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Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund

Annual Report 2009-10

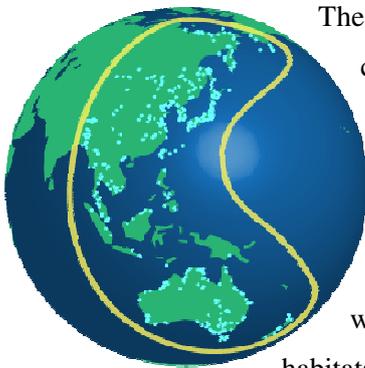


Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10

1. Background

The Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund (the 'Fund') was established in July 2005 to provide financial support for projects at sites of importance for migratory waterbirds in the East Asia – Australasian Flyway.



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The objective of the Fund is to support projects that will lead to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their important wetland habitats in Asia through partnerships with local communities and which will bring socio-economic benefits to the local community at the site. Priority is given to those projects that can integrate the conservation of the migratory waterbirds with the sustainable management of the wetland habitats that the birds depend upon.

Cathay Pacific made an initial donation of HK\$500,000 (US\$62,500) into the Fund and WWF Hong Kong is responsible for the administration of the Fund. Further donations are periodically sought from other sources to increase the amount in the Fund, so that a greater number of worthwhile projects can be supported in future. At present, the maximum amount that can be applied for each project is around US\$4,000.

There is a single call for applications to the Fund each year with the annual deadline being 31 October.



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2. Progress and results of the projects

The fourth round of applications to the Fund was concluded in October 2009, 26 applications from 9 countries were received. Two projects (section 2.3) were approved after selection by the Committee, the total amount of grant is approximately HK\$62,000 (US\$7,865). A summary of the projects approved since 2006 is given below (Table 1):

Table 1: Summary on the projects approved

Year	Organisation	Project Location	Status
2005-06	Wetland International – Thailand Office	Thailand	Completed
2005-06	Wilderness Conservation	Bangladesh	Completed
2005-06	Har Us Nuur (HUN) Club	Mongolia	Completed
2006-07	Bird Conservation Society of Thailand	Thailand	Completed
2007-08	Sumatra Rainforest Institute	Sumatra, Indonesia	Completed
2007-08	Shanghai Oasis Wildlife Conservation and Communication Center	Shanghai, China	Completed
2007-08	MarineLife Alliance (with Wilderness Conservation)	Bangladesh	Completed
2008-09	Administration Bureau of Tumuji National Nature Reserve	Inner Mongolia, China	Completed
2008-09	Sumatra Rainforest Institute	Sumatra, Indonesia	Completed
2009-10	Asian Coastal Resource Institute Foundation (CORIN-Asia)	Vietnam	Ongoing
2009-10	Anhui Bird Watching Society	Anhui, China	Ongoing

2.1 Third round of applications: December 2007 (Final report was received subsequent to the last AWCF Annual Report)

2.1.1 Community-based Initiative in Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and Coastal Wetlands in Nanhui Dongtan, Shanghai, China <Shanghai Oasis Wildlife Conservation and Communication Center>

The project successfully brought together stakeholders of Nanhui Dongtan to participate in various wetland conservation activities. Achievements are summarised as follows:

- 388 citizens surveyed and informed of the ecological importance of Nanhui Dongtan;
- 160 local students, government officers, experts, journalists and citizens participated in birdwatching activities at Nanhui Dongtan;
- More than 2,000 people received information about Nanhui Dongtan from lectures and exhibitions;
- Over 4,000 leaflets on “Wetlands and Avian Species in Shanghai” were distributed to wildlife protection networks at middle and primary schools, relevant enterprises, government departments and non-government organizations;
- A multi-stakeholder workshop brought together 49 participants from government agencies, academics, environmental NGOs and journalists from the media to exchange views. A proposal on Nanhui Dongtan wetland conservation and sustainable development was also drafted.



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2.1.2 Community-based Waterbird Monitoring and Conservation in Cox’s Bazar Coastal Areas, Bangladesh <MarineLife Alliance>

The project concluded in early 2010 and the final report is still being finalised by the proponent. A conclusion of the project’s achievements will be given in the next Annual Report.



