

2021 EAAFP Small Grant Fund (WG/TF) Report Template



YOUNG SHOREBIRD AMBASSADOR COURSE” AT PAK THALE- LAEM PHAK BIA FLYWAY NETWORK SITE, THAILAND

KHWANKHAO SINHASANI

03/MARCH/2022

BIRD CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF THIALAND: BCST
KHWANKHAO@BCST.OR.TH



Section 1. Project Overview – This report will be shared on EAAFP website

1.1 BACKGROUND

Please give a brief and background of your project:

Pak Thale-Laem Phak Bia is one of the three flyway network sites in Thailand. It is located on the coast of Phetchaburi in the Inner Gulf of Thailand. The site is internationally recognized as an important location of migratory shorebirds, most notably the globally Critically Endangered Spoonbilled Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*), along with other globally threatened birds such as Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*), Spotted Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*), Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) and Chinese Egret (*Egretta eulophotes*), which make Pak Thale-Laem Phak Bia their winter home.

The site is mainly covered by salt pans, which are important roosting and feeding habitats during the high tide, when the neighbouring mud flats are covered. Salt production is also one of the main sources of income for the local communities. However, with the fluctuating salt prices and urbanization, many salt farmers have given up their traditional occupation and convert salt pans into aquaculture ponds, land mines, resorts, factories, etc., which provide better short-term benefits.

BCST has worked exclusively at Pak Thale-Laem Phak Bia Flyway Network Site for more than 10 years. We realize the importance of preserving the salt pan landscape, both for the migratory shorebirds and for the livelihood of local communities. In 2019, BCST made a strategic land purchase, with the help of the Rainforest Trust and public crowdfunding, of 8 ha of salt pans at Pak Thale and established as “Pak Thale Nature Reserve”. The main activities at the reserve include managing habitat for shorebirds, regular shorebird monitoring, as well as awareness raising and capacity building activities for the local youth and salt farmers.

Through this project, BCST would like to raise awareness among young people throughout Thailand by supporting a group of students who are passionate in producing media to learn about shorebirds and gain first-hand experience in studying the shorebirds and other related elements. This group of students will produce a set of multimedia projects which promotes the importance of shorebirds and shorebird conservation as the end result of this project.

Objective:

To build the communication capacity of urban and local youth group to enhance public awareness on the importance of shorebird conservation outcomes

A. Describe about your organization by filling out the table below:

Type of the organization - Government/NGO/Private Sector/Other	Non-government organisation
Name(s) of the division and/or position	Bird Conservation Society of Thailand, BirdLife partner in Thailand



List any contributions that your organizations or yourself might have been involved for the preservation of the migratory waterbirds, their habitats and East – Asian Australasian Flyway below.

- Migratory shorebird species monitoring in flyway sites in Thailand such along coastal lines both Undamon and inner gulf of Thailand
- Targeted species monitoring by both BCST team and citizen science
- Public awareness promotion of migratory birds, especially Spoonbilled Sandpiper and Spotted Greenshank
- The first nature reserved for migratory shorebirds inn Thailand. BCST purchase salt pans in Pak Thale by crowd funding both Thai and international supporters to welcome domestic and international birders. The program we are working with local conservation community group.
- Education activities and outreach program of migratory shorebirds to communities along coastal lines.

B. Provide a brief abstract summary of your project. In the summary, please include its objective and its location (Name of Place, City and Country), and explain the significance and relations of the species and its location (in link with [EAAF Key Species](#) and [Flyway Network Site](#)) for your project.

1 .2 DETAILS

Please provide a project description of the following:

- A. **Detailed Project Progress:** Describe about process of your project, including methodologies, field work, interview, conference, etc. Please include analysis of your process, if applicable. (Any visual data, including maps, graphs, tables, photos, etc. are strongly preferred)

To support and empower young people to communication capacity from both urban and local groups to enhance public awareness on the importance of shorebird conservation outcomes. We develop program called “young shorebird ambassador” to publicity and to recruited young people from any places in Thailand

Step1: Promotion and recruitment

- BCST opened for applications from youth (between 15-23 years old) from all over Thailand to apply for the course as an individual or as a team (up to 3 persons)
- Applicants were required to write a short essay explaining how he/she thinks becoming a “Young Shorebird Ambassador” can benefit the conservation of shorebirds and a concept of media project that he/she wants to produce to raise awareness of shorebird conservation. There were 3 themes of product; short VDO, photographing and journals by professional in media.



Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BCST)

Young Shorebird

Ambassador Course

ค่ายผู้นำเยาวชนเพื่อปกป้องนกชายเลน

สมัครเลย



เรามองหาบุคคล
ที่มีอายุ 15-25 ปี

รับจำนวน 15 คน
ประเภททีม/เดี่ยว

รับสมัครถึงวันที่ 11 ตุลาคม 2021
open call

ฟรี!
ไม่มีค่าใช้จ่าย

ส่งเสริมความรู้เกี่ยวกับนกