

BirdLife International Tokyo

Annual Report 2018

(1 January – 31 December 2018)



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Message from the Representative Director

BirdLife International Tokyo (hereinafter BirdLife Tokyo) was founded in April 2002 and since then for the next 16 years, we have certainly advanced conservation projects for birds and all nature. At the very beginning, our actions were limited to migratory bird protection, but were rapidly expanded on global scale to include conservation of forests and ocean, improvement on livelihood of local people, environmental education, and prevention of global warming.

Reflecting 2018, we believe most impressive was to commemorate the 10th year Anniversary of 'Gala Dinner', a charity event, to support nature conservation with great achievements. Additionally we made great strides into the world, which included expansion of our efforts to educate and develop young professionals in Asia gained momentum. We also presented conservation evaluation scheme co-developed with Cambridge University and others at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

K. Suzue

Keiko Suzue
Representative Director, BirdLife International Tokyo

Highlights in 2018

Expanded environmental conservation actions into 23 countries in 2018



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Conservation of Endangered Species

13% of the world's bird species is globally threatened

◆ Conservation of Spoon-billed Sandpiper – Thailand, Myanmar

To conserve Spoon-billed Sandpiper, only 400 left in the world, we worked hard on habitat conservation and awareness raising in the main wintering areas with our Partners.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper is rapidly decreasing due to habitat loss by land use change. To reverse the trend, BirdLife Tokyo conducted two conservation projects with the BCST (Bird Conservation Society of Thailand, Partner in Thailand) and BANCA (Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association, Partner in Myanmar), both funded by **the Toyota Environmental Activities Grant Program**. In Thailand, we restored abandoned salt pan to tidal flat and promoted bird-tourism managed by local communities. In Myanmar, where a half of the species' population overwinter, we conducted a series of field surveys to obtain the knowledge on their distribution and awareness raising activities to enhance collaboration with local communities.

◆ Conservation of Edwards's Pheasant – Vietnam

Edwards's Pheasant is critically endangered and endemic to Vietnam. It is a moist lowland - evergreen forest specialist in central Vietnam. Since 2000, it has not been found in the field, which indicates that it might have gone extinct in the wild.

In 2018, BirdLife Tokyo and Viet Nature (Partner in Vietnam) started the project, called 'Reintroduction of the Critically Endangered Edwards's Pheasant into the Wild', with the support from **the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF)**. In June, BirdLife staff members visited the project site in Don Hoi. They have interviewed local government, Viet Nature staff and local people to evaluate the project by using toolkit 'PRISM'. Hanoi Zoo signed the contract of giving 3~4 pairs of the Edwards's Pheasant to Viet Nature for breeding. In August, pheasant candidate keepers took a special training course from bird keepers in Paington Zoo in England to learn how to take care of pheasants. Five breeding aviaries were constructed in October.

◆ Conservation of the Yellow-breasted Bunting – East Asian Countries

To conserve the Yellow-breasted Bunting, a rapidly declining species in the world, BirdLife Tokyo has started a research and conservation actions working closely with WBSJ (Wild Bird Society of Japan, Partner in Japan) and HKBWS (Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Partner in Hong Kong).

The Yellow-breasted Bunting used to be a common species with an extremely high population, distributed widely throughout Northeast Asia, the Eurasian Continent and also Hokkaido, Japan. However the population of this species noticeably declined due to the large-scaled poaching for food in China and Southeast Asia, and it is now rarely seen in Japan. BirdLife Tokyo, with the support of ***the Japan Fund for Global Environment***, has set up an international project to develop a single species action plan for conservation of the bird. In 2018, we conducted an ecological survey in Sakhalin, Russia, and also have started a DNA analysis.

◆ **Conservation of White-bellied Heron – Bhutan**

The White-bellied Heron is the rarest heron in the world which can be seen in eastern Himalayan foot hills and there are only 60 birds left. RSPN (Royal Society for Protection of Nature, Partner in Bhutan) started the project to prevent extinction of the heron in Bhutan at one of its main breeding grounds.

In Bhutan, more than 700 bird species are found. The White-bellied Heron is one of the species that are most likely to go extinct in near future and is estimated only 28 birds left in the wild. With the support of Tokyo Gala Dinner, RSPN implemented an inventory survey of their nests and monitoring around the rivers where they breed, considering a captive breeding programme. They observed 36 chicks. However they also found that adult birds have not increased in numbers at all. We will continue to investigate the causes of the decline of the White-bellied Heron population by conducting a survey.

