



WWF

REPORT

HK

2018

A photograph of a flock of waterbirds, likely curlews, flying over a wetland landscape. The birds are in various stages of flight, with some showing their long, curved bills. The background consists of a body of water and a line of green reeds or grass in the foreground.

WWF-HONG KONG ASIAN WATERBIRD CONSERVATION FUND

10 Years of Conservation Impact

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BACKGROUND



EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY

50 million
migratory waterbirds

THE EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY IS HOME TO OVER 50 MILLION MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS FROM OVER 250 DIFFERENT POPULATIONS. COVERING 45% OF THE WORLD'S HUMAN POPULATION, THE FLYWAY HAS THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF THREATENED MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS (20%) DUE TO HABITAT LOSS, POLLUTION AND HUNTING. CURRENTLY, 62% OF WATERBIRD POPULATIONS IN THE FLYWAY ARE IN DECLINE OR HAVE BECOME EXTINCT.

The Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund (AWCF) was established in July 2005 with the aim of supporting projects in Asia that will lead to conservation of migratory waterbirds and their important wetland habitats along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), particularly with partnerships which will bring benefits to the local communities at the project sites. An initial donation of HK\$500,000 was kindly provided by Cathay Pacific and the fund has been sustained partly by money raised in the annual Big Bird Race and a donation from WWF-Hong Kong's ex-chairman.

A total of HK\$1.08 million has been granted to support projects since the fund's establishment.

WWF-Hong Kong has been responsible for the administration of AWCF since its establishment. In April 2006, the first round of applications was initiated and an annual call for applications continued with a deadline of 31 October each year. Groups such as non-government and community organizations (NGOs), academic and research institutes and government authorities are eligible to apply for project funding. At present, a maximum annual amount of US\$25,500 is to be provided for each project.

Our Partners:



10 YEARS OF CONSERVATION IMPACT

A total of 32 AWCF funded projects were launched in 11 Asian countries from 2005/06 to 2016/17. A report summarizing project results is produced annually and key achievements and conservation impact are summarized here.

1. LONG-TERM CONSERVATION OF PROJECT SITES

To extend the conservation impact beyond the AWCF-funded project lifespan, government officials from departments influential to the protection of important wetland sites, such as reserve management and wildlife protection departments, were involved in the projects. With a better understanding of the critical situation of migratory waterbirds and the importance of wetlands, government officials showed a positive attitude to conservation work. As a result, the national conservation statuses of four AWCF-funded project sites were upgraded and Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area in the Philippines and Dashinchilen Tsagaan wetlands in Mongolia were successfully designated as Ramsar sites (i.e. wetlands of international importance) and Flyway Network Sites* under EAAF Partnership.

* Flyway Network Sites are important sites for migratory waterbirds within EAAF recognized nationally and internationally





Case study 1: Enhancing conservation of wetlands critical to threatened waterbirds in southern Negros Occidental, Philippines - Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation

Project period: August 2013 to August 2014

The wetlands in southern Negros Occidental faced various threats, including the conversion of mangrove forests to aquaculture ponds, water pollution caused by the discharge of untreated sewage and increased pressure on coastal resources due to the booming human population.

From September 2013 to January 2014, monthly waterbird surveys were conducted, recording 91,150 birds across 72 species. This included threatened waterbirds such as Nordmann's greenshank (EN)*, Chinese egret (VU)**, far eastern curlew (EN), great knot (EN) and endemic Philippine duck (VU). Survey results show that the number of waterbirds recorded in Ilog Wetlands and Ticsoc-San Juan Wetlands in January 2014 exceeded 15,000.

© Geoffrey Jakosalem



Trained surveyors conducting waterbird surveys on the mudflats

To better conserve the important wetlands, a wetland conservation workshop was organized on 5 February 2014 in line with World Wetlands Day. Fifty stakeholders in the wetland sites, including local government units, NGOs and coastal councils attended to identify and agree on plans for the conservation of southern Negros Wetlands.

A Project Ramsar Steering Committee, composed of the representatives from local government units and NGOs was established to provide support for the Ramsar application.



Local government Ramsar consultation workshop

Ramsar declaration workshops were organized from July-August 2014 in different cities. The Negros Occidental province signed an agreement with the local government units in Ilog, Kabankalan, Himamaylan, Pulupandan, San Enrique, Bago, Pontevedra, Hinigaran and Valladolid on the conservation of wetlands and preparation for the declaration of Ramsar site.

The project site was designated a Ramsar site on 20 October 2016.

