



# Ramsar Sites Information Service

## Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

# Myanmar

7 Ramsar Site(s) covering 278,913 ha

### Gulf of Mottama

Site number: 2,299 | Country: Myanmar | Administrative region: Mon State

Area: 161,030 ha | Coordinates: 16°59'10"N 97°01'09"E | Designation dates: 10-05-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Gulf of Mottama is situated at the mouth of the Sittaung River of the larger Gulf of Mottama. The designated area was extended from 42,500 hectares to 161,030 ha in 2020, to include a greater area of this unique estuarine mudflat environment. The Gulf has a tidal range of between six and seven metres; the mouth, which is around 100 kilometres wide, narrows into a funnel-shaped bay to produce a powerful bore phenomenon that can reach heights of over a metre on spring tides in the upper estuary. As a result the tidal mudflats of the Gulf are among the largest in the world. The Site supports a large number of species including marine fish, invertebrates and up to 150,000 migratory waterbirds in the non-breeding season. Among these waterbirds is the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*), of which the Site perhaps hosts more than half of the remaining global population. The Gulf of Mottama also supports the livelihoods of thousands of people by providing fish for local and regional consumption.

### Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 2,256 | Country: Myanmar | Administrative region: Kachin State

Area: 47,884.4 ha | Coordinates: 25°09'34"N 96°21'43"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2016

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary Ramsar Site comprises Indawgyi Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in Myanmar, and surrounding lowlands which have mostly been converted to wet rice agriculture. The Lake plays a role in flood control and provides regionally important habitats to at least 20,000 migratory and resident waterbirds. These include globally threatened birds such as the vulnerable lesser adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*), sarus crane (*Grus antigone*) and wood snipe (*Gallinago nemoricola*). The Site is home to globally threatened mammals such as the endangered hog deer (*Axis porcinus*) and Shortridge's langur (*Trachypithecus shortridgei*), and the vulnerable eastern hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock leuconedys*). It also hosts five species of globally threatened chelonians, of which three are endangered: the Asian brown tortoise (*Manouria emys*), Burmese peacock softshell turtle (*Nilssonina formosa*), and the yellow tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*). Indawgyi Lake has a high diversity of fish, including seven species recently discovered and endemic to the Site. The 30,000 people living in 16 villages around the lake basin depend on a mixture of rice farming and fishing for their livelihoods. The annual festival held in March at the Shwe Myint Zu Pagoda on the west side of the lake attracts tens of thousands of Buddhist pilgrims.

## Inlay Lake Ramsar Site

Site number: 2,356 | Country: Myanmar | Administrative region: Southern Shan State, the Shan Plateau of East Myanmar

Area: 5,797.6 ha | Coordinates: 20°34'03"N 96°54'36"E | Designation dates: 10-08-2018

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, located on the Shan Plateau of eastern Myanmar, is the second-largest inland lake in the country. Its unique geology has created ideal conditions for a wealth of plants and animals, including many which are endemic to the Site. Elephant grass, known locally as *kaing*, is important in maintaining the structure of floating islands for agriculture. The endemic Inlay carp (*Cyprinus intha*), locally called *nga-phein*, is culturally symbolic and important for household as well as commercial consumption. Other fish species such as *Sawbwa resplendens*, *Danio erythromicron* and *Microrasbora rubescens* are also only found in the lake and so are globally endangered; nonetheless they are commercially exploited for the aquarium trade. Local inhabitants have adopted unique lifestyles and livelihoods that reflect their biophysical environment: most of them practice traditional methods of fishing and hydroponic cultivation of floating gardens. Inlay Lake was established as a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1985 to protect and conserve the rich biodiversity of the wetland ecosystem. As a critical staging ground for migratory birds on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, the Site was listed as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) in 2004. It became an ASEAN Heritage Park in 2003 and was designated as Myanmar's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2015.

## Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 2,280 | Country: Myanmar | Administrative region: The Ramsar site lies within Bogalay Township, Ayeyarwady Region, in the eastern Ayeyarwady delta region of Myanmar, about 140 km southwest of Yangon. It is roughly 46 km north-south and from 5 to 10 km across. The township main town of Bogalay lies 24 km

Area: 50,000 ha | Coordinates: 15°50'42"N 95°15'57"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2017

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a coastal wetland in the southern part of the Irrawaddy Delta, which is also an ASEAN Heritage Park. It supports one of the largest remaining mangrove areas of in the Delta, where mangrove ecosystems have declined due to activities including logging, fishing and development of shipping lanes. Now the mangrove species are being replaced by mangrove date palm (*Phoenix paludosa*). The Ramsar Site is of international importance for a number of reasons. It has a substantial carbon sequestration capacity, and so is important in mitigating global climate change. It also supports globally threatened species such as the critically endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and mangrove terrapin (*Batagur baska*). The latter is particularly significant for the Site because it is listed under the IUCN Red List as regionally extinct in Myanmar. Other threatened species include the endangered great knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*), Nordmann's greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and dhole (*Cuon alpinus*). Vulnerable species include the Pacific ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), lesser adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) and the Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*). The Site is also the last estuarine habitat in Myanmar for the salt water crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*). It holds significant cultural and historic value for the people of Myanmar, based on myths and pilgrimages which closely connect them to their environment.

## Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary

Site number: 1,431 | Country: Myanmar | Administrative region: Bago Region

Area: 10,359 ha | Coordinates: 17°32'57"N 96°36'57"E | Designation dates: 17-11-2004

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary. 17/11/04; Bago Region; 10,359 ha; 17°32'57"N 96°36'58"E. Wildlife Sanctuary. A state-owned area comprising floodplain and a storage reservoir that is important for flood control. Originally constructed as a reservoir to provide water to the Bago-Sittaung canal (linking the Bago and Sittaung rivers) for transport of timber by boat, the site now functions as a source of fresh water for downstream areas where rice cultivation takes place. It floods in the wet season (May-October), and from October to March hosts over 20,000 migratory waterbirds. These include the globally threatened Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri*, Sarus Crane *Grus antigone* and Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*, as well as >1% of the regional population of the Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*. The site is also important for supporting the vulnerable Burmese Eyed Turtle *Morenia ocellata*. The local communities use the site for fishing, grazing, duck-rearing and some rice-growing; and there is a small tourist facility to accommodate birdwatchers. Ramsar sites no. 1431. Most recent RIS information: 2012

## Nanthar Island and Mayyu Estuary

Site number: 2,421 | Country: Myanmar | Administrative region: Rakhine State

Area: 3,608 ha | Coordinates: 20°15'23"N 92°45'24"E | Designation dates: 22-05-2020

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nanthar Island and Mayyu Estuary is on the western coast of Myanmar within Rakhine State. This coastal environment includes estuarine and shallow marine waters, rocky shores and mangrove forest. Upwelling in the Bay of Bengal contributes to the Site's productive marine ecosystem. It is one of the last refuges of the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*), with over 5% of the remaining global population reported annually. Other threatened species include the endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the vulnerable olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*), all of which are known to nest within the Site. Aquaculture activities undertaken within the Site contribute to the livelihoods of local communities. Threats include pollution, hunting and the collection of wild terrestrial and marine animals. Rakhine State Forest Department and the National Department of Fisheries manage the Site.

## Pyu Lake

Site number: 2,533 | Country: Myanmar | Administrative region: Mandalay Region in central Myanmar

Area: 234 ha | Coordinates: 21°45'57"N 95°53'22"E | Designation dates: 02-02-2024

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site was built in the 11th century as a reservoir for irrigation in the south-west part of the city of Mandalay. It is now found in a semi-urban area of Tada-U Township. Through natural succession, it has developed an ecology similar to a natural wetland; it is a representative permanent freshwater lake of the Irrawaddy moist deciduous forest ecoregion and is heavily influenced by the tropical monsoon. Its aquatic plant communities, dominated by *typha* beds and dense patches of heart-leaved water lily (*Ottelia cordata*), support about 60 species of waterbirds including the vulnerable common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and four other globally threatened species. Since other nearby wetlands such as the Banaw Inn and Paleik Lake dried out due to unsustainable agricultural practices, the Site has become an important area for wintering birds. It shelters the last wintering population in Myanmar of the critically endangered Baer's pochard (*Aythya baeri*). In the 1980s, the Kinda Dam on the Pan Laung River was connected to this Site, which has helped to alleviate flood- and drought-related effects in the region and has provided irrigation to more than 1,560 hectares of surrounding farmland. Solid waste disposal and drought are the major threats.