

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name	<i>The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society</i>
Project Title	Capacity Building of Local Conservation Groups in Guangdong and Guangxi Provinces, China, to Address Illegal Shorebird Trapping Problem
CEPF GEM No.	64086
Date of Report	30 th May, 2016
Report Author	Fu Wing-kan, Vivian
Author Contact Information	info@chinabirdnet.org

CEPF Region: Indo-Burma

Strategic Direction: Strategic Direction 8: Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels

Grant Amount: USD 99,975.00

Project Dates: 1June, 2014 - 30May, 2016

1. Implementation Partners for this Project (*list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project*)

Guangdong:

- Zhanjiang Bird Watching Society: They are now heavily leading in promoting awareness raising on bird protection to general public and local schools, bird and illegal mist nets monitoring as well as reporting of any illegal hunting activities.
- Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve Management Bureau: Provide venue and assistance in environmental education training workshop. They are one of the key contact government authorities for reporting illegal hunting.
- Swarovski's Feather Voluntary group: Lead in training of environmental education and help development of the voluntary groups in Guangdong and Guangxi.

Guangxi:

- Guangxi Mangrove Research Centre: Assistant organization of the training workshops of bird monitoring.
- Beihai Citizen Volunteer Association: Coordination of volunteers for monitoring of illegal trapping in east coast of Guangxi, carrying out environmental education activities at local schools.

Others:

- Beijing Brooks Education Centre: provide training for environmental education training workshop
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB): Help designing education programme and provide training for environmental education training workshop.

Conservation Impacts

2. Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

Contribution to CEPF ecosystem profile Strategic Direction 8: Strengthen the capacity of civil society to work on biodiversity, communities and livelihoods at regional, national, local and grassroots levels.

- Training workshops on environmental education, nature interpreter and bird monitoring help building capacity of these volunteers in coastal areas in Guangdong and Guangxi Provinces. The project helped to recruit local volunteers and build up teams to get involved in conservation actions such as awareness raising, monitoring and advocate government authorities. The project helped generate long-term force to help addressing illegal trapping problem in South China region.

3. Summarize the overall results/impact of your project

- Build up local NGOs or local voluntary teams at key sites to help wildlife (especially birds) conservation and protection (focusing illegal trapping) in long-term basis.
- Establish working relationship between local civil society organizations and government authorities and actively engaging in addressing problem of illegal trapping of birds. The problem of illegal mist netting on shorebirds in Leizhou Peninsular, Guangdong, is alleviated during the project period.
- Number of threatened species visited project sites increased during the project period. Number of Spoon-billed Sandpiper recorded in Leizhou mudflat raised from 4 in 2013 to 38 in 2016 (<http://www.birdlife.org/asia/news/record-breaking-wintering-numbers-spoon-billed-sandpipers-china>).

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each long-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

- Increased capacity of civil society local conservation groups in Guangdong and Guangxi provinces to contribute towards bird conservation in southern China, in particular to help reduce the illegal hunting of migratory birds
- A network of local organizations committed to addressing the hunting issue would be developed, which will benefit for conservation of all wild birds and animals including a number of globally threatened bird species and sites in the future, and to raise awareness of the conservation of birds and other biodiversity
- A reduction in the levels of illegal hunting of migratory birds in Guangdong and Guangxi provinces

4. Actual progress toward long-term impacts at completion

- It needs long-term effort for addressing problem of illegal hunting, and thus it needs local forces. Through the training workshops during the project provided to the newly established voluntary groups we have built up the teams with capacity on awareness raising, environmental education and bird monitoring
- Relationship and linkage between government authorities such as forest police and forestry department and civil society organizations or voluntary groups was built during the project period.

- Most of the project sites in coastal areas in Guangdong and Guangxi had fewer illegal mist nets recorded at the end of the project period, and in some sites there is even no illegal mist nets found after two year's project (Appendix 1).

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each short-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

- Increased capacity of local conservation groups in awareness-raising, monitoring of illegal hunting and advocacy to government authorities to at least 5 local civil society organizations or volunteer groups.
- Improved data available to the government authorities on the location and scale of illegal hunting at key intertidal wetlands in Guangdong and Guangxi
- Improved enforcement of existing laws on animal protection and hunting, through development of partnerships between relevant government agencies
- Increased awareness of the impact of illegal hunting on migratory birds amongst government agencies and local communities.

5. Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion

- At least 1 local NGO (Zhanjiang Bird Watching Society) was officially established with the aid of the project. Another two groups emerged as volunteer groups in Beihai, Guangxi and Dianbai, Guangdong.
- Report of number of illegal mist nets were produced and submitted to government authorities especially during migratory and wintering seasons of birds.
- Due to the strengthened relationship with government authorities and increased monitoring and report of illegal mist netting by volunteers, law enforcement was improved with quicker actions taken to reported cases. Mist nets will be cleared within a week upon receipt of report call.
- Working with local forestry department allows joint organization of awareness raising activities towards wildlife protection, at least four big events for general public about bird protection was held during official "Bird-loving Week" (March) and "Wildlife Protection Month" (October) in Guangdong and Guangxi respectively.

6. Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives

- Success:
 - Progress of establishing volunteer groups was surprisingly fast as there are keen and enthusiastic local volunteers. It was only a group of three keen bird watchers at the beginning of the project. But at the end of the project, the Zhanjiang Bird Watching Society was set up in June 2015 by this enlarged group of birders in Zhanjiang. Awareness raising activities were held successfully at cities and villages with support from local government authorities.
 - Huge reduction of illegal mist nets at project sites, especially in Leizhou Peninsular, Guangdong.
- Challenges:
 - Communication with local government officials was difficult at the beginning of the project as we did not have much contact with them, but it turned out fine as we build up trust and they were supportive to our project (mainly in Guangdong).

- For newly established volunteer groups and civil societies, they are lack of experience in organizational and project management, which might hinder the progress and sustainability of conservation actions carried out by the local forces.

7. Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

NIL

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Component 1 (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

Capacity of local civil society organizations increased, resulting in the establishment of at least one team for monitoring illegal mist nets and one group to promote the conservation of wild birds in coastal areas of Guangdong and Guangxi Provinces in southern China.

8. Describe the results from Component 1 and each product/deliverable

Three training workshops (instead of two as stated in the proposal) were held.

1. **Environmental Education Training workshop:** It was held between 13th and 14th Sept, 2014 in Zhanjiang, Guangdong. A total of 29 participants from Guangzhou, Zhanjiang, Zhuhai (Guangdong), Beihai, Fanchenggang (Guangxi) attended the workshop (Deliverable 1.2). School education activities were initiated at Zhanjiang, Zhuhai and Beihai after the training. Participants also took part in “Birds Loving Week” promotional activities (Deliverable 1.4).



Fig. 1. Lecture on The importance of educating young people for nature conservation

2. **Bird Monitoring Training workshop:** it was held between 13th and 14th March, 2015 in Beihai, Guangxi. A total of 39 participants from voluntary groups and nature reserves in Guangdong and Guangxi (Deliverable 1.1). Participants in Beihai and Zhanjiang formed teams to do monitoring of birds and illegal mist nets. These teams then became the main active force to monitor and report illegal hunting cases (Deliverable 1.3).



Fig. 2. Field practical during the bird monitoring training workshop.

3. **Training workshop for nature interpreters:** The aim of this extra workshop is to help building capacity and recruit people to awareness-raising activities. The workshop was held between 7th and 8th November, 2015 in Beihai, Guangxi. Twenty-seven participants attended the workshop.



Fig. 3. Participants conducting mock outdoor guided tour

Component 2 (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

Awareness raising amongst local communities and advocacy to the government authorities helps to change their mindsets regarding the need to prevent illegal hunting and wildlife consumption. Project activities lead to increased action by government agencies in Guangdong and Guangxi provinces to remove illegal mist-nets, and a reduction in the threat to migratory birds from illegal hunting.

9. Describe the results from Component 2 and each product/deliverable

1. School Education programme: Six primary and secondary schools and 9 primary schools joined the school education programme in Zhanjiang, Guangdong and Beihai, Guangxi respectively. 30-60 students from each school attended the activities. Activities included talks and story-telling, photo exhibitions, games, art work and bird quiz. All these activities were carried out and organized by local volunteers trained during the environmental education workshop (Deliverable 2.1).



Fig. 4 & 5. Photo exhibition at village schools and classroom art activities about birds



Fig. 6 & 7. Lecture and bird quiz at village schools

2. General Public: In cities of Zhanjiang, Yangjiang (Guangdong) and Beihai (Guangxi), where illegal bird hunting is rampant, promotional activities were held during the official “Bird-loving Week” in March 2015 and April 2016, and “Wildlife Protection Month” in October, 2015. Forestry Department, Education Department and Forest Police in Zhanjiang and Beihai cities co-organized and participated in the activities. Promotional activities included public talks, photo exhibition with interpretation, games and performances by local school students. Over two hundred people participated in each of these activities (Deliverable 2.2). In Zhanjiang city, regular and free-of-charge eco-tour at urban park was initiated to promote nature appreciation for general public.





