

some birds to be deflected and reach India and further south. Being quite similar in plumage colouration and size they can easily be overlooked and misidentified as Oriental Honey Buzzard and we believe that it is important to carefully observe honey buzzards in the region to clearly establish their identity.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks go to Gary Allport, Christian Artuso, Alex Bond, Daniel Field, Dick Forsman, Richard Grimmett and Yoav Perlman for their comments on the identification of the bird. Alex Bond of the Natural History Museum, London, is acknowledged for kindly allowing us to use photographs of their specimens. Palmyrah House Pvt. Ltd, Mannar, supported some of the field logistics for this survey.

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First record of Emperor Goose *Anser canagicus* for China

IDERBAT DAMBA

The Emperor Goose *Anser canagicus* is restricted to the Bering Sea area, breeding in coastal saltmarshes of north-east Chukotka and north-west Alaska and wintering in Kamchatka and the Commander and Aleutian islands. The species regularly strays down the Pacific coast of North America, a few reaching as far south as California. In Asia it is extremely rare south of Kamchatka and is an accidental visitor to Japan and Korea (Brazil 2009). The total population is estimated at 85,000 and it is classified as Near Threatened due to its rapidly declining population (BirdLife International 2020).

Since 2015 I have carried out annual wintering surveys and counts of large waterfowl (geese, swans and cranes) in the Yangtse River basin, covering several of the main lakes, including Chen Lake (30.29°N 113.84°E), Hubei province, China. This lake is well known for its extensive biodiversity and in 2013 it was designated as a Wetland of International Importance by the Chinese State Forestry Administration and the Ramsar Secretariat, becoming Hubei Chen Lake Wetland Nature Reserve—Ramsar site 2184.

At about 16h00 on 28 November 2019, I was surveying rice-paddies on the west side of the lake with two companions when we found a mixed group of *Anser* species geese which included Greylag *Anser anser*, Swan *A. cygnoid*, Bean *A. fabalis* and Greater

White-fronted *A. albifrons* Geese in a fallow field. After scanning for several minutes at a range of 300 m using a Swarovski 20–60x telescope in poor light conditions, I noticed an unusual white-headed goose that I did not recognise near the back of the group. It appeared to be smaller than the Bean Geese standing close by, although it was of a very round-bodied, stocky build with a short neck. After four years of experience studying the larger waterfowl found on the Yangtse River floodplain I was certain that I had never seen this species previously around Chen Lake or anywhere in central China. When doing survey work in the field I do not take a long lens camera because I need to carry a telescope and small camera for recording purposes. Unfortunately, light conditions on this afternoon were not good and consequently my record images were of very poor quality (Plate 1). In total the birds were watched for about 30 minutes and several digital images and a short video were taken with a Nikon Coolpix AW130 through my telescope.

The bird was a rather small goose of very different appearance compared with the others in the group. The striking features were the white head and back of the neck, black chin, throat and upper foreneck; the body and wings were predominantly silver grey with darker barring, whilst the



MANNAR BIRD CLUB

ASSOCIATION FOR
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

No 80, Kadduppalli Road, Ward No 03, Moor Street, Mannar

2024.05.17

Eng. G. M. Athula,
Director General,
Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority

Dear Sir,

RE: REQUEST TO OBTAIN THE DETAILS OF THE CAF WATERBIRD TRACKING PROJECT

We are writing in response to your letter SLSEA/R&D/04 dated May 10, 2024, requesting details of the CAF-Sri Lanka Waterbird Tracking Project which we refer to in our letter highlighting the unsustainability and the highly damaging nature of Proposed 250 MW Mannar Wind Power Project (Phase II).

The information we highlight in our letter comes from publicly available sources at the Mannar Bird Information Centre of the Department of Wildlife Conservation (Government of Sri Lanka) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Sri Lanka. These sources present maps and detailed information regarding satellite-tracked birds from Mannar and their movement patterns across the Central Asian Flyway that spans 30 countries. This information is also available to the public at the Koraikulam Bird Observatory in Mannar. Additionally, the Mannar CA's office displays migratory routes and internal movement patterns of about a million birds in Mannar on signboards to educate the public. Furthermore, we should emphasize that this information has been displayed publicly in the Mannar district for the past 03 years.

Based on this publicly available information from responsible citizen organizations, we have strongly highlighted the damaging nature of the Adani Wind Power project proposed by SLSEA. Furthermore, we wish to emphasize that SLSEA, as the Project Proponent for Adani Green Energy Sri Lanka, has a conflict of interest. Therefore, we are not in a position to share any additional information beyond the clear facts stated in our previous letter, which are already available in scientific literature and the public domain. If requested, we can provide further information only to the Project Evaluation Agency, not to the proponent of the project.

