

Anna Braun

I got the opportunity to live in Myanmar and work for the Gulf of Mottama Project in the scope of my bachelor studies at HAFL. The project is implemented by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the National Action Group (NAG). The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) finances and supports the project, targeting farmers and fishermen who depend on the natural resources of the gulf.

I had many opportunities to meet local people from different sectors, and joined them in their daily tasks, which allowed me to discuss many Myanmar-specific and global issues with them. I experienced at first hand the opportunities and challenges of international cooperation in the case of Myanmar.

Living in a tropical country in the middle of the Monsoon is a completely new experience for a European. The rainy days in June and July brought a lot of new events and challenges when I was about to conduct my surveys at village level. Two volunteers of the project were by my side as guides. Soe Khaing from YAU acted as translator and was a big personal support. This student exchange programme of HAFL with YAU meant a lot to me. It is truly indispensable to be able to rely on such local support in a foreign country like Myanmar.

I also realised how much I was able to support a foreign student in my home country when assisting Soe Khaing while he studied here in Switzerland. This greatly enriched the student exchange for both of us and made it a unique and unforgettable experience.



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Testimonial HAFL-YAU-Helvetas Myanmar
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