

ASIAN WATERBIRD CONSERVATION FUND

1. Introduction to the AWCF

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 Asian – Australasian Flyway.

The goal 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 (approx. US\$65,000) into the Fund and WWF Hong Kong is responsible for the administration of the Fund. At present, the maximum amount that can be applied for each project will not exceed US\$5,000.

There will be a single call for applications to the Fund each year with the annual deadline being 31 October.

A report will be produced by 31 July each year of the income and expenditure of the Fund in 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 funding?

Groups such as non-government and community organizations, academic and research institutes.

3. What types of project will the fund support?

- Projects at sites that are recognized as being important for the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the EAAF in Asia;
- Projects at sites that support significant population of EAAF's migratory waterbirds with international/regional conservation importance;
- Projects that engage local community living in and adjacent to the project site on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats;
- Projects that lead to the long-term protection and/or sustainable management of the wetland habitats of migratory waterbirds at the project site;
- Project that raise awareness of the importance of migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats amongst the local stakeholders;
- Projects that will enhance scientific knowledge building on the migratory waterbirds with international/regional conservation importance and on the solutions to their significant threats facing;
- Projects that are urgently needed to prevent irreversible adverse impact;
- Projects that have long-term implications beyond project duration;
- Projects that have difficulty in obtaining funding from elsewhere.

Besides the annual application in October, at the Committee discretion, the Fund may actively seek opportunities to grant 1-2 important conservation programmes/projects annually, with an amount not exceeding US\$10,000 per programme/project.

4. Terms of Reference for the AWCF Committee

- To vet applications seeking funding support from regional experts, organizations to undertake projects leading to the enhanced conservation and wise use of wetlands and migratory waterbirds in the EAAF, and to advise on their relative priorities for funding support; and
- To advise WWF on the amount to be allocated for each project supported.

5. AWCF Committee

Committee members (since October 2009)

Members

Simba CHAN
Doug WATKINS
Lew YOUNG

Ex-officio

Secretary, AWCF
Director – Conservation, WWF Hong Kong

6. AWCF Secretariat

All enquiries regarding AWCF
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7. 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 interim reply acknowledging receipt of application. Where necessary, the applicant will be requested to provide clarification or supplementary information.
- (b) Before the Committee considers the application, the AWCF Secretariat may seek views on the project from relevant experts or government officials in the country where the project will be undertaken.
- (c) After deliberation, the Committee will either approve the application, reject it or request the applicant to provide further information. The Committee will also consider the budget, and where necessary, amend the budget details and set ceilings for individual expenditure items. The Secretariat will normally inform the applicant of the Committee's decision within 8 weeks. The Secretariat will upload information on the approved projects on the AWCF website.
- (d) For projects where further information is required, the Secretariat will circulate the applicant's responses to the Committee members. Members will then send their final views to the Secretariat who will then inform the applicant as soon as practicable.

8. Disbursement of funds to approved projects

- (a) For approved projects, part of the amount awarded will be disbursed to the applicant at the start of each of the activities listed in the project proposal and upon receipt of satisfactory interim reports on the activities.
- (b) The remaining will be dispersed at the end of the project on receipt of a satisfactory final report of the report which will need to include the project accounts.