*EN=Endangered

**VU=Vulnerable

Negros is the 4th largest island of the Philippines with Negros Occidental Province in the northwestern part and Negros Oriental province in the southeastern part. The wetlands in southern Negros Occidental are a series of mangrove forests, mudflats, estuaries and fishponds.



© Ma Elena San Jose

2. AWARENESS-RAISING WORK IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES WITH AWCF FUNDING

Awareness-raising activities including talks, exhibitions, workshops and field trips were organized in most of the AWCF-funded projects, involving over 14,600 local people and 8,250 students and teachers. Activities were tailor-made to suit the local culture and community needs, such as a Chinese Opera writing competition with a wetland conservation theme in Anhui Province, China, and daily broadcast of waterbird conservation messages on a local radio channel at Xuan Thuy National Park, Vietnam.

> 14,600 local people
> 8,250 students and teachers



Case study 2: Using local radio to raise awareness of bird protection in Xuan Thuy Ramsar Site, Vietnam - Asian Coastal Resources Institute-Foundation

Project period: March 2010 – July 2011

Xuan River Thuy National Park is located at the estuary of the Red River in Nam Dinh province, about 150 kilometres south-east of Hanoi. The area was declared the country's first Ramsar site in January 1989 and included as part of the Red River Delta World Biosphere Heritage Site by UNESCO in October 2004. In the high migratory season, the 15,000-hectare wetland attracts 30,000-40,000 waterbirds, including endangered and critically endangered ones such as spoon-billed sandpiper (CR)*, Baer's pochard (CR) and black-faced spoonbill (EN).

Human activities, such as bird hunting, are the major threat faced by the waterbirds. They were also chased away by local pond operators that found them feeding in their aquaculture ponds. The management board of the park lacked the funding to print education materials regularly and many local people did not have internet or newspaper access, making it difficult to raise awareness of bird protection. In view of this, the project team provided training to staff working at Voice of Commune, a popular local radio channel, helping them to design and broadcast bird conservation awareness

programmes. They were also provided with reference materials about birds and the Xuan Thuy wetlands. A total of 20 Voice of Commune staff and representatives of people's committees from the five communes near Xuan Thuy National Park were trained and news about the park, natural resources and birds was broadcast twice a week.



A trained officer broadcasting waterbird conservation news at Voice of Commune

A survey conducted at the end of the project showed that over 90% of locals had a better understanding of birds and conservation as a result. The broadcasts even prompted a group of local youth to promise not to shoot birds anymore. Local stakeholders found the project results sustainable as external support was not required to maintain regular broadcasts.

*CR=Critically endangered

© CORIN-Asia

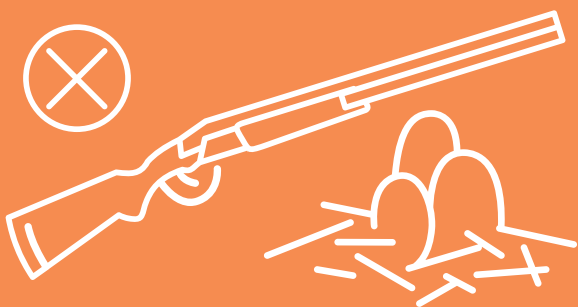


A small information centre for Voice of Commune staff. "This kind of support is simple, but meaningful to our daily work."

3. ENGAGEMENT OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN CONSERVATION AT AWCF PROJECT SITES

People living or making a living in wetlands are key stakeholders. In 14 AWCF-funded projects that engaged locals, different approaches were taken to resolve various problems. For example, guard networks were established to report cases of illegal hunting and the collection of bird eggs. In some cases, agreements were signed with hunters to suspend activities during the waterbirds' breeding season. These efforts resulted in an immediate increase in the breeding success observed of red-crowned cranes at Hui River National Nature Reserve in Inner Mongolia, and in swan geese and white-naped cranes at Daursky State Nature Reserve in Russia.

Illegal hunting Collection of bird eggs



© Eugeny Vokitin



Distributing the brochures and chatting with local herders

Case study 3:



Involving the local community in the long term Dauria Transboundary Russian-Mongolian-Chinese Monitoring and Management Waterbirds Network - (Step 1: Russian territory) Daursky State Nature Biosphere Reserve

Project period: September 2013 to November 2014

Dauria International Protected Area, established in 1994, includes three national nature reserves: Daursky (Russia), Dalai Lake (China), and Mongol-daguur (Mongolia). The DIPA and adjacent Daurian areas which support 2-3 million migratory waterbirds in 120 species have global importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds on the EAAF.

