

Project 15/2004 – Hong Kong playing a pivotal role in “Keeping Asia’s Spoonbills Airborne”

Purpose

This paper seeks Members’ approval to fund the captioned application for ECF made by Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Limited (HKBWS).

Background

2. The funding requested by this project is \$96,900 for the expenditure on printing of publicity material, organizing an international symposium and public seminar, site visit for expert, employing a part-time project officer (incl. MPF) and other general expenses. The project is expected to last for 4 months from December 2004 to March 2005.

3. The project aims to hold publicity events in early 2005 to raise public awareness on Hong Kong’s importance in the conservation of Black-faced Spoonbill to promote Hong Kong as the centre of Black-faced Spoonbill conservation network in the world. The event will be publicized through a variety of media including newspaper, internet, public seminar, proceedings and books. The PI will organize demonstration tours to watch Black-faced Spoonbills in the wild and prepare for production of education books. A website with details of the event will also be established and hosted by the main HKBWS website for further publicity. An international symposium will be organized, expert site visit will be conducted to wintering sites of Black-faced Spoonbill. A public seminar will then followed to deliver information to the general public and to facilitate sharing of information to wider audience.

4. The total budget for the project amounted to \$198,900 and HKBWS applied for \$96,900 to subsidize the project on a partial basis with other sources of funding from private companies, advertisements and registration fee for the purpose of cost recovery.

5. The proposal was supported by Birdlife International, World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong and the Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden Corporation. AFCD has examined the proposal and found that the proposed project and the deliverables have practical values. The proposed objects and project scope have no duplication with AFCD’s work done and

there are no plan for AFCD to hold similar conference in the near future.

Advice sought

6. Members are invited to advise whether the application for ECF grant should be supported with an approved grant of \$96,900 as detailed in paragraphs 2 to 4 above.

Secretariat, ECF Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee
November 2004