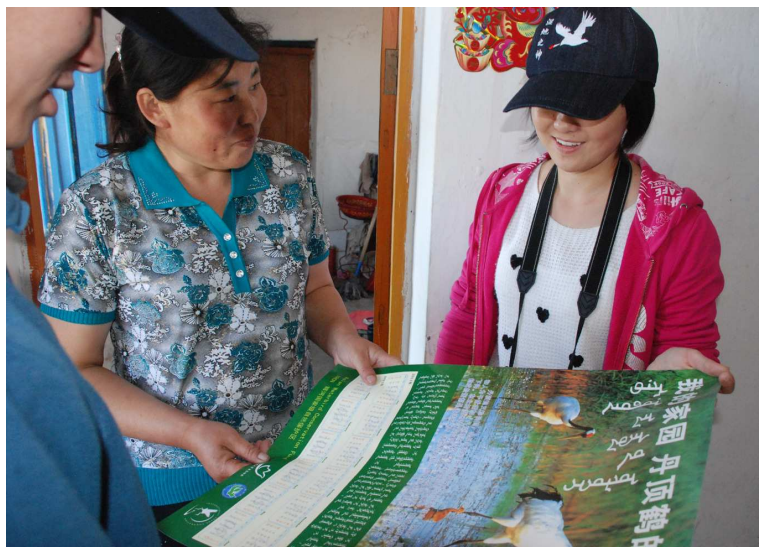


# Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund

Annual Report 2011-12



# Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12**

### **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 Asian – Australasian Flyway (EAAF).



© EAAF Partnership

**The objective of the Fund is to support projects on the ground in Asia that will lead to the conservation or protection of migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats in the EAAF, particularly through partnership with the local community at the site.**

Cathay Pacific made an initial donation of HK\$500,000 into the Fund and more funding was received through proceeds of the WWF Big Bird Race fund raising event. The Fund was further boosted with HK\$500,000 donated by Mr. Trevor Yang, Chairman of WWF-HK, over 5 years from 2012-2016.

WWF Hong Kong is responsible for the administration of the Fund. At present, the maximum amount that can be applied for each project is US\$5,000 (HK\$38,500). There is a single call for applications to the Fund each year with the deadline being 31 October.



© Neil Fifer

## 2. Progress and results of the projects

The seventh round of applications to the Fund was concluded in October 2011, seven applications from 4 countries were received. Three projects (section 2.2) were approved after selection by the AWCF Committee and the total amount granted was US\$14,950 (HK\$117,000). 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	Completed
2009-10	Anhui Bird Watching Society	Anhui, China	Completed
2010-11	Administration Bureau of Tumuji National Nature Reserve	Inner Mongolia, China	Finalising report
2010-11	Sumatra Rainforest Institute	Sumatra, Indonesia	Finalising report
2010-11	The Bird Conservation Association of Northeast Forestry University	Inner Mongolia, China	Finalising report
2011-12	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society	China	Ongoing
2011-12	Wuhan Bird Watching Society	Hubei, China	Ongoing
2011-12	Bird Conservation Society of Thailand	Thailand	Ongoing

## 2.1 Project completed in this reporting year

### 2.1.1 Community-based Waterbird Monitoring and Conservation in Cox's Bazar Coastal Areas, Bangladesh <MarineLife Alliance>

The project concluded with the following outcomes:

- 13 awareness programmes organized on topics including waterbird conservation and anti-bird hunting. A total of 380 local communities attended the programmes, including some bird trappers in the area.
- 22 volunteers recruited from local communities for observation and data collection on habitat with bird usage and hunting activities in their respective areas.
- Education programme conducted for 6 schools with 317 students and 18 teachers participated.
- 3 monitoring stations established in 3 important areas for waterbirds monitoring, research and conservation. The stations were equipped with bird information displays, field guides and basic accommodation facilities.
- Outreach materials including bird identification cards, booklets, posters, folders and T-shirts produced and distributed to over 600 local people.
- Waterbird surveys were conducted for 2 consecutive winters with student volunteers engaged.



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

The project concluded with the following fruitful outcomes:

- Awareness on waterbird conservation rose through organising poster design competition and Chinese opera composing competition.
- Questionnaire interview conducted with 346 local villagers on their attitude about environmental conservation and threats to waterbird around the lake area.
- Over 600 sets of awareness raising materials including posters and leaflets distributed to local communities.
- Questionnaire interview conducted with 450 students in 12 local schools about their awareness on waterbird and wetland conservation.
- Over 1,000 local students participating in education programme about wetland and waterbirds conservation.
- Communication platform set up for local communities to report illegal poaching to the Bird Watching Society and the reserve management authority.





**2.1.3 Community Participatory Co-management of Waterbirds and their Habitat through Promotion of Sustainable Behavior and Livelihood in Tumuji Township**

**<Tumuji National Nature Reserve >**

The project concluded in March 2012 and the final report has been circulated to the AWCF Committee for comments. A conclusion of the project's achievements will be given in the next Annual Report.