Due to many years of drought (from 2000 to 2012), the Daurian wetlands shrunk from 2007-2012 to only 2-5% of that from 1995-1999. As a result, breeding cranes and other waterbirds moved from Daursky Reserve to unprotected wetlands in Russia where they faced threats such as spring poaching and annual spring grassfire.

In the project, two brochures which introduced waterbirds and methods to save them were published. The project team visited 180 local herder families (680 people) outside the Daursky Reserve to distribute the brochures, introduce waterbirds and wetlands and explain how they can work with staff of Daursky Nature Reserve to conserve the biodiversity and use wetlands in a more sustainable way. The local people were encouraged to contact the staff of the Daursky

Nature Reserve, if they came across poaching or other illegal activities, via telephone numbers printed on the brochures. A guard network was established and 232 locals joined. Those who were especially interested in waterbird identification and surveys, were invited to join the regular monitoring work.

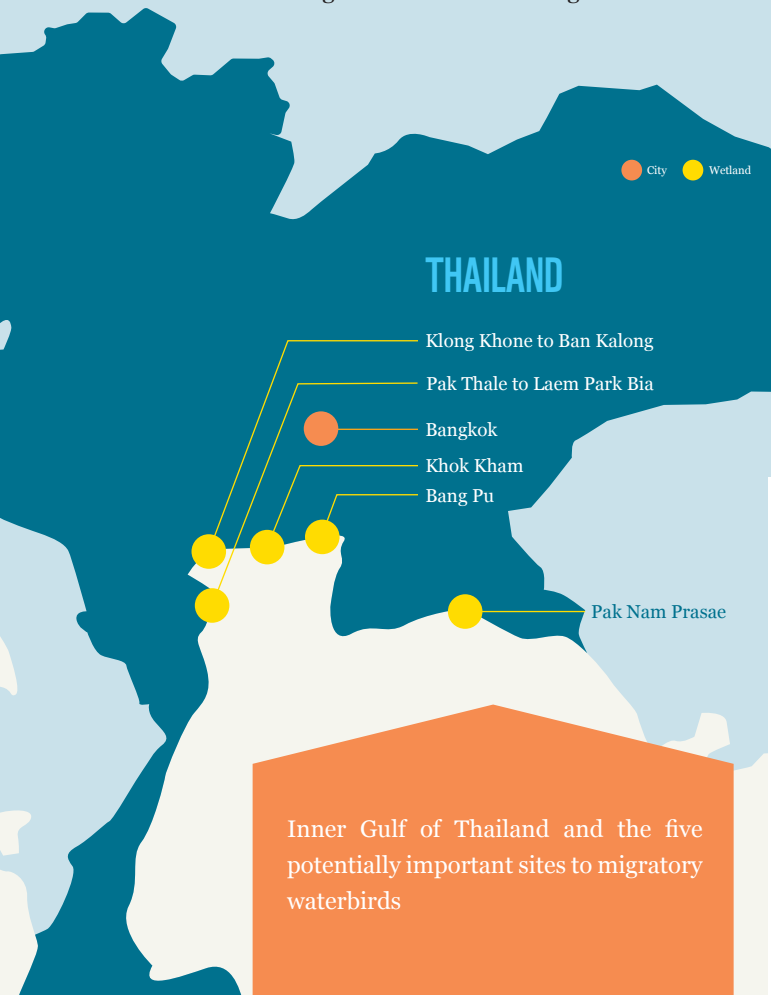
In 2014, members of the guard network did not set grassfires or shoot waterbirds. Many locals did not visit important breeding sites on the lakes and they restricted visits from their cattle. As a result, there was an increase in breeding success of the globally threatened swan goose outside Daursky Nature Reserve in 2014: three to four families with 11-17 goslings in 2011-2013 but seven families with 29 goslings in 2014. One of the herders who joined the Guard Network even established a refuge on the private lake near to his settlement which is an important breeding and staging area for waterbirds. The refuge is about 225 hectares.

To resolve the poaching problem, the project group first had a discussion with the regional hunting agency and explained to hunting officials the importance of stopping spring hunting on the Borzia River. Then, in mid-April, just before the opening of spring hunting on 1 May, the project team, together with the agency, organized two big meetings with participation from more than 320 local hunters to explain the adverse effects of spring hunting on the breeding white-naped crane and swan goose and proposed to stop spring hunting. In 2014, spring hunting on the Borzia River was closed and cranes and geese had a high breeding success. For example, 8-10 families of white-naped crane were recorded in 2011-2013 but as many as 15 families were found in 2014.

The good work continued in 2015 with funding provided by Daursky Nature Reserve.

4. IMPROVEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

Scientific data and information are essential for identifying important sites to migratory waterbirds and the need for conservation. Moreover, in order to ensure long-term waterbird monitoring work, training of new surveyors is necessary. Therefore, nine projects organized training workshops for university students, local NGOs, government officials and local villagers to build up their waterbird monitoring capacity. Regular monitoring work confirmed important sites in Kamchatka in Russia, Rudong in China, Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and Deli Serdang in North Sumatra.



Inner Gulf of Thailand and the five potentially important sites to migratory waterbirds



Case study 4: Potential flyway sites monitoring and raising awareness of local people in the Inner Gulf of Thailand - Bird Conservation Society of Thailand

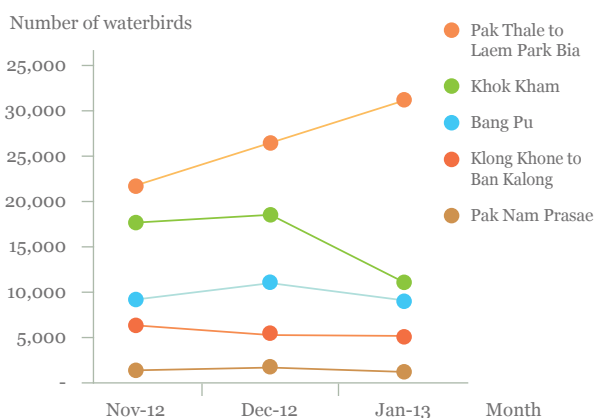
Project period: April 2012 – March 2013

The Inner Gulf of Thailand, which extends for approximately 195 kilometres from east to west at the south of Bangkok, comprises intertidal mudflats, mangroves, and vast systems of managed salt, shrimp and fish farms abutting sand beaches. The area not only has high economic importance for industries ranging from small local aquatic enterprises (salt farming, inshore fishing and traditional aquaculture) to large industrial facilities, it also hosts internationally important populations of 100,000-135,000 wintering waterbirds. Among them, 13 species are globally threatened with at least four of those regularly occurring in significant numbers: spoon-billed sandpiper (CR), black-faced spoonbill (EN), Nordmann's greenshank (EN), Chinese egret (VU).

Although a small area in the Inner Gulf of Thailand has been designated as a Ramsar site, a much larger and more significant area, in conservation terms, lacks Ramsar status. Therefore, identification of new important sites through waterbird monitoring is necessary in order to encourage the

relevant government departments, such as Office of Natural Resources, Environmental Policy and Planning, to make a Flyway Network Site* or Ramsar designation.

In the project, 47 volunteers were trained in a site-monitoring workshop where they learned the identification of waterbirds, shorebirds, seabirds and gulls. A field trip was arranged so that the participants could have experience conducting waterbird surveys at different habitat types such as salt pans, coastal areas and aquaculture ponds. From November 2012 to January 2013, forty of the trained volunteers conducted monthly waterbird surveys at the five potential sites and recorded a great number of waterbirds at Pak Thale to Laem Pak Bia and Khok Kham. In 2014, the two sites were nominated as Flyway Network Sites with the support of local governments.



Diverse bird species were recorded during waterbird surveys



FION CHEUNG KA WING

Assistant Manager, Flyway Planning and Training

Fion's responsibilities for the AWCF include managing cooperation projects with nature reserves in mainland China to improve their capacities in wetland management and environmental education, selecting suitable projects together with the steering committee, and monitoring the work of funded projects. As one of the Mai Po Nature Reserve's wetland management trainers in Hong Kong, she educates wetland management staff on the role the flyway and the importance of wetlands to migratory waterbirds. She joined WWF-Hong Kong in 2010.

Fion has a Master of Philosophy from the University of Hong Kong (research on freshwater wetlands). She is a former Senior China Programme Officer of BirdLife International/ Hong Kong Bird Watching Society China Programme. She has managed ornithological conservation funds, overseen numerous waterbird census reports and taught workshops aimed at supporting waterbird conservation across mainland China. She is also an editor of the Directory of Important Bird Area in China (Mainland): Key Sites for Conservation.



XIANJI WEN

Assistant Director, Mai Po Nature Reserve and Regional Wetlands

Xianji joined WWF-Hong Kong in 2001, and is currently leading the management of Mai Po Nature Reserve. The habitat management and environment education conducted in Mai Po are recognized as a role model for other wetland sites. Xianji oversees Mai Po's Wetland Management Training Programme and Regional Wetlands Programme. To date, the programme has taught over 4,500 participants from across Asia. Xianji has extensive experience related to wetland conservation, including management planning, protected area design, habitat management, environmental education and community participation. He provides his

experience and expertise in advising on the selection of applications for the AWCF.

