

BirdLife International Tokyo

Annual Report 2019

(1 January – 31 December 2019)



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Message from the Representative Director

BirdLife International Tokyo (hereinafter BirdLife Tokyo) was founded in April 2002 and since then, we have advanced conservation projects for birds and all nature. We are expanding our activities to include conservation of forests and ocean, improvement on livelihood of local people, environmental education, and prevention of global warming.

In 2019, BirdLife Tokyo established a fund to support scientific research and analysis for threatened bird species commemorating the 15th anniversary for H.I.H. Princess Takamado as the Honorary President of BirdLife International. Additionally we have started a new awareness raising activity for children nationwide with Group of bird mascot characters of J.League clubs, Japan Professional Football League.

K. Suzue

Keiko Suzue
Representative Director
BirdLife International Tokyo

Highlights in 2019

Expanded environmental conservation actions into 16 countries in 2019



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

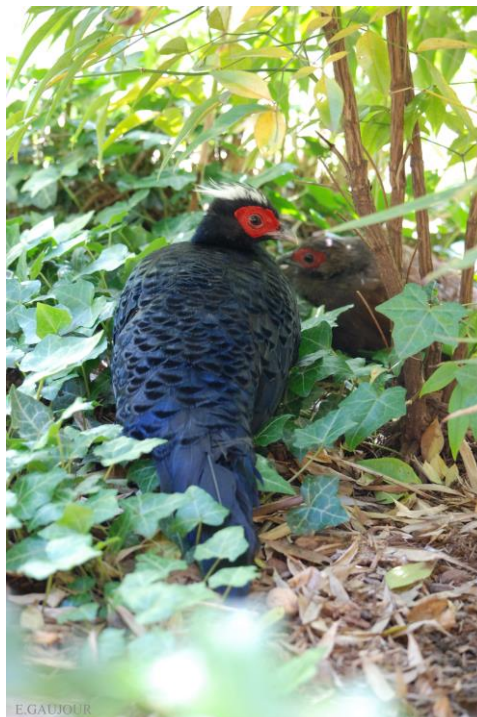
Conservation of Endangered Species

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

◆ Conservation of Edwards's Pheasant – Vietnam

Edwards's Pheasant is a Critically Endangered bird, 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. Since 2018, BirdLife Tokyo and Viet Nature Conservation Centre have been working for the project 'Reintroduction of the Critically Endangered Edwards's Pheasant into the Wild', with funds from the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF).

In the second year of the project, Environmental Impact Assessment was completed. In September, the 7th International Symposium of the World Pheasant Association took place in Dong Hoi. The symposium was attended by about 100 people, including local governments, researchers, NGO staff, zoo keepers and BirdLife Tokyo staff. Experts of Galliformes advised Viet Nature staff on the maintenance of aviaries to protect Edwards's Pheasant from predators, and on challenges of releasing birds. After finishing the maintenance of aviaries, the pilot breeding will start with some pairs of related species. Camera trap surveys also going on to look for Edwards's Pheasant and its suitable habitat.



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E. Gaujour

◆ **Conservation of Spoon-billed Sandpiper – 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 Partner in Myanmar.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper is rapidly decreasing due to habitat loss by land use change. To reverse the trend, BirdLife Tokyo conducted the conservation project with the Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA), Partner in Myanmar, funded by **the Toyota Environmental Activities Grant Program**. In Myanmar, where a half of the species' population overwinter, we conducted a series of field surveys to obtain the knowledge on their distribution, awareness raising activities to enhance collaboration with local communities, and dialogue with both the union and the state governments. These activities made it possible to submit the Ramsar Information Sheet to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat in order to extend the Ramsar site boundary at the Gulf of Mottama up to 160,000ha, which is almost 4 times larger than the current site.

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

Yellow-breasted Bunting was once the most abundant small migratory passerine in Asia but has suffered rapid decline since the 1990s. It is now listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

We have been working on conservation of this species by networking all range countries since 2016. In 2019, we organized a joint survey between Russia and Japan on the island of Sakhalin. We have also organized workshops in wintering countries of Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia. Hunting analysis was done in China and we led an international team (Russia, Mongolia and Japan) to attend the China Ornithological Congress at Changchun in August. Have also discussed with the National Bird Banding Center of China on joint study of the population trend of all bunting species when we returned to Beijing. This project is supported by the Japan Fund for Global Environment.

