

Darwin Initiative Annual Report

1. Darwin Project Information

Project Ref. Number	162/14/044
Project Title	Building a bird conservation and environmental network in China
Country(ies)	China
UK Contractor	BirdLife International
Partner Organisation(s)	Hong Kong Bird Watching Society
Darwin Grant Value	£190,410
Start/End dates	April 2005 to March 2008
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3..)	1 April 2006 to 31 March 2006 Annual report number 1
Project website	www.chinabirdnet.org/index_f.html
Author(s), date	Mike Crosby, 24 April 2006

2. Project Background

This project covers the whole of China, from a project office in Hong Kong. China is immensely rich in birds and other biodiversity, but rapid economic expansion is placing increasing pressure on the country's environment. The Chinese government has made major advances in conservation, including through the establishment of many hundreds of new protected areas in recent decades. However, public awareness of wildlife and environmental issues remains low, and civil society involvement in conservation barely exists, which greatly limits efforts to protect and manage the country's biodiversity.

3. Project Purpose and Outputs

The purpose of this project is to develop and support a network of civil society organisations with an interest in, and concern for, China's birds and the environment. With technical support from BirdLife's UK and Asian staff and the expertise of Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS), this network will achieve the following:

- Raise awareness amongst civil society of the importance of China's birds, habitats and key sites, and the need for conservation action to address the threats that they face, through the proposed Darwin project website, annual birdwatching festival, newsletters, and other appropriate promotional materials.
- Build the capacity of civil society groups and individuals to participate in conservation activities focussed on priority species and sites, via a series of training courses and workshops (including in bird surveys and monitoring, species and site conservation, and network and organisational development) and ongoing technical support.
- Prepare and disseminate to government and civil society within China national-language publications relating to globally important species, habitats and sites.
- Undertake direct conservation activities for globally important species and sites including monitoring and direct action with local stakeholders with the support of a greatly expanded China Conservation Fund.

The timings of some activities have been changed from those in the proposed operational plan (see section 4 for details). The Darwin Secretariat was informed of these changes in early April 2006, and the reasons, but they have not yet been approved.

4. Progress

The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) is the BirdLife Affiliate organisation in Hong Kong. In recent years environmental groups have begun to emerge in Chinese cities and HKBWS has been developing close links with several of these organisations, facilitating their activities by providing materials and small-scale funding through its China Conservation Fund. This Darwin Initiative project was developed through meetings between the BirdLife Secretariat and HKBWS in June and October 2004, and discussions between HKBWS and leading individuals from the civil society organisations in Beijing and other Chinese cities about further collaboration and support, and the development of a network of societies across China. The Darwin project started officially in April 2005.

The China Programme Officer was recruited later than originally planned, but despite this delay excellent progress has made during the year and the project activities are now broadly on the schedule set in the project implementation timetable. The progress of the project over the past year is summarised against the Project implementation timetable in the following table, with additional detail given when required in the text below the table.

Date	Agreed baseline timetable from original proposal	Progress against agreed baseline table
Apr 05	Recruitment of China Programme officer	Mid-July 05: China Programme Officer appointed, project office established in Hong Kong
Apr/May 05	Project management and administrative procedures established and agreed by UK experts, HKBWS and representatives of China Birdwatching and Conservation Network	15 June 05: Project steering committee meeting, Hong Kong 8-9 Oct 05: Project steering committee meeting, Hong Kong January: Memorandum of Understanding signed between BirdLife International and HKBWS
June 05	Visit by representative of Beijing Birdwatching Society to Hong Kong to learn about conservation work and organisational management of HKBWS	Proposed visit to Hong Kong replaced by visits to Beijing and other birdwatching societies by the China Programme Officer and a member of the project steering committee.
Aug 05	Visit to UK by representatives of Beijing Birdwatching Society and HKBWS to learn about environmental role of civil society organisations there	Visit postponed; see below for explanation.
Sept 05-Mar 08	Production and distribution of quarterly China Birdwatching and Conservation Network newsletter	<i>China Bird Watch</i> magazine sponsored by Darwin project from January 2006 onwards.
Sept 05-Mar 08	Darwin Initiative reports (6-monthly and annual progress reports)	Reports submitted on schedule.
Oct 05	Completion of assessment of China Birdwatching organisations, and plan prepared for the structure and operation of the China Birdwatching and Conservation Network	Assessment reports completed on nine major birdwatching societies. Network planning meeting in December 2005 cancelled, new meeting arranged for May 2006.
Nov 05	Promotional materials prepared for use by member organisations of China Birdwatching and Conservation Network	Leaflet on BirdLife's Important Bird Areas (IBA) Programme produced and distributed. Leaflet on BirdLife/HKBWS China Programme in draft, but production delayed; see below for explanation.
Dec 05	Launch event for China Birdwatching and Conservation Network	Launch event in December 2005 cancelled, new meeting arranged for May 2006.

