

EAAFP Foundation 2020 Small Grant Programme

Final Report Summary



Reporting Period

October 2020 ~ May 31st 2021 (Approximately 8 months)

Organizer

EAAFP Foundation

Sponsors

EAAFP Secretariat, KOEN Yeongheung Power Division, Incheon Metropolitan City

Grantee Organizations (Reporting Order)

- 1) Eco Edu Irang
- 2) Tidalflat Ecological Education Hub Moolseal
- 3) Ganghwa Citizen Network
- 4) Green Korea Incheon
- 5) Incheon Birding Association
- 6) DMZ Ecology Research Institute
- 7) Korea Federation for Environmental Movements Incheon
- 8) Siheung Getgol Social Cooperative

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Grantee 1.

Organization Name: Eco Edu Irang

Project Title: Crane, Fly to Incheon

1. Background

- For continuous crane conservation, it is necessary to inform citizens of the existence of cranes and the importance of protecting the environment of Incheon wetland, the habitat of cranes.
- Develop ecological sensitivity and feel the value of migratory bird protection by directly observing cranes

2. Implementation

Around Ganghwa Dong-gum Island mudflat, the project was targeted to adults who prefer environmental education, mainly focusing on citizens of Incheon. The project is consisted of monitoring, indoor education, and birdwatching education activities.

3. Results

- Beneficiaries : Total 340 people
- 270 people participated in Indoor education (45 people*3 lectures*2 times)
- 31 people participated in the monitoring (7 times, feeding before the cold weather, recorded the result of monitoring on Getbol Keepers Application)
- 39 people participated in the minimalized birdwatching (3 people*13 times)

Grantee 2.

Organization Name: Tidalflat Ecological Education Hub Moolseal

Project Title: 'With Crane' Crane Welcome Event and Citizen Monitoring

1. Background

- Ganghwa mudflats with high conservation values : Ganghwa mudflat is home to Black-faced Spoonbill and cranes. The cranes of Ganghwa island are the only group of cranes living in the mudflats in Korea, hence the Ganghwa mudflats are the last station of their survival.
- The necessity for civil society to protect and conserve cranes, a City Bird of Incheon and a globally endangered species : Cranes, the City Bird of Incheon City, will be widely promoted through welcoming cranes and citizen monitoring events, and the cranes' habitat conservation movement and environmental monitoring movement will be established.

2. Implementation

- Crane Welcoming Ceremony : As a type of public event, crane welcoming ceremony will provide opportunities to inform the public about cranes and to sympathize with the necessity for crane conservation.
- Crane Feeding Event : In case of heavy snow fall or the significant temperature drop that causes the surface of the mudflats freezes, the food supply is urgently needed because it affects the foraging activities of cranes. The event will provide the minimum amount of nutrient for the cranes to survive through tough winter.
- Crane Sleeping Area Monitoring : After the collapse of the bank of the Sae-uh Island Reservoir, which was used as a sleeping area for cranes, the sleeping area of the Ganghwa group became unstable. Protection measures, such as the removal of threats in the sleeping area and the designation of protected areas, should be strengthened by accurately specifying the bed of the Ganghwa group.
- Bird(Crane) Monitoring Activist Education : Training skilled monitoring activists is a prerequisite for continuous and scientific monitoring.

3. Results

- Crane Welcoming Ceremony : 23 people including civil organizations from Incheon, Ganghwa and Dong-gum Fishery Village area participated. Mr. Jong-ryeol Lee, a documentary PD who produced the film 'Dreaming of Thousand Year Crane' gave a lecture, and the event was followed by crane monitoring.
- Crane Feeding Event : 39 people participated in two rounds of event and fed corns of 1,800kg. Due to the deterioration of the surrounding environment around the food supplier, food consumption has decreased significantly compared to previous years, so it is necessary to come up with future measures.
- Crane Sleeping Area Monitoring : It was revealed that Sohansan Island between Hwangsan Island and Sae-uh Island is the sleeping spot for cranes. Protection measures such as eliminating dangers of sleeping spots and designating as a protection area are necessary.
- Bird(Crane) Monitoring Activist Education : 58 people through 3 lectures participated. The necessity for professional and scientific monitoring training has been identified.

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Grantee 3.

Organization Name: Ganghwa Citizen Network

Project Title: 2020 Crane School

1. Background

Ganghwa Citizen Network felt a strong necessity to protect and promote awareness of all waterbirds of mudflats and wetlands and is conducting activities to protect Black-faced Spoonbills, Cranes, and the Plovers. Since then, it has recognized the relationship of numerous waterbirds, including Black-faced Spoonbills, and has focused on the CEPA project, including the "Visiting Ecology Class" for teenagers. The project aims to expand the waterbirds conservation movement by providing an opportunity to learn about the ecological characteristics, including the survey of cranes, and encouraging families to participate together.