◆ **Car Donation for Conservation of Endangered Species – Indonesia, Zimbabwe**

To further enhance effectiveness of conservation effort for endangered species, we are running a project to donate reliable vehicles to the Partners from Toyota. In 2018, a vehicle was donated to Burung Indonesia (Partner in Indonesia) and BirdLife Zimbabwe (Partner in Zimbabwe).

We donated a vehicle to each of two Partners every year with support from **Toyota Motors Corporation**. The donated cars are used for awareness raising of local communities as a mobile library in Indonesia, and monitoring and conservation of six vulture species in Zimbabwe.

◆ **Conservation of Chinese Crested Tern – Indonesia**

Chinese Crested Tern is a critically endangered species with only 50 birds left in the world. To conserve this species, we placed three satellite tags on Greater Crested Terns as a test of tracking migratory routes of Chinese Crested Tern.

In order to promote the conservation in wintering and stopover sites, BirdLife Tokyo started the project to investigate its ecology in detail by satellite tracking survey. All three tracked terns are fine and signals have been received during the whole for year, with a surprising discovery of their migration to northern Australia. This project is a joint research with the HKBWS, Burung Indonesia, and Oregon State University, with funds from the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation (Hong Kong) and National Geographic Society.



Photo: Car Donation Handover Ceremony in Indonesia

Forest and Wetland Conservation

80% of primeval forests has been lost since the dawn of history

◆ Mangrove Restoration – Malaysia, Mexico

To conserve and restore mangroves, which are important not only for biodiversity but also for local livelihood, we planted trees for restoration and promoted sustainable resource use with Partners in Malaysia and Mexico.

Mangrove is one of the fastest disappearing ecosystems in the world. With support from **Ricoh Co., Ltd. (Ricoh)**, we worked with MNS (Malaysian Nature Society, Partner in Malaysia) and Pronatura Sur (Partner in Mexico) to restore mangrove. In Malaysia, the bird surveys and tree-planting were conducted with local communities to build a foundation of community-led conservation. In Mexico, the honey production within mangroves has started to promote sustainable use of mangrove resources without mangrove degradation.

◆ Wetland Conservation – Cambodia

Stung Sen wetland is located at the southern tip of Tonle Sap Lake, the largest lake in Southeast Asia, and has a unique ecosystem such as gallery forest. In 2018, as a result of the three-year effort, it was designated as Cambodia's fifth Ramsar site (Wetlands of International Importance).

Stung Sen wetland harbours many endangered species and also many people living in floating houses who depend on ecosystem services from the wetland for their livelihood, including fisheries. BirdLife Tokyo has been putting effort to conserve this wetland and promote wise-use with the contract with **the Ministry of the Environment Japan (MoEJ)** since 2016. In 2018 we worked for consensus building among governments and local communities and for capacity building of the wetland rangers. As a result of our effort, Stung Sen was designated as the fifth Ramsar site in Cambodia.

◆ Forest Conservation with ICT - Indonesia

To strengthen the forest conservation, BirdLife Tokyo started the project to introduce the ICT solutions to forest patrol in the lowland rainforest in the south of Sumatra Island, Indonesia.

The lowland rainforests of Sumatra, Indonesia have been devastated by large scale logging and oil palm plantations. To conserve these forests, BirdLife, the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Partner in the UK), and Burung Indonesia established the Hutan Harapan programme in 2006, which covers approximately 100,000 ha. In 2018, with the support of **Fujitsu Ltd**, an ICT company in Japan, BirdLife Tokyo started the project with Burung Indonesia to improve the efficiency of forest patrols against illegal logging and poaching with ICT (Information and Communication Technology) solutions. All data from patrol staff are now input as digital records rather than paper-based records, and the performance of data compilation has been increased greatly.

◆ **Conservation in the Atlantic Forest – Paraguay**

The Atlantic Forest of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay is one of the most biologically diverse forests in the world. However, now less than 2% of the original Paraguay's Atlantic Forest remains. Guyra Paraguay (Partner in Paraguay) started sustainable agroforestry without deforestation.

The Atlantic Forest mostly disappeared because of the land development. It is important to prevent illegal logging and over-grazing to utilize the forests sustainably, for which the means for living must be provided to local communities. With the support of Tokyo Gala Dinner, Guyra Paraguay made the 23 ha of Atlantic Forest a community shared one and planting yerba mate seedlings.

