, Professor, University of Göttingen, Germany

Call to order/Opening Remarks: At 11.00 hours, Dr Swen Renner, the Chairman and Project Coordinator welcomed all members to the 2nd meeting of the Steering Committee and outlined the Agenda of the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes: There being no objections, the minutes of the 1st meeting of the Steering Committee were approved.

Business

Item 1: Dates of forthcoming workshops - Following open discussion with all workshop participants, the Chairman and Committee finalised the dates and venues for the forthcoming training workshops, namely for:

- WP2.8.1 Training to improve academic and technical skills and competences
 - University of Mandalay: 9-11 January, 2019 (excluding travel)
 - Myeik University: 13-15 January, 2019 (excluding travel)
 - Mawlamyine University: 6-8 February, 2019 (excluding travel).
- WP3.1 Practical testing of individual courses (of the curriculum) with students
 - Mawlamyine University: 3-8 March, 2019 (excluding travel).
 - Myeik University: 10-15 March, 2019 (excluding travel)
 - University of Mandalay: to be decided

These dates took into consideration pre-existing institutional commitments of MUPs and EUPs staff (e.g. teaching in their respective universities), climate (avoiding the rainy season), and the December start date for Myanmar MSc students to begin their one year thesis study - <https://www.myanmar-edu.org/mueucap-staff-availability>.





Item 2 – Integration of topics into training programme: The Steering Committee discussed possible research topics for the upcoming training (WP2.8) and practical testing (WP3) workshops. It was recognised that there were a series of impediments, which include a limited budget for field work; the teaching commitments of EUPs trainers in their respective European universities. Therefore, it was concluded that practical training should be:

- low cost and with field studies restricted to geographical areas close to the respective universities
- should concentrate on topics for which the EUPs are most capable of delivering high quality training
- should be targeted at the most able MUPs' staff, although all staff should be encouraged to attend the more generalised training workshops
- should include at least 16 Master's students, 4 from each of the MUPs – more staff can join, if of sufficient quality
- should include staff and students from different departments (Zoology, Botany, Geography, Geology, and Marine Science).

Two draft titles for the training workshops were suggested:

- 'How does urbanisation/land use effect birds?' (Title for Mawlamyine University) – which would be concerned with the diversity and population size of birds and their parasites
- 'Affect of anthropogenic activities on birds' (Title for Myeik University) – which would focus on the impact of tourism, expansion of urbanisation and deforestation on bird populations.

It was agreed that such titles allowed for a broad range of skills to be developed, including data management, remote sensing and GIS, statistics and scientific English.

Item 3 – Preparing staff and students for training: The Steering Committee agreed that to maximise the efficiency of the limited number of training days:

- MUPs' staff and their students would need to become familiar with the relevant literature prior to the workshops of January/February and March.
- EUPs trainers would need to assess equipment needs of the MUPs, including hardware and software and hardware.

Action points:

- EUPs' trainers to send literature lists and suggested reading to MUPs by 1 December 2018
- EUPs' trainers to draw up a list of equipment needed for training by 1 December 2018

Item 4 – Finalising selection criteria: it was agreed that the selection criteria for staff and students should be transparent and must include those who would contribute most long term to the developing a modern and international university sector that embraces diversity and communicates to society through sophisticated outreach. The criteria are posted on the MuEuCAP website at:

<https://www.myanmar-edu.org/downloads>.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12.00 hours.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled as per original Timeline to take place in Month 18 (May, 2019) of the project.

