

BirdLife International Tokyo

Annual Report 2016

(1 January-31 December 2016)



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Actions in 2016

Actions by BirdLife International

BirdLife International (hereinafter BirdLife) has four strategic pillars that, taken together, are BirdLife's approach to conservation: "Save Species," "Conserve Sites & Habitats," "Ecological Sustainability," and "Positive Change for People," and runs nine conservation programmes in order to promote conservation of ecosystem and biodiversity for nature and people.

BirdLife International Tokyo (hereinafter BirdLife Tokyo) focuses and aggressively works on "Collaboration with corporations" in addition to five programmes "Species Conservation," "Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas" "Migratory Birds" and "Seabirds and Marine" and "Forest Conservation" among the following nine programmes.

[BirdLife's Nine Conservation Programmes]

1. Species Conservation
2. Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas
3. Migratory Birds
4. Seabirds and Marine
5. Forest Conservation
6. Climate Change
7. Invasive Alien Species
8. Local Engagement and Empowerment
9. Capacity Development

Highlights in 2016

In addition to following up with and putting more efforts into the existing programmes, in 2016 we saw great success in collaboration with corporations which we have been focusing on lately, and the budget exceeded JPY 200 million for the first time since the foundation of BirdLife Tokyo office in 2002.

A notable such programme was with Toyota Motor Corporation, the first Japanese Business Partner. In this programme, Toyota's vehicles are handed to BirdLife Partners to further enhance conservation of endangered species. This year a vehicle was donated to the Partners in Mexico and South Africa. In December, a vehicle presentation ceremony was conducted as a side event at COP13 of Convention on Biological Diversity held in Cancun, Mexico, and collaboration with Toyota was internationally recognized.





Also, a special attention should be paid to the publication of a booklet, “Marine IBA in Japan,” which compiles Marine IBAs and seabird colonies in Japan.

Additionally, BirdLife Tokyo’s website was renovated and fundraising via an online donation service (Yahoo! Internet Fund Raising) was started to enhance communication with general public and efforts on awareness raising. We will seek further improvements and expansion in all aspects of our activities in 2017.

New website: <http://tokyo.birdlife.org/>

Yahoo! Internet Fund Raising: <https://goo.gl/irHLfO>

Migratory Birds Conservation

Many migratory birds seen in Japan breed in the Arctic and overwinter in Japan, Southeast Asia and Australia. Their migratory routes, also known as “Flyway”, are roughly fixed and every bird migrates along almost the same route every year. A flyway that the birds come to Japan is known as the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, which covers Oceania, Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia including Japan, China and Korea, and Alaska. It is critical for the nations in the same flyway to work collaboratively for the conservation of migratory birds, and Japan has been a member of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), an international conservation network to enhance international efforts for conservation of migratory waterbirds. BirdLife serves as the national secretariat for the Partnership and takes lead on conservation initiatives along with the Ministry of the Environment and other ornithological groups in Japan.

In May 2016, “EAAFP National Cranes Network Meeting” was held in Nemuro City Hokkaido to enhance domestic conservation efforts in the network of EAAFP. EAAFP has established “The East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site Network,” which consists of important habitats used by

many migratory waterbirds, and 33 wetlands are included in Japan. There, we have promoted awareness raising, conservation actions and research for conservation of waterbirds. In the network, workshops were held among stakeholders including local governments and NGOs of the area that holds the important habitats of cranes.

In the workshop, it was proposed to improve awareness among local citizens about conservation of cranes and introduce experience-based stepwise educational programmes. It is very important to enhance conservation efforts at every important site for conservation of migratory birds. We will support these local initiatives through these actions

In October, Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreement Meetings were held in Cairns, Australia with China, Korea and Australia. BirdLife sent two experts to the meetings and exchanged information about migratory waterbirds’ populations and cooperation on monitoring for land bird species. It was confirmed to promote cooperation to resolve issues and protect migratory birds between Japan-China, Japan-Korea and Japan-Australia.



Network meeting



Japanese Crane in Hokkaido

Species Conservation

BirdLife continues to lead initiatives to protect globally endangered birds.