◆ **Car Donation for Conservation of Endangered Species – Tahiti, Myanmar**

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 2019, one vehicle was donated to each of BANCA (Partner in Myanmar) and MANU (Partner in Tahiti).

We have donated a vehicle to each of two Partners every year with support from **Toyota Motors Corporation** since 2016. The donated cars are used for conservation activities such as habitat restoration of endemic species namely Tahiti Monarch and environmental education in Tahiti, and field surveys of migratory birds which use mudflats, particularly Spoon-billed Sandpiper, and awareness raising of local communities in Myanmar.



Photo: Car Donation Handover Ceremony in Tahiti

◆ Conservation of Blue-throated Macaw – Bolivia

Blue-throated Macaw is endemic to Bolivia and there are only 300 birds left. We started the project to prevent extinction of this critically endangered species with our partner in Bolivia.

Blue-throated Macaw, which inhabits only the unique savanna ecosystem in northern Bolivia, could go extinct as long as it continues to decrease in number due to development and illegal hunting among others. BirdLife Tokyo started the conservation project with the Asociacion Armonia (Armonia), Partner in Bolivia, funded by **the Toyota Environmental Activities Grant Program**. We conducted awareness raising of ranchers so that they can ranch cattle in harmony with the Macaw.

◆ Conservation of Chinese Crested Tern – East Asian Countries

This is a joint project with the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society with technical support from Burung Indonesia. This is the third year of study on the Chinese Crested Tern wintering in eastern Indonesia.

In 2018 and 2019, we tagged five Greater Crested Terns (a close relative to the Chinese Crested Tern) with satellite transmitter in Indonesia and two Bridled Terns in Hong Kong. The tagged terns have revealed valuable migration routes that are unknown in the past. With our experience, we plan to capture the Chinese Crested Terns in Indonesia in early 2020. The site in Indonesia will be designated as a marine protected area. Our team has offered training and conservation workshop to local government agencies and universities.

Forest and Wetland Conservation

13 million hectares of forest lost annually

◆ Forest Conservation with Technology – Indonesia

To strengthen the forest conservation, a new patrol scheme with using unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and smartphone has been started in “Harapan Rainforest”, 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 2019, with the support of **Fujitsu Ltd.**, an ICT company in Japan, the project with Burung Indonesia that introduced smartphones to forest patrol has achieved the great success to improve the performance of compilation for patrol data. Other technology, UAV is also incorporated into a new patrol scheme and contributes to the arrest of poachers by recording the evidence of illegal activities.



◆ Mangrove Restoration – Malaysia, Mexico

To conserve and restore mangroves, which are important not only for biodiversity but also for local livelihood, we planted mangroves 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 have worked with Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), Partner in Malaysia, to restore mangroves since 2011, and with Pronatura Sur, Partner in Mexico, since 2015. In Malaysia, the bird surveys and tree-planting were conducted with local communities to build a foundation of community-led conservation. In Mexico, in addition to tree-planting, the honey production within mangroves was conducted to promote sustainable use of mangrove resources without mangrove degradation.

◆ Wetland Conservation – Cambodia

Stung Sen Wetland is an IBA that is located at the southern tip of Tonle Sap Lake, which is the largest lake in Southeast Asia.

As a habitat for many endangered species, and an important site that generates critical ecosystem services for local people (such as fisheries), BirdLife Tokyo, funded by MoEJ, has been supporting the Cambodian Government to designate the Stung Sen wetland as Cambodia's fifth Ramsar site under the Ramsar Convention. The site was finally designated on 2nd November, 2018. An international workshop was held in early January 2019 to celebrate the designation with the relevant Ministries and stakeholders.

◆ 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.

Lake Oursi and its surrounding area are of the rapid expansion of desert in the world. With the support of **Ricoh**, we have been planting trees with Naturama, Partner in Burkina Faso, since 2011 to restore forests in the area. The number of trees to be planted is uniquely determined by players' performances in the golf tournament sponsored by Ricoh and by the number of 'eco-declarations' made by the visitors to the Ricoh Eco Business Development Center.

Conservation of Migratory Birds

Conserving the migratory birds through international cooperation

◆ Conservation of migratory birds and their habitat – Japan

To promote the sound management of important habitat for migratory birds “flyway sites”, the training course was held for local governments and NGOs.