Dec 05	Launch of Darwin project website	Dec 05: Darwin project website launched.
Dec 05	Announcement of the enlarged China Conservation Fund	Announcement delayed because of cancellation of network planning meeting in December 2005, announcement to be made at meeting in May 2006.
Dec 05	Distribution of Chinese edition of <i>Saving Asia's threatened birds</i>	About 150 copies distributed to date.
Apr 06	Chinese-language training manuals in (1) bird survey and monitoring and (2) site conservation completed and distributed	Mar 06: Manual in bird survey and monitoring completed ahead of schedule.
May/June 06	One-week training for trainers course for network members in bird survey and monitoring techniques, species and site conservation, and fund-raising	31 Mar-2 Apr 06: Darwin training course in bird survey and monitoring techniques held at Xiamen, Fujian Province.

Notes on progress with activities and project's achievements

Recruitment of China Programme officer

Carrie K. W. Ma (whose CV was submitted with our application to the Darwin Initiative) joined the Darwin project as China Programme Officer in mid-July 2005, and established a small China Programme office in a commercial centre in Hong Kong during August. Carrie recently obtained a new post with the Hong Kong government, and resigned from the project on 2 May 2006. The China Programme Officer post has been advertised, and 14 applications have been received from Hong Kong, Macao and China mainland. Interviews will be held at the end of April 2006, and we hope that the new officer will be appointed shortly afterwards.

Project management and administrative procedures established

A project steering committee has been established, comprising C. Y. Lam (President, HKBWS), Ho-Fai Cheung (Chairman, HKBWS), Simba Chan (Senior Conservation Officer, BirdLife Asia Division) and Mike Crosby (Research & Data Manager, BirdLife Asia Division). Richard Grimmett (Head of BirdLife Asia Division) will attend some steering committee meetings as an observer and provides overall supervision of project implementation. Two steering committee meetings were held in Hong Kong during 2005, on 15 June and 8-9 October, and a third will be held on 29 April 2006. The steering committee has delegated responsibility for day-to-day management of the China Programme Officer to Ho-Fai Cheung, and of the Darwin project budget to Mike Crosby. A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed between BirdLife International and HKBWS concerning the implementation of the Darwin project and the long-term development of the China Programme. Financial reporting procedures have been agreed between HKBWS and the Finance & Administration Department at the BirdLife International Secretariat office in Cambridge.

Visit by representative of Beijing Birdwatching Society to Hong Kong

At its first meeting in June 2005, the steering committee decided that a visit by representatives of Beijing Birdwatching Society to HKBWS was not necessary, as representatives of that society had made several visits to HKBWS in the recent past. The steering committee felt that a better way to inform Beijing and the other birdwatching societies about the conservation work and organisational management of HKBWS would be through presentations made by the China Programme Officer (who worked for HKBWS from 2000-2005) during her visits to these societies. The China Programme Officer visited Beijing twice during the year and discussed the China Programme and HKBWS's work with Beijing Birdwatching Society members, and on one occasion she was accompanied by Simba Chan (steering committee member) who gave a presentation about BirdLife's Important Bird Areas Programme.

Visit to UK by representatives of Beijing Birdwatching Society and HKBWS

The proposed visit to the UK by representatives of Beijing Birdwatching Society and HKBWS in August 2005 was postponed because the Beijing Birdwatching Society representative (Zhong Jie) was unable to travel at that time. The steering committee has agreed that this visit should go ahead later in the project, but there have recently been changes in the leadership of Beijing Birdwatching Society and at present it is unclear who are the most appropriate people to invite to the UK.