Xianji graduated from Biology Department of Central China Normal University in 1986, and earned a Master's Degree of Sciences in 1989 from Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. From 1989-2001, he worked in China's Yunnan Province, leading projects concerning wild birds and their habitats. During that period, he also completed his doctoral studies and visiting scholar programme to Cornell University in the USA.

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED

From 2005 to 2018



| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Location | Bangladesh |
| Project title | Capacity Building & Community Based Waterbird Conservation Activity in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh |
| Organization | Wilderness Conservation |
| Amount (usd) | 4,005 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Major bird areas identified with surveys; 2. Monitoring stations established at major bird areas for future surveys; 3. Local communities' and students' awareness on wetland and waterbird conservation raised; 4. Agreements set up with hunters to stop hunting birds. |

2005/06

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Thailand |
| Project title | Public awareness campaign to enhance the conservation of migratory shorebird and their habitat at Chao Mai Marine National Park, Trang Province, Southern Thailand |
| Organization | Wetland International – Thailand Office |
| Amount (usd) | 1,613 |
| Conservation Impact | Awareness raised for local communities and students on wetland and waterbird conservation. |



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|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Mongolia |
| Project title | Support of HUN Club's conservation and public awareness activities in W Mongolia |
| Organization | Har Us Nuur (HUN) Club |
| Amount (usd) | 2,400 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Built capacity of students for waterbird monitoring; 2. Raised local communities' and students' awareness on wetland and waterbird conservation. |





Location Thailand

Project title Conservation Education on Waterbirds and Habitat with focus on the Inner Gulf of Thailand

Organization Bird Conservation Society of Thailand

Amount (usd) 3,770

Conservation Impact

1. Awareness raised for local communities and students on wetland and waterbird conservation;
2. Capacity built for students, government and local communities on waterbird identification.



Location Shanghai, China

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

Organization Shanghai Oasis Wildlife Conservation and Communication Centre

Amount (usd) 4,000

Conservation Impact

1. Local citizens', students' and government officials' awareness on wetland conservation of the project site increased;
2. Proposal on conservation and sustainable development of the wetland site drafted.

2006/07

2007/08

Location Sumatra, Indonesia

Project title Capacity Building for Local NGO's on Migratory Shorebirds Conservation in North Sumatra

Organization Sumatra Rainforest Institute

Amount (usd) 3,144

Conservation Impact Local NGOs' and student organizations' capacity built on waterbird monitoring.



Location Bangladesh

Project title Community Based Waterbird Monitoring and Conservation in Cox's Bazar Coastal Areas, Bangladesh

Organization MarineLife Alliance (with Wilderness Conservation)

Amount (usd) 3,200

Conservation Impact

1. Awareness raised for local communities and students on wetland and waterbird conservation;
2. Local community engaged in monitoring of bird hunting activities;
2. Monitoring stations established at major bird area for future bird surveys.





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|----------------------------|---|
| Location | Inner Mongolia, China |
| Project title | Establishment of Waterbirds Conservation Stewardship through School and Community-based Education and Interpretation |
| Organization | Administration Bureau of Tumuji National Nature Reserve |
| Amount (usd) | 4,000 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness raised for government officials, local communities and students on wetland and waterbird conservation; 2. Environmental capacity built for school teachers and reserve staff. |



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|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Vietnam |
| Project title | Local Radio for Bird Protection Awareness Raising in Xuan Thuy Ramsar Site, Vietnam |
| Organization | Asian Coastal Resource Institute Foundation (CORIN-Asia) |
| Amount (usd) | 3,925 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local radio broadcasters' capacity built on operating waterbird conservation news programme; 2. Information counters established for local radio broadcasters. |

2008/09

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|----------------------------|---|
| Location | Sumatra, Indonesia |
| Project title | Capacity Building for Village Leaders on Migratory Shorebirds Conservation in Sumatra Utara-Indonesia |
| Organization | Sumatra Rainforest Institute |
| Amount (usd) | 3,950 |
| Conservation Impact | Capacity built for local village leaders on waterbird conservation. |



2009/10

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|----------------------------|---|
| Location | Anhui, China |
| Project title | Continued Conservation Education and Public Awareness Activities on Waterbirds and Lake Wetlands at Shengjin Lake in Anhui Province in China |
| Organization | Anhui Bird Watching Society |
| Amount (usd) | 3,940 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness raised for local communities and students on wetland and waterbird conservation; 2. Communication platform set up between local communities, NGO and reserve management authority to report illegal poaching. |