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2.2 Forth round of applications: October 2008

2.2.1 Establishment of Waterbirds Conservation Stewardship through School and Community-based Education and Interpretation <Administration Bureau of Tumuji National Nature Reserve, Inner Mongolia>

A series of activities were organised to establish stewardship on waterbird conservation with over 1,000 man-times participated. Major achievements of the project include:

- A “Kick-off Ceremony” participated by high level government officials, local communities, students, teachers, nature reserve staff and media reporters which generated TV broadcast and newspaper reports;
- 18 participants from local communities, school teachers and nature reserve staff were trained in a 5-day “Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop” on environmental education and wetland conservation;
- Over 80 students and local residents received a lecture under the theme “Waterbirds and Future, Wetland and Life”;
- 25 students and 5 representatives from local communities visited the nature museum and the wetland at the nature reserve;
- A study tour was organised for participants of the TOT workshop to visit 2 other nature reserves in the region to exchange experience on environmental education for school and local communities;

- Public awareness activities including opening ceremony, drawing contest, exhibitions, lectures and leaflet distribution organised during “Love Bird Week” which involved over 800 local people;
- 25 students participated in a 6-day summer camp to learn about waterbird conservation and visited core area of the Tumuji Nature Reserve;
- Interpretation system plan was designed for the Nature Center of Tumuji Reserve;
- A “Closing Ceremony” participated by stakeholders to conclude the project success and discuss future follow-up activities.



© Administration Bureau of Tumuji NNR

2.2.2 Capacity Building for Village Leaders on Migratory Shorebirds Conservation in Sumatra Utara – Indonesia <Sumatra Rainforest Institute>

This project is an extension to the Sumatra project funded in 2007-08. Two training workshops were successfully organised for 30 village leaders to build up their capacity on migratory shorebirds conservation. Each 2-day workshop consisted of indoor lectures, discussion and site visit to the field for participants to put into practice what they learnt.



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2.3 Fifth round of applications: October 2009

2.3.1 Local Radio for Bird Protection Awareness Raising in Xuan Thuy Ramsar Site, Vietnam <Asian Coastal Resource Institute Foundation (CORIN-Asia)>

This project aims for raising local awareness about waterbird protection, especially endangered species in Xuan Thuy Ramsar site. Local community will be trained on broadcasting awareness programs on local radio, up to 48,000 residents in 5 communes of the buffer zone around the Ramsar Site is expected to be reached.



©Xuan Thuy national park

Xuan Thuy Ramsar site covers an area of some 15,000 ha, which is a hot-spot for migratory waterbirds including nine endangered and critically endangered species, such as Spoon-billed Sandpiper.

The project commenced in March and will last for 12 months.

Total amount awarded = US\$3,925

2.3.2 Continual Conservation Education and Public Awareness Activities on Waterbirds and Lake Wetlands at Shengjin Lake in Anhui Province in China <Anhui Bird Watching Society>



This project aims to bring in attentions from related governmental institutions, schools and adjacent communities to protect and maintain natural resources under the principle of sustainable development. A series of public awareness activities will be organised to educate local people on environmental protection and a

comprehensive protection system for the lake will be established through coordination with government departments.

Shengjin Lake is an important wintering and stopover site for migratory waterbirds, which consist of shallow water habitats covering a total area of 132.2km². Increasing human activities are posing threats to the ecosystem of the lake and are altering its roles in flood control.

The project began in March and will conclude in April 2011.

Total amount awarded = US\$ 3,940

3. Income and expenditure

The total income of the Fund in 2009-10 is HK\$38,274 from the proceeds of selling a Cathay Pacific sponsored DVD entitled “Explore Wild Hong Kong!” at the Visitor Center at Mai Po Nature Reserve. The selling of the DVD has finished and the Fund will seek other sources of funding injection.

A total of US\$7,865 (approximately HK\$62,000) was awarded to the two projects approved in October 2009. First instalments have been received by the project applicants.

Table 2: Summary on the Income and Expenditure

Income (date)	HK\$	
Cathay Pacific (2005)	500,000.00	
WWF HK Big Bird Race (2006)	121,841.00	
WWF HK Big Bird Race (2007)	100,000.00	
WWF HK Big Bird Race (2008)	183,537.00	
Proceeds from DVD sales (2007-08)	996.00	
Proceeds from DVD sales (2008-09)	192.00	
Proceeds from DVD sales (2009-10)	38,274.00	
Sub-total	944,840.00	
Expenditure (date)		US\$
Project instalments (2006-07)	75,251.45	9,495.00
Project instalments (2007-08)	46,255.13	5,830.25
Project instalments (2008-09)	77,076.89	9,799.85
Project instalments (2009-10)	73,219.47	9,399.50
Administration costs (2005-present)	71,261.39	
Sub-total	343,064.33	
Net Balance	601,775.67	

4. Acknowledgements

The Fund would like to thank Mr. Simba Chan, Mr. Doug Watkins and Dr. Lew Young for serving as the AWCF committee members and providing valuable advice.



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WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

WWF Hong Kong

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