

BirdLife International Tokyo

Annual Report 2015

(1 January-31 December 2015)



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1. Summary

New CEO on Board

BirdLife International's new CEO Ms. Patricia Zurita came on board on 1 February 2015. She was the Secretariat at Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and was the vice president at Conservation International and achieved exceptional accomplishments in global conservation fronts. From now on, BirdLife International will continue to proceed with actions to realize the global vision for biodiversity convention.

Migratory Birds and Wind-power Generation

Globally, including Japan, nations introduced and have been promoting renewable energy and wind-power generation is being developed at the forefront as one of the center pieces of such energy. However, it has been raised as an environmental burden while it is being developed, and examples of such concerns include death of birds from crashing into wind turbines and loss of important habitat due to wind farm construction.

At BirdLife, we recommend introduction of

renewable energy with natural environment considered, and as to the wind-power generation, we have solid experiences especially in Europe, including those wind-power generation with minimum impact to migratory birds. At the 8th Partnership Conference for the East Asian-Australian Flyway Partnership, held in Kushiro, Hokkaido in January 2015, experts from BirdLife Headquarters introduced issues and actions related to wind-power generation and migratory birds, relevant laws and regulations and best practices. With these results on hand, from this year, at the Tokyo Office, we started projects as to introduction of wind-power generation with migratory birds considered in Japan and the East Asia.

Gala Dinners

BirdLife holds Gala dinners for fund-raising in environmental protection. From this year, Kansai area's spring Gala Dinner moved to Osaka, held on March 6th with 572 participants, and raised 13,940,000 JPY. The Proceeds went to African conservation efforts as BirdLife's one of main



Offshore wind energy facilities in the U.K.



A scene from the Gala Dinner

campaigns in the amount of 8,000,000 JPY and additionally was allocated to Gala Fund and others for those emergency actions and awareness campaign for migratory birds conservation in the coastal wetland of Myanmar.

The Gala dinner held in Tokyo on October 23rd welcomed 597 participants and raised 27,720,000 JPY, some of which went to African vulture conservation efforts in the amount of 12,400,000 JPY and also allocated to Gala Fund for conservation for Chinese migratory birds and emergency support.

Corporate Collaboration

Collaboration between corporations and NGOs is generally a case where corporations provide grants or employees and/or families participating in environmental activities as part of their CSR activities. However, BirdLife believes corporations are important partners in advancing

biodiversity conservation. We realize that to meet that goal, it is necessary to advance deeper understanding as a long time win-win partners and collaborate together and we put forth various proposals to them. Evaluation and advice on their biodiversity contribution for such partners are good examples, and in 2015, we proposed to JSR Corporation to advance stronger corporate branding as an environmentally conscious corporation. Additionally, as part of CRM (Cause Related Marketing), we continue to support via printer sales by Ricoh Company Ltd. reforestation and raising living standard in the Philippines, Brazil and Burkina Faso. Ricoh also started a recovery project of mangrove forests in Mexico in 2015 with us.

BirdLife organized Pan African Business & Biodiversity Forum in October discussing and exchanging ideas and issues over natural resources and agriculture with World Bank, international development organizations and corporations.



A vulture in Africa

2. Conservation Activities

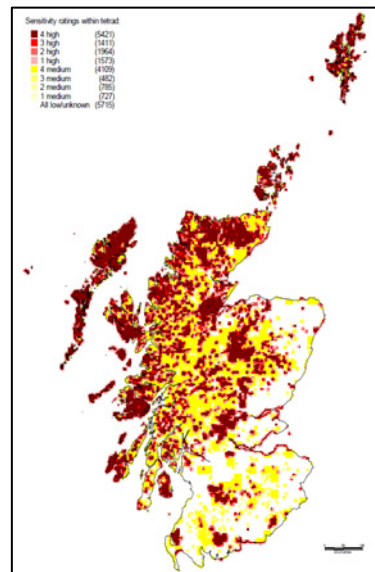
Migratory Birds and Flyway Conservation

A flyway is a flight path that is comprehensively designated as a regional unit that migratory birds utilize. There are nine of them globally. Those birds that fly into Japan use a flyway known as the East Asian-Australian Flyway, covering Oceania, Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia such as Japan, China and Korea as well as Alaska. It is important for the nations within a flyway to work collaboratively for the conservation of migratory birds, and Japan participates in the East Asian-Australian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), an international conservation network, to move forward with initiatives. BirdLife serves as the national secretariat for the Partnership and takes on conservation initiatives along with the Ministry of the Environment and other bird conservation groups in Japan.

