

Approved Pilot Conservation Management Agreement Projects

Project Proponent	Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS)
Project Title	Birds and Humans in Harmony – A Sustainable Management Scheme in Long Valley
Site Involved	Long Valley
Description	HKBWS will form partnership with farmers to maintain and increase the biodiversity of Long Valley, especially for avifauna. Creation or maintenance of shallow water habitat, wet agricultural land, fallow dry agricultural land as well as farmland margin vegetation will be done.
Duration	1 December 2005 – 15 March 2008
Approved Amount	\$1,181,826.83
Short Summary of the Findings/ Outcomes of the Project	<p><u>Habitat Management</u></p> <p>We have cooperated with 15 local farmers and altogether managed 387,200 ft² of farmlands. Management practices implemented in shallow water habitat and wet agricultural lands are most effective in terms of bird usage. This showed that wetland habitat in Long Valley are important and determine the species richness and abundance of bird.</p> <p>As very few people have the experience of managing freshwater wetland in Hong Kong, especially in such a complicated place, the implementation of this pilot project is really based on the principle of trial and error. The experience during these two years is very important to the future conservation of this precious wetland and the foundation for carrying out new management practices to attract more birds using this place.</p> <p><u>Bird Monitoring Programme</u></p> <p>During the project period, 150 bird species were recorded in the surveys. 12 bird species new to Long Valley and a bird species new to Hong Kong were recorded, including both survey and casual records. Rare birds were also recorded.</p> <p>The total number of birds recorded in the second project year is almost 20% higher than that of the first project year. Moreover, the average monthly number of species of the</p>

second project year is about 10% higher than that of the first project year.

Public involvement

Different kinds of activities such as volunteer activities, harvesting activities, tour guide training and eco-tours and seminar were organized for general public throughout the project period in order to educate and promote Long Valley conservation as well as publicize the project.