**2.1.4 Migratory Waterbird Conservation and its Habitat in Deli Serdang District Sumatra Utara Province <Sumatra Rainforest Institute (SRI)>**

The project concluded in May 2012 and the final report has been circulated to the AWCF Committee for comments. A conclusion of the project's achievements will be given in the next Annual Report.



**2.1.5 Promoting community support and involvement in conservation of the endangered Red-crowned Crane and other rare waterbirds at Hui River National Nature Reserve, Inner Mongolia, China**

**<Bird Conservation Association of Northeast Forestry University (BCA\_NEFU)>**

The project concluded in June 2012 and the final report is being finalised by the proponent. A conclusion of the project's achievements will be given in the next Annual Report.



## **2.2 Project approved in this reporting year**

### **2.2.1 Capacity Building for Waterbird Monitoring at Important Sites along the China Coast <Hong Kong Bird Watching Society>**

This project aimed at continuing the synchronised monthly waterbird census at important sites for waterbirds in China coastal areas, which has been carried out since 2005. All surveys were carried out by volunteer birders. Important data has been generated from the census which helped identifying internationally and ecologically important wetlands for conservation and formulating appropriate measures for conservation actions.

The census area covers 12 sites within Important Bird Areas along the coast of China, and will potentially extended to 4 more sites during the course of this 12-month project.

A training workshop will be held to recruit potential new surveyors and enhance the ability of existing surveyors. Results and conservation recommendations from the project will be concluded in a bi-annual report which will be distributed to stake-holders, including government officials.



**2.2.2 Monitoring and community awareness of Critically Endangered Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri* wintering at Liangzi lake, Hubei <Wuhan Bird Watching Society Of China>**

At the start of this 12-month project, volunteers and reserve staff will receive training on the monitoring of Baer's Pochard habitat use and behaviour at the site. Later on a detailed study will be carried out in winter 2012/13.

Community awareness activities will also be carried out by conducting interview, publication of posters and organising bird watching trips. These activities are expected to reach out to local communities in 5 villages.

The project site, Liangzi Lake, is a fish and aquatic plant nature reserve located within the Yangtze floodplain of Hubei Province. In January 2011, a high count of 131 Baer's Pochard, which is a Critically Endangered species according to the IUCN Red List, were recorded at the site.

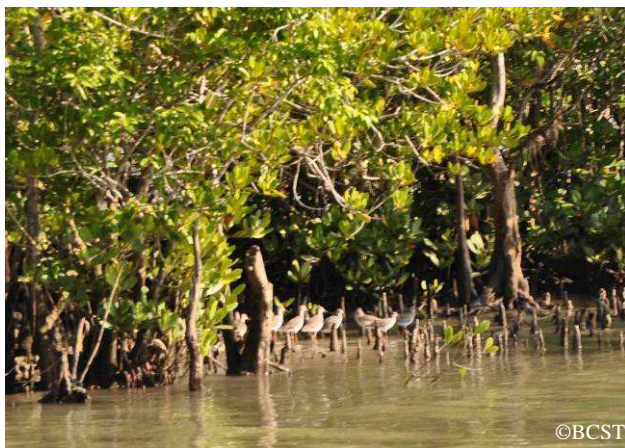




### **2.2.3 Potential Flyway sites monitoring and raise awareness of local people in The Inner Gulf of Thailand <Bird Conservation Society of Thailand >**

This one-year project aimed at training volunteers on waterbird monitoring to participate waterbird census at 4 flyway network sites at the Inner Gulf of Thailand. A newly discovered site outside the Inner Gulf, which have potential to be designated as a network site, will also be monitored. The Inner Gulf of Thailand is an important bird area (IBA) for shorebirds in Thailand.

Besides, a one-day workshop will be organised to engage local communities and government officials and raise awarness on waterbirds conservation and network site designation. School education programme will also be organised for 240 students from 4 local schools.



### 3. Income and expenditure

HK\$500,000 is donated by Mr. Trevor Yang, Chairman of WWF-HK, over 5 years from 2012-2016. HK\$100,000 has been received in February 2012.

A total of US\$14,950 (approximately HK\$117,000) was awarded to the three projects approved in October 2011. First instalments have been received by the project proponents.

Table 2: Summary on the Income and Expenditure

<b>Income (year)</b>	<b>HK\$</b>	
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 (2007-10)	39,462.00	
Mr. Trevor Yang (2012)	100,000.00	
Sub-total	1,044,840.00	
<b>Expenditure (year)</b>		<b>US\$</b>
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	9,797.00
Project instalments (2009-10)	73,218.47	9,399.50
Project instalments (2010-11)	63,827.19	7,959.50
Project instalments (2011-12)	88,490.00	11,265.00
Administration and technical advice (2005-present)	116,800.50	
Sub-total	540,919.63	
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>503,920.37</b>	

### 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.



**Why we are here**

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony and nature.

©1986 Panda symbol WWF® "WWF" is a WWF Registered Trademark  
*Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund*  
c/o WWF-Hong Kong  
Mai Po Nature Reserve, Tam Kon Chau Road, San Tin, N.T., Hong Kong  
Tel: +852 3193 7510