

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society
Project Title:	Empowerment of Local Communities to Address Problem of Illegal Hunting in South China
Grant Number:	65900
CEPF Region:	Indo-Burma II
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:	\$39,998.00
Project Dates:	April 01, 2016 - September 30, 2017
Date of Report:	November 30, 2017

Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

Guangdong:

- **Zhanjiang Bird Watching Society:** After the first CEPF supported project, we have built good relationship with this newly established and growing NGO. They became more active in engaging conservation activities, especially in environmental education and contact with local authorities.
- **Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve Management Bureau:** They are collaborating with local NGOs and engaged in local conservation actions and activities. It is also one of the key contact government authorities for reporting illegal hunting.

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 EcoAction and Guangzhou Nature Association:** Expert on environmental education and helped as trainers for the environmental education training workshop
- **Shenzhen Bird Watching Society and Chengdu Bird Watching Society:** Their chairpersons helped as trainers for the organization development training workshop
- **Feather Voluntary Group:** They are university students group that was raised during the project and also serve as volunteers in summer education programme.

Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

- **Over 50 volunteers of local conservation groups from South China were trained on environmental education and executive committee members were trained on organization development, and they were then operating activities later on.**
- **Built up network between local conservation groups and local communities at sites where illegal mistnetting and hunting was rampant. A regular summer nature education programme was established to over 16 village schools and the scale will be enlarged in the coming season.**
- **Local conservation groups already lined up with local government authorities to tackle the problem of illegal hunting of birds in southern China. The abundance of illegal mistnetting dropped during the project period as monitoring by volunteers helped raising effectiveness of law enforcement. There were even no sightings of illegal hunting at some sites where mistnets used to be sighted.**
- **Number of threatened Species, Spoon-billed Sandpiper (CR), which winters in Southern China, mainly in Leizhou Peninsular continued to use the site as key wintering site, making the site as the third largest wintering ground of the species.**
- **Engaging the government authority to engage with habitat protection to eradicate the invasive species *Spartina cordgrass*.**

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
a reduction in The levels of illegal hunting of migratory birds in South China - The results of The project will not only benefit wildlife in The project sites but also hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of birds along East-Asian Australasian Flyway.	- A huge reduction in the levels of illegal hunting of migratory birds in South China, especially in Southwest Guangdong, also a result of increased monitoring effort. - Other than the increased number of Spoon-billed Sandpiper (CR) come to the site in Leizhou, increased amount of threatened species were included, such as Black-faced Spoonbill (EN), Great Knot (EN) and Saunders's Gull (VU).
Increased capacity of civil society local conservation groups in South China provinces (Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan) to contribute towards bird conservation in South China, in particular to help reduce The illegal hunting of migratory birds	- Three organizations, Zhanjiang Bird Watching Society (officially registered), Beihai bird society (in prep), Maoming Bird Group (in prep) and Feather Volunteer Group (associated at an education institute) has direct linkage with local forest police for reporting cases of illegal hunting
network of local organizations committed to addressing The hunting issue developed, which will benefit The conservation of all wild birds and animals including a number of globally threatened bird species and sites in The future, and raise awareness of The conservation of birds and other biodiversity.	- All the trained participants of local conservation groups are continuously engaged in the conservation activities, and particularly in Zhanjiang Bird Watching Society, Behai Birdwatching Group and Hainan Bird Watching Society, are now actively involved and even

initiating activities relating to bird protection.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Approach and provide awareness raising activities in at least in total 3-5 local villages in Gu	- Promotional and educational activities carried out at six villages or country-level township in Southwest Guangdong and eastern coast of Guangxi
raising and environmental education	
Train at least 5 local civil society organizations or volunteer groups on organization development as well as awareness	- More than 5 organizations from coastal South China or volunteer groups were trained on environmental education and organization development, participants were from Zhanjiang Bird Watching Society, Beihai bird society (in preparation), Nanning Bird Watching Society, Hainan Bird Watching Society, Maoming bird group, Shenzhen Bird Watching Society, Zhuhai Bird Watching Society, Beihai Volunteer Association and Feather Volunteer Group.

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

The project acts as a catalyst of promoting and generating long-term effort to tackle the problem of illegal hunting. The model developed since the first CEPF supported project in 2014, which is the collaboration between LCGs and local government authority in Behai and Zhanjiang has proved to be successful, and is now radiating to regional sites in South China. In the long-term, this model of collaboration may be important to sustain the effort for conservation.

In addition, the project successfully aided the establishment of at least three groups of LCGs in South China. After capacity building on environmental education, organization development and monitoring, they can carry out and initiate activities related to awareness raising and protection of birds and their habitat.