◆ **Tree Planting in Africa – Burkina Faso**

We are planting trees with local communities in northern Burkina Faso, which is facing severe forest degradation and desertification. 17,000 trees were planted in 2018.

Lake Oursi and its surrounding area are of the rapid expansion of desert in the world, and local people are suffering from shortages of water and arable farmland. To restore forests in the area, we have been planting trees with Naturama (Partner in Burkina Faso) since 2011 with support from **Ricoh**. The number of trees to be planted is uniquely determined by players' performances in the golf tournaments sponsored by Ricoh and by the number of 'eco-declarations' made by the visitors to the Ricoh Eco Business Development Center. About 84,000 trees have been planted since 2011.

Conservation of Migratory Birds

Conserving the migratory birds through international cooperation

◆ Promoting the Conservation of Migratory Birds through International Cooperation –

Japan, Korea, China, U.S.A., and Australia

BirdLife Tokyo promoted migratory bird conservation in accordance with the Migratory Birds Treaty and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).

In 2018, consultative meetings under the Migratory Birds Treaty between the Governments of Korea, China, Australia, U.S.A. and Japan were held in Okinawa, Japan. BirdLife Tokyo participated in the meeting as a member of Japanese delegates and proposed the development of land bird monitoring in East Asia. To promote further activities under EAAFP, with the contract with **MoEJ**, we have compiled the information about migratory waterbird population and status of their habitats in Japan. Furthermore we participated in the 10th Meeting of Partner (MOP) of EAAFP held in China to share information regarding a long-term conservation strategy of migratory waterbirds in the region.

◆ Conservation of Habitat for Migratory Birds - Japan

BirdLife Tokyo has been running 'Flyway Site Programmes in Japan' to enhance conservation actions conducted by local residents in the important habitat for migratory birds since 2017.

In 2018, with a grant from **Pacific Century Premium Developments Ltd.**, we implemented the joint projects such as developing a new survey technique by using drones and maintenance of bird observatories at five Flyway sites in Hokkaido (Miyajimamura, Kuccharoko, Kiritappu Marsh, Akkeshi-Bekanbeushi Marth, Notsuke-Bay and Notsuke-hanto). Also with support from **Dow Chemical Japan Ltd.**, we promoted the conservation of Dollarbird in Okayama, and geese and swans in Niigata.

Marine and Seabird Conservation

Many seabirds are being killed by fisheries bycatch

◆ Reducing seabird bycatch in high sea longline tuna fishery – Chinese Taiwan, Mauritius

In collaboration with CWBF (Chinese Wild Bird Federation, Partner in Taiwan) and MWF (Mauritius Wildlife Foundation, Partner in Mauritius), BirdLife Tokyo conducted port-based outreach for Taiwanese longline tuna fishing vessels using the ports in Mauritius to reduce seabird bycatch.

Fisheries bycatch (incidental catch by fishing gear) is a major threat to seabirds. Large-bodied species are susceptible to bycatch in longline tuna fishery and being killed. Albatrosses are especially imperilled, with 15 of 22 species being listed in the IUCN Red List. Through the support from **the David & Lucile Packard Foundation**, we held meetings with the Taiwanese fishing industry and exchanged information with the Japanese fishing industry through workshops in 2018.

◆ Working with fishermen to tackle seabird bycatch in gillnets - Japan

With WBSJ, we started a new project in the town of Haboro, Hokkaido to tackle seabird bycatch in gillnet fisheries. In collaboration with local fishermen, we started preparation for at-sea experiments of bycatch mitigations. We also started information gathering to identify bycatch hotspots.

Gillnet (including drift gillnets) bycatch is a major cause of seabird mortality globally, estimated at 400,000 birds annually. The sea around Hokkaido hosts many seabirds, and gillnets are commonly used in the region. In 2016, we started working with fishermen in the town of Haboro, Hokkaido to develop potential bycatch mitigation measures. In 2018, we started preparation of at-sea experiments, which will be conducted in 2019 through support from **the Kingfisher Foundation**. We also started developing a map to identify 'Bycatch hotspots' where bycatch in gillnet fisheries are likely to occur. This project has been possible through collaborations with the town of Haboro, the local fishing industry, and the MoEJ. We plan to continue our work with fishermen for seabird conservation.



