

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 Asia – Australasian Flyway.

Cathay Pacific made an initial donation of HK\$500,000 (approx. US\$65,000) into the Fund. The Fund is administered by WWF Hong Kong. Further donations are being sought actively from other sources to increase the amount in the Fund, so that a greater number of worthwhile projects can be supported in future.

Each year, up to 25% of the amount in the Fund will be earmarked for disbursement to support approved projects. At present, the maximum amount that can be applied for each project will not exceed US\$4,000.

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

The following amounts have been injected into the AWCF since 2005.

Year	Amount	Source of income
2005	\$500,000	Cathay Pacific
2006	\$121,841	WWF Big Bird Race
2007	\$100,000	WWF Big Bird Race
2008	\$260,987	WWF Big Bird Race

A report will be produced by 31 July each year of the income that has been injected into 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 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 migratory waterbirds in the East Asia – Australasian Flyway;
- Projects that enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds, especially those that are threatened, or whose population occurs in significant numbers at the project site;

- Projects that can lead to the sustainable management and protection of the wetland at the project site;
- Projects that enhance the knowledge building and information exchange on the migration of waterbirds;
- The sustainable development, especially on habitat and waterbird conservation capacity building, of the community living in and adjacent to sites of importance for migratory waterbirds;
- Projects that will increase awareness of the importance of wetlands and migratory waterbirds amongst the local stakeholders, including natural resource managers, decision makers and the local community living in and around the project site;
- Pilot projects that have difficulty in obtaining funding from elsewhere.

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 (September 2008)

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 -

- Upon receipt of an application, the AWCF Secretary 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 Secretary 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 Secretary will normally inform the applicant of the Committee's decision within 6 weeks. The Secretary will upload information on the approved projects on the AWCF website.
- (d) For projects where further information is required, the Secretary will circulate the applicant's responses to the Committee members. Members will then send their final views to the Secretary who will then inform the applicant as soon as practicable.

8. Disbursement of funds to approved projects

- (a) For approved projects, part 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.