The challenge of the project is different culture and attitude of local communities towards new concepts and ideas on conservation, as wildlife consumption is a tradition in the region, it is not easy to persuade the village leaders to engage into our project. Yet, environmental education as a soft way of engaging local communities, the summer nature education programme proved to be a good method and we should continue with this approach.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Development of a regional network of civil society organizations to prevent illegal hunting in coastal wetlands in Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan, by building the capacity of member organizations and improving communication within the network	1.2	One training workshop in environmental education and conservation awareness. About 20 participants from the local civil society organizations or individual volunteers will be trained. Deliverable: training report including feedback from the participants	An environmental education training workshop, which was held in Lingnan Normal University, Zhanjiang, Guangdong between 9th and 10th July, 2016. In total, 29 participants completed the whole workshop. The workshop included lectures on basic concept of environmental Education, guidance on carrying out and designing activities for communities and school children, various environmental education games and nature exploration demonstration. (Deliverable 1.2).
1	Development of a regional network of civil society organizations to prevent illegal hunting in coastal wetlands in Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan, by building the capacity of member organizations and improving communication within the network	1.3	Support provided to the established local civil societies in the development of volunteer systems in their local areas. Deliverable: Volunteer system development plans prepared and groups of volunteers	Two young volunteers teams were established in Zhanjiang and Beihai respectively (Deliverable 1.3). Both are mainly consist of local university students, they were then trained as young nature ambassador to carry out summer nature education programme in local villages.

			active in at least 3 project sites.	
1	Development of a regional network of civil society organizations to prevent illegal hunting in coastal wetlands in Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan, by building the capacity of member organizations and improving communication within the network	1.4	Communication Network on bird protection in South China established for information and news sharing and for coordination of network activities to address illegal hunting. Deliverable: Weibo and QQ groups set up and facilitators appointed .	A WeChat group was set up after the workshop so that participants could be keep in contact and enhance connectivity of different societies in the region (Deliverable 1.4), the group is active throughout the project period on sharing news and update of participating organizations' work.
2	Monitoring of illegal bird trapping and waterbird numbers in coastal wetlands in Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan Provinces. Information on illegal activities will be promptly passed on to the local authorities. Identify and remove potential threats.	2.1	Conduct surveys and monitoring at key intertidal wetlands in Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan Provinces twice in spring and in autumn and once in winter. Deliverable: survey reports (can be done together with bird monitoring)	A joint international Spoon-billed Sandpiper Winter Census was carried out between 13th and 18th January, 2017, together with surveyors from the Zhanjiang Bird Watching Society and Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve, as well as the Sun Yat-sen University. During the six days' survey in Southwest Guangdong, we recorded a total of 25 Spoon-billed Sandpiper: 2 from Xitou, Yangjiang, Guangdong 1 from Dong Hai Island, Zhanjiang, Guangdong 20 from Leizhou, Guangdong (recorded by 3 teams) 1 from Beihai, Guangxi 1 Beilun Estuary National Nature Reserve, Guangxi
2	Monitoring of illegal bird trapping and	2.2	Report any illegal hunting using mist nets	Survey results presented in Appendix 1 (Deliverable 2.2). Nearly no illegal mistnets were sighted during the surveys at key sites in southwest Guangdong, yet in Guangxi, and

	<p>waterbird numbers in coastal wetlands in Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan Provinces. Information on illegal activities will be promptly passed on to the local authorities. Identify and remove potential threats.</p>		<p>or trade in wild birds detected during the surveys to the government authorities through phone calls or emails to enable them to take the rapid actions necessary to deal with these threats.</p>	<p>border between Guangdong and Guangxi Provinces, there are still records of illegal hunting. A note that not all the illegal hunting cases were recorded as there were causal reports directly to the Forest Police was made.</p>
2	<p>Monitoring of illegal bird trapping and waterbird numbers in coastal wetlands in Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan Provinces. Information on illegal activities will be promptly passed on to the local authorities. Identify and remove potential threats.</p>	2.3	<p>Conduct bird monitoring at least once per month in coordination with the national China Coastal Waterbird Census. Deliverable: survey reports</p>	<p>Results presented in Appendix 2 (Deliverable 2. 3). A small team was established for carrying out monthly bird monitoring at Leizhou mudflat (fixed transect route). Difficulties of this bird monitoring is the lack of skillful and experienced surveyors, so the record was not guaranteed. The waterbird count was conducted by both the members of Zhangjiang Bird Watching Society and the Zhangjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve staffs.</p>
3	<p>Conduct awareness raising and advocacy on illegal trapping targeted at local communities and government authorities, to establish working</p>	3.1	<p>Awareness raising activities organized by trained groups in local villages and schools to help change the mindset of people within the local</p>	<p>The invasive cordgrass <i>Spartina</i> (<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>) is identified as a potential threat to the mudflat in Leizhou, Guangdong during the last CEPF project, so in this project we initiated a trial to remove this invasive species. The aim is not to remove the invasive species at once but to alert the decision makers of the Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve to concern this threat of the loss of habitat. On 26th March, we co-organized a spartina clearing activity with Nature Reserve and Zhanjaing Bird Watching Society in Fucheng, Leizhou, Guangdong. A total of 38 volunteers joined the activity.</p>