Photo: Wandering Albatross

Capacity Building and Improvement of Livelihoods

To protect the environment is to support the human lives

◆ SATO YAMA UMI Project – Bhutan, Cambodia, Vietnam

SATO YAMA UMI Project is a joint project of the JEEF (Japan Environmental Education Forum), BirdLife Tokyo and CI Japan (Conservation International Japan). We have developed materials for environmental education and awareness raising, and also trained young conservation leaders.

SATO YAMA UMI Project has started as a joint project of JEEF, BirdLife Tokyo and CI Japan since 2017 with the fund from ***the KNCF 25th Anniversary Special Fund Grand Programme***. It aims to build the capacity of new generation towards sustainable society in 6 countries of the Asia-Pacific Region. In 2018, we have continuously worked with our three Partners, RSPN, Viet Nature, and BirdLife Cambodia Programme (Cambodia), and have established a website to showcase our activities. (<http://satoyamaumi.jp/ja/index.html>).

Evaluation of Conservation Activities

Evaluate outcomes of conservation activities to further accelerate the future activities

◆ Development of PRISM toolkit – Japan, Thailand, Zambia, United Kingdom

BirdLife Tokyo published the Japanese version of PRISM toolkit, an evaluation tool for environmental project developed by nine NGOs including BirdLife. Using the toolkit, we also evaluated the conservation projects in Thailand and Zambia with PRISM.

As attention has been paid to how to accomplish the Aichi Targets and SDGs, it is increasingly important to improve the future activities and plans by evaluating outcomes and effectiveness of the current conservation activities. With the support from **Toyota Motors Corporation**, we developed promotion and training materials of PRISM toolkit (Practical methods for evaluating the outcomes & Impacts of Small–Medium sized conservation projects) for NGOs, donors, and business corporations to promote its wider use and to raise awareness of effective evaluation of projects. We also held a training for environmental NGOs in the UK in June.



Photo: Cooperators of Developing Toolkit PRISM in Thailand

Charity Events

Charity Dinner to contribute to environmental conservation while enjoying dinner and music and gaining deeper understanding on environment

◆ Hosting Gala Dinners

BirdLife Tokyo hosts Gala Dinners biannually to support nature conservation actions. Donation from many individuals and corporations in Tokyo and Osaka, where they are held, and we apply the fund to conservation efforts.

In 2018, the purpose of the Dinners was for African environmental conservation and March Osaka Gala Dinner fetched JPY 17,500,000 while October Tokyo Gala Dinner brought JPY 38,380,000. The sums were applied to environmental conservation actions principally in Africa at JPY 28,380,000 and to the fund to support survey and research for endangered species at JPY 10,000,000.

◆ Supporting Conservation Projects

This year's main theme was Africa. We called for cooperation to the protection of vultures, which we supported in 2015 and to the forest conservation of Sao Tome and Principe islands.

Vultures, which feed on dead animals, contributing to maintain clean environment play a part in preventing infectious diseases and indispensable to maintain African ecology. Actions were started to prevent poaching and poisoning them based on Gala Dinner support. Sao Tome and Principe islands are regarded as African Galapagos and are biologically rich and home to many species unique to the islands. We supported restoration of the forests that were drastically reduced in size due to development.



Photo: BirdLife Gala Dinner



Photo: Rüppell's Vulture

Broadening Circle of Support

We receive enormous support from many individuals and organisations

➤ **BLS (Birdlife Supporters Club)**

BLS, which consists of voluntary anaesthetists, supports us in many ways. They held fundraising activities at their conferences in Tokyo and Sendai. Then at the 38th Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Clinical Anaesthesia in Fukuoka, they held a booth to provide pin badges to donors and sell greeting cards.

➤ **Komanojakko no kai**

We have received donations from Komajakko no kai in May. 2016 was the 1,300th anniversary since people from Korai (a part of South Korea) immigrated to Japan. They had served as a bridge between Japan and South Korea, in the hope of further strengthening of two nation's friendship for the next 1,400 years. They plan to continue fundraising activities at annual meetings in the future.