Fig. 8. Activities during the “Bird-loving Week” in Beihai (left) and Zhanjiang (right)

There were at least three joint activities to remove illegal mist nets by local volunteers and forest police in Guangxi.



Fig. 9. Volunteers working with Forest Police to remove illegal mist nets near Beihai city.

3. Production of promotional materials (Deliverable 2.3):

- Exhibition boards:



- Poster calendar with bird protection message and report of illegal wildlife trade hotline number.



- Leaflets



- Book cover for school children with bird protection message



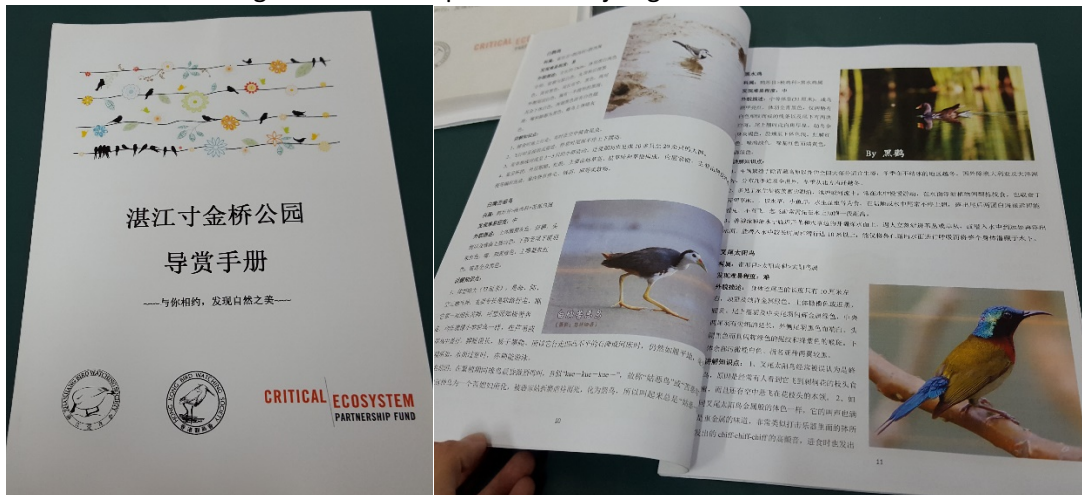
- Chinese New Year red pocket with bird protection message



- Pin badges as souvenir for school activities



- Manual for eco-tour guides at urban parks in Zhanjiang



4. Meeting of China Ornithological Society and meeting with government authorities
The 13th China Ornithological Conference was held in Anhui University, Hefei, Anhui Province between 12th and 15th November, 2015. In this conference, our society jointly applied for a symposium “Citizen Science and bird protection” with Dr. Liu Yang from Sun Yat-sen University, and invited bird watching societies and bird-related non-governmental civil society organizations to share experiences on bird monitoring and bird conservation. Issue of illegal hunting was discussed during round-table session on bird monitoring (Deliverable 2.5).



Fig. 10. Representative from HKBWS gave presentation on conservation work by amateur bird watchers



Fig. 11. Meeting and presentation to Forest Police and Forestry department was given on 30 March, 2015

5. A Weibo (twitter in China) account to be created to update news of birds and project activities (Deliverable 2.6)
[http://www.weibo.com/gdzjbs?from=page_100505_profile&wvr=6&mod=bothfollow&refer_flag=1005050010 &is_all=1](http://www.weibo.com/gdzjbs?from=page_100505_profile&wvr=6&mod=bothfollow&refer_flag=1005050010&is_all=1)

Component 3 (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each component and product/deliverable from Grant Writer

Increased monitoring of coastal wetlands in Guangdong and Guangxi provinces, resulting in the collection of improved information on the populations of migratory waterbirds and the illegal trapping and trade in wild birds in southern China.

10. Describe the results from Component 3 and each product/deliverable

A summary report presenting the information collected during surveys of waterbirds and illegal trapping using mist nets or traps were prepared and submitted to forestry departments (Appendix 1).

11. If you did not complete any component or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?

We did not carry out market surveys of the trade in wild birds as proposed. The main reason was that after media exposure on the serious condition of illegal hunting in South China, many of the trade disappeared from local markets and turned to underground trade which made the detection of trading of wild birds difficult. This missing part of the project component did not affect project outcome as our focus is on capacity building instead of putting direct impact on wildlife trade. On the other hand, it showed a good sign of reduction of wildlife trading (even though it is on the surface) in South China.

12. Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results

N/A.

CEPF Global Monitoring Data

Respond to the questions and complete the tables below. If a question is not relevant to your project, please make an entry of 0 (zero) or n/a (not applicable).