Production and distribution of quarterly China Birdwatching and Conservation Network newsletter

Our original aim had been to initiate a quarterly China Programme newsletter in September 2005. However, rather than starting a new publication, the project steering committee has decided to support an established magazine called *China Bird Watch*, which our programme will jointly sponsor with the Global Greengrants Fund. The reasons for this decision is that *China Bird Watch* is already circulated to members of all the birdwatching societies and has an established group of volunteer editors based in Beijing, Zhejiang, Shanghai and Guizhou, and it's production will be sustainable after the completion of the Darwin project. Six issues of *China Bird Watch* are published each year, and with our support it will become larger and more professionally-produced. The editors have agreed that its format and content can be evolved to fulfil all of the aims that we had for the China Birdwatching and Conservation Network newsletter, including regular articles about threatened species, IBAs and China Programme activities. The first issues of *China Bird Watch* supported by the Darwin project were published in January and April 2006, in Chinese with English summaries.

Assessment of China Birdwatching organisations, and preparation of a plan for the structure and operation of the China Birdwatching and Conservation Network

Between July 2005 and January 2006, the China Programme Officer completed assessments of nine birdwatching societies in mainland China, and detailed reports have been prepared on these assessments (see Annex 3). We are aware of several small emerging birdwatching societies or groups, but the project steering committee decided that it was not necessary for the China Programme Officer to visit these as part of the initial network assessment.

The plan for the structure and operation of the China Birdwatching and Conservation Network was discussed at the project steering committee meetings in June and October 2005. The first of these meetings drew up a project vision and strategy. At the second meeting, it was proposed that a loose network would be the best model because it is clear from the network assessment that the birdwatching societies want to keep their individual identities, and there might be political sensitivities regarding the development of a more structured federation. The role of the China Programme will be to facilitate communication and interconnection between the birdwatching societies and to promote common projects in support of the conservation of threatened species and priority sites.

We had intended to discuss the network plan with the birdwatching societies at the Dongting meeting in December 2005, but the cancellation of that meeting (see below) has meant that these discussions (and the finalisation of the plan) have been delayed. Some discussions about the network of Chinese birdwatching societies took place at a meeting in Hainan Province in November 2005 (attended by the China Programme Officer, who gave a presentation about the China Programme and the work of HKBWS and Simba Chan), and detailed discussions will take place at the Chengdu meeting in May 2006.

Promotional materials prepared for use by member organisations of China Birdwatching and Conservation Network

A Chinese language leaflet giving details of BirdLife's Important Bird Areas Programme has been produced, and more than 600 copies have been distributed to the birdwatching societies with *China Bird Watch* and by hand. A leaflet about the BirdLife/HKBWS China Programme is in preparation, but it will not be finalised and distributed until the sensitivities about BirdLife International's relationship with Taiwan (see below) have been resolved. Several other leaflets and posters have been proposed, and ideas for these additional promotional materials will be discussed at the steering committee meeting in late April and the Chendu meeting in May 2006.

Launch event for China Birdwatching and Conservation Network

A launch event and planning meeting for the China network was scheduled to take place in December 2005 at the Dongting Bird Race in Hunan Province, but this was unfortunately

cancelled because of fears about avian flu (there were several cases in the province around that time). A meeting of representatives of the birdwatching societies was recently arranged, to be held in Chengdu, Sichuan Province in early May 2006, which will effectively act as a replacement for the cancelled Dongting meeting. We are providing financial support for the Chengdu meeting, and I and two other members of the project steering committee will attend.

Launch of Darwin project website

A Darwin project website (www.chinabirdnet.org/index_f.html) has been prepared by the China Programme Officer. It introduces the China Programme, and presents information about the birdwatching societies, bird conservation, materials to download, links to other relevant websites, etc. This was made available in December 2005, and has attracted some very positive feedback, with links already established to it from other websites (e.g. the WWF-China website).

