

Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

1. Background

The Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund (AWCF / the 'Fund') was established in July 2005 to provide financial support for projects at sites of importance for migratory waterbirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF).



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The objective of the Fund is to support projects on the ground in Asia that will lead to the conservation or protection of migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats in the EAAF, particularly through partnership with the local community at the site.

Cathay Pacific made an initial donation of HK\$500,000 into the Fund in 2005 and additional funding was received through proceeds of WWF's Big Bird Race fundraising event from 2006 to 2008. The Fund was further boosted with a donation of HK\$500,000 by Mr Trevor Yang, former WWF-Hong Kong Chairman (2008-2014), from 2012 to 2016.

WWF-Hong Kong is responsible for the administration of the Fund.



A flock of Eurasian oystercatcher in Jiaozhou Bay, China (Photo credit: 薛琳)

2. Progress and results of the projects

A summary of the projects approved since 2005 is provided below (Table 1):

Table 1: Summary on the projects approved

Year	Organization	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 Centre	Shanghai, China	Completed
2007-08	MarineLife Alliance (with Wilderness Conservation)	Bangladesh	Completed
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	Completed
2010-11	Administration Bureau of Tumuji National Nature Reserve	Inner Mongolia, China	Completed
2010-11	Sumatra Rainforest Institute	Sumatra, Indonesia	Completed
2010-11	The Bird Conservation Association of Northeast Forestry University	Inner Mongolia, China	Completed
2011-12	Wuhan Bird Watching Society	Hubei, China	Completed
2011-12	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society	China	Completed
2011-12	Bird Conservation Society of Thailand	Thailand	Completed
2012-13	Mongolian Ornithological Society	Mongolia	Completed
2012-13	Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.	Philippines	Completed
2012-13	Daursky State Nature Biosphere Reserve	Russia	Completed

Table 1: Summary on the projects approved (cont'd)

Year	Organization	Project Location	Status
2013-14	Russian Society for Bird Conservation and Study (BirdsRussia), Kamchatka Branch	Russia	Completed
2013-14	Bangladesh Bird Club	Bangladesh	Completed
2013-14	Mongolian Ornithological Society	Mongolia	Completed
2014-15	Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China	Jiangsu, China	Completed
2015-16	Qufu Normal University Bird Watching Society	Shandong, China	Completed
2015-16	Malaysian Nature Society	Malaysia	Completed
2015-16	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association	Myanmar	Completed
2015-16	Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia	Mongolia	Ongoing
2016-17	Environmental Protection Society of Nianbaoyuze	Qinghai, China	Completed
2016-17	Mongolian Bird Conservation Center	Mongolia	Completed
2016-17	Ministry of Land and Environment Protection	DPR Korea	Completed
2016-17	Qingdao Bird Watching Society	Shandong, China	Completed
2018-19	Ministry of Land and Environment Protection	DPR Korea	Completed
2018-19	Ministry of Land and Environment Protection	DPR Korea	Completed

2.1 Projects completed from July 2018 to June 2019

2.1.1 Conducting waterbird survey and protection work in the coastal wetland of Jiaozhou Bay National Marine Park, Qingdao, Shandong Province <Qingdao Bird Watching Society>

Waterbird survey and various public awareness raising activities were organized during the project period in the Jiaozhou Bay National Marine Park which is the largest national park in a bay area in mainland China:



A big flock of Dunlin (Photo credit: 薛琳)

- Two critically endangered Chinese crested terns (*Thalasseus bernsteini*) were recorded on 19th August 2017. It was the second time to record this rare species at the same location;
- It was the first time to record 16 common crane (*Grus grus*) wintering there;
- 46 government officials from the Forestry Department and the People's Government of Jiaozhou City participated in the talk about wetlands and waterbirds;
- Talks introducing wild birds in Qingdao were organized in 5 local schools, reaching 268 students;
- Photo exhibitions introducing wild birds in Qingdao were organized in a shopping mall and the library of Ocean University of China;
- In the birdwatching activity organized in cooperation with the Wildlife Protection Work Station during the Love Bird Week, there were over 70 participants including local pond operators.

Significant conservation impacts:

- **Through the waterbird survey, key habitats for waterbirds to winter, stop over and breed were identified. Survey data was also submitted to Wildlife Protection Work Station of Qingdao City and Forestry Department of Jiaozhou City so that they can consider the needs of the birds while planning the new wetland park;**
- **The talk increased the awareness of the government officials who are responsible for wildlife protection on the birds in Jiaozhou Bay;**

- In view of the project success, the project team determines to continue organizing talks in local schools in the future.

2.1.2 Publication of the second edition of “National Wetland Inventory of DPR Korea” <Ministry of Land and Environment Protection, DPR Korea>

Based on the information collected by 12-month field work and literature review, DPR Korea prepared the second edition of its wetland inventory and released at the 13th Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention on 24th October 2018.

The inventory can be downloaded here:

<https://s3.ap-northeast-2.amazonaws.com/eaafp/wetland+inventory DPRK.zip>



Significant conservation impacts:

The new inventory provides comprehensive information of the 54 pieces of wetlands of international importance such as geographical features, ecosystem services provided, threats and conservation and management status. It can help promote and gain local and international support in terms of protection and better management.

2.1.3 Activities for conservation of great knot in Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve < Ministry of Land and Environment Protection, DPR Korea>

Great knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) is a globally endangered migratory shorebird with a very rapid declining population. The project was implemented successfully with the following outcomes:

- Surveys on migratory waterbirds, especially on great knot, were conducted in autumn 2018 and spring 2019;



Great knot leaflet (Photo credit: MoLEP)

- 2,000 copies of the leaflet which introduces features, migration and protection of great knot were produced and distributed;
- Local awareness raising activities targeting 300 field managing officials, local community people and students were organized.

Significant conservation impacts:

- 1,253 great knots were recorded during the autumn survey which was the largest group observed in Mundok in one day ever;
- Through the project, the experts from the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection realized the suitable time and locations for conducting surveys. This kind of information is also essential for conservation of waterbirds at the central level.

3. Income and expenditure

No additional funding has been received in 2019.

A total of US\$12,970 (approximately HK\$102,000) was given out to projects in instalments.

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	
Mr. Trevor Yang (2012)	100,000.00	
Mr. Trevor Yang (2013)	100,000.00	
Mr. Trevor Yang (2014)	100,000.00	
Mr. Trevor Yang (2015)	100,000.00	
Mr. Trevor Yang (2016)	100,000.00	
Sub-total	1,444,840.00	
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)	76,116.89	9,797.00
Project instalments (2009-10)	71,195.01	9,399.50
Project instalments (2010-11)	61,906.87	7,959.50
Project instalments (2011-12)	87,490.00	11,265.00
Project instalments (2012-13)	71,287.04	7,658.00
Project instalments (2013-14)	132,806.22	17,116.00
Project instalments (2014-15)	100,609.21	12,974.00
Project instalments (2015-16)	96,337.22	12,407.00
Project instalments (2016-17)	112,033.15	14,455.66
Project instalments (2017-18)	95,132.60	12,181.50
Project instalments (2018-19)	101,793.7	12,970.00
Administration and technical advice (2005-present)	327,688.13	
Sub-total	1,455,902.62	
Net Balance	-11,062.62	

4. Acknowledgements

The Fund would like to thank Mr Simba Chan, Prof. Guangchun Lei, Mr Spike Millington, Dr Philip Round and Dr Lew Young for serving as the AWCF committee members and providing valuable advice.