

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	162/14/044
Project Title	Building a bird conservation and environmental network in China
Country(ies)	China
UK Organisation	BirdLife International
Collaborator(s)	Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS)
Project Leader	Mike Crosby
Report date	30 October 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
Project website	www.chinabirdnet.org/index_f.html

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

The progress of the project over the last six months is summarised below against the project implementation timetable (including project activities scheduled outside the reporting period where appropriate). The project activities continue to be broadly on the schedule set in the Project implementation timetable.

Visit to UK by representatives of Beijing Birdwatching Society and HKBWS to learn about the environmental role of civil society organisations there

This visit was originally scheduled to take place in August 2005, but it was postponed because the Beijing Birdwatching Society representative was unable to travel at that time (as described in our annual report for 2005/6). The visit was rescheduled for August 2007, when Lei Jinyu from Beijing Birdwatching Society and Xu Meng from Shenzhen Birdwatching Society visited the UK, accompanied by Fion Cheung (China Programme Officer). They attended the British Birdwatching Fair and visited the RSPB and BirdLife International offices, as well as several RSPB nature reserves and visitor centres.

Production and distribution of quarterly China Birdwatching and Conservation Network newsletter

Issues of *China Bird Watch* were published and distributed in April, June and August 2007. The network newsletter included reports on conservation projects and the activities of the main Chinese birdwatching societies.

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

A Chinese-language manual entitled *Bird conservation project management – a practical handbook* was published in April 2007 (1,500 copies printed). In addition, the Darwin project published translations of the RSPB's *Discover birds at school* (4,000 copies printed) and BirdLife's *Educating for BirdLife* (1,500 copies printed). Copies of all three publications were distributed to all the Chinese birdwatching societies to help in the development of their conservation projects and for use in their education and public awareness activities. The translation of *Discover birds at school* was produced jointly with the Wildlife Conservation Society China Programme, which will use this publication in their education program.

Workshop on how civil society organisation can contribute to species and site conservation

A joint meeting between representatives of the Chinese birdwatching societies and the BirdLife Asia Partnership and Secretariat took place in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province in May 2007. Representatives of the BirdLife Partnership made presentations about their conservation work, which provided some excellent examples of how the Chinese birdwatching societies can contribute to species and site conservation, and the Chinese birdwatching societies made presentations about their activities.

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

A Darwin training course in forest bird survey and monitoring techniques was held in Chengdu, Sichuan Province from 6-8 July 2007. A total of 33 people from 15 birdwatching societies attended the workshop, which was designed to provide training for trainers.

Publication and distribution of national-language inventory of IBAs in China

An inventory of Important Bird Areas in China was submitted to the World Bank (which funded the compilation of the inventory) in July 2007, which covered almost 500 key sites for conservation and totalled about 500 pages of text in both English and Chinese. This material is currently being edited with the aim of publishing a bi-lingual directory *Important Bird Areas in China* in early 2008.

Second China Bird Festival

The second China Bird Festival is scheduled to take place during October 2007. Twelve birdwatching societies have submitted applications to organise a total of about 30 Festival events in their cities.

Drafting of funding proposals for continuation of network activities

The Darwin project steering committee held a meeting in Hong Kong in May 2007 and identified a number of potential sources of funding to continue the BirdLife International and HKBWS's joint programme in China once the Darwin Initiative funding ceases. Several funding applications are currently in preparation.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The visit by representatives of the birdwatching societies to the UK was originally scheduled to take place in August 2005, but (as described above) it had to be postponed until August 2007. To cover the costs of this visit, a virement of £ had to be made from the 'Conferences, seminars' budget line to the 'Travel and subsistence' budget line.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

The virement has been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and they approved it by email in October 2007.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**