This year, the 8th Meeting of Partner (MOP8) of EAAFP was held in Kushiro, Hokkaido, Japan and BirdLife served as the secretariat. With 104 members participating representing about 20 nations, members discussed actions and issues on migratory waterfowl in East Asia and Australia



Red-crowned cranes seen in the excursion



An example of sensitivity map (Scotland). Darker shade represents greater impact on birds.

regions. In addition, special sessions were held for exchanging ideas and sharing information as it relates to prevention of bird strike against wind turbine facilities. BirdLife invited experts from the Headquarters and introduced EU laws and regulations and decent examples from nations such as a “sensitivity map,” illustrating areas of high sensitivity by construction of wind turbines against birds. In the panel discussion, ideas and opinions were exchanged as to issues over environmental assessment and necessity of establishment of a guideline on the prevention of bird strike and confirmed promotion of introduction of environmentally conscious renewable energy. In September, BirdLife co-hosted with Wild Bird Society of Japan a workshop in Cambridge, UK at BirdLife Headquarters to create sensitivity maps for the purpose of prevention of migratory bird strike at wind turbine facilities. At this workshop, partnership organizations from the UK, Ireland,

Bulgaria and Greece participated and exchanged ideas and opinions over the process to create sensitivity maps and conservation actions utilizing them. In Japan, too, we have more and more wind turbines constructed and it is critical to prepare such maps for the conservation of migratory birds. At BirdLife, we will put up tougher actions to minimize effects of wind turbines against migratory birds.

Species Conservation

BirdLife has been continually involved in the conservation of endangered bird species. In 2015, in addition to Chinese Crested Tern and Philippine Eagle we have been involved, we did start considering conservation of forest birds in East Asia.

<Conservation of Chinese Crested Tern>

On Chinese Crested Tern, a globally endangered species, since 2013, collaborating with Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, we have been working to recover breeding colony on the Tiedun Dao Island in the Jishuan Islands. In 2015, we were able to attract 52 terns to the Tiedun Dao Island, over 70% of the global population and observed 25 pairs



A young tern with a leg band

formed and at least 16 young terns were confirmed fledged. Additionally, on the Jishuan Islands, the terns were banded for the first time. Collaborating with conservation groups and volunteers from mainland China, Hong Kong and the United States, we were able to install leg bands on 31 terns. From this effort, we are hoping to gather the information for future activities, including the returning rate to the breeding site and location of wintering sites. With cooperation from other organizations, we were able to see the results. We believe the success demonstrated the strength of diverse groups collaborating together. We will continue to work on this campaign to support and maintain the breeding environment for the Chinese Crested Terns.

<Conservation of Philippine Eagle>

In the Philippines, from 2012 on, we have been working for the conservation of the national bird, an endangered species. In 2014 we found a Philippine Eagle in Sierra Madre, Luzon Island for the first time in 36 years. In 2015, we started a project to designate the habitat as a protected area and are discussing population survey and management plan collaborating with the local government.



Participants of the workshop



Tree planting in Burkina Faso



Workshop at Moeyungyi Wetland

<Land Bird Monitoring>

In March 2015, we held a workshop in Korea to establish a framework to monitor land birds in East Asia. The Governments of Japan, China, Korea, and Russia along with NGO representatives participated and discussed monitoring method and priority species. BirdLife serves as a coordinator and introduced the framework that has already been implemented in the EU nations and promoted discussion. We will continue this campaign and contribute to conservation of endangered species.

Forest Conservation

BirdLife works through ‘Forests of Hope Fund’ with the UK Headquarters and collaboratively working with the regional Partners to conserve tropical rainforests globally in Indonesia, Cambodia and Madagascar as well as local forest conservation cooperatively through corporations.

In Malaysia, with support from Ricoh Company, a 10-year project is on-going to plant Mangrove for the purpose of restoring an ecosystem in the north-central coastal areas of the Malay Peninsula. In the 5th year in 2015, projects expanded to survey the neighboring areas of mangrove planting

location to investigate the status of mangrove and selected areas where recovery efforts are needed as well as monitoring growth of the Mangrove seedlings planted previously, raise awareness among the public. In Mexico, a 10-year project has started in 2015 to aim for recovery and sustainable use of mangrove forests. With support from Ricoh Company, planting continues in Burkina Faso, Africa. The unique characteristics of the effort is that the number of plants will be determined by the birdies and other scores made at Women’s British Open and LPGA Tour Championship Ricoh Cup and also by those attendants declaring “Eco-action” at Ricoh’s booth in the Eco-products Exhibition in Tokyo. To date about 42,000 seedlings were planted in order to redress the aridification of Oursi Lake, a Ramsar Site. Also, with collaboration with Ricoh’s printer CRM, as part of support to bring up living standard in Burkina Faso, improved cookers with better heat efficiency were introduced in order for local citizens to burn less wood. Also introduced was a milling machine to improve efficiency in milling wheat and promote establishment of cash income. The collaboration with Ricoh’s printer CRM also supports planting and increasing awareness in

Brazil, planting of Mangroves in the Philippines, started in 2014 for the next 3 years.

