

Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund

Annual Report 2010-11



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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.



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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 booted the Fund through proceeds of the Big Bird Race fund raising event. WWF Hong Kong is also responsible for the administration of the Fund. 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 sixth round of applications to the Fund was concluded in October 2010, ten applications from 4 countries were received. Three projects (section 2.3) were approved after selection by the Committee and the total amount granted was approximately HK\$94,000 (US\$12,000). 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	Finalising report
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	Finalising report
2010-11	Administration Bureau of Tumuji National Nature Reserve	Inner Mongolia, China	Ongoing
2010-11	Sumatra Rainforest Institute	Sumatra, Indonesia	Ongoing
2010-11	The Bird Conservation Association of Northeast Forestry University	Inner Mongolia, China	Ongoing

2.1 Third round of applications: December 2007

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

The project final report is still being finalised by the proponent. A conclusion of the project’s achievements will be given in the next Annual Report.



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2.2 Fifth round of applications: October 2009

2.2.1 Local Radio for Bird Protection Awareness Raising in Xuan Thuy Ramsar Site, Vietnam <Asian Coastal Resource Institute Foundation (CORIN-Asia)>

The one year waterbird protection awareness project successfully concluded in March 2011 with the followings rewarding outcomes:

- 37 key local stakeholders of the project (park staff, government officials, local communities, local radio broadcasters) participating in 3 meetings/workshops to plan, discuss, evaluate and provide valuable recommendations on implement of the local radio broadcasting activity;
- 20 local radio broadcasters were trained on communication skills to operate awareness programme (waterbirds and wetland conservation news) effectively;



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- 5 information counters (bookshelves) set up in 5 communes for local radio broadcasters to learn and exchange information on waterbirds and wetland conservation, which was essential for composing the news content;
- 250 sets of bird identification cards were distributed to secondary school students and guests to the park;
- 205 pieces of news covering a wide range of topics (e.g. waterbirds in Xuan Thuy Park, bird watching, Migratory Bird Day) were written by the local radio broadcasters were broadcasted to over 40,000 people in 5 communes twice a week during a 12-month period; and
- 500 people from 5 communes were surveyed before and after the 12-month broadcasting period on their understanding on the Park and waterbirds and their attitudes towards waterbird protection. Results from the survey were positive.

As a follow-up activity of the project, the proponent is going to organize a closing workshop to conclude the achievements of the project with the local stakeholders and to strengthened relationship with relevant authorities.



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2.2.2 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 in May 2011 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.

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2.3 Sixth round of applications: October 2010

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

<Tumuji National Nature Reserve >

This project aims for promoting sustainable behavior and livelihood in Tumuji Township. Local herders will receive training on sustainable husbandry and various other activities will be carried out which will bring together Nature Reserve staff, local communities, local school students and government officials, to establish a long-term communication platform.



© Cheng Wanjun

Tumuji National Nature Reserve covers an area of some 948.3 square kilometres, supporting over 300 species of birds including 6 species of Cranes. Around 10,000 people live within the Reserve boundary.

The project commenced in April and will last for 13 months.

Total amount awarded = US\$ 4,000

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

This project aims to collect waterbird data in the Deli Serdang District coastal area to inform decision makers the critical value of the area as internationally important migratory waterbirds habitats. Local student volunteers will be involved in the 12-month monitoring programme.



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Monitoring results will be concluded in a workshop which will inform local government and NGOs on the importance of the site and the needs for further protection.

Deli Serdang District coastal mudflat area provides roosting and feeding area for migratory waterbirds. Currently the site is facing threats including illegal mangrove destruction, waterbirds poaching and development of palm farming and fishponds.

The project began in April and will conclude in May 2012.

Total amount awarded = US\$ 4,000

2.3.3 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)>

This project aims to promote waterbird conservation locally by establishing a watchdog-network between reserve staff and local community to guard the nesting waterbirds against illegal egg collection. Target audience of the project includes local communities and students living in 17 towns/villages in the Reserve.



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Hui River National Nature Reserve is an important breeding area for the endangered Red-crowned Crane and other threatened waterbirds, which is facing threats including illegal egg collection, human disturbance and water shortages.

The project started in April and will last for 16 months.

Total amount awarded = US\$ 4,000

3. Income and expenditure

No income or donation was received to the Fund in 2010-11.

A total of US\$12,000 (approximately HK\$94,000) was awarded to the three projects approved in October 2010. First instalments have been received by the project proponents.

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	
	Sub-total	944,840.00
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)	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
Administration costs (2005-present)	94,866.70	
	Sub-total	430,495.83
	Net Balance	514,344.17

4. Acknowledgements

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