13. List any vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species conserved due to your project

- Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea* (CR)
- Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* (EN)
- Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* (EN)
- Saunders's Gull *Saundersilarus saundersi* (VU)

Hectares Under Improved Management

Project Results	Hectares*	Comments
14. Did your project strengthen the management of an existing protected area?	7,029	Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve
15. Did your project create a new protected area or expand an existing protected area?	n/a	List the name of each protected area, the date of proclamation, and the type of proclamation (e.g., legal declaration, community agreement, stewardship agreement)

16. Did your project strengthen the management of a key biodiversity area named in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile (hectares may be the same as questions above)	8,000 (estimation only)	CHN43 (Leizhou Peninsular), CHN28 (Guang Tou Ling)
17. Did your project improve the management of a production landscape for biodiversity conservation	n/a	List the name or describe the location of the production landscape

* Include total hectares from project inception to completion

18. In relation to the two questions above on protected areas, did your project complete a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), or facilitate the completion of a METT by protected area authorities? If so, complete the table below. (Note that there will often be more than one METT for an individual protected area.)

Protected area	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score

19. List the name of any corridor (named in the Ecosystem Profile) in which you worked and how you contributed to its improved management, if applicable.

Direct Beneficiaries: Training and Education

<i>Did your project provide training or education for . . .</i>	Male	Female	Total	Brief Description
20. Adults for community leadership or resource management positions	44	52	96	Participants joining the training
21. Adults for livelihoods or increased income				
22. School-aged children	n/a	n/a	865	We did not record gender of the children joining the activities
23. Other				

24. List the name and approximate population size of any “community” that benefited from the project.

Community name, surrounding district, surrounding province, country *Population size*

N/A

25. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Based on the list of communities above, write the name of the communities in the left column below. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes.

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit													
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists / nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty line	Other	Increased income due to:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides,	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance	Other
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services									
Citizens in Guangdong and Guangxi						X														X	

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community

26. Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

1. Involve key stakeholders in project design process which help identifying difficulties in the early stage
2. Gaining support from the local government authorities was the key to smoothen project establishment and implementation, if possible, it is better to have them included as supporters or co-organizers in the activities
3. Media needs to be placed and considered at the planning stage of project activities. They can have both positive and negative impact to the project.

27. Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)

1. People from different places have different working styles the same working procedure should be justified slightly for different partners
2. Regular communication with project partners on monitoring activity progress is in schedule and most importantly, partners in charge and participated in the project are happy with the workload (as many are volunteers in our project) and sense of belonging to the project has been built. Once they are satisfied, they are more enthusiastic to work together on the project.

28. Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

1. If there is another NGOs working on similar aspect at the project site, it is better to meet with them and compromise project activities that are not overlapping, or to complement with each other's work.
2. When working with the local communities, it is usual that project workers brought a sense of pride that they are coming to "help them", it would be more easily accepted with an attitude that we came to "work with them as we are attracted by the uniqueness of the local community or biodiversity".

Sustainability / Replication

29. Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated

The project successfully recruited and established groups of local volunteers in different places where illegal trapping was rampant. In addition, working relationship has been built between government authorities and local civil societies (local volunteer groups), it is essential to sustain and replicate the project activities because human resources is one of the most important component of conservation work.

Challenges would be facing include lack of funding and newly recruited volunteers are inexperienced in running project activities, change of personnel of core leading group of civil society organizations and volunteer groups.

30. Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability

1. Next step of the project is to work closer with local villages (we worked more in cities in the present project) so as to reach the aim of reducing illegal hunting which is usually happening in rural areas
2. Eco-tourism for bird watching, especially raptor watching in Beihai and west Leizhou Peninsular where there are sites for raptor migration can be potential development to turn hunters into eco-tour guides, yet it takes some time to generate atmosphere and interest towards eco-tourism in the region and training of eco-tour guides.

Safeguards

31. If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

Additional Comments/Recommendations

32. Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

It would be helpful for CEPF staffs to come visit project sites and provide any suggestions and aspects overlooked by project holders.

Additional Funding

33. Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
China Telecom	A	RMB 10,000	Sponsored one of the large promotional event "Bird-loving Week" in March 2015
SEE Foundation	A	RMB 150,000	Sponsoring organizational development of Zhanjiang Bird Watching Society

** Categorize the type of funding as:*

- A Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
- C Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

- 34. Name:** Fu Wing Kan, Vivian
35. Organization: The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society
36. Mailing address: 7C, V Ga Building, 532, Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon, Hong Kong
37. Telephone number: +852 2377 4387
38. E-mail address: info@chinabirdnet.org