

Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund

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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project title:

Community-based Initiative in Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and Coastal Wetlands in Nanhui Dongtan, Shanghai, China.

Name of organisation:

Shanghai Oasis Wildlife Conservation and Communication Center

Project person in charge:

Kang, Hongli

CONTENT

Task 1: Project Preparatory Surveys and Communication

A. First phase dialogue with the Shanghai Wildlife Protection and Management Station.

Goal of the activity:

1. Identify/confirm sites of critical concern within the area, of which the conservation management should be addressed in the multi-stakeholder workshop.
2. Gain further support from government.

Organising date:

July 2, 2008

Actual number and group of participants:

Staff from Shanghai Oasis, Shanghai Wild Bird Society, Shanghai Wildlife Protection and Management Station (SWPMS). Total number of participants: 8.

Evaluation:

Our communication with the SWPMS, the government agency that operates directly under Shanghai Forestry Bureau and is in direct charge of the wildlife protection in areas of our concern, has achieved the following results:

1. The SWPMS shares our view of the importance to protect the habitats in Nanhui Dongtan and recognizes that government support of the project should be given. Nevertheless, in consideration of the political difficulty associated with both restoring the wetlands in the area of concern and establishing the proposed natural reservation (wetland park), the SWPMS recommends instead a focus on education and outreach for this project.
2. Almost the entire area of Nanhui Dongtan belongs to the Harbour City Group (HCG) and is subject to development under an existing master plan that can be hardly revised. Nevertheless, a vast submerged shoal outside the dyke is under formation. The SWPMS suggests we trade our plan of protecting the existing wetlands inside the dyke for a new plan to assist the SWPMS to gain management authority over the emerging shoal, which will be able to function as a wildlife refuge compensating the loss of the existing wetlands. We recognize the long-term environmental value of the emerging

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shoal. However, the shoal is currently submerged and has a lower diversity of benthic fauna. According to our survey, few birds are using the shoal as a habitat. The shoal will not become a major waterbird habitat until two to three years later. The wetlands inside the dyke need to be conserved because 1) it will continue to be an important waterbird habitat before the offshore shoal completely emerges, 2) despite the existence of a reservation outside the dyke, birds will need a foraging/resting ground inside dyke during high tides, and 3) a reservation inside the dyke brings birds closer to people and is thus more favoured for education purpose. Therefore, we reserve our endeavours to save a proportion of the existing wetlands.

3. The SWPMS recommended us to submit a report regarding our finding and plan for Nanhui Dongtan in the forthcoming marine conference in November.

Because the HCG has tremendous political power, the SWPMS will first consult with the agriculture committee of Nanhui District to set up a timetable for the dialogue between the HCG, the SWPMS and us.

B. Coordinating summer research and survey conducted by the Shanghai College Student Green Camp.

Goal of the activity:

Through a survey of various social groups, we will

1. Build their understanding of the natural environment of Nanhui Dongtan,
2. Receive their feedbacks on the status quo of the no-hunting zone in Nanhui Dongtan,
3. Hear their view about the development plan of the area.

Organising date:

July 25 – August 6, 2008

Actual number and group of participants:

Three coordinator/trainer from Shanghai Oasis and SHWBS; 20 students from 15 colleges conducted the survey. More than 388 people were surveyed and briefly informed of the ecological importance of Nanhui Dongtan.

Evaluation:

Three coordinator/trainer from Shanghai Oasis and SHWBS; 20 students from 15 colleges conducted the survey. More than 388 people were surveyed and briefly informed of the ecological importance of Nanhui Dongtan.

1. Survey planning and questionnaire design
The goal of the survey is to evaluate community awareness of the local environmental condition. Consistent with the goal, the survey was planned and the questionnaires were designed to focus on evaluating local communities' environmental awareness, their understanding of the concept of wetland and the existence of the no-hunting zone in Nanhui Dongtan, and their view about the future development plan in the area.
2. Training and Coordination
Through training, all student participants gained basic understanding of the ecology (including basic knowledge of wetland and ornithology) and socio-economic condition of Nanhui Dongtan as well as the expected outcome of the survey. They went further to hold detailed discussions and refined the survey plan before implementation.
3. Implementation
The implementation did not only include conducting surveys, but also field observation and interviews with relevant government agencies (see details below).
 - a. Field observation

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Staff from Shanghai Oasis guided the students to survey the intertidal area, observe birds and other organisms in the wetland and mudflat, and interview local fishermen. Students gained a basic understanding of the intertidal ecosystem, the biodiversity in intertidal zones, and the productivity of the area.

b. Survey

The students surveyed the residents, employees, and tourists in the vicinities of Nanhui Dongtan. The questionnaires given to each person surveyed did not only provide us with valuable information but were also designed to educate the surveyed person some basic knowledge of local wetland conservation.

c. Government agency interview

The students interviewed officials from the Management Committee of Harbour City, the Party Committee of HCG, and the Forestry Station of Nanhui District to collect information about the long-term local development plan, especially regarding the government's commitment to environmental conservation.

The survey results indicate that 1) the local community has very limited understanding of the significant value of the wetlands within Nanhui Dongtan, 2) poaching in no-hunting zone occurs at a moderate level, 3) the majority of the people surveyed show great interest in having a wetland park in Nanhui Dongtan. These results further strengthen the need to establish a wetland park in the area. A well designed wetland park will serve multiple functions including ecological conservation, environmental education, and recreation. The presence of the park will increase the land value of its vicinities and thus bring more profits to HCG and other local commerce. Establishing a wetland park is a win-win solution for environmental conservation proponents, commercial companies, and the government.

Task 4: Making Leaflets

Goal of the activity:

Design, print and distribute 5,000 copies of leaflets. The leaflets will highlight the environmental and socioeconomic importance of Nanhui Dongtan.

Organising date:

Finish design and start distributing in August 2008

Actual number and group of participants:

"Wetlands and Avian Species in Shanghai" leaflets were distributed in Nanhui Dongtan Coastal cleanup activity and through some other communication channels. They will be distributed during the birdwatching trips and the workshop.

Evaluation:

To be evaluate in future report.

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Photos:

Code	Caption:	Credit:
1#	Communication with Shanghai Wildlife Protection and Management Station	Kang Hongli
2#	Survey on Nanhui Dongtan (Organize students Camp)	Ma Weijie
3#	Survey on Nanhui Dongtan coastal wetland (Organize students Camp)	Ma Weijie
4#	Questionnaire investigation on Nanhui Dongtan	Ma Weijie
5#	Questionnaire investigation on Nanhui Dongtan	Ma Weijie
6#	Interview with the Management Committee of Harbor City,	Ma Weijie
7#	Visit on Nanhui District Agricultral Commission, Shanghai	Ma Weijie



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