Announcement of the enlarged China Conservation Fund

Some additional funding for the China Conservation Fund has been secured, and we intended to announce this at the network planning meeting in December 2005. This announcement will now take place at the meeting in Chengdu in May 2006.

Distribution of Chinese edition of *Saving Asia's threatened birds*

About 150 copies of the Chinese-language edition of *Saving Asia's threatened birds* have been distributed to the birdwatching societies by the China Conservation Officer, and at the meeting in Hainan Province in November 2005. Further copies will be distributed at the meeting in Chengdu in May 2006, and whenever there are opportunities over the rest of the course of the Darwin project.

Chinese-language training manuals in (1) bird survey and monitoring and (2) site conservation completed and distributed

A Chinese-language manual entitled *Methods for bird surveys: a practical handbook* (Annex 7) has been compiled by the China Programme Officer and two ornithologists from Beijing University, and was published ahead of schedule in March 2006. The main sources of material that they used included Bibby, Jones and Marsden (1998) *Expedition field techniques: bird surveys* (published by the Royal Geographical Society), Javed and Kaul (2002) *Field methods for bird surveys* (published by Bombay Natural History Society, India) and various manuals and papers published in Hong Kong and China mainland. Prof Bill Sutherland of the University of East Anglia kindly gave our project permission to use material from his books, and the manual includes translations of sections from his 1996 book *Ecological census techniques: a handbook* (published by Cambridge University Press).

A second manual covering project management and site conservation is close to completion. Carrie Ma has kindly offered to continue working for the project on a voluntary basis to help the new China Programme Officer to complete this output.

One-week training for trainers course for network members in bird survey and monitoring techniques, species and site conservation, and fund-raising

The first Darwin training course in bird survey and monitoring techniques to be organised by the China Programme was held at Xiamen, Fujian Province from 31 March to 2 April 2006. It lasted for three days (rather than a week as originally planned), as participants were only able to attend over a long weekend. A total of 27 people from the eastern and southern coastal areas of China mainland participated in the event. The training was conducted by three people from Hong Kong, including the China Programme Officer, with support from five experienced birdwatching society members. The main focus of the training was on waterbird survey techniques, and the training was linked to regular coordinated waterbird counts that are being conducted by the birdwatching societies along most of the coast of south-east China. A preliminary report on this workshop is given in Annex 4, which includes very positive feedback, including that a participant has already passed on what she learned to other members of her birdwatching society.

Significant difficulties

BirdLife International has a Partner organisation in Taiwan, the Wild Bird Federation Taiwan. In the logical framework of our Darwin application form, we included as an important assumption that "The Taiwan issue will not interfere in a significant way with HKBWS and BirdLife's work in China". Unfortunately, it has become clear that there is sensitivity amongst

some of the birdwatching societies and other potential project collaborators in China mainland about BirdLife's link to Taiwan, in particular the name of our Partner organisation. BirdLife is seeking to address these concerns, with visits to Taiwan in November 2005 and Beijing in April 2006. Whilst this issue is causing some concern amongst the birdwatching societies, particular the Beijing Birdwatching Society, this has not had a major impact on project implementation.

When she was returning from one of her visits to the birdwatching societies, the China Programme Officer was robbed in Shenzhen city, close to the border with Hong Kong. Fortunately, she was unhurt, but she lost a mobile phone, and some money and documents. The project steering committee advised her to (as far as possible) avoid travelling alone in mainland China, to take particular care in Shenzhen city and to purchase comprehensive travel insurance. These actions were taken, and no other security problems have been encountered.

Preliminary timetable (work plan) for the next reporting period.

Date	Activity
May 06	Launch event and planning meeting for China Birdwatching and Conservation Network, Chengdu, Sichuan Province
May 06	Announcement of the enlarged China Conservation Fund, at Chengdu meeting
May/June 06	Chinese-language training manual in project management and site conservation completed and distributed
Aug 06	Mid-term evaluation of project by UK BirdLife International staff
Oct 06	First China Bird Festival
Oct 06, Apr 07	Darwin Initiative reports (6-monthly and annual progress reports)
Dec 06	Training course for network members in bird survey and monitoring techniques
Throughout year	Production and distribution of China Birdwatching and Conservation Network newsletter
To be confirmed	Workshop on how civil society organisation can contribute to species and site conservation
To be confirmed	Training for trainers course for network members in bird survey and monitoring techniques, species and site conservation, and fund-raising
To be confirmed	Workshop to review Chinese sections of three draft species action plans (prepared with support from CMS Secretariat), and discuss their implementation in China
To be confirmed	Publication and distribution of national-language inventory of IBAs in China
To be confirmed	Visit to UK by representatives of Beijing Birdwatching Society and HKBWS to learn about environmental role of civil society organisations there