In central Vietnam, with support from the Toyota Environmental Activities Grant Program, we are conserving forests and improve local people's lives by planting rattan in Quang Tri Province, central Vietnam. This specific effort was originating from 2011 Toyota Environmental Activities Grant Program, which was expanded to lead to this campaign started in 2014 and this year reviewed the campaign and ended the project at the end of June. BirdLife's Partner in Vietnam is putting efforts into the conservation of central region and after the project completion they are advancing forest conservation efforts collaborating with Vietnam Forest Service and local governments.

Conservation of Wetlands

BirdLife takes initiatives to conserve waterfowl as well as their habitats of wetlands and nearby waterside areas. We signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention,

which aims at conservation of waterfowl, wise use of wetlands, education and awareness raising for local people and capacity building for local rangers to provide technical support globally.

Regarding the project for conservation of wetlands in Southeast Asia commissioned by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, we economically evaluated ecosystem services of Moeyungyi Wetland, the only Ramsar site in the nation in order to raise awareness of importance of wetland in Myanmar. In February, we held a workshop and field survey and came up with economic values for the functions Moeyungyi wetland provide, including fisheries, rice farming, climate adjustment and flood prevention that the wetland can provide. The results of economic values are printed in leaflets so that they can be utilized for wetland conservation in Myanmar going forward.

In 2015, we will provide economic evaluation on ecological services for mangrove and tidal flat in the coastal wetland in Red River Delta in Vietnam.



Questionnaire survey for economic evaluation



Publication of Russian Marine IBAs

Conservation of Seabirds and Marine Ecosystems

<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. Extended IBA's concept to the ocean, this programme aims to identify priority sites for high marine biodiversity using seabirds as an indicator and to contribute to marine and seabird conservation. In 2010, with support from Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF), we began identifying Asia's marine IBAs with seabird experts and BirdLife Partners including Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Korea. The 'Marine e-Atlas' is an open database and the first global inventory of these sites. In Japan, BirdLife and the Wild Bird Society of Japan (WBSJ) have identified about 50 marine IBAs. 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 seabirds 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 2015, we did ground work by examining the survey finished in

the previous year for publication of Marine IBA book (to be published in spring 2016). We reported and shared our campaigns at the 2nd World Seabird Conference in South Africa. We have also been working on marine IBA identification in Russia with support from Mitsui Environmental Fund since 2013. The last project year in 2015, we published marine IBA information in Russian. We hope to see the publication utilized for marine conservation in the Russian Far East where oil development is expanding rapidly.

<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 estimated 300,000 seabirds are accidentally killed in longline fisheries every year. From 2012 on, we started working to reduce seabird bycatch in gillnet fisheries, which kill 400,000 birds annually. After 2012, all five tuna RFMOs agreed requirements for their longline vessels to use seabird mitigation measures, making an important milestone for seabird conservation. In 2015, BirdLife asked nations to make sure such mitigations measures will be implemented at international RFMO conferences. In April and August, we visited the Taiwanese



Workshop on bycatching marine species in gillnet fishing

Fisheries Agency with our Taiwanese Partner, Chinese Wild Bird Federation (CWBF), and started discussing outreach (promote use of bycatch mitigation devices at ports) to those engaged in Taiwanese pelagic tuna fishermen stopping at Republic of Mauritius.

Domestically, we put efforts in trying to find mitigation that fits Japanese pelagic vessels. As before, with support from National Research Institute of Far Sea Fisheries (NRIFSF), we tested on board Hook Pods (in development phase for mitigating bycatch) if it is effective in reducing bycatch in the Japanese fisheries operations. Additionally, with support from Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Associations, we conducted a questionnaire survey on Lumo Leads (bycatch reducing fishing device) among longline tuna fishermen.

As to seabird bycatch by gill net fisheries, we collaborated with WBSJ to collect information from fishermen in Hokkaido and proposed a project with an intent to work on bycatch in gillnet fisheries in the East Asia. In January, we participated in a workshop, co-hosted by BirdLife Headquarters, US Fish and Wildlife Service and American Bird Conservancy on bycatching marine species by gillnet fishing and discussed and exchanged ideas over gillnet bycatch in the north Pacific with US and Canadian participants.

