

Moe Moe Aung, PhD

Biodiversity & Bat Ecologist & Conservation Specialist
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Professional Summary

Mammalian ecologist with over 20 years of experience in biodiversity monitoring, wildlife ecology, and academic leadership in Myanmar and the United States. Published researcher and international collaborator with a strong background in field-based ecological studies, GIS mapping, and species assessments. Proven ability to lead cross-disciplinary teams, mentor students in higher education, and collaborate with local and international researchers, government bodies and non-government organizations.

Core Skills

- Biodiversity Monitoring & Bat Ecology
- Research Project Design & Scientific Writing
- GIS Mapping & ArcGIS Pro Software
- Teaching, Curriculum Design & Academic Mentorship
- Data Analysis, Literature Review, Systematic Review
- Stakeholder Engagement, Cross-Cultural Communication, & Coordination

Professional Experience

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA

Visiting Fellow | Apr 2025 – Present

- Assess the impact of biodiversity conservation in Myanmar, emerging the Civil Disobedience Movement, increasing the Intra-Displace People Camps, and expansion of Conflict Area, deforestation and habitat loss using ArcGIS Pro.
- Contribute my research knowledge and experience to undergraduate students at Pennsylvania Avenue Residence Hall, supporting their academic success through the *Chat and Chew* and *Lunch Conversation* programs. Delivered presentations on Myanmar's history and diverse cultural traditions. Participated in residence hall activities and accompanied undergraduate students on excursions.

Texas Tech University, USA

Research Fellow | Apr 2024- March 2025

- Led a comprehensive review on Myanmar bat species, producing an updated checklist, ecological notes, and local and global distribution maps using ArcGIS Pro.
- Integrated findings into a peer-reviewed manuscript for scientific publication, expanding global knowledge on Southeast Asian bat biodiversity.
- Contributed to NSF-funded research on deforestation and disease emergence, co-developing ecological frameworks and data collection protocols.
- Achieved milestone in bat conservation by producing actionable scientific data used by regional conservation agencies.

Burmese American Community Institute, Indianapolis, India, USA

Research Fellow | 2023

- Evaluated the online higher education system in Myanmar
- Contributed to higher education policy and framework to advance the teaching and learning of online education

Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

Visiting Fellow | 2018

- Developed the environment studies courses for undergraduates and graduate's curriculum
- Completed the teaching, learning, and assessment workshops
- Participated in the environmental impact assessment survey

University of Mandalay & Partner Universities, Myanmar

Professor / Associate Professor / Assistant Professor | 1998 – 2021

- Taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Mammalogy, Ecology, Environmental Studies, and Evolution, shaping future conservation scientists.
- Mentored 80 undergraduates, developing research methods and planning and collaborating with university research center.
- Supervised 2 Ph.D. and 5 M.Sc. theses contributing to research capacity building in Myanmar's ecological sciences, collaboration with international researchers.
- Collaborated with government body, NGO, and community on the Irrawaddy Dolphin conservation program in Myanmar.
- Directed biodiversity research projects, including a Nippon Koei/ADB forest survey, enhancing species documentation and habitat understanding.
- Delivered bat research and conservation and academic policy to Myanmar Universities and European Universities Capacity building Project (MUEUCAP).

- Collaborated with the USAID/PREDICT- MYANMAR on bat scoping and non-invasive sample collection in Hpa An, Kayin State, Myanmar Project, contributing the zoonotic potential of pathogens transmitted from wildlife to human and high risks of human –animal –environment interface.
- Collaborated with Smithsonian Institute and BBC on wildlife and documentary initiatives, resulting in new bat species discoveries and national awareness.
- Participated in bat research and survey in Upper Myanmar in collaboration with Texas Tech University, USA and Harrison Institute, UK. Contributing two new species of bats to science and three new records for Myanmar.
- Implemented university-level accreditation and quality assurance systems and participated in ASEAN education development programs, improving curriculum outcomes.

Work Experience

Professor (2020- 2021)

- Led lectures, participated in department management, led research projects, collaborated with international teams, wrote research papers, mentored students and gave training on teaching and learning, assessment, and curriculum development to faculties, coordinated with university education management team and international relationship team.

Associate Professor (2016-2020)

- Led the lecture, collaborated in department management, gave training on teaching and learning, assessment, and curriculum development to faculties, led research projects, mentored the students and collaborated with local and international researchers and developed research papers.

Assistant Professor (2011-2016)

- Led the lecture and lab, mentored undergraduates, collaborated with local and international research teams, wrote research papers, and participated in media and outreach programs.