The workplan for 2006/7 will be discussed at the project steering committee meeting in Hong Kong on 29 April and the network planning meeting in Chengdu on 1-2 May 2006. Any proposed changes from the schedule set in the project implementation timetable will be discussed with the Darwin Secretariat following these meetings.

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (not applicable)

6. Partnerships

Collaboration with the host country partner, the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society has been very positive, and constant communications have been maintained during the year. A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed between BirdLife International and HKBWS concerning the implementation of the Darwin project, and a project steering committee has been established comprising two representatives of each organisation. The two steering committee meetings held during the year proved to be very effective in project planning. However, between meetings it has sometimes proved difficult to take decisions and provide clear guidance to the China Programme Officer using email. This issue will be discussed at the steering committee meeting in April 2006, with the aim of developing clearer decision-making processes.

Good relationships have been developed with the Chinese birdwatching societies during the year. For example, the Darwin training course at the end of March 2006 was organised jointly with Xiamen Birdwatching Society and the forthcoming network planning meeting in Sichuan Province will be organised by Chengdu Birdwatching Society with financial support from the Darwin project. The network newsletter, *China Bird Watch*, is edited by a team from several of the birdwatching societies. Another encouraging development is that the China Ornithological Society, a national network of the leading academic ornithologists, will co-host the Chengdu meeting, indicating their willingness to embrace the development of civil society birdwatching societies.

Links have been established during the year with several other organisations concerned with environmental issues in China. During her visit to Beijing Birdwatching Society for the network assessment (Annex 3), the China Programme Officer visited WWF-China and the BP-China Conservation Programme and introduced them to our Darwin project. We have also had discussions about possible collaborations with Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy China Programme and Nigel Birch (Consul, Science & Innovation, British Consulate - General, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China).

7. Impact and Sustainability

The project steering committee has decided that the project should not attempt to gain high profile within China at present, because of potential sensitivities regarding the emergence of civil society organisations and also because of the Taiwan issue (discussed in section 4). However, information about the project is freely available in China through the Darwin project website and newsletter. We hope that it will be possible to gradually increase the profile of the project, including through the China Bird Festival that is scheduled to take place in October 2006.

There has been very positive feedback to the Darwin project from the Chinese birdwatching societies, for example regarding the project website. The network assessment found that they are extremely keen to participate in project activities, in particular the training events in bird surveying and organisational development. The initial feedback from the project's first training event, held at the end of March 2006, indicates that this type of event is an effective mechanism to increase capacity for biodiversity monitoring and conservation.

This Darwin project has a strong focus on capacity building, with the aim of developing a network that by the end of the project will be able to raise funding and organise network events. Both BirdLife and HKBWS are committed to continuing to support this network after the completion of the Darwin project, and are actively seeking sources of funding and pursuing collaborations with other conservation organisations. The selection of *China Bird Watch*, an existing publication which has other sources of funding, as the project newsletter means that this will be sustainable beyond the end of the Darwin project.

8. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

Several changes were made to the project outputs, the reasons for which are provided under section 4. The most significant changes are: the proposed visit to the UK by representatives of the Chinese birdwatching societies in August 2005 has been postponed; the first Darwin project newsletter was produced in January 2006, rather than as scheduled in September 2005; the launch event planned for December 2005 was postponed, and replaced by a meeting to be held in May 2006; one of the two training manuals scheduled for completion in April 2006 was published ahead of schedule in March; and the training for trainers workshop planned for May/June 2006 was held ahead of schedule in March/April but was shorter than originally planned.

