

BirdLife International Tokyo

Annual Report 2020

(1 January – 31 December 2020)



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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 the conservation of forests and ocean, the improvement of livelihood for local people, the environmental education, and the prevention of global warming.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic seriously affected our social and economic sectors. In the midst of the crisis, BirdLife Tokyo has put forth its best efforts in order to maintain the promotion of conservation activities at a level that meets expectations. Internet Auction was held to meet the “New Normal” demands with full use of IT, and we will continue to work toward solutions for environmental challenges.



Keiko Suzue
Representative Director
BirdLife International Tokyo

Highlights in 2020

Expanded environmental conservation actions into 16 countries in 2020



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Conservation of Endangered Species

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

◆ 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 has proceeded the conservation project with the Asociacion Armonia (Armonia), a partner in Bolivia, funded by **the Toyota Environmental Activities Grant Program** since January 2019. The collected data will serve planning and execution of effective conservation strategy, and awareness raising for ranchers of sustainable local ranching in harmony with Blue-throated Macaw and other important species.



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◆ **Car Donation for Conservation of Endangered Species – Argentina, Nepal**

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 2020, one vehicle was donated to each of Aves Argentinas (a partner in Argentina) and Bird Conservation Nepal (a partner in Nepal).

We have donated a vehicle to each of two partners every year with support from **Toyota Motors Corporation** since 2016. In Argentina, the donated car is used for poaching surveillance, bird monitoring, reintroduction of endemic species namely Black-fronted piping guan, and training in good productive practices. In Nepal, the donated car is used for conservation activities such as survey and data collection, awareness raising, policy support at local and national level for conservation of the critically endangered species including Gyps bengalensis.



The Vehicle donated to a partner in Nepal

◆ **Conservation of Edwards’s Pheasant – Vietnam**

*Edwards’s Pheasant is a critically endangered bird, endemic to Vietnam. It is found in moist, lowland evergreen forests in central Vietnam. Since 2000, no Edwards’s pheasants have been found in the wild, which indicates that it might have gone extinct. Since 2018, BirdLife Tokyo and Viet Nature Conservation Centre have been working on the project ‘Reintroduction of the Critically Endangered Edwards’s Pheasant into the Wild’ with funds from the **Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF)**.*

The project concluded in 2020. During the project, we focused on conservation and breeding activities that are essential for the reintroduction of Edwards's pheasant to the wild. Last year, we obtained two pairs of Red Junglefowl, a closely related species to Edwards's pheasant, and started breeding. Six chicks were born from one pair in September and are growing well. We also began investigating suitable locations for releasing birds in the future, and the area around the lake near the breeding center was selected as a candidate site. A variety of creatures live in this area, and anticipation for the return to the wild is rising.

The return of Edwards's pheasant to the wild is a big project that will take 10 years. During the first phase, in these three years, we were able to achieve steady results such as building a conservation and breeding center, raising and breeding closely related species, and finding locations for releasing birds.



PRISM

BirdLife developed the evaluation tool for environmental project “PRISM toolkit” (Practical methods for evaluating the outcomes & Impacts of Small–Medium sized conservation projects) in 2017.

It aims to improve the future activities and plans by evaluating outcomes and effectiveness of the current conservation activities.

Forest and Wetland Conservation

13 million hectares of forest lost annually

◆ Tree Planting in Africa – Burkina Faso

We are planting trees with local communities in northern Burkina Faso, which is facing severe deforestation and desertification. In 2020, we planted 8,906 trees.

Lake Oursi and its surrounding area are of the rapid expansion of desert in the world. With the support of **Ricoh Co., Ltd. (Ricoh)**, we have been planting trees with Naturama, a 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. Since 2011, we have planted 93,090 trees in total.



◆ 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**, we have worked with Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), a partner in Malaysia, to restore mangroves since 2011, and with Pronatura Sur, a partner in Mexico, since 2015. In Malaysia, we wrapped up the 10-year project conducting the bird surveys and tree-planting with local communities to build a foundation of community-led conservation. In Mexico, in addition to tree-planting, the honey production within mangroves got into full swing to promote sustainable use of mangrove resources without mangrove degradation.

◆ **Forest Conservation Utilizing Technology – Indonesia**

We are implementing efficient forest patrol operations using technology in the tropical rainforest “Harapan” on Sumatra Island, Indonesia.