Collaboration with Corporations

As every business affects biodiversity, it is very important to strengthen efforts by corporations for biodiversity conservation. BirdLife has evaluated environmental burden from business activities and

provided consultation service to co-develop a scheme to improve their contribution to biodiversity conservation. On a global scale, BirdLife has developed the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool 'IBAT', which allows companies to evaluate biodiversity risks on computer, and also have conducted a 'TESSA' project to quantify a part of ecosystem services with Cambridge and other universities by using existing data. In Japan, based on these knowledge, we advise corporations to incorporate biodiversity in their environmental strategy. In November, we participated in the 2nd World Forum on Natural Capital held in Edinburgh and proposed to install environmental strategy based on trends in the world and promote biodiversity. This year, we provided JSR Corporation with consultation to strengthen a corporate branding as an environmental corporation. We also participated in Pan-African Business & Biodiversity Forum held in Ghana, Africa in October and discussed actively with UN development agencies and corporations over natural resources and agricultural issues

Member's Gathering

We have individual and business membership supporter systems. Additionally, BirdLife has a membership called the Rare Bird Club (RBC), which supports endangered species protection efforts as a care-taker. This is a globally common membership program with its members worldwide. One person joined this year and now total of twenty members in Japan, and they participate in bird watching sessions and environmental seminars. On July 21 we invited a natural history film creator and biologist Mr. Yasuhiko Ito and held a seminar

on the history on Forest at Meiji Shrine and the species within. It was a very good opportunity for us to consider the wonderfulness and importance of having a human-made rich forest in less than 100 years, which now hosts a number of endangered species and has become the precious nature remained within the mega city, Tokyo.



Mr. Ito's seminar

3. Fundraising

Gala Dinner

BirdLife considers birds as the most sensitive indicators to environmental changes – a barometer to biodiversity, and we advance various conservation campaigns through the protection of species and their habitat by working together with local Partners so that local people coexist with nature. In order for us to move forward with these activities, we have held the Gala Dinners every year since 2009 with generous support from those who share their beliefs with us.

In 2015, the Gala Dinner was held for the conservation of vultures in Africa. Due to its appearance and its characteristics of congregating to dead animals, the vulture is often disliked by many, but because it gets rid of dead animals quickly and consequently prevents spreading bad odor and infectious diseases, it plays an important role in maintaining our environment. In Africa, the vulture is in endangered status due to habitat loss, poisoning and poaching and therefore we asked for funding support for survey and awareness actions.

On March 6th, we moved the Spring Gala from Kobe and held one in Osaka for the first time. The 4th Spring Gala welcomed 572 participants and we were able to raise 13,940,000 JPY. We provided 8 million JPY to African vulture conservation and also allocate a part of the proceeds to the Gala Fund for awareness and the conservation of migratory birds in the coastal wetland in Myanmar.

On October 23rd, the Gala Dinner in Tokyo attracted 597 participants and was able to raise 27,720,000 JPY, from which 12.4 million JPY was allocated to fund for vulture conservation in Africa and also to conservation of migratory birds in China as well as the Gala Fund.

The Gala Fund is a fund set up for emergency actions since 2012 and this year it disbursed 6 million JPY for the establishment of flyway projects in North and South America.

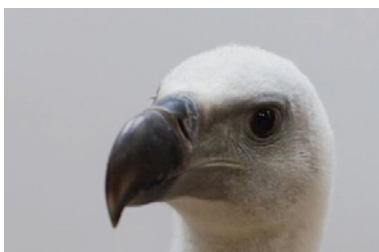
The Gala Dinner is held to call for support for nature conservation campaigns and at the same time it is a good opportunity for attendants to understand the importance of environmental stewardship and the necessity of support.