The main dissemination activities in the host country during the year were the Darwin project website and newsletter, and discussions held during the network assessment. The main targets for these outputs were birdwatching societies members and potential members in China mainland. As described earlier, these dissemination activities will be continued by the host country when the project finishes, through the increased capacity of the birdwatching societies and the commitment of both BirdLife International and HKBWS to continue to support the China network.

Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	TOTAL
16A	Project newsletter	1				
16B	Project newsletter	600				
9	Distribution of Chinese edition of <i>Saving Asia's threatened birds</i>	1				
17A	Project website	1				
10	Training manual in bird survey and monitoring	1				
6A	Waterbird survey training workshop	27				
6B	Waterbird survey training workshop	0.5				
7	Important Bird Areas leaflet	1				
14B	Presentations about programme in Japan and Hainan	2				

Table 2: Publications

Type * (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. contact address, website)	Cost £
Manual *	BirdLife/HKBWS China Programme (2006) <i>Methods for bird surveys: a practical handbook</i> (in Chinese).	BirdLife/HKBWS China Programme, Hong Kong (ISBN 962-7508-09-8)	BirdLife/HKBWS China Programme	-

9. Project Expenditure

Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)

Item	Budget	Expenditure	Balance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			
Office costs (e.g. postage, telephone, stationery)			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars, etc			
Capital items/equipment			
Others – Website			
– Audit			
Salaries – Total			
– Mike Crosby			

-
- Richard Grimmett
 - Richard Thomas
 - Carrie Ma
 - Conference trainers

TOTAL

There was an overall variance in the budget of 0.08% for the year. Several of our Darwin project activities were completed in March and April 2006, which meant that it was impossible for us to accurately predict expenditure against some of the project cost heads in time for the Darwin Secretariat's reporting deadline of the end of February and adjust the cost heads accordingly. The main overspend was on 'Conferences and seminars', which can mainly be accounted for by the purchase of a LCD projector and a notebook computer (that had not been budgeted for) for use in these events. We also overspent by more than 10% on 'Printing', because a project training manual schedule for production in 2006/7 was completed ahead of schedule in 2005/6. Savings of more than 10% have been made in 'Postage, etc.', 'Travel and subsistence' and 'Others (website and audit)', reflecting the unpredictable nature of planning and budgeting for a project of this complexity.

10. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

The project has been managed in the UK by Mike Crosby, with support from Richard Grimmett, who has worked to ensure that all project activities have been undertaken according to the agreed project schedule. The China Programme Officer has provided regular progress and financial reports, with direction from Ho Fai Cheung and C. Y. Lam. A project steering committee was initiated during 2005/6, which has monitored progress against the project implementation timetable. The effectiveness of the first project training course was monitored through an evaluation session and a questionnaire survey.

The status of civil society organisations in China mainland is changing, and a key lesson is that we must proceed cautiously within the system and not create political difficulties for any of the birdwatching societies or their members. The guidance of HKBWS is essential in this regard, because of their understanding of the political climate in China mainland. The network assessment conducted by the China Programme Officer was particularly successful, and greatly improved our understanding of the interests and capabilities of the established birdwatching societies, and identified key contacts in each society. The lessons learned from this assessment will be used to help develop the programme of project activities for the next two years of the Darwin project.

11. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum)

The project has produced several significant outputs during its first year which we would like to publicise on the Darwin website, including the bird survey training manual, project newsletter and website, and the successful training workshop. However, there are sensitivities regarding the emergence of civil society organisations in China mainland and BirdLife's relationship with Taiwan, and we will discuss at the steering committee meeting on 29 April how to present these achievements to an international audience.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2005/2006

