



WWF

ANNUAL
REPORT

AWCF

2014-15

Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund

Annual Report 2014-15



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1. Background

The Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund (AWCF / 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).



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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, past Chairman of WWF-Hong Kong, 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 application to the Fund each year with the deadline being 31 October.

With 3 new members on board in September 2014, the AWCF Committee has expanded its composition to include 5 experts in the region.



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2. Progress and results of the projects

A summary of the projects approved since 2005 is provided below (Table 1):

Table 1: Summary on the projects approved

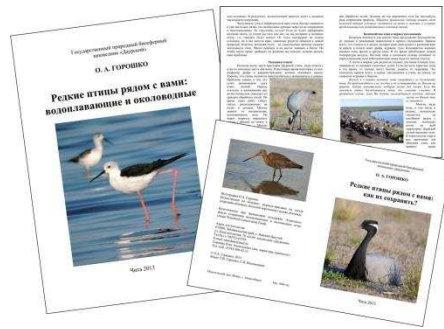
Year	Organization	Project Location	Status
2005-06	Wetland International – Thailand Office	Thailand	Completed
2005-06	Wilderness Conservation	Bangladesh	Completed
2005-06	Har Us Nuur (HUN) Club	Mongolia	Completed
2006-07	Bird Conservation Society of Thailand	Thailand	Completed
2007-08	Sumatra Rainforest Institute	Sumatra, Indonesia	Completed
2007-08	Shanghai Oasis Wildlife Conservation and Communication Centre	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	Completed
2010-11	Sumatra Rainforest Institute	Sumatra, Indonesia	Completed
2010-11	The Bird Conservation Association of Northeast Forestry University	Inner Mongolia, China	Completed
2011-12	Wuhan Bird Watching Society	Hubei, China	Completed
2011-12	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society	China	Completed
2011-12	Bird Conservation Society of Thailand	Thailand	Completed
2012-13	Mongolian Ornithological Society	Mongolia	Completed
2012-13	Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.	Philippines	Finalising report
2012-13	Daursky State Nature Biosphere Reserve	Russia	Completed
2013-14	Russian Society for Bird Conservation and Study (BirdsRussia), Kamchatka Branch	Russia	Completed
2013-14	Bangladesh Bird Club	Bangladesh	Finalising report
2013-14	Mongolian Ornithological Society	Mongolia	Completed
2014-15	Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China	Jiangsu, China	On-going

2.1 Project completed in this reporting year

2.1.1 Involvement of local community in the long term Dauria Transboundary Russian-Mongolian-Chinese Monitoring and Management Waterbirds Network (step first: Russian territory) <Daursky State Nature Biosphere Reserve>

The project concluded successfully with the following outcomes:

- Over 1,000 copies of 2 brochures introducing important waterbird species and threats the wetland facing were distributed to locals living around the nature reserve through face-to-face interview, local governments and local community leaders.
- Six hundred and eighty local people from 180 local families were visited and their awareness rose on the importance of Daursky wetland to both waterbirds and human beings.
- A local guard network was set up with 232 local people joining to reduce human disturbance at the important waterbird area during breeding season.
- Two meetings were held with 320 hunters at hunting agencies to explain conservation of the threatened species and the importance of the Daursky wetland to these birds during the breeding season.



Significant conservation impacts:

- **Guard Network by local people established to minimize poaching and disturbance to the breeding waterbirds.**
- **A local herder motivated to set up a new refuge (225ha) for waterbird at his private land located in the unprotected wetland area around the nature reserve.**
- **Agreement set up with local hunting agency to stop hunting activity in part of the wetland during breeding season, which is a precedent within Siberia.**
- **These activities resulted in 70% and 50% increase in breeding success of Swan Geese and White-naped Crane respectively in the 2014 breeding season (comparing to the mean of 2011-13).**



2.1.2 Significance of West Kamchatka, Russia for waterbirds conservation on East Asian-Australasian Flyway with special focus to shorebirds <Russian Society for Bird Conservation and Study (BirdsRussia), Kamchatka Branch>

The project was completed with the following fruitful outcomes:

- Fifty-five shorebird population monitoring surveys were carried out involving researchers, university students, local hunters and fishermen.
- Over 3000 individuals of 17 species of shorebirds were fitted with colour leg-flag to study their migration.
- Face-to-face discussion was held with government authorities in-charge of hunting activities and with local hunters to raise their awareness on threatened waterbird species which are forbidden to hunt.
- Education activities were carried out to 250 children from 4 schools around the site to raise their awareness on waterbirds and wetland conservation.
- Six hundred posters and 410 books about waterbirds in Kamchatka have been distributed to children, hunters, hunting officers and local administration officers.