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|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Inner Mongolia, China |
| Project title | Community Participatory Co-management of Waterbirds and their Habitat through Promotion of Sustainable Behavior and Livelihood in Tumuji Township |
| Organization | Administration Bureau of Tumuji National Nature Reserve |
| Amount (usd) | 4,000 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Threat of livestock overgrazing and destroying wetland in the reserve reduced; 2. Local communities' awareness on wetland and waterbird conservation increased; 3. Capacity of local communities and reserve staff built on waterbirds monitoring and protection. |



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|----------------------------|---|
| Location | China |
| Project title | Capacity Building for Waterbird Monitoring at Important Sites along the China Coast |
| Organization | The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society |
| Amount (usd) | 5,000 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity of survey co-ordinators built on sustaining long-term waterbird population monitoring programme; 2. Continuous data on waterbird population and distribution information along the eastern coast of mainland China collected; 3. Rudong in Jiangsu Province identified as the most important stop-over site for the critically endangered spoon-billed sandpiper in the EAAF. |

2010/11

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|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Sumatra, Indonesia |
| Project title | Migratory Waterbird Conservation and its Habitat in Deli Serdang District Sumatra Utara Province: Phase I |
| Organization | Sumatra Rainforest Institute |
| Amount (usd) | 4,000 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved knowledge on waterbird population and distribution at the site enabled better planning on protection of the site in the future; 2. Stakeholders (including government officials) engaged in dialogue on the planning process. |



2011/12

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Location | Inner Mongolia, China |
| Project title | 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 |
| Organization | The Bird Conservation Association of Northeast Forestry University |
| Amount (usd) | 4,000 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local communities' and students' awareness on wetland and waterbird conservation increased; 2. Threats from illegal poaching reduced by better cooperation between reserve authority and local communities; 3. Capacity of local student volunteers built on waterbird conservation and communication. |





| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Location | Thailand |
| Project title | Potential Flyway sites monitoring and raise awareness of local people in The Inner Gulf of Thailand |
| Organization | Bird Conservation Society of Thailand |
| Amount (usd) | 5,000 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Voluntary bird surveyors trained and engaged on regular waterbird census; 2. Waterbird population data at potential EAAF network sites gathered and submitted to the relevant government department; 3. Local communities', students' and government officials' awareness on wetland and waterbird conservation increased. |



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|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Mongolia |
| Project title | Conservation and sustainable management of migratory waterbird habitat at Dashinchilen Tsagaan Wetlands, Mongolia |
| Organization | Mongolian Ornithological Society |
| Amount (usd) | 5,000 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness raised for local communities, students and government officers; 2. Status of the project site upgraded to "potential protected area" with stronger regulation; 3. Essential preparation works completed for nominating the project area as EAAF network site. |

2012/13

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|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Hubei, China |
| Project title | Monitoring and community awareness of Critically Endangered Baer's Pochard wintering at Liangzi lake, Hubei |
| Organization | Wuhan Bird Watching Society |
| Amount (usd) | 4,950 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity of volunteer built on ecological survey of the critically endangered Baer's pochard; 2. Local communities' and students' awareness on wetlands and Baer's pochard conservation increased. |



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|----------------------------|--|
| Location | The Philippines |
| Project title | Enhancing conservation of wetlands critical to threatened waterbird in Southern Negros Occidental, Philippines |
| Organization | Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. |
| Amount (usd) | 5,000 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Important waterbird sites in Southern Negros Occidental identified and later designated as a Ramsar Site in 2016; 2. Awareness raised for school children, local communities, NGOs, government officials and academics; 3. Capacity of local stakeholders built on waterbird monitoring skills. |





Location Russia

Project title Involvement of local community in the long term Dauria Transboundary Russian-Mongolian-Chinese Monitoring and Management Waterbirds Network (step 1: Russian territory)

Organization Daursky State Nature Biosphere Reserve

Amount (usd) 4,700

Conservation Impact

1. Guard Network composed of local people established to protect the wetlands area;
2. A local herder motivated to set up a new small refuge (225 hectares) for waterbirds;
3. Agreement signed with local hunting agency to stop hunting in part of the wetlands during breeding season.



Location Mongolia

Project title Management of an important breeding and migration site for waterbirds in Mongolia (Dashinchilen Tsagaan); Phase 2

Organization Mongolian Ornithological Society

Amount (usd) 4,700

Conservation Impact

1. Awareness raised for local communities, students and government officers;
2. Capacity built for university students on waterbird research technique;
3. Essential government and organization engaged in nominating the project area as a EAAF network site. It became the network site in 2014.