	relationships between them on how to tackle the illegal hunting problem		communities towards illegal hunting and wildlife consumption. Deliverable: activity reports and volunteer feedback	
3	Conduct awareness raising and advocacy on illegal trapping targeted at local communities and government authorities, to establish working relationships between them on how to tackle the illegal hunting problem	3.2	Promotional materials including exhibition boards, leaflets and posters on birds and the importance of conservation produced and distributed during local school activities and at the project sites Deliverable: awareness materials	Poster with report hotline distributed to the general public, schools and restaurants (Appendix 3)
3	Conduct awareness raising and advocacy on illegal trapping targeted at local communities and government authorities, to establish working relationships between them on how to tackle the illegal hunting problem	3.3	Contribute to A Toolkit to prevent illegal Hunting of Birds in China. Deliverable: Chinese-language Toolkit	One failure of the project was the banning of the production of A Toolkit to prevent illegal Hunting of Birds in China as deliverable 3.3, due to sensitivity of the issue to Chinese government. This may not affect the overall impact of the project because other educational materials and activities are proved to be effective in reducing illegal hunting in the project sites.

3	Conduct awareness raising and advocacy on illegal trapping targeted at local communities and government authorities, to establish working relationships between them on how to tackle the illegal hunting problem	3.4	Attend conference about bird monitoring and addressing illegal hunting in Guangzhou in October, 2016. Deliverable: conference report	Project manager attended two conferences relating to illegal hunting in China and flyway respectively. One was held in Guangzhou, China between 2nd and 4th November, 2016. Another meeting was the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) East Asian-Australasian Flyway Workshop held between 8th and 10th January, 2017 in Singapore. The later was an international meetings with a session discussion issues of illegal hunting to migratory shorebirds along the flyway. A poster about this CEPF project in South China was presented (Deliverable 3.4). See poster in Appendix 4.
2	Monitoring of illegal bird trapping and waterbird numbers in coastal wetlands in Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan Provinces. Information on illegal activities will be promptly passed on to the local authorities. Identify and remove potential threats.	2.4	Initiatives to remove invasive cordgrass species, <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> in Fucheng, Leizhou.	The invasive cordgrass <i>Spartina (Spartina alterniflora)</i> is identified as a potential threat to the mudflat in Leizhou, Guangdong during the last CEPF project, so in this project we initiated a trial to remove this invasive species. The aim is not to remove the invasive species at once but to alert the decision makers of the Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve to concern this threat of the loss of habitat. On 26th March, we co-organized a spartina clearing activity with Nature Reserve and Zhanjaing Bird Watching Society in Fucheng, Leizhou, Guangdong. A total of 38 volunteers joined the activity.
1	Development of a regional network of civil society organizations to prevent illegal hunting in coastal wetlands in Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan, by	1.1	1.1. One training workshop in organization development. About 20 participants from the local civil society organizations or individual	An organization development training workshop was held in Haikou, Hainan, between 17th and 18th December, 2016. In total, 22 participants came from 11 newly established bird watching societies and groups from South China completed the workshop. Chairpersons of Shenzhen Bird Watching Society and Chengdu Bird Watching Society were invited as the workshop tutors. The workshop used real life examples from the bird watching societies to demonstrate strategic planning and management for organizations, fund raising and finance management, followed by in-depth discussions and

building the capacity of member organizations and improving communication within the network	volunteers will be trained. Deliverable: training report including feedback from the participants	sharing of real situation. (Deliverable 1.1)
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Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

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:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

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. Clearly explain the money allocation of the funding at the beginning of the project to project collaborators

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

1. Wise use of social media for promotional activities and recruitment of volunteers

2. Evaluation of activities are needed for improvement of the next activities, especially when the activities were carried out by newly trained volunteers.

Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

Time is needed to build the trust between the LCGs and the government authorities, once the trust is developed and relationship built up, both side are more cooperative and increase the efficiency of work, such as the model of reporting illegal mist nets by NGO volunteers and Forest Police to do law enforcement.

Sustainability / Replication

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.



There are a few things from the project that could be replicated and sustained:

1. The model of LCG volunteers – Forest Police collaboration, which helps greatly in reducing the number of illegal mist nets in southwest Guangdong (particularly Leizhou Peninsular)
2. Training workshops allow new recruitment of keen volunteers, it also helps advancing capacity and skills of this human resources. Linking with society's volunteer schemes provide motivation to keep the volunteers in city areas, even when the project ends
3. Challenges faced by the newly established LCGs would be lack of funding and all are voluntary-based, so the efficiency and resources would not be very high

Thanks to granting to the extension of the project which allow the development of the new programme of summer nature education carried out by trained University ambassadors. This programme was highly recommended by high schools because it is a compulsory social service activities, making the programme sustainable and supported by education department. The second thing is that this work can be replicated in different sites and enlarge the scale when more high schools and village schools join the programme, which helps increasing the impact of environmental education. This activity shall be further developed.

Safeguards

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

NA

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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

Additional Funding

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

Total additional funding (US\$)

Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

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- 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)*

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)

SEE Foundation which is specific for new NGOs, secured for Zhangjiang Bird Watching Society only, not into HKBWS's 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.

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

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