Large-scale deforestation is underway in the region due to the development of oil palm plantations. BirdLife Tokyo, in collaboration with Brung Indonesia (a partner in Indonesia), has launched the "Harapan Forest" project to protect approximately 100,000 hectare of forest. In 2020, with the support of **Fujitsu Limited**, we created a leaflet to introduce this activity in Harapan and developed staff capacity to effectively utilize drones and geographic information systems (GIS) in patrol activities.

◆ **Mitigation of Global Warming through Forest Conservation – Indonesia**

Deforestation in developing countries is a key factor contributing to global warming. BirdLife Tokyo examined CO² sources and forest sinks in Gorontalo, Sulawesi Island, Indonesia.

Due to the decline of tropical rainforests, more CO², formerly absorbed and stored by trees and other plantlife, has been released into the atmosphere, accelerating global warming. The area of forests burned each year exceeds that of Japan’s landmass, contributing to the rising seawater temperatures and abnormal weather. The value of forests is not limited to acting as a sponge for CO², but also a valuable resource for us and the wildlife living there. BirdLife Tokyo, in collaboration with Brune Indonesia, asked a third party to investigate the condition of 80,000 hectare of forests in Gorontalo and how much CO² they are absorbing. Based on the results, we will create a sustainable plan in conjunction with the local people, enabling the forest to be conserved for the foreseeable future.

◆ **Conservation of Waterbird Species in Wetlands – Vietnam**

Despite the lack of research on waterbirds, the wetlands in South-east Asia are identified as an important habitat for migratory waterbird species. Many wetlands are also still under threat such as illegal hunting and development.

BirdLife Tokyo and Viet Nature Conservation Centre (a partner in Vietnam), with a fund by the **Ministry of the Environment Japan (MoEJ)**, conducted a survey of waterbirds in the wetlands in the northern area of Vietnam, where research is still lacking. In January 2020, we monitored waterbirds, including shorebirds, and examined the current condition of each wetland area. Local bird species, including endangered species, and conservation effort for each wetland were monitored as well. In addition, we conducted training sessions for local national park rangers to improve the ability to conduct waterbird monitoring.

Conservation of Migratory Birds

Conserving migratory birds through international cooperation

◆ Conservation of Migratory Birds and their Habitat – Japan

For ensuring better management of “flyway sites”, important habitats for migratory birds, we promote activities that will lead to further development of the flyway network.

To conserve the migratory birds, it is essential to protect the breeding, staging, and wintering areas throughout their migratory pathways. Under the East Asia-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), the international framework for migratory birds' conservation, of which Japan is a member, site management and conservation of migratory birds is required at each flyway site. In 2020, in the contract with **MoEJ**, we published Japanese leaflet introducing EAAFP and held a domestic meeting with Japanese experts to promote the flyway network activities.



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◆ Supporting Activities at the Flyway Sites in Hokkaido – Japan

To promote the conservation of migratory waterbirds, we are supporting the activities of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway network sites in Hokkaido.

There are nine flyway sites in Hokkaido, which are very important as wintering grounds, stopover, and breeding grounds for migratory waterbirds. In 2020, with the support of **Pacific Century Premium Developments**, we provide support for three sites: 1. waterbirds survey in Sarobetsu Wetland, a new flyway site, 2. investigating new breeding distribution of Japanese cranes (*Grus japonensis*) at Lake Kutcharo, and 3. Anseriformes surveys at Miyajimanuma.

Marine and Seabird Conservation

Steps towards seabird-safe fisheries

◆ Reducing Seabird Bycatch in High Seas Longline Tuna Fishery - Japan

We held meetings with stakeholders and continued a public outreach programme through social media with an aim to reduce seabird bycatch in longline fishery. We also attended meetings in Japan to discuss sustainable fisheries as well as international tuna commission meetings.

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 **David and Lucile Packard Foundation**, **South Georgia Heritage Trust**, and **Darwin Initiative**, we engaged with stakeholders in the tuna fishing industry, government, and the tuna supply chain in Japan in 2020. We also continued a public outreach programme, Albatross Stories, through social media platforms.