2. Implementation

The crane school was scheduled to operate mainly on field education, but the pandemic limited on-site activities, so they were replaced with "Crane Package" activities for active participants to carry out the activities at home following video instructions. The training for participants was conducted by developing four kinds of crane related activities, including "Crane Shadow Activity", "Crane Dice-Bingo", "Creating Crane Bed Lamp", and "Crane Dice-Bingo Game". The participants were satisfied with the activities using these tools. After the winter Cranes leave Ganghwa mudflats, mature Black-faced Spoonbills fly in. This led to the final event, the 'Loach Releasing Event' to protect the Black-faced Spoonbill and enhance the biodiversity of rice paddies, which are home to the Black-faced Spoonbills.

3. Results

As a result of Crane monitoring, average of 32 cranes of seven groups were observed at Ganghwa mudflats, and their visit to an isolated island (Hangsan Island) located on the southern east mudflats of Ganghwa Island as their sleeping spot. All 21 families who participated were satisfied with the 'Crane Package'. The 2020 Crane School Program for the biodiversity enhancement of the habitat for Black-faced Spoonbills and other waterbirds finished well with the participating families' first field experience in the warm days of spring.

Grantee 4.

Organization Name: Green Korea Incheon

Project Title: Activities to promote public awareness of migratory waterbirds in Baengnyeong Island

1. Background

While various migratory birds are visiting Baengnyeong Island, there is little interest in birds and wetlands in the local community and there is a lack of understanding on the importance of them. Activities to form public opinion through ecological education and promotion are necessary to re-recognize the value of the birds and wetlands in the local community. Through these activities, it is important to form a regional network of interest in the region/town and to form a youth migratory bird exploration activity group for sustainable maintenance.

2. Implementation

In order to raise awareness of ecological importance of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in Baengnyeong Island, Green Korea Incheon has implemented 'Waterbird School' for youth, and they also created 10 minutes-education, promotion video about birds and wetlands of Baengnyeong Island.

3. Results

Green Korea Incheon formed public interest through migratory waterbird watching trip, searching for the possibility of forming a youth migratory bird search club. Educational video will be utilized as educational material for local residents, and provide information to visitors of Baengnyeong Island for birdwatching.

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Grantee 5.

Organization Name: Incheon Birding Association

Project Title: The Bird and Birdwatching Tour of Gyodong Island

1. Background

Incheon Birding Association plans to monitor key species of Gyodong Island and find their key habitats. They also try to develop birdwatching tourism zone according to the key habitats they have found by season.

2. Implementation

18 researchers participated and conducted 14 times of the bird monitoring activity. The results were analyzed using various ecological index, and the observation points were displayed on the GIS map by species to create a habitat distribution chart of the observed birds.

3. Results

As a result of this survey, 109,386 birds of 114 species were observed. According to the survey, Greater White-fronted Goose was the dominant species, with the dominant rate of 73.8 percent. 3 species of Korea Endangered Species Level 1, and 13 species of Level 2 status were observed. Based on the result, the best species for birdwatching tour were geese and birds of prey. Based on the bird distribution, 3 spots were selected, and the pros and cons of each spot were compared and analyzed to determine for the possibility of birdwatching tours. In addition, an alternative plan was proposed for the birdwatching tour, using the examples of leading birdwatching groups in Korea and Japan, and suggested how to utilize bird-feeding for the birdwatching tour. As the first project to connect bird monitoring and birdwatching tourism in Gyodong Island, it will alter the island into the leading winter birdwatching tourist destination, as influential as the Seosan's Cheonsuman Bay or Suncheon Bay, with the advantage of being much closer to the metropolitan area.

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Grantee 6.

Organization Name: DMZ Ecology Research Institute

Project Title: Migratory Waterbird Monitoring at Han River-Imjin River Estuary

1. Background

The project aims 1) to understand the status of migratory waterbird along the West Civilian Control Zone and Han River-Imjin River estuary, where lots of birds inhabit due to the restriction of civilian activities, and 2) to raise citizen awareness of biodiversity and nature conservation activities by managing citizen monitoring program.

2. Implementation

The survey area, which includes the West Civilian Control Zone and Han River-Imjin River estuary, will be divided into three or four groups to monitor birds simultaneously. Each survey would be conducted in a constant route and will be conducted within three to four hours. The numbers and the characteristics of birds will be shared real time to prevent a double counting. Endangered species will be recorded with GPS information. During the survey period, autumn, winter, and spring migratory waterbirds are expected to be observed.