Teaching Assistant (2006-2011), Full-Time Faculty

- Led the lab work and assisted in teaching, participating in international research projects, and writing local and international research papers.

Lab Assistant (1998- 2006), Full-Time Faculty

- Demonstrated at the lab

Education

- **Ph.D. in Zoology** | University of Mandalay, Myanmar | 2006
- **M.Res. in Zoology** | University of Mandalay, Myanmar | 2001
- **M.Sc. in Zoology** | University of Mandalay, Myanmar | 1997

- **B.Sc. in Zoology** | University of Mandalay, Myanmar | 1991

Certifications & Fellowships

- Visiting Fellow | University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA 2025-2026
- Research Fellow | Texas Tech University, USA 2024–2025
- Online Summer Research Fellow | Burmese American Community Institute, Indianapolis, USA 2023
- Visiting Fellow | Central European University, Budapest, Hungary 2018

Awards

- Institute of International Education (IIE-SRF) 2024-2026
- Open Society Foundation (OSF) Fellowship Award 2018
- Outstanding Research Prize | University of Mandalay, Ministry of Education, Myanmar 2005
- Research Grant Recipient | Bat Conservation International, USA 2005

Selected Publications

- **Moe Moe Aung**^{1,2*}, Thura Soe Min Htike^{1,3}, Nang Phyu Phwe¹, Ohnmar Aung⁴, Pyae Phyto Aung¹, Win Mar Yae¹, Sa Myo Zaw¹, Kyaw Naing Oo¹, Thae Hsu Wai¹, Hein Htet Aung¹, Yingying X.G. Wang⁴, Olivia Cords⁴, Rebekah C. Kading⁵, Michael Boots⁶, Hanna Ehrlich⁴, Nicole R. Gardner⁴, Christine K. Johnson^{4*}, Tierra Smiley Evans^{4,6,8*}, (2026). Limestone Karst Ecology and Anthropogenic Activities Associated with Cave dwelling Bats of Southern Shan State, Myanmar. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, 6 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2026.e04071>
- Hsu Lae Win^{1,5}, Pipat Soisook², **Moe Moe Aung**³, Paul J. J. Bates⁴ & Sara Bumrungsri^{5*}. Distribution and Population Status of *Pteropus medius* and *Pteropus hypomelanus* Flying Foxes (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Pteropodidae) in Myanmar, (2025), *Tropical Natural History*, 25 72-86. DOI: 10.58837/tnh.25.1.263387
- Mary-Ruth Low^{1*}, Wong Zhi Hoong², Zhiyuan Shen³, Baheerathan Murugavel⁴, Nikki Mariner⁵, Lisa Marie Paguntalan⁶, Krizler Tanalgo⁷, **Moe Moe Aung**⁸, Sheherazade⁹, Lawrence Alan Bansa¹⁰, Tuanjit Sritongchuay⁷, Jason Hideki Preble¹¹, and Sheema Abdul Aziz¹. Bane or Blessing? Reviewing Cultural Values of Bats across the Asia-Pacific Region, (2021). *Journal of Ethnobiology*. 41 (1): 18-34
- **Moe Moe Aung**^{1*} and ThanThan Htay². Dietary Analysis of Indian Flying Fox, *Pteropus giganteus* (Brunnich,1782) (Chiroptera: Pteropodidae) in Myanmar through the analysis of fecal and chewed remnants, (2019). *Journal of Threatened Taxa*.11(8): 13977–13983

- Paul J.J. Bates^{1*}, Ohnmar Tun², **Moe Moe Aung**³, Aung Lu², M. Roilum² And Mie Mie Sein⁴. A Review of *Hipposideros lankadiva* Kelaart, 1850 (Chiroptera: Hipposideridae) with a Description of a New Subspecies from Myanmar, (2015). *Tropical Natural History*,15(2):191-204

International Academic & Research Experience

- Steering Committee member and Presenter | SEABCRU Conferences (Malaysia in 2015) and (Philippines in 2018)
- Training on Social & Demographic Research Methods | Australian National University, Australia 2014
- Bat Research Training | Prince of Songkla University, Thailand 2010
- European Quality Assurance Forums (Latvia, 2017 and Austria, 2018)
- Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Workshop (Hungary, 2017 & 2018)
- Outcome-based Education Implementation (Thailand, 2019)

Media & Public Outreach

- Video Interview | Radio Free Asia (RFA), 2019 on bats and COVID-19
- Published Local Articles | 7Days News, Nature Green Journal, The Watch Journal on bat ecology and disease transmission