

# ASIAN WATERBIRD CONSERVATION FUND (AWCF)

## 1. About the AWCF

The AWCF was established in July 2005 to provide financial support for projects at sites of importance for migratory waterbirds (including [seabirds](#)) in Asia of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway (EAAF). In late 2019, the AWCF was reformed and two new grants, the WWF Dr Lew Young Grant and the Asian Flyways Initiative Grant (AFI Grant), were set up to extend the support from the EAAF to the Central Asian Flyway (CAF).

The goal of the two new Grants is to support projects on the ground in Asia that will lead to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF and CAF, particularly through partnership with the local community at the site.

WWF Hong Kong is responsible for the administration of the AWCF.

A report is produced by 31 July each year of the income and expenditure of the AWCF that year, and the progress and results of the projects that were approved in the previous round of applications.

## 2. About the WWF Dr Lew Young Grant and the AFI Grant under the AWCF

### WWF Dr Lew Young Grant

Dr Lew Young was a passionate conservationist dedicated in the conservation of Asia's wetlands and waterbirds. When he was with WWF-Hong Kong to manage the Mai Po Nature Reserve from 1991 to 2008, he was actively involved in the designation of Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site, launched the wetland management training programme and created education programmes for students and visitors.

In 2008, Dr Young was appointed as the Senior Regional Advisor for Asia and Oceania for the Ramsar Secretariat and provided support on the strategic development and effective implementation of the Convention. Dr Young joined the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat as Chief Executive in 2018. During his term, he developed the 2019-2028 Strategic Plan and the DPR Korea also joined both the Ramsar Convention and the Partnership.

On 5<sup>th</sup> of March, 2019, Dr. Young passed away while on a working trip to develop conservation actions for the intertidal wetlands of the Yellow Sea in Beijing.

In 2019, WWF-Hong Kong set up the WWF Dr Lew Young Grant for his whole-life dedication and significant contribution to wetland conservation.

### AFI Grant

In 2019, WWF established the Asian Flyways Initiative to coordinate among the various organizations and stakeholders to ensure that both the EAAF and the CAF are conserved so that ecologically connected stepping-stone corridors can be sustained for the long-distance migratory birds, and the wetlands are managed for nature and people.

To provide support to the conservation work of wetlands and migratory birds in these two flyways, WWF-Hong Kong established the AFI Grant.

More information about the AFI can be found [here](#).

### 3. When will be the next application deadline?

The next one will be on 31 March 2020.

### 4. Who is eligible to apply for the AWCF?

Groups such as non-government and community organizations, academic and research institutes. Government authority might also be considered.

### 5. In which countries should the projects be carried out?

For the EAAF: Russia, Mongolia, People's Republic of China, DPR Korea, Republic of Korea, Japan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, The Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste

For the CAF: Russia, Mongolia, People's Republic of China, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan

### 6. How big are the grants?

**WWF Dr Lew Young Grant:** Up to US\$10,000 (one-year project)

**AFI Grant:**

- One-year project: Up to US\$5,000
- Multiple-year project (2-3 years): Up to US\$5,000/year

### 7. How many grants will there be each year?

**WWF Dr Lew Young Grant:** 1 project

**AFI Grant:** 2-3 projects

### 8. How the applications will be assessed?

All applications should involve in the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Asia of the EAAF or the CAF. Priority will be given to project proposals which:

- can help the implementation of the [EAAF Partnership 2019-2028 Strategic Plan](#);
- will be carried out at designated [Flyway Network Sites](#) in the EAAF;
- will be carried out at sites that are recognized as important for the conservation of the 20 priority shorebird populations identified in WWF-Hong Kong's report (in Appendix B of the [Prioritizing Migratory Shorebirds for Conservation Action on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Report](#));
- will be carried out at sites important to migratory waterbirds in the CAF such as Ramsar sites;
- can support the conservation of globally threatened (listed as VU, EN and CR in the IUCN Red List) migratory waterbird species in the CAF;
- engage local community living in or adjacent to the project sites.

## 9. Terms of Reference for the AWCF Committee

- To assess applications and advise on their relative priorities for funding support; and
- To advise WWF Hong Kong on the amount to be allocated to each successful application.

## 10. AWCF Committee

### Committee members (since December 2019)

#### Members

Simba CHAN  
Guangchun LEI  
Spike MILLINGTON  
Philip ROUND  
Doug WATKINS

#### Ex-officio

Secretary, AWCF  
Director – Wildlife and Wetlands, WWF Hong Kong

## 11. AWCF Secretariat

All enquiries regarding AWCF

Please contact Ms. Fion Cheung of the AWCF Secretariat

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Postal Address : Mai Po Nature Reserve, Tam Kon Chau Road, Yuen Long, N.T., HONG KONG.

Email Address : [awcf@wwf.org.hk](mailto:awcf@wwf.org.hk)

## 12. The Vetting Mechanism for Applications

The following actions will be taken after an application is received -

- (a) Upon receipt of an application, the AWCF Secretariat will send an intermediate reply to acknowledge the receipt of application. Where necessary, the applicant will be requested to provide clarification or supplementary information.
- (b) Before sending the application to the Committee for assessment, the AWCF Secretariat will check the eligibility of the application and may seek views on the project from relevant experts or government officials in the country where the project will be carried out.
- (c) Before making the decision, the Committee may request the applicant to provide further information. The Committee will also consider the budget and may amend the budget details and set ceilings for individual expenditure items.
- (d) The whole assessment period lasts not longer than 8 weeks. After signing of the agreement, the Secretariat will upload the project information on the [AWCF website](#).