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2005- Mar 2006	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation of biological diversity, • The sustainable use of its components, and • The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 			
<p>Purpose</p> <p>To develop a network of civil society organisations with an interest in, and concern for, China's birds and environment.</p>	<p>Membership based organisations in major Chinese cities.</p> <p>Societies linked together and taking action as a network.</p> <p>Growing public awareness and concern for birds and the environment.</p> <p>Increased conservation effort for threatened species and priority conservation sites.</p>	<p>Nine established birdwatching societies covered in network assessment, 11 additional emerging societies will participate in network planning meeting in May 2006.</p> <p>Network newsletter and website established.</p> <p>Training workshop held in March 2006, hosted by one of the birdwatching societies and involving participants from seven other societies.</p>	<p>The network planning meeting originally scheduled for December 2005 was postponed, a new meeting has been organised for May 2006.</p> <p>Further training workshops planned, and China Bird Festival to raise public awareness and concern for birds and the environment</p>
<p>Outputs</p>			
<p>1. Civil society network of birdwatching and conservation groups established in China mainland.</p>	<p>1.1. Announcements about establishment of network.</p> <p>1.2. Registration of member organisations, and evidence of organisational growth.</p> <p>1.3. Network publications, sharing of information.</p> <p>1.4. Meetings between network members.</p>	<p>Discussions about establishment of network amongst birdwatching societies led to the organisation of a network planning meeting in May 2006.</p> <p>Project website and newsletter established.</p> <p>Bird survey and monitoring training workshop held.</p>	<p>The registration of civil society organisations is currently difficult in China mainland, but some birdwatching societies have successfully achieved this and can provide guidance for others.</p>
<p>2. Awareness raised amongst civil society organisations of the importance of China's birds and key areas for conservation.</p>	<p>2.1. Coverage of priority species and sites in newsletters and press articles.</p> <p>2.2. Sharing of information on priority</p>	<p>Articles about threatened species and Important Bird Areas in project newsletter.</p>	<p>The format and content of <i>China Bird Watch</i> needs to be modified for it to evolve into the project's newsletter, including regular sections on threatened species and</p>

	<p>species and sites over Internet.</p> <p>2.3. Information on key areas for conservation (Important Bird Areas) published in Chinese and distributed.</p>	<p>Information about threatened species and Important Bird Areas on project website.</p> <p>Chinese-language leaflet about BirdLife's Important Bird Area Programme.</p> <p>Distribution of Chinese-language edition of <i>Saving Asia's threatened birds</i>.</p>	<p>Important Bird Areas.</p> <p>The preparation of a directory of Important Bird Area in China will be discussed at the network planning meeting in May 2006.</p>
<p>3. Capacity of civil society groups and individuals strengthened to participate in species and site conservation activities.</p>	<p>3.1. Individuals trained, and also taking on role as trainers.</p> <p>3.2. Organisations actively involved in species and site surveys and monitoring.</p>	<p>Bird survey and monitoring training workshop held, feedback indicated that participants are acting as trainers for other birdwatching society members.</p> <p>Bird survey manual published.</p> <p>Birdwatching society projects underway on threatened species and in Important Bird Areas.</p>	<p>The effectiveness of the project's first training workshop will be assessed at the next steering committee meeting.</p> <p>Publication of training manual in project management and site conservation.</p>
<p>4. Information on key bird species and key areas for conservation enhanced.</p>	<p>4.1. Improved data available on globally threatened birds.</p> <p>4.2. Improved data available on Important Bird Areas, including the likely identification of new sites.</p>		<p>Birdwatching society projects on globally threatened birds and Important Bird Areas to be supported by the China Bird Fund.</p>
<p>5. Conservation prospects for threatened bird species improved through civil society engagement in the preparation and implementation of species action plans.</p>	<p>5.1. Action plan for three threatened bird species (Black-faced Spoonbill, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Chinese Crested Tern) prepared with civil society organisations.</p> <p>5.2. Civil society organisations implementing actions proposed in the plans.</p>	<p>Preparation of Black-faced Spoonbill Action Plan discussed with Chinese birdwatching societies at a Black-faced Spoonbill symposium in Hong Kong.</p> <p>A working group has been established to lead the development of the Chinese Crested-tern Action Plan, with experts from China mainland and Taiwan involved. A planning meeting is scheduled for late May.</p>	<p>Preparation of the three Action Plans to be discussed at the network planning meeting in Chengdu, May 2006.</p>
<p>6. Prospects for priority sites improved through civil society organisations undertaking site-conservation activities.</p>	<p>6.1. Civil society organisations collaborating with protected area staff and other stakeholders at priority sites.</p> <p>6.2. Civil society organisations undertaking conservation activities at priority sites.</p>		