3. Results

		2020			2021			
		23 rd Oct	20 th Nov	18 th Dec	15 th Jan	26 th Feb	26 th Mar	10 th Apr
Number of Species		43	52	56	51	58	56	56
Population		367	533	722	765	897	633	552
Korea Endangered Species	Level 1	2 species	4 species	3 species	5 species	2 species	1 species	1 species
	Level 2	6 species	8 species	8 species	4 species	8 species	6species	3species
Korean National Monument		7 species	11 species	10 species	10 species	9 species	8 species	4 species

Grantee 7.

Organization Name: Korea Federation for Environmental Movements Incheon

Project Title: Incheon Birdwatching Ecological Tour with citizens

1. Background

- To share the beautiful mudflats, ecological characteristics of migratory waterbirds in Incheon and the marvels of nature of Incheon City with the citizens
- To visit the wintering site and breeding site with experts, that are usually difficult for individuals to enter, and conduct birdwatching and ecological monitoring at the same time

Expected Outcomes

- To train citizen guardians for the mudflat and migratory bird through raising awareness of mudflats in Incheon and the migratory birds visiting the mudflat
- Formation of public opinions that can lead to developing policies for protecting the wintering site and habitats of migratory birds
- To ensure the continuous promotion and implementation of education projects for citizens through formation of public opinions about the city policies and budget for the migratory birds in Incheon

2. Implementation

Incheon Birdwatching 5 Routes

- 1) Urban area : Namdong Reservoir ~ Seung-gi Stream ~ Gojan Tidal flat
- 2) National Monument Mudflat : Hwangsan Island ~ Dong-gum Island ~ Sun Doo-li
- 3) Korea Peace Route : Gyodong Island Gogoo Reservoir ~ Namjung Reservoir ~ Cheol-chaek Tidal flat
- 4) Nearby-city Mudflat : Migratory bird birdwatching at Yeong-jong Island mudflat
- 5) Isolated Islands: Dongman Island ~ Seoman Island

- o These are the birdwatching route mainly focusing on winter migratory birds. They have been conducted from November 2020 to March 2021 by observing the migratory birds visiting Incheon City.
- o Two experts guided to recruit citizen participants through various promotion methods

3. Results

The result of the ecological birdwatching over five sessions show the following result:

All of the participants were from Incheon, 12 men, 46 women, 7 elementary school boys, and 6 elementary school girls participated. The initial plan was to engage 80 over four sessions, but the project recorded 79% achievement rate with 63 attendees participating. The low achievement was due to the fact that bird monitoring can be conducted only when the tide is appropriate. In addition, the fact that it is impossible to monitor under rain caused frequent re-scheduling which made it difficult for applicant recruitment. Due to COVID-19, applicants with symptoms were highly encouraged not to attend. As COVID-19 spread locally, there were also close contacts with confirmed cases, which led to absence. As the results of the survey show, everyone who participated were satisfied, and awareness towards Incheon mudflats and migratory birds increased. Promotion towards citizens was very effective and achieved its goal. Based on these results, education will be expanded, and the government will be urged to establish policies and budgets for migratory bird protection in Incheon Metropolitan City.

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Grantee 8.

Organization Name: Siheung Getgol Social Cooperative

Project Title: Siheung Wetland Citizen Monitoring Activation

1. Background

Siheung Getgol Social Cooperatives plans to monitor endangered species such as Black-faced Spoonbills, Saunders's Gull, and Far Eastern Curlew in Siheung Wetland to establish data for habitat conservation, and to promote the ecological value of Siheung Wetland by participating in citizen science.

2. Implementation

The survey areas were selected where major habitats of migratory waterbirds in Siheung are located, including Hojo Beol area (Botong Stream, Lotus Theme Park, Mulwang and Dochang Reservoir), Siheung Getgol Ecological Park which has been designated as a wetland protection area, Wolgot and Oido mudflat, and Sihwa Lake. Monitoring was conducted 10 times by forming citizen monitoring groups with 40 people who have experienced birdwatching previously from November 2020 to May 2021.

3. Results

According to the survey, a total of 31,536 waterbirds of 62 species were observed, and the Black-faced Spoonbill, Korean Endangered Species Level 1 was observed in all areas. The Oriental Stork Rock inside Okguido in the Oido mudflat was used as a breeding site for Black-faced Spoonbill every year, showing that Siheung wetland is an important habitat. In addition, Saunders's Gull (Korean Endangered Species Level 2), Eurasian Oystercatcher, Eurasian Spoonbill, Far Eastern Curlew, Bean Goose were also observed. The results were shared on the online platform called 'Naturing' and 'Getbol Keepers', and data gathered about migratory waterbirds will be produced and distributed to promote awareness of the Siheung wetlands.