To conserve the migratory birds, it is essential to protect the breeding, staging, and wintering areas throughout their migratory pathways. Above all, the important habitats are listed as “flyway site” by international framework for migratory birds conservation, “the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership”. The sound management for migratory birds are required in each flyway site. In 2019, with the contract with **the Ministry of the Environment Japan (MoEJ)**, a training workshop for site managers was held in Hokkaido, to promote the management of the flyway sites and 11 local governments participated in the workshop and learned the management skills for the habitat conservation.



◆ Awareness Raising for Migratory Birds – Japan

Since 2017, 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

In 2019, the third year of this programme, with support from **Dow Chemical Japan Ltd.**, we promoted the conservation of Dollarbirds (endangered species in Japan) in Okayama, and geese and swans in Niigata. In Okayama. The forum for Dollarbirds was held as the output of 3 years project hosted by Okayama branch of WBSJ (Wild Birds Society of Japan, Partner in the Japan). Over 180 participants joined the forum and shared the research results and conservation works in each habitat all over Japan and discussed the next conservation actions.

Marine and Seabird Conservation

Steps towards seabird-safe fisheries

◆ Reducing seabird bycatch in high seas longline tuna fishery - Japan

We launched a public outreach programme, Albatross Stories, through social media, and held meetings and a seminar for the tuna supply chain. Engagement with longline fishing companies, government officials, scientists, and international tuna fisheries commissions was also a critical aspect of Marine Programme.

Fisheries bycatch (incidental capture in fishing gears) is a serious threat seabirds are facing. Albatrosses, including species threatened with extinction, are being bycaught and drown in longline tuna fisheries. Through support provided by **South Georgia Heritage Trust** and **Darwin Initiative**, we initiated engagement with the tuna supply chain and launched a public outreach programme through social media in 2019. Also with support from **David & Lucile Packard Foundation**, we engaged with stakeholders in the fishing industry, government, and scientists.

◆ Putting gillnet bycatch of seabirds on the map - Japan

In collaboration with Wild Bird Society of Japan and the University of Tokyo, we identified potential areas with bycatch risk in gillnet fisheries. We also collaborated with fishers in Hokkaido to conduct at-sea trials of potential techniques to reduce gillnet bycatch.

Estimated annual mortality of seabirds globally in gillnet fisheries is 400,000. Through support provided by **Kingfisher Foundation**, we developed a nation-wide “hotspot map” to identify potential areas with risk of bycatch in gillnet fisheries. We also conducted at-sea trials through collaboration with fishers in the town of Haboro, Hokkaido where large numbers of seabirds breed, to evaluate potential mitigation measures at sea as a step towards identifying effective techniques to tackle bycatch problem in gillnet fisheries.



Photo: Derren Fox

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 funded by the KNCF 25th Anniversary Special Fund Grand Programme. It is a joint project of the Japan Environmental Education Forum, BirdLife Tokyo, and Conservation International Japan, with each organisation having a wide range of experiences in environmental conservation globally.

The project addresses global challenges by implementing multi-tiered programmes on capacity building for future generations. It aims to contribute to the sound development of human societies built on conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. BirdLife cooperates with three local BirdLife Partners, including the BirdLife Cambodia Programme, RSPN (Royal Society for Protection of Nature), Bhutan, and Viet Nature, Vietnam, to implement activities in each country. The project was started in 2017, and have implemented environmental education programme using developed textbook and awareness raising programmes for multi-stakeholders throughout the years.



◆ Addressing the Marine Plastic Pollution – Japan

The environmental education programme was implemented in an elementary school to learn the impact of marine plastic pollution on wildlife and their lives.

The environmental education programme to learn marine plastic issues was conducted in Yatsu Minami elementary school in Chiba prefecture, Japan, with the support of **Dow Chemical Japan Ltd.**, a material company of plastic.

At the first class of this programme, Mr. Koichi Fujiwara, a wildlife photographer gave a lecture which introduced the situation of marine plastic pollution in the world. After children had learnt overview of the issues, they conducted clean-up activities at Yatsu tidal flat close to the school and estimated how the garbage reached the tidal flat. This programme was introduced at the interschool conference and shared among school teachers who teach social class.

Evaluation of Conservation Activities

Promote evaluation of outcomes for the better conservation activities

◆ Symposium – Evaluation of the CSR activities by company – Japan

The symposium was held to promote the evaluation of CSR activities by companies utilizing the PRISM toolkit, an evaluation tool for environmental project developed by nine NGOs including BirdLife.