2013/14

Location Russia

Project title Significance of West Kamchatka, Russia for waterbirds conservation on East Asian-Australasian Flyway with special focus to shorebirds

Organization Russian Society for Bird Conservation and Study (BirdsRussia), Kamchatka Branch

Amount (usd) 4,720

Conservation Impact

1. International significance of the site for 8 wader species confirmed through surveys;
2. Awareness raised for local communities, students, hunters and government officers;
3. Knowledge on Kamchatka's shorebird migration improved by conducting colour flagging research.



Location Bangladesh

Project title Globally threatened waterbird conservation in the coastal areas of Bangladesh

Organization Bangladesh Bird Club

Amount (usd) 5,000

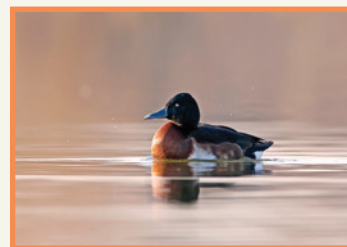
Conservation Impact

1. Habitat use, migration and threats faced by shorebirds understood;
2. Awareness for students and local communities raised;
3. Capacity of locals to monitor and safeguard the waterbird habitat built.





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|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Jiangsu, China |
| Project title | Dongtai Tiaozini Sandbanks Survey and Conservation in Jiangsu Province, China |
| Organization | Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China |
| Amount (usd) | 4,728.2 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness raised for local communities and students; 2. Importance of the project site to migratory shorebirds confirmed by surveys. |



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|----------------------------|---|
| Location | Shandong, China |
| Project title | The monitoring and protection propaganda of Baer's pochard in Taibai Lake, Jining City, Shandong Province |
| Organization | Qufu Normal University Bird Watching Society |
| Amount (usd) | 4,850 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attention and conservation concern on Baer's pochard in Taibai Lake increased; 2. The project group will become part of the national monitoring group; 3. The project inspired several participants to continue further study in bird biology. |

2014/15

2015/16

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| Location | Malaysia |
| Project title | Waterbirds training, survey, monitoring, and awareness focused on EAAF bird flyway in Malaysia |
| Organization | Malaysian Nature Society |
| Amount (usd) | 5,000 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More members of MNS are interested in joining the waterbird monitoring work; 2. Four new high-tide roosting sites with more than 1,000 waterbirds each were discovered in the North Central Selangor coast; 3. A declaration which guides stakeholders on required and urgent next steps to further and ultimately realize the long-term goal of protection and active management of the Kapa Ash Ponds site was finalized and distributed to relevant stakeholders; 4. Awareness raised for students and local communities. |



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| Location | Myanmar |
| Project title | Protecting the spoon-billed sandpiper and other shorebirds on Nan Thar Island, Myanmar |
| Organization | Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) |
| Amount (usd) | 4,925 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No bird hunting cases received during the project period; 2. Awareness for local shorebirds raised among the local communities; 3. The Forest Department proposed to Rakhine State Government to designate Nan Thar Island as a protected area. |





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| Location | Mongolia |
| Project title | Conservation and Community Awareness of the Critically Endangered Eastern Subpopulation of Dalmatian Pelicans in Mongolia |
| Organization | Wildlife Science and Conservation Centre of Mongolia |
| Amount (usd) | 5,000 |
| Conservation Impact | Waiting for the final report. |



| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Mongolia |
| Project title | Waterbird conservation through improving public awareness and pasture management of Mongol Daguur Special Protected Area, Mongolia |
| Organization | Mongolian Bird Conservation Center |
| Amount (usd) | 4,950 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public awareness activities reached 250 students; from two districts in the project area 2. The two district governors have already agreed to reduce the density of local families and the livestock around the wetland area during waterbird breeding season; 3. Funding has been secured to rebuild some wells so that steppe fire can be put out with greater speed. |



| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Location | China |
| Project title | Waterbird surveys and protection work in the coastal wetland of Jiaozhou Bay National Marine Park, Qingdao, Shandong Province |
| Organization | Qingdao Bird Watching Society |
| Amount (usd) | 5,000 |
| Conservation Impact | Will be concluded once the project is finished |
| Status | Ongoing. |