In 2016, conservation efforts for globally endangered Chinese Crested Tern took the next step. In addition, “land bird monitoring scheme” for the protection of land bird conservation in East Asia led by BirdLife also saw a great progress.

To accelerate these progresses, it is important to collaborate with local partners, respective countries’ Ministry of Environment and other relevant organizations. We will continue to collaborate with these entities and lead conservation for globally important endangered species.

Conservation of Chinese Crested Terns

We have collaborated with the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society to restore breeding colonies of Chinese Crested Terns on the Tiedun Dao Island of the Jiushan Islands from 2009 until 2015 and had a great success, including establishment of a new breeding colony. In 2016, in order to identify wintering sites, we conducted surveys on an Indonesian Island of Seram which was a major

wintering site for tern species. In January 2016, among about 300 Greater Crested Terns was found a Chinese Crested Tern. We made a big step to understand wintering ecology of this species, and we will continue survey of wintering sites in 2017.

Land Bird Monitoring

Under the land bird monitoring scheme, the governments of Japan, China, Korea and Russia and NGOs take a lead of the discussion to standardize monitoring methods and exchange relevant data on land birds. BirdLife works as a coordinating role in this scheme. In 2016, meetings were held in Hong Kong in March and in Guangzhou in November and we decided to focus on survey and exchange data on Yellow-breasted Bunting and other species that have been declining rapidly in recent years and concerned for their extinction. From 2017, we will start to build a “Single Species Action Plan” that compiles the issues faced among governments, NGOs and researchers to enhance international efforts for conservation of Yellow-breasted Bunting.



Chinese Crested Tern discovered in a wintering site (the white bird on the right)



Yellow-breasted Bunting ©Allen Chan

Forest and Wetland Conservation

Forest Conservation

BirdLife collaborates with Partner organizations globally in Asia, Africa and central and South America to lead initiatives to protect tropical rainforests and also advances regional forest conservation initiatives collaborating with corporations.

In Indonesia, with support from Toyota Environmental Activities Grant Programme, we advanced an initiative to improve livelihoods of local people and forest conservation through agroforestry in Flores Island. Agroforestry is a type of agricultural practice that raises farm animals and grows crops in a forest and this type of agricultural practice has been getting attention as a sustainable agriculture. In Flores Island, candlenuts have been raised by agroforestry and the issues have been quality management and transaction without appropriate pricing. This initiative sets up a regional cooperative, through which candlenuts are purchased at appropriate prices. Through these activities, the project aims to improve their livelihood and expand the agroforestry practice. One of the principal reasons of deforestation is local citizen's poor standard of living and therefore we expect improving their standard of living would lead to sustainable use of forests and also conservation of forests.



Candlenut sorting by local people

Wetland Conservation

BirdLife has been working for conservation of waterbirds as well as wetlands. We signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide technical support globally with the secretariat for the Convention on Wetlands, also known as the Ramsar Convention, which aims at conservation of waterbirds, wise use of wetlands, education and awareness raising for local people and capacity building for areal rangers.

In the work for conservation of wetlands in Southeast Asia with the Ministry of the Environment, we evaluated Thai Thuy Wetland's economic values of ecosystem services provided from the wetland to contribute to awareness-raising of importance of wetland in Vietnam's Red River Delta. We expect that our efforts would contribute to designation of the wetland as a nature protected area and conservation of other important sites in the Red River Delta.

BirdLife has done the similar project in Moeyungyi Wetland in Myanmar last year and it would make two countries that BirdLife has evaluated the economic values of the important wetlands in Southeast Asia. Economic value is an index that is easy for many people to understand and we expect such evaluation will be adopted elsewhere in and out of Southeast Asia and contribute to wetland conservation.



Thai Thuy Wetland

Seabird and Marine Conservation

Marine IBA Projects

Marine IBA (Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas) Programme is an international programme, where BirdLife and BirdLife Partners around the world work together. Extending IBA's concept to the ocean, we aim this programme to identify priority sites for high marine biodiversity using seabirds as indicators and to contribute to marine and seabird conservation.