◆ Gillnet Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Experiments and At-Sea Data Collection - Japan

In collaboration with a seabird researcher from Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute of the University of Tokyo and Tokyo Sea Life Park, we conducted mitigation experiments of seabird bycatch in gillnets. We also initiated planning of a collaborative project with fishers in Hokkaido to conduct at-sea data collection to better understand the extent of seabird bycatch in gillnet fisheries.

Estimated annual mortality of seabirds globally in gillnet fisheries is 400,000. Because data to evaluate the extent of the issue in Japan is still lacking, data collection is urgently needed. In 2020, we started discussions with fishers in the town of Haboro, Hokkaido where large numbers of seabirds breed, Hokkaido Seabird Center, and a seabird researcher to plan a collaborative project for at-sea data collection. Because mitigation measures for seabird bycatch in gillnet fisheries have not been established, we also conducted gillnet bycatch mitigation experiments at Tokyo Sea Life Park where diving seabirds are kept.



Photo: Alex Dodds

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, was started in 2017.*

The project aims to contribute to the sound development of human societies built on conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. In 2020, we hold an online international workshop that could meet all seven local NGOs from six countries and three Japanese NGOs to have meaningful discussions on effective environmental education, dissemination and enlightenment activities, capacity development and public relations strategies for future activities based on the achievements and issues so far.



Promotion of Awareness Raising

Working for challenges through conservation activities

◆ Marine Plastic Wastes – Japan

We conducted an environmental education programme for grade four students to learn about the effects of marine plastic wastes on birds and its countermeasures, which is becoming a familiar problem in the society.

With the support of **Dow Chemical Japan Co., Ltd.**, we held an environmental education programmes (in total 7 classes) at Yatsu Minami Primary School in Narashino City, Chiba Prefecture, to learn about the marine plastic waste problem. In 2020, we invited Dr. Kazuto Kawakami, a seabird expert, as a lecturer to learn about environmental problems caused by plastic waste from the perspective of seabird research in the Ogasawara Islands. Also, we conducted online international exchange programme with a state school in Brisbane, Australia to encourage students to think about what each of them could do now.



◆ **The Local Recycling Programme - Japan**

Aiming for a plastic recycling society, local programmes started to include plastic waste recycling, clean-up activities, and environmental education.

The local clean-up and recycling plastic waste programme started with the support of **Dow Japan** and **TerraCycle Japan, Inc.**, an environmental social venture, in cooperation with “Group of bird mascot characters of J.League (Japan Professional Football League) clubs”. In September, its first clean-up event took place at Sone tidal flat in Fukuoka prefecture, Japan, in cooperation with “Giravanz Kitakyushu”, the club of the group’s leader Giran, and Sone Higashi elementary school. After children had a lecture introducing issues of global warming and marine plastic pollution, a clean-up activity at Sone tidal flat was held. This clean-up programme is planned to be carried out at 8 sites by spring in 2021. A portion of the collected plastic is recycled into trash bags that are then used for the local clean-up activity in the following year.



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Charity Events

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

◆ Hosting Gala Dinners

BirdLife Tokyo hosts Gala Dinners biannually, in Tokyo and Osaka, to support nature conservation actions. In 2020, the Osaka Gala Dinner was cancelled, and an Internet Auction was held instead. Tokyo Gala Dinner in October was held on a smaller scale.

In 2020, due to the spread of COVID-19, Osaka Gala Dinner scheduled for March was cancelled. As a new attempt, we held an Internet Auction and raised 8 million yen. In October, Tokyo Gala Dinner was held successfully after various measures were taken to prevent infection. Despite the reduced number of participants to encourage social distancing, the Gala raised 28 million yen. Those funds were applied to conservation activities such as BirdLife International Japan Fund for Science and Red List support.

◆ BirdLife International Japan Fund for Science

BirdLife Tokyo established a fund “BirdLife International Japan Fund for Science” in 2019 to commemorate the 15th anniversary of H.I.H. Princess Takamado serving as the Honorary President of BirdLife International.

The fund supports 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. We allocated a portion of profits from Gala Dinner, also we have received some individual donations and supports from Chopard Japan Ltd. and Dow Chemical Japan Co., Ltd.



Photo: The Honorary President, H.I.H. Princess Takamado



Photo: Red Data Book

Broadening Circle of Support

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

➤ **Sorimachi Group**

Founded in 1955, Sorimachi Group has been the leading company in accounting systems in Japan. With a penguin as its company mascot, they started fund raising internally for conservation including saving the penguins. In August, we received the funds raised and a donation from the company.