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 the evaluation tool for environmental project “PRISM toolkit” (Practical methods for evaluating the outcomes & Impacts of Small–Medium sized conservation projects) in 2017. The symposium targeted CSR division of companies was held in January to introduce the PRISM toolkit to Japanese companies. Approximately 70 participants joined the symposium and showed high interests with PRISM and had expectations to accumulate the evaluation cases using PRISM.



Charity Events

Our Charity Dinner enables guests to contribute to conservation activities while enjoying dinner and music and raising awareness of environment.

◆ Hosting Gala Dinners

BirdLife Tokyo hosts Gala Dinners biannually, in Tokyo and Osaka, to support nature conservation actions. With donations from many individuals and corporations nationwide, we have charity fundraising auctions for our activities.

In 2019, the purpose of the Dinners was for BirdLife International Japan Fund for Science, which is established to support sustainable scientific research and analysis for threatened bird species, and for protecting Helmeted Hornbill in Malaysia. In March, Osaka Gala Dinner raised JPY 21,890,000 while in October Tokyo Gala Dinner brought JPY 39,600,000. Those funds were applied to conservations activities such as BirdLife International Japan Fund for Science, Red List support, and protection of Helmeted Hornbill in Malaysia.

◆ Newly established a BirdLife International Japan Fund for Science

H.I.H Princess Takamado has served as the Honorary President of BirdLife International since 2004. To commemorate this occasion, BirdLife International Tokyo wishes to celebrate the 15th anniversary this year by establishing the new fund “BirdLife International Japan Fund for Science”, with the aim of supporting the scientific research and analysis for threatened bird species globally and for the foreseeable future. The collected data is published as IUCN Red List. It is a basic data used by governments, international entities, and conservationists reflecting global conservation strategy and implementation more. We have allocated a portion of profits from Osaka and Tokyo Gala Dinner 2019, also we have received some individual donations. Moreover, long-term support has started with Dow Chemical Japan, as well as Chopard Japan.



Photo: BirdLife Gala Dinner

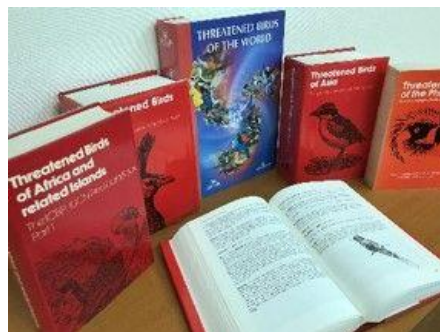


Photo: Red Data Book

Broadening Circle of Support

Many individuals and organisations
support us with friendly sympathy toward our philosophy.

➤ **BLS (Birdlife Supporters Club)**

BLS, which consists of voluntary anaesthetists supports us in significant ways. The third year anniversary party to celebrate its establishment was held in Hotel Okura Tokyo in August. This year, a NPO called BirdLife International Medical Support has inaugurated activities to offer medical care for local people who live in the forests in Indonesia.

➤ **Komajakko no kai**

We have received donations from Komajakko no kai in December. 1,300 years had passed since people from Korai (a part of Korean peninsula) immigrated to Japan. They have been doing several activities that makes them as a bridge between Japan and Korea, with hope of strengthening of two nation's friendship. They plan to continue seeking donations at the annual meetings in the future as well.

➤ **J.League Bird Association**

In August, BirdLife Tokyo signed a declaration with "Group of bird mascot characters of J.League (Japan Professional Football League) clubs" to work together for environmental conservation. The group is composed of 18 clubs whose mascots use birds as motive. In September, as the first step to collaborative work, H.I.H Princess Takamado made a visit to Kitakyushu, Fukuoka prefecture, in which "Giravanz Kitakyushu", the club of the group's leader Giran, is based. H.I.H Princess Takamado discussed with the local parties concerned the future activities.



➤ **Yahoo! Internet Fund**

From 2017, we have set up the Yahoo! Online Donation and people can donate with T-point and by credit cards via the fund. Those donations are used in a variety of ways to protect the environment. In 2019, two new pages “Protect birds and the environment in the world” and “Save the Sarus Crane in Cambodia” opened and the page “Prevent Sumatra Island’s forest fires” reopened.

This year, we transferred the fund to Indonesia for repairing patrol bikes, and to Brazil for release poached birds into the wild. We called for donation for the activities and lots of people cooperated with this donation.

➤ **Support Members of Organizations and Individuals**

BirdLife have supporter systems for corporations and organisations or for individuals.