➤ **Collaboration with Mr. Kazuhisa Kusaba, a Tosaiga Artist and Mr. Junji Takasago, a Nature Photographer**

Mr. Junji Takasago's nature photo exhibition was held at Ginza in November. It was kindly proposed by Mr. Kazuhisa Kusaba to raise awareness and encourage behaviour change for conservation. Birdlife Tokyo co-organized the exhibition and Mr. Takasago donated the participation fee and the part of the sales of exhibited photo prints and books. We will continue to have such events that tell the importance and beauty of nature and change people's behaviours.

➤ **Yahoo! Internet Fund**

From 2017, we have set up the Yahoo! Internet Fund so that people can donate with T-Points and credit cards. The donation was used in many conservation activities. As well as the ongoing donation to the activities such as "Conservation of the forest in Indonesia," "Save the Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Southeast Asia," and "Release the poached birds into the wild in Brazil," we have started a new donation for "Searching new breeding areas for the African Penguin" this year. We called for donation for these 4 activities and received support from a number of people.

➤ **Support Members of Organizations and Individuals**

Birdlife have supporter systems for corporations and organizations or for individuals.

We also have a unique supporter system allowing members to support conservation actions of endangered species as foster parents called the RBC (Rare Bird Club).

Below is the list of corporate sponsors from 2018 (in the alphabetical order).

● **Corporate Members**

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

● **Individuals Members (Friends of Birdlife)**

‘Friends of BirdLife’ is a support system for individuals for 5,000 JPY per unit. Donation from individual members was used for conservation project and our operating expenses. From this September, automatic renewal of a membership is available with a credit card.

➤ **Other Supports**

- Cedyna Financial Corporation
- One Step Co., Ltd

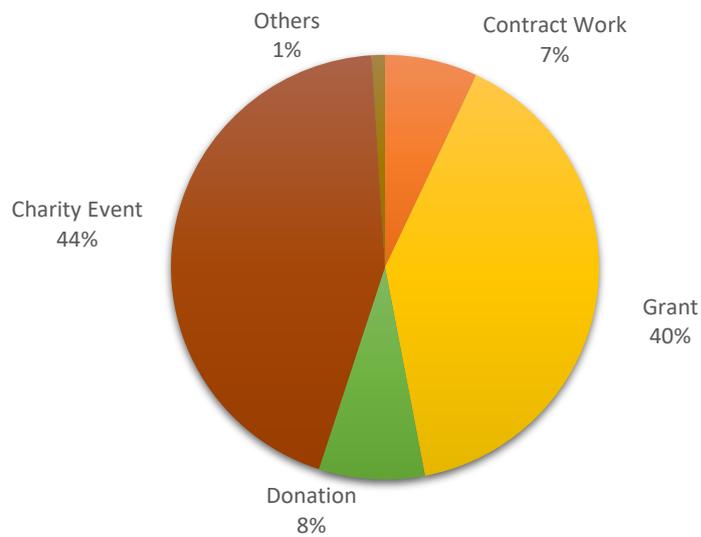
Financial Report

Financial Report for FY 2018 is as follows:

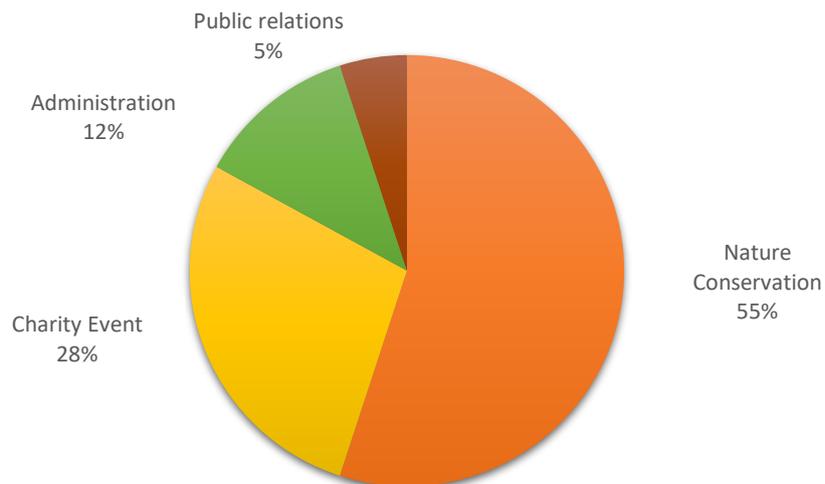
- Income : JPY 275,000,000

- Expenditure : JPY 275,000,000

➤ Income



➤ Expenditure



The forecasted figures at the end of December 2018 (prior to accounting audit)

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