Significant conservation impacts:

- **International significance of the site confirmed for 8 wader species, including Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper.**
- **Awareness has been raised for local communities, students, hunters and government officials on importance of the site for shorebirds.**
- **Knowledge on Kamchatka's shorebird migration increased by population monitoring and colour flagging research.**



2.1.3 Management of an important breeding and migration site for waterbirds in Mongolia (Dashinchilen Tsagaan): Phase 2 <Mongolian Ornithological Society>

The project concluded with the following outcomes:

- Three hundred posters containing information on the importance of the site for migratory waterbirds were produced and distributed to local people, school children, birders and local government officers.
- A workshop was conducted with 20 local government officers to introduce the waterbirds and importance of the wetland habitat to the birds and local people.
- Meetings were held with local people and government officers to engage long-term cooperation on establishing a local protected area demonstration site.
- Shorebird monitoring and ringing training was organized for 10 local university students so that they can participate in future survey at the protected area.
- A management plan was drafted for the site with local and governmental officials to direct monitoring and conservation actions in near future.



Significant conservation impacts:

- **Awareness rose for local communities, students and government officers.**
- **Capacity built for university students on waterbird research technique.**
- **Essential government and organizations engaged for nominating the project area as EAAF network site and local protected area.**

2.2 Project approved in 2015 annual application

The tenth round of applications to the Fund was concluded in October 2014. Although only four applications were received, one worthy project was selected by the AWCFC Committee and have been started in March 2015.

2.3.1 Dongtai Tiaozini Sandbanks Survey and Conservation <Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China>

Dongtai Tiaozini Sandbanks located in Jiangsu Province, China are the most important stopover site for the globally Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper during its Spring and Autumn migration. The site also holds a good number of 7 other endangered species in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.



However, this place is under great reclamation pressure and immediate attention for waterbird conservation is needed.

In this 10-month project, comprehensive and continuous waterbird survey will be carried out covering Spring and Autumn migration period to enhance knowledge on waterbird migration at the site. In addition, environment awareness programmes including school talks and photo exhibition will be held to raise awareness of local community, schools and government on conservaiton importance and threats facing of the site.



3. Income and expenditure

HK\$500,000 is donated by Mr. Trevor Yang, past Chairman of WWF-Hong Kong, over 5 years from 2012-2016. HK\$100,000 has been received in March 2015.

A total of US\$12,974 (approximately HK\$100,000) was given out to projects in instalments.

Table 2: Summary on the Income and Expenditure

Income (year)	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 (2007-10)	39,462.00	
Mr. Trevor Yang (2012)	100,000.00	
Mr. Trevor Yang (2013)	100,000.00	
Mr. Trevor Yang (2014)	100,000.00	
Mr. Trevor Yang (2015)	100,000.00	
Sub-total	1,344,840.00	
Expenditure (year)		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)	76,116.89	9,797.00
Project instalments (2009-10)	71,195.01	9,399.50
Project instalments (2010-11)	61,906.87	7,959.50
Project instalments (2011-12)	87,490.00	11,265.00
Project instalments (2012-13)	71,287.04	7,658.00
Project instalments (2013-14)	132,806.22	17,116.00
Project instalments (2014-15)	100,609.21	12,974.00
Administration and technical advice (2005-present)	255,044.57	
Sub-total	977,962.39	
Net Balance	366,877.61	

4. Acknowledgements

The Fund would like to thank Mr. Simba Chan, Prof. Guangchun Lei, Mr. Spike Millington, Dr. Philip Round 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.

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