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Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund

Annual Report 2007-08



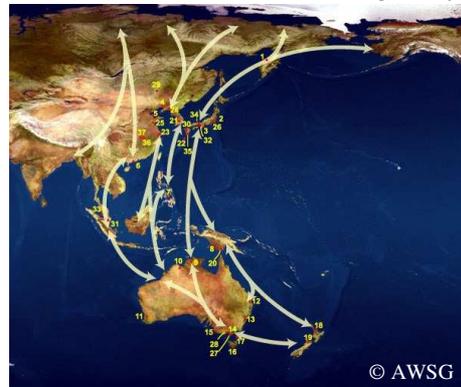
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1. Background

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.

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 of the administration of the Fund. Further donations are being actively sought from other sources to increase the amount in the Fund, so that a greater number of worthwhile projects can be supported in future.

Each year, up to 25% of the amount in the Fund will be earmarked for disbursement to support approved projects. 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.

2. Progress and results of the projects

The third round of application to the Fund was extended from October to December 2007 to allow promotion work at the East-Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership meeting held in November 2007. In all, thirty-one applications from 13 countries were received from which 3 projects, totalling approximately HK\$89,150 (US\$11,143.75), were approved. Meanwhile, all four projects approved in 2006 are now complete and their progress is summarised below.

2.1 First round of applications: March 2006

2.1.1 Public awareness campaign to enhance the conservation of migratory shorebird and their habitat at Chao Mai Marine National Park, Trang Province, Southern Thailand <Wetland International – Thailand Office>

The project has completed in October 2006 and the main achievements were outlined in the “Annual Report 2006-07”. Although further funding was not awarded to the project applicant for an extension, the applicant has sourced other funding to carry out several follow-up activities related to the project, including a training needs assessment and a one-day wetland workshop for a local administrative organisation.



2.1.2 Capacity Building and Community Based Waterbird Conservation Activity in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh <Wilderness Conservation>

This 13-month project finished in July 2007 with a great variety of activities organised. The achievements are summarised as follows:

- *School Education Programme:* Information on waterbird conservation spread to 680 students and 20 teachers in 8 local schools;
- *Community Awareness & Discussion:* Awareness programmes on waterbirds and wetland conservation organised for 430 people from the local community;
- *Establishing Monitoring Station / Conservation Center:* Three bamboo-made stations installed at major bird area for bird survey activity;
- *Training of Local People for Bird Monitoring:* Ten local people trained and recruited for bird survey and bird protection;

- *Motivation of Hunters:* By organising 2 awareness campaign, 45 hunters persuaded to stop bird hunting;
- *Production of Outreach Materials:* Over 3,000 pieces of materials, including picture cards, bird ID cards, leaflets etc. distributed to the local people;
- *Waterbird Survey:* Five-day survey organised in February 2007 to identify the major bird area and the threats they face;
- *Database Creation:* A database established to compile all previous bird information and allow new data to be entered for analysis in the future.



All project objectives are achieved and there has been a massive direct participation from the local community. In conclusion, the project has been very successful.

2.1.3 Support of HUN Club's conservation and public awareness activities in Western Mongolia <Har Us Nuur (HUN) Club>

The project finished in early 2008 and the Fund is now waiting for the final report to be produced. A conclusion of the project's achievements will be given in the next Annual Report.



2.2 Second round of applications: October 2006

2.2.1 Conservation Education on Waterbirds and Habitat with focus on the Inner Gulf of Thailand <Bird Conservation Society of Thailand>

The project completed in April 2008 and the Fund is now waiting for the final report. A conclusion of the project's achievements will be given in the next Annual Report.



2.3 Third round of applications: December 2007

2.3.1 Capacity Building for Local NGO's on Migratory Shorebirds Conservation in North Sumatra <Sumatra Rainforest Institute>

Aimed at capacity building on waterbird monitoring skill within local NGO's, two waterbird census training sessions will be organised for 30 personnel from 14 local NGOs and student organisations in North Sumatra. Through the training, participants can learn the bird identification and survey skills to carry out waterbird census and monitoring activities so that they could contribute to future waterbird censuses. This can greatly improve the understanding of shorebird populations within the flyway.



The project site, Percut Sei Tuan in North Sumatra, is an Important Bird Area (IBA) for many migratory shorebirds, including Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, which is of global conservation concern.

The project commenced in May 2008 and will complete in August 2008.

Total amount awarded = US\$ 3,143.75

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



In response to recent threats from urban development, the Center will bring all stakeholders (local communities living or working close to the area, as well as government and developer) together through bird-watching trips, lectures, workshops and production/distribution of leaflets to increase public awareness and to guide the

local government and the developer to initiate conservation measures to protect the area.

Nanhui Dongtan is a newly recognised IBA near Shanghai which provides great variety of wetland habitats for many migratory waterbirds to roost and forage, including the globally concerned species Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus*, Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* and Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*.

The project commenced in June 2008 and will complete in March 2009.

Total amount awarded = US\$ 4,000

2.3.3 Community Based Waterbird Monitoring and Conservation in Cox's Bazar Coastal Areas, Bangladesh <MarineLife Alliance>

This project is an extension to the Bangladesh project funded in 2006-07 (Section 2.1.2). In order to conserve the waterbird habitat in Cox's Bazar, MarineLife Alliance will work jointly with Wilderness Conservation to build up the capacity of the local community and to raise their awareness on conservation. The project activities will continue to involve a lot of direct participation from the local community, such as awareness programme, and training of local people for bird monitoring



and protection. In addition, new elements will be added to provide alternate livelihoods for the community. For example, outreach materials will be produced by the local community and birdwatching ecotours will be developed to benefit local people.

The project will begin in August and will last for 13 months.

Total amount awarded = US\$ 4,000

3. Revenue and expenditure

In 2007-08, HK\$260,987 has been injected into the Fund from a donation generated through WWF Hong Kong Big Bird Race 2008. Furthermore, the proceeds of selling a Cathy Pacific sponsored DVD entitled “Explore Wild Hong Kong!” at the Visitor Center at Mai Po Nature Reserve, has added HK\$996 to the Fund.

A total of US\$11,143.75 (approximately HK\$89,150) was awarded to the three projects approved in December 2007. First instalments have been received by the project applicants in May 2008. (Table 1)

Table 1: Summary on the Revenue and Expenditure

Revenue (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)	260,987.00	
Proceeds from DVD sales (2007-08)	996.00	
Sub-total	983,824.00	
Expenditure (date)		US\$
Project instalments (2006-07)	75,251.45	9,495.00
Project instalments (2007-08)	46,280.93	5,830.25
Administration (postage, fax etc.)	385.59	
Sub-total	121,917.97	
Net Balance	861,906.03	

As a reasonable amount of money (over HK\$860,000) has accumulated in the Fund, it is decided that no donation would be generated from WWF Hong Kong’s Big Bird Race 2009. However, proceeds resulting from sale of the “Explore Wild Hong Kong!” DVD will continue to add to the Fund.

4. Acknowledgements

The Fund would like to thank Mr. Simba Chan, Mr. David Li, 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

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