Community based eco-tourism in Indawgyi lake

Inn Chit Thu (Lovers of Indawgyi)
Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Indawgyi lake – a wetland of both cultural and biodiversity importance
Biodiversity and Nature Attractions
Myanmar’s most important site for Sarus cranes
Woolly-necked storks
Cultural Values
Attractions

- Pagodas and Nat shrines (bk&m;ESifh ewfpiffrsm;)
- Pagoda festival (bk&m;yGJawmf)
- Shan cultural festival (&Srf;&ddk;&m,Ofaus;rIyGJawmf)
- Landscape beauty (Indawgyi lake, Shwe Taung, Chaung Wa, He Pu (&Icif;))
- Bird watching (iSufMunfh)
Inn Chit Thu (Lovers of Indwagyi), Community based eco-tourism group
Group Formation

- Following a village meeting at Lonton, a community volunteer group was founded (self-selected interested people) to develop eco-tourism in Indawgyi.

- The non-for-profit group was named “Inn Chit Thu” (Lovers of Indawgyi), it’s objectives are to provide eco-tourism services, support the conservation of Indawgyi Lake and the livelihoods of the local communities.

- Profits from eco-tourism are spent on community development projects and environmental conservation.
Activities

- Waste collection, tree planting, plastic awareness, bird tour guide

30.11.15
Training & support by FFI

- Inn Chit Thu membership rules
- English language training
- Basic first aid training
- Birdwatching guide training
- Kayak training
- Bookkeeping & financial management
- Emergency procedures
- Development of tourism products: trekking, cycling and kayaking routes
INDAWGYI LAKE
KAYAKING MAP

Picturesque village set on a hill, with two monasteries, a nat shrine and a lakeside shrine telling the legend of Indawgyi Lake. Try the roadside teashop at the north of the village for great views and tasty noodle salads.

Highlights include a cane Buddha image, an old teak monastery and a house with elephants. To reach the elephant house (be aware, they might be out working in the forest), head up the east-west street which runs from just north of where you dock, then turn left at the first narrow path you come to. The house is on the corner of this path and the next east-west street (it has an iron gate).
To reach the Buddha image and monastery, continue down the east-west street to the main road, then turn right and walk straight towards the archway.

Very scenic village, particularly at the lakefront and at the very east (back) of town. Riding a little north or south of the village along the main road provides some lovely scenery of fields rolling towards the mountains.
INDAWGYI LAKE CYCLING MAP

There is a house where you might see elephants (when they are not working on the farm). The main Buddha image and monastery are on the main road and the current Buddha and monastery are 5 miles away, respectively. The elephant house is on the fourth southeast street south of the main Buddha complex. Go down this street toward the lake. The house is on the corner with a narrow path and has an iron fence.

Very scenic village, particularly at the southeastern and at the very eastern edges of town. Taking a bike north or south of the village along the main road provides some lovely scenery of field rolling towards the mountains.

INWA AND INDAWGYI LAKE CYCLING MAP

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Benefits for the Community

- Increase in average length of stay of tourists and increased tourist arrivals resulted in more money spent at local shops and restaurants and for motorboat/motorbike rental in Lonton village
Main season October to March (all year tourism)
Average stay increased from 2 (2013) to 3 (2015) days
Domestic pilgrims 30,000 to 100,000
Ecotourism support

Training & Equipment
Birdwatching training
English training
Kayaks
Bikes
Binoculars, Field Guides

Promotion & information material
Visitor map
Bird field guides
Information sheets on activities and attractions

Indawgyi Label & Merchandising
Indawgyi Logo
T-shirts, buttons, stickers

Development of packages and activities
Promotion to local and international tour operators
Visitor interpretation & environmental education

- Visitor center
- Nature trails
- Nature signs

Design example from Biosphere Reserve Spreewald, Germany
Future activities

- Incorporation of all tourism Activities in: Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary UNESCO Biosphere Reserve & Ramsar Site management plans

- Development of bed & breakfast (only 1 guesthouse)