Thank you for your commitment to critically scrutinizing unsustainable and damaging projects to the people, environment, and economy of Sri Lanka.

Yours faithfully,

Lahiru Walpita – President
Mannar Bird Club

Rebecca Miranda – President
Association for Women Empowerment

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DDG(LRM)

Lahiru Walpita

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Attachment 02



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Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority



04th January 2024
SLSEA/R&D/02

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A Statutory Authority of Ministry of Power and Energy

Dr. Kamal Tennakoon
Director General
National Aquatic Resources Research & Development Agency

Dear Dr. Tennakoon,

Scientific Information on Impacts of Mannar Phase 11 (250MW) and Pooneryn Wind Power (234MW) Plants on Fishing Activities

Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA) is the focal national institute for renewable energy development. With the policy directive of the government to realize 70% electricity generation from renewable energy sources by 2030, we are in the process of implementing renewable energy projects on a fast-track basis. Wind power is one of the key sources in that regard, and the Mannar Phase II and Pooneryn wind power projects, the most prominent wind power projects in the country, are being carried out by SLSEA at present.

SLSEA being an organization with sustainability as a prime theme, always takes the due caution to implement renewable energy projects in utmost harmony with the socio-environmental aspects. Due to the project areas are in the coastal belt the major economic activity is the fishing industry. According to our understanding, there is no any impact on the fishing community, as the ground level interventions in wind power generation are minimal. Nevertheless, one complaint coming from them is, sound coming from wind power plants leads to lower the fish production.

We took the particular concern into our serious consideration with a view to finding out solutions if there exists any kind of such issues. However, we could not observe any issue related to the subject, either through information from the site or from the international information we could access. Based on that we informed the fishing community of the observation as to not having any impacts from wind power plants on fishing. Nevertheless, the fishing community is of the view that there is an impact on the fish production. Further, they inform us that your organization has evidence on the particular impacts.

We shall be thankful if you could let us know whether you have any kind of such evidence, or, even, if you could get involved in any scientific study to find out any such impacts as claimed by the fishing community. Project lay-out maps of the Mannar Phase II wind power project and Pooneryn wind power project are attached for reference in connection to the same.

Thanking you

Eng. J.M. Athula
Director General
Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority

R. K. M. A.

2024/01/10

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No. 72, Aranda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.

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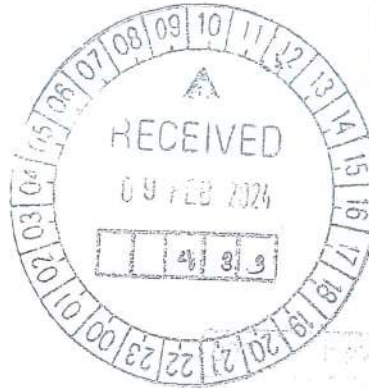
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NATIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
කාක දූපත, මට්ටක්කුලිය, කොළඹ 15. காக்கை தீவு, மட்டக்குளி, கொழும்பு 15. Crow Island, Mattakkuliya, Colombo 15.

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NARA/MBRD/24-01

ඔබේ අංකය
உமது இல.
Your No.

දිනය
திகதி
Date 06.02.2024



Eng. J.M. Athula
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Sri Lanka

Dear Eng Athula

Scientific Information on Impacts of Mannar Phase II (250MW) and Pooneryn Wind Power (234 MW) Plants on Fishing Activities

This is concerning your letter (Ref. SLSEA/R&D/02) dated 04.01.2024.

Wind projects ordinarily rank near the bottom of the list of developments that negatively impact the environment, yet the energy source remains with challenges from environmental and social perspectives. The impact of wind energy on fish and fisheries is well documented, particularly for the offshore windmills; however, effects of onshore wind farms might yet be expected from the turbine-generated noise pollution on fish in shallow waters. Therefore, it is important to assess the disturbances to the fish movements and the potential impacts on the breeding and behaviour of fish in nearshore areas due to the sound generated by the turbines and other allied impact sources.

The National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) is in a position to analyze the possible impacts while collecting real-time fisheries data to compare the changes in fish catch rates in a particular area. Therefore, we would like to suggest a scientific study, particularly on the above aspect to provide concrete recommendations for a way forward.


Dr. T.D.K.D. Tennakoon
Director General

① தரவுகள்
f.w. p
2024/02/19
②. தரவுகள்
not proceed according
to the EIA recomm
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21/02/2024.

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