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# Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund

## Annual Report 2008-09

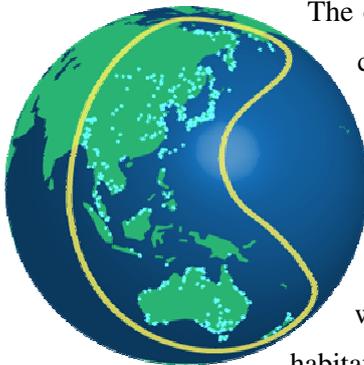


# Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund

## ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09

### 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 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. 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 2008, 12 applications from 8 countries were received. Two projects (section 2.4) were approved after the selection by the Committee, the total amount of grant is approximately HK\$62,000 (US\$7,950). 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	Ongoing
2007-08	MarineLife Alliance (with Wilderness Conservation)	Bangladesh	Ongoing
2008-09	Administration Bureau of Tumuji National Nature Reserve	Inner Mongolia, China	Ongoing
2008-09	Sumatra Rainforest Institute	Sumatra, Indonesia	Ongoing

### 2.1 First round of applications: March 2006

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

The project was terminated before completion due to personnel movement within the organization, hence several planned activities have not been carried out. However, the project still achieved some good results:

- four field trips organised for 42 students, teachers and national park officers;
- weekly lectures in ornithology organised for university students;
- three news articles generated from the project which were distributed to over 1,000 local people;

- Two telescopes and ten binoculars purchased for HUN Club member usage for sharing among local conservation organisations.



**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 successfully generated participation from over 600 people; achievements from this 12-month project include:

- The production of a brochure explaining the importance of the Inner Gulf of Thailand for waterbirds which was widely distributed to over 3,000 local people and students;
- Two workshops on waterbird watching and conservation organised for over 60 participants including local school students, teachers, government officials and communities;
- Education activities organised in 10 schools, resulting in 590 students learning about wetland and waterbird conservation;
- Four bird watching trips organised for 248 students and 18 teachers at wetlands around their school.



**2.3 Third round of applications: December 2007**

**2.3.1 Capacity Building for Local NGOs on Migratory Shorebirds Conservation in North Sumatra <Sumatra Rainforest Institute>**

Two training workshops on waterbird monitoring were successfully organised for thirty personnel from different local NGOs and student organisations. Each 2-day workshop consisted of indoor lectures and bird monitoring trips in the field for participants to put into practice what they learnt.



**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>**

The project concluded in May 2009 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.



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

The project will conclude in November 2009 and a summary on the achievements will be given in the next Annual Report.



### 2.4 Forth round of applications: October 2008

#### 2.4.1 Establishment of Waterbirds Conservation Stewardship through School and Community-based Education and Interpretation <Administration Bureau of Tumuji National Nature Reserve>

A series of school and community-based educational and interpretative activities will be carried out to establish waterbirds conservation stewardship in the Tumuji Township, Inner Mongolia. Activities such as training workshops, summer camp and “Love Birds Week”. These are expected to engage over 400 people from local schools and communities to better understand waterbird conservation.



The Tumuji Nature Reserve is about 950km<sup>2</sup> in size, consisting of temperate grassland and wetland. It is also an Important Bird Area which supports over 300 species of birds, including 4 species of globally threatened Cranes. Around 200 of the globally critically endangered

Siberian Crane were observed in the Reserve in spring 2008, which account for about 7% of the global population.

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

Total amount awarded = US\$ 4,000

#### **2.4.2 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 (Section 2.3.1). Thirty village leaders from two districts in North Sumatra will receive training on “Sustainable coastal village development”, by participating in indoor lectures, field trips and discussions on shorebird conservation.

The project began in April and will conclude in August.

Total amount awarded = US\$ 3,950

### **3. Income and expenditure**

The total income of the Fund in 2008-09 is HK\$192.00 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 finished in January 2009 and the Fund is now seeking other sources of funding injection.

A reimbursement of unspent funding of US\$791.5 (approximately HK\$6,202.81) has been received from the Wetland International – Thailand Office (Annual Report 2007-08, section 2.1.1) and has thus been injected back into the Fund.

A total of US\$7,950 (approximately HK\$63,600) was awarded to the two projects approved in October 2008. First instalments have been received by the project applicants in March and April 2009.

Table 2: Summary on the Income and Expenditure

<b>Income (date)</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)	260,987.00	
Proceeds from DVD sales (2007-08)	996.00	
Reimbursement from WI-Thailand Project (Nov-08)	6,202.81	
Proceeds from DVD sales (2008-09)	192.00	
Sub-total	990,218.81	
<b>Expenditure (date)</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)	83,279.70	10,588.50
Administration costs (2005-present)	11,261.39	
Sub-total	216,047.67	
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>774,171.14</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.



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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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