➤ **Arte Salon Holdings, Inc.**

Arte Salon Holdings, Inc., which runs over 300 beauty salons both Japan and overseas, has agreed to donate to BirdLife Tokyo according to the number of colour treatments done. Their sector has a keen interest in nature conservation because of their concerns about using large amounts of water and environmentally unfriendly chemicals found in hair dye.

➤ **Yahoo! Internet Fund**

We use Yahoo! Online Donation platform so that donors can choose a project for the conservation of a specific species or region in accordance with their personal interests. One of the most popular projects is to save the “Spoon-billed Sandpiper”. In 2020, we transferred the funds to BANCA (a partner in Myanmar) to raise the capacity of local conservation groups to better monitor the shorebirds and its habitats.

➤ **Komajakko no kai**

We received donations from Komajakko no kai in November. 1,300 years have passed since people from Korai (a part of the Korean peninsula) immigrated to Japan. They have been doing several activities to act as a bridge between Japan and Korea, with the hope of strengthening the two nations’ friendship. Their support toward BirdLife Tokyo started in 2018.

➤ **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 2020 (in the alphabetical order).

● **Corporate Members**

- Alpha Food Co., Ltd.
- Arte Salon Holdings, Inc.
- IMH Holdings Co., Ltd.
- Izumo Oyashiro
- Izumo Oyashiro Cultural Foundation
- Fushimi Inari Taisha
- Hokkaido Jingu
- Komajakko no kai
- Koma Jinja
- Masumida Shrine
- 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**

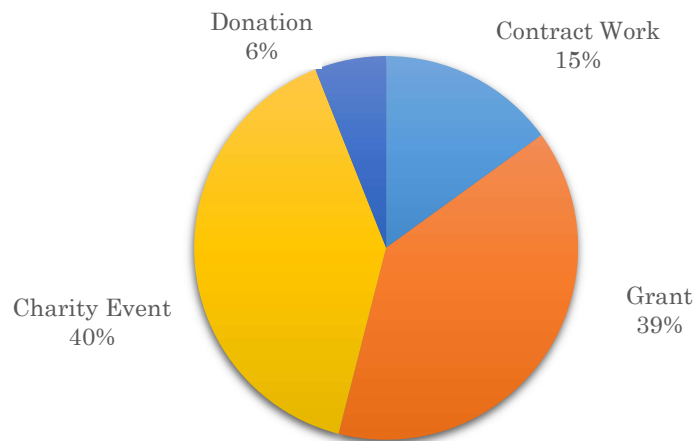
- BLS
- Daihonzan Sojiji Temple
- One Step Co., Ltd
- Sphelar Power Corporation

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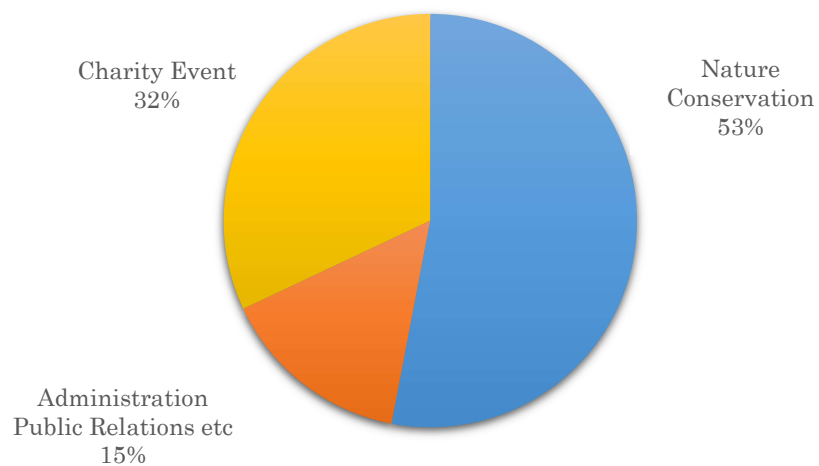
Financial Report for FY 2020 is as follows:

- Income : JPY 180,212,656
- Expenditure : JPY 180,212,656

➤ Income



➤ Expenditure



The forecasted figures at the end of December 2020 (prior to accounting audit)

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