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

Below is the list of corporate and individual sponsors of 2019 (in the alphabetical order).

● **Corporate Members**

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Alpha Food Co., Ltd. | - Izumo Oyashiro |
| - Izumo Oyashiro Cultural Foundation | - Fushimi Inari Taisha |
| - Hokkaido Jingu | - Komajakko no kai |
| - Masumida Shrine | - Niina Komuten Co., Ltd. |
| - Samukawa Shrine | |

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

“Friends of BirdLife” is a support system of a donation which is 5,000 JPY per unit. Donation from individual members are allocated for the projects and our operating expenses. We accept bank transfer and credit card payments. Automatic renewal system is available with a credit card.

● **Other Supports**

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| - Chopard Japan Ltd. | - Daihonzan Sojiji Temple |
| - Dow Chemical Japan Ltd. | - Japan Tobacco Inc. |
| - Kaigai Fine Wine Asia (Kaigai shuhan Ltd.) | - Nippon Taiko Foundation |
| - One Step Co., Ltd | - Sphelar Power Corporation |

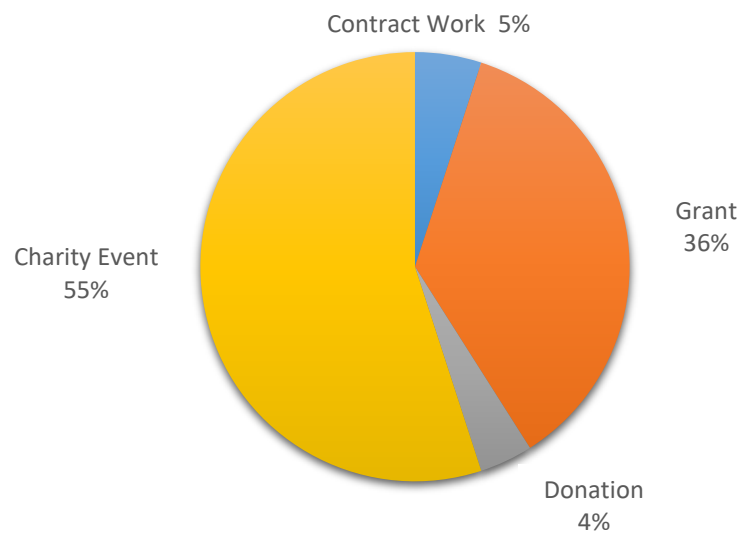
Financial Report

Financial Report for FY 2019 is as follows:

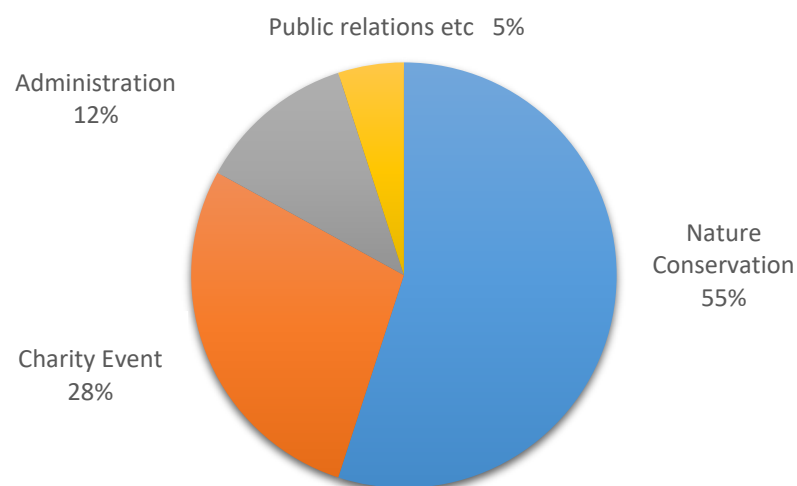
- Income : JPY 220,615,219

- Expenditure : JPY 220,615,219

➤ Income



➤ Expenditure



The forecasted figures at the end of December 2019 (prior to accounting audit)

**General Incorporated Association
BirdLife International Tokyo**

Address: Unizo Kakigara-cho Kitajima Bldg. 1F, 1-13-1 Nihonbashi Kakigara-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo
103-0014 Japan

Phone: +81(0)3-6206-2941

Fax: +81(0)3-6206-2942

URL: <https://tokyo.birdlife.org>

Representative: Keiko Suzue (Representative Director)

Founded: April 2002