2016/17

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|----------------------------|--|
| Location | Qinghai, China |
| Project title | Training surveyors and protectors of black-necked crane in Nianbaoyuze, Qinghai Province |
| Organization | Environmental Protection Society of Nianbaoyuze |
| Amount (usd) | 5,000 |
| Conservation Impact | Waiting for the final report |
| Status | Finalizing report. |



| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Location | DPR Korea |
| Project title | Advocacy and awareness promotion on wetland and migratory waterbirds in Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve Area, DPR Korea |
| Organization | Ministry of Land and Environment Protection |
| Amount (usd) | 5,000 |
| Conservation Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flipchart "Wetland and Migratory Bird Conservation" and leaflet "Mundok Migratory Bird (Wetland) Reserve" were published and distributed to relevant stakeholders such as Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve managing officials, schools and local communities; 2. 10 staff members of Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve, school teachers and relevant stakeholders were trained to conduct public awareness raising activities. They then organized 18 local trainings targeting farmers, school teachers, students and other local people to introduce wetlands and migratory bird conservation. In total, 492 people attended. |



2017/18

OUR PROMISE TO WETLANDS

PROJECT SCOPE

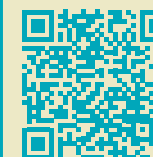


The AWC
was established in July 2005.

The AWC provides financial support to passionate and experienced groups that lack of sufficient funding to carry out projects at sites of importance for migratory waterbirds in the AAAF. This includes non-government and community organizations, and academic or research institutes.

Although similar grant programmes can be found in the region, attention to the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the AAAF is not always recognized as a priority. Migratory waterbirds are facing many challenges with continued development of coastal wetland areas on which they rest and feed during long migration on the flyway. Their situation is critical and populations show a rapid decline.

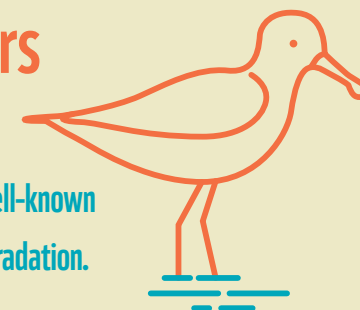
In order to continue conserving migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the AAAF, through providing financial support and technical advice to conservation projects, especially those involving local communities, we need your support.



AWCF aims to support species highlighted in these reports to maximize the overall conservation impact.

2,000-2,800 pairs in the 1970s
> 120-200 pairs in 2010.

Spoon-billed sandpiper is a well-known victim of coastal wetland degradation.



2018-2020

PROJECT OUTCOMES

Important waterbird sites in the EAAF will be improved through critical conservation actions such as improving fragile habitats to help stop the migratory waterbird populations from further declining.

WWF-Hong Kong has found many local NGOs passionate about nature conservation work, but it is usually difficult for them to apply for project funding due to economic circumstances in the local community and a lack of other funding. Local NGOs have a close relationship with local people and familiarity with the local situation. Funding provided by AWCF is focused at a local and manageable level. By completing AWCF projects, NGOs can gain experience in project management and help develop their professionalism and ability to work with other parties to further extend their conservation work.



Alleviating problems such as
illegal hunting
will improve sites along the EAAF.

AWCF-funded projects
deliver conservation impact
in conjunction with

local communities.



COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

- Acknowledgement of donor's support on the existing AWCF webpage
- Press release:
 - To update general media about the development of the project and highlight donor's support
 - To highlight special findings discovered by the funded projects
- eNews:
 - To feature the project with acknowledgement of the donor's support. The current mailing list consists of 180,000+ subscribers
- Facebook or Instagram on WWF-Hong Kong's pages
- About Life magazine/ Annual Report article:
 - To summarize conservation achievements of the funded projects

YOUR SUPPORT

We aim to protect wetlands across the EAAF and need your support to deliver our promise with 25 projects. The annual budget for projects is as follows.

| | TOTAL COST |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| | US\$ |
| FUNDING FOR EACH PROJECT | 15,000 |
| TECHNICAL SUPPORT | 8,000 |
| ADMINISTRATION COSTS AND OVERHEAD | 2,500 |
| ANNUAL TOTAL PER PROJECT | 25,500 |

The AWCF is seeking corporate support to deliver on-the-ground conservation impact across the twenty-two countries in the EAAF.

US\$127,500

Total funding per year.

Total funding needed over
the next 5 years.

US\$637,500
HK\$5,003,000

Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund

2005

is the year the Asian Waterbirds Conservation Fund was established

32

conservation projects in 11 countries along the EAAF have been funded

HK\$1.08 million

has been granted to support projects since the fund's establishment

>8,250

teachers and students have been involved in waterbird education activities



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together possible. wwf.org.hk

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(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability by guarantee 於香港註冊成立的擔保有限公司)