In 2010, with support from Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF), we began identifying Asia's marine IBA's with seabird experts and BirdLife Partners including Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia and Korea. The 'Marine e-Atlas' is an open database and the first global inventory of these sites. These marine IBAs have been used for the conservation of marine ecosystems such as providing fundamental data to identify "Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas" promoted by the Ministry of the Environment as well as being considered for selection of candidate construction sites of the offshore wind farms. Furthermore 60% of seabird breeding in Japan are listed in the Red Data Book published by the Ministry of the Environment, and marine IBAs can

also contribute for the conservation of their habitats.

The second phase of the marine IBA project began in 2013 for the next 3 years, aiming to organize data and information and publish a complete list of marine IBAs in Japan for conservation and management. In 2016, as a final year of the project, BirdLife and Wild Bird Society of Japan (WBSJ) reviewed candidate marine IBAs and confirmed 27 sites as a final list of marine IBAs. We published a booklet, "Marine IBAs in Japan", that provides information about 27 marine IBAs and 44 seabird breeding colony sites. The booklets also includes the results of the questionnaire survey on marine IBAs, ecology and biology of 18 trigger seabird species used for the identification of marine IBAs, and the areas promoting seabird conservation. We also established a website that provides information of marine IBAs.

Project outcome was also shared within BirdLife Partners at the BirdLife Asia Partnership Meeting held in Singapore in November 2016, and some partner NGOs expressed their interest in identifying marine IBAs to promote marine conservation in the countries or regions.



Marine IBA Booklet



Marine IBA Map

Efforts to Reduce Seabird Bycatch

BirdLife International Marine Programme has been working on seabird conservation at a global scale since 1997 in coordination with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), governments, and fishermen to reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds where 300,000 seabirds are accidentally killed in longline fisheries every year. After 2012, all five tuna RFMOs agreed requirements for their longline vessels to use seabird mitigation measures, making an important milestone for seabird conservation. BirdLife currently advises governments at RFMO international conferences that bycatch preventive measures be implemented surely, and at the same time we provide education to those engaged in fisheries. We also encouraged those engaged in fisheries on board of longline fleets that stop at Cape Town, South Africa, to use bycatch mitigation measures as part of “Common Oceans ABNJ (Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction) Tuna” project in Global Environment Facility. Additionally, we collaborated with Taiwan Fisheries Agency and our Partner in Taiwan,

Chinese Wild Bird Federation (CWBF), and provided outreach and educated Taiwanese fishermen on longline fleets based in Mauritius. The total of 83 fleets were outreached.

BirdLife also takes on reducing bycatch of seabirds in gillnet fisheries where 400,000 birds are killed annually and starting in 2013, BirdLife is collaborating with Iceland and Lithuania governments and those engaged in fisheries to co-develop effective mitigation measures to reduce seabird bycatch.

Domestically, BirdLife started to take on reducing seabird bycatch in gillnet fisheries in collaboration with Wild Bird Society of Japan. The project’s first year in 2016 was to do a trial experiment to see the effects of a bycatch mitigation measure with supports from KNCF and the Kingfisher Foundation and with cooperation by North Rumoi Fisheries Cooperative in Haboro town, Hokkaido. Except previous projects implemented by the Ministry of the Environment, this is the first time in Japan that those engaged in fisheries work in collaboration to reduce seabird bycatch.



Fisherman sets a gillnet with a potential mitigation measure (Teuri island, Hokkaido)

Corporate Collaboration

All corporations benefit from biodiversity and at the same time affect it in various manners. It is very important that they take actions on the issues of biodiversity. BirdLife runs conservation projects with generous support from corporations while we also evaluate the impact by corporate activities on biodiversity and provide consultation for improvement and co-develop scheme for ecosystem evaluation.

Ricoh Co., Ltd.

We have been running multiple collaborations with Ricoh Co., Ltd., including forest plantation projects as its corporate social responsibility (CSR), donation through golf tour that Ricoh sponsors, and donation via printer sales.

As part of CSR initiative, their long term support of 10 years have enabled us to advance mangrove forest plantation in Malaysia and Mexico. This year marks 6th year in Malaysia, where we monitor growth status of mangrove planted and continue to raise awareness among citizens as well as calculated preliminarily the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by the planted mangrove trees. In Mexico, as the second year we monitored the planted mangrove and provided training for local people to plant manage the mangrove.