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Auction at the Gala Dinner



Griffon Vulture in Africa



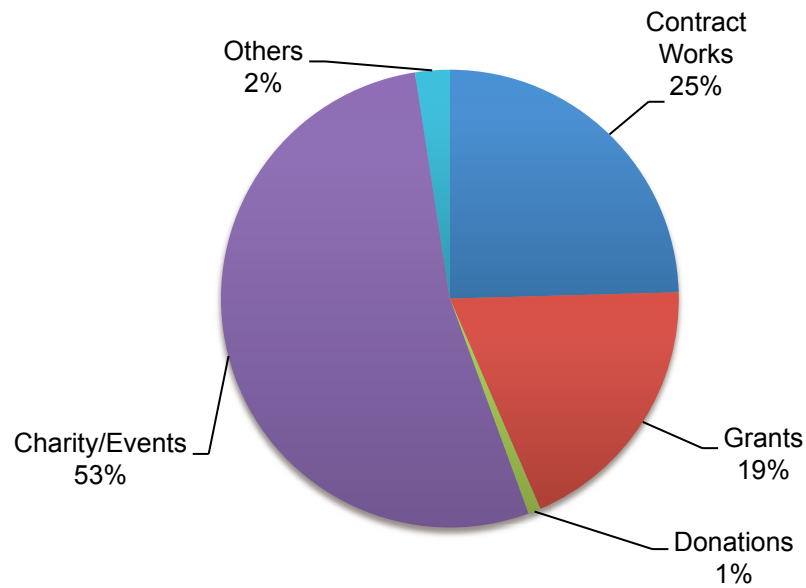
Poisoned vultures (photo by Simon Thomsett)

4. Financial Report

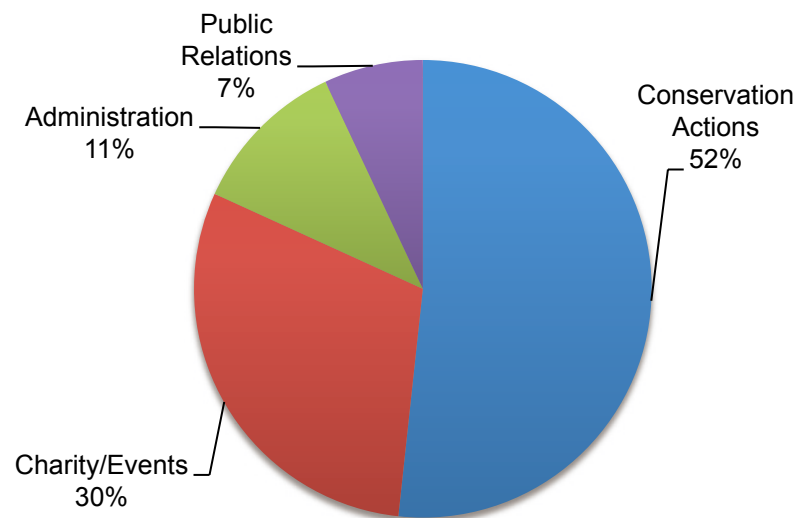
Financial Report for FY2015 is as follows:

Income : 179,914,000 JPY Expenditure : 179,914,000 JPY

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



5. Support from individuals and Groups

Supporter System

‘Friends of BirdLife’ is a support system of BirdLife’s activities, where donations of 5,000 JPY person, 50% of which will be allocated to environmental conservation campaigns. Since September 2015, we are asking support for “Flight Plan,” which aims to recover endangered birds in Brazil that were illegally captured for pet and return to nature. One half of the proceeds goes to “Flight Plan” and the other half to BirdLife’s fundamental actions at BirdLife’s operations. In Brazil, one of the nations with most birds species, out of about 1800 species, 170 species are in endangered status due to illegal poaching. With this supporter system, we can continue campaigns for return-to-wild actions such as caring for rescued birds, training for-return-to-wild, finding good forest home and releasing them. In 2015 we had 10 donations.

Corporate Donations

Since its establishment of the Tokyo office in 2004, BirdLife has been promoting environmental conservation with Wild Bird Society of Japan as a Partner. Funds come from Gala Dinners, generous support from corporations and group members, and we value them greatly :

Special Members in 2015 (in the order of Japanese alphabets)

- Alpha Food Co., Ltd.
- Izumo Oyashiro

- Izumo Oyashiro Cultural Foundation
- Samukawa Shrine
- Sompo Japan Insurance Inc.
- Fushimi Inari Taisha
- Hokkaido Shrine
- Masumida Shrine
- Ricoh Company Ltd.

Other Support

Groups and corporations made generous support for us (in the order of Japanese alphabets)

- Izumo Oyashiro
- Cedyne Financial Corporation,
- One Step Co., Ltd
- Tokyo Dai Jingu
- Dow Chemical Japan

General Incorporated Association BirdLife International Tokyo

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URL: <http://www/birdlife-asia.org>

Representative: Keiko Suzue (Representative Director)

Establishment: April 2002

Current Member : two members

1. BirdLife International (the U.K. Organization)
Representative : Patricia Zurita, Chief Executive Officer/Director
Address : The David Attenborough Building, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ, UNITED KINGDOM
2. Christopher John Spreadbury (an individual, UK resident)

Current Director: one director

Keiko Suzue: Representative Director (Representative Director)