



40 YEARS
OF ACTION FOR NATURE

世界自然基金會
香港分會

WWF-Hong Kong

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ASIAN WATERBIRD CONSERVATION FUND (AWCF)

1. About the AWCF

The AWCF was established in July 2005 to provide financial support for projects at sites of importance for migratory waterbirds (including [seabirds](#)) in Asia of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway (EAAF). In late 2019, the AWCF was reformed and two new grants, the WWF Dr Lew Young Grant and the Asian Flyways Initiative Grant (AFI Grant), were set up to extend the support from the EAAF to the Central Asian Flyway (CAF).

The goal of the two new Grants is to support projects on the ground in Asia that will lead to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF and CAF, particularly through partnership with the local community at the site.

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

A report is produced by 31 July each year of the income and expenditure of the AWCF that year, and the progress and results of the projects that were approved in the previous round of applications.

2. Who is eligible to apply for the AWCF?

Groups such as non-government and community organizations, academic and research institutes. Government authority might also be considered.

3. In which countries should the projects be carried out?

For the EAAF: Russia, Mongolia, People's Republic of China, DPR Korea, Republic of Korea, Japan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, The Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste

For the CAF: Russia, Mongolia, People's Republic of China, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan

4. How big the grants are? What other supports are?

WWF Dr Lew Young Grant: Up to US\$10,000 (one-year project)

AFI Grant: Up to US\$5,000 (one-year project)

Besides funding, opportunities to attend related wetland management training courses will be provided which are planned to be organized in Mai Po Nature Reserve, Hong Kong, during the bird migration seasons (i.e. autumn and winter 2023). The number of participants from each project site is expected to be 5-6 people.

Depending on the project content, WWF-Hong Kong experts will visit the project sites to provide on-site support such as organization of birdwatching activities/festivals, conducting waterbird surveys and meeting with key stakeholders.

5. How many grants will there be each year?

WWF Dr Lew Young Grant: 1 project

AFI Grant: 2-3 projects

6. How will the applications be assessed?

All applications should involve in the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Asia of the EAAF or the CAF. Priority will be given to project proposals which:

- can help the implementation of the [EAAF Partnership 2019-2028 Strategic Plan](#);
- will be carried out at designated [Flyway Network Sites](#) in the EAAF;
- will be carried out at sites that are recognized as important for the conservation of the 20 priority shorebird populations identified in WWF-Hong Kong's report (in Appendix B of the [Prioritizing Migratory Shorebirds for Conservation Action on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Report](#));
- will be carried out at sites important to migratory waterbirds in the CAF such as Ramsar sites;
- can support the conservation of globally threatened (listed as VU, EN and CR in the IUCN Red List) migratory waterbird species in the CAF;
- engage local community living in or adjacent to the project sites.

7. Terms of Reference for the AWCF Committee

- To assess applications and advise on their relative priorities for funding support; and
- To advise WWF-Hong Kong on the amount to be allocated to each successful application.

8. AWCF Committee

Committee members (since December 2019)

Members

Simba CHAN
Guangchun LEI
Spike MILLINGTON
Philip ROUND
Doug WATKINS

Ex-officio

Secretary, AWCF
Director – Wildlife and Wetlands, WWF-Hong Kong

9. AWCF Secretariat

For all enquiries regarding AWCF, please contact Ms. Fion CHEUNG of the AWCF Secretariat.

Email address : awcf@wwf.org.hk

Telephone no.: (852) 2471 6212

Postal address : Mai Po Nature Reserve, Tam Kon Chau Road, Yuen Long, N.T., HONG KONG.

10. The Vetting Mechanism for Applications

The following actions will be taken after an application is received -

- (a) Upon receipt of an application, the AWCF Secretariat will send an intermediate reply to acknowledge the receipt of application. Where necessary, the applicant will be requested to provide clarification or supplementary information.
- (b) Before sending the application to the Committee for assessment, the AWCF Secretariat will check the eligibility of the application and may seek views on the project from relevant experts or government officials in the country where the project will be carried out.
- (c) Before making the decision, the Committee may request the applicant to provide further information. The Committee will also consider the budget and may amend the budget details and set ceilings for individual expenditure items.
- (d) The whole assessment period lasts no longer than 8 weeks. After signing of the agreement, the Secretariat will upload the project information on the [AWCF website](#).