Tree planting in Burkina Faso

The donation from golf tour is uniquely set up so that players' performance in Women's British Open and LPGA Tour Championship Ricoh Cup determines how many trees will be planted in Burkina Faso in Africa. Through 2016, the project has contributed about 55,000 seedlings.

The donation through printer sales support projects in Burkina Faso, Brazil and the Philippines. In Burkina Faso, we run a project for better livelihood and sustainable use of resources by installing energy-efficient stoves to reduce the use of firewood. In Serra do Urubu, Brazil, the support promotes restoration of degraded forests and environmental education. In the Philippines, the fund supported training for mangrove restoration and promotion of sustainable fisheries.

Toyota Motor Corporation

With support from Toyota Motor Corporation, the car donation programme was started to donate motor vehicles to BirdLife Partners to enhance their conservation efforts for conservation of endangered species. In 2016, two vehicles were handed to Pronatura Sur (Mexico) and BirdLife South Africa. In the next 10 years, a total of 10 vehicles will be provided to the Partners in 10 countries.



Vehicle donated to the Mexican Partner from Toyota

Gala Dinners

BirdLife considers birds as the most sensitive indicator to environmental changes and we advance various conservation actions to promote conservation of species and their habitat by working together with local Partners and coexistence of local people with the nature.

In order for us to move forward with these activities, with generous support from those who share their beliefs with us, we have held Gala Dinners every year since 2009. In 2016, Gala dinners were held for the purpose of habitat conservation of penguins to ask support for survey and conservation of their habitat.

On March 4th, the 5th Spring Gala was held in Osaka and 593 people participated and donated JPY 15.42 million.

JPY 8 million of the proceedings was provided for penguin conservation and the remaining was allocated to other conservation activities and the Gala Fund, which we have saved for conservation

actions in Asia and other areas that needs immediate support since 2012.

At Tokyo Gala dinner held on October 28th, 583 people participated in the event and donated JPY 26.6 million. The proceedings was provided to penguin conservation in the amount of JPY 12 million and also allocated to the Gala Fund.

In 2016, we have provided JPY 5 million from the Gala Fund to support fight against the large scale forest fire that is causing severe damages to the tropical forest in Indonesia, and JPY 6 million for the conservation programme of North and South American Flyways.

Gala dinner is held to support nature conservation efforts, and at the same time, provide a great opportunity for the participants to understand the importance of environmental protection as well as the necessity for their support.



Address by HIH Princess Takamado



Auction

Support for Penguin Campaign by Gala Dinner

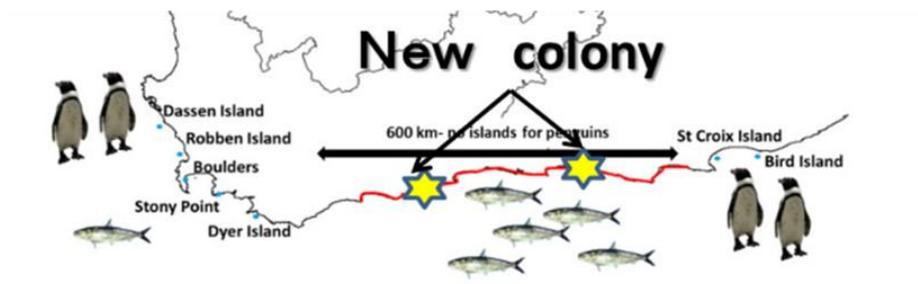
There are 18 penguin species globally and for the past 15 years, their populations have decreased by 70%. The impact of global warming is especially serious and also they face various threats, including introduced carnivorous mammals, oil leak by tankers running aground, fishery bycatch, and habitat loss due to development.

In order to protect these penguins globally, BirdLife started a penguin campaign in 2016. The campaign asks for fund to advance various

projects such as to recover habitat, install nest boxes, designate marine reserves, and prevent bycatch by gillnets. In South Africa, global warming has changed the ocean current and Cape penguin is now unable to reach its original feeding grounds. Therefore we initiated a project to attract these penguins to another area as a new colony, where they can find abundant food. Also, in New Zealand, we prepared habitats for yellow-eyed penguins with nest boxes.



Cape penguins in South Africa. Photograph by Ross Wanless/BirdLife South Africa

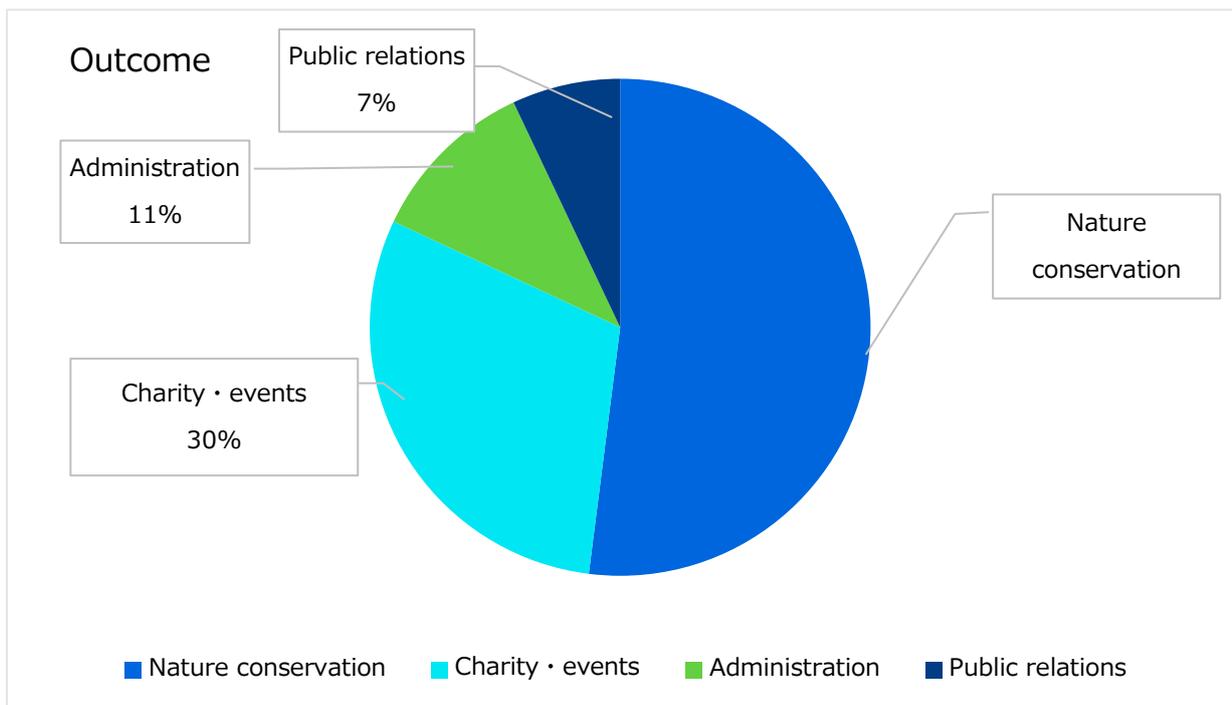
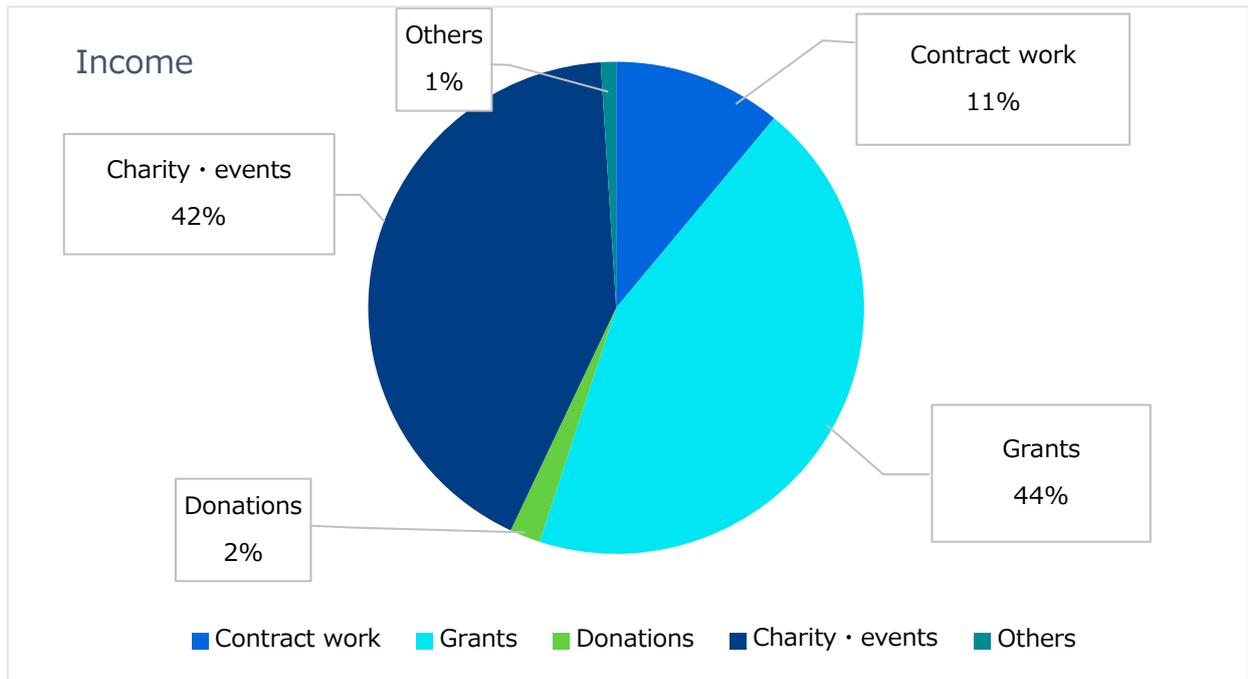


New feeding ground for Cape penguin, 600 km away from original location

Financial Report

Financial Report for FY 2016 is as follows:

Income: JPY 221,549,000 Expenditure: JPY 221, 549,000



Support from Individuals and Organizations

BirdLife welcomes individual and corporate supporters. Also there is a unique supporter system that members can support endangered species conservation actions as foster parents called RBC (Rare Bird Club).

Rare Bird Club

This is a global programme of BirdLife and has members worldwide. In Japan there are about 20 members, who participate in bird watching and environmental seminars.

On September 27th, a charity lunch was held by a member Ms. Farida Rahman and raised 354,000 yen from 46 participants. The raised fund was used to support Sumatra rainforest conservation.



Charity lunch participants

Supporter System

“Friends of BirdLife” is a support system with a donation of 5,000 JPY per person, 50% of which will be allocated to environmental conservation efforts.

From September 2016, we are asking support for “Flight Plan” which is to recover those poached endangered species of birds as pets and to release them back into the wild in Brazil. Although Brazil enjoys one of the most abundant

avian species in a country with about 1,800 species, 170 of them are endangered mainly due to poaching.

This fund can provide support for medical care for those rescued, training for release into the wild, investigation for suitable releasing area. We had support from 11 donors in 2016.

Corporate Members

Birdlife has received generous support from corporations and group members. Below is the list of the corporate sponsors in 2016 (in the order of Japanese alphabets) .

- Alpha Food Co., Ltd.
- Izumo Oyashiro
- Izumo Oyashiro Cultural Foundation
- Samukawa Shrine
- Fushimi Inari Taisha
- Hokkaido Jingu
- Masumida shrine

Other Supports

In December 2016, we started another donation program via Yahoo! Internet Fund Raising. Now one can donate T-points and we have received contribution from many individuals. Other groups and corporations also made generous support for us (in the order of Japanese alphabets).

- Think the Earth and SPACEPORT Inc.
- Ichinyosha.Ltd
- Cedyne Financial Corporation
- One Step Co., Ltd
- STEP Co., Ltd
- Tokyo Women’s Club
- Dow Chemical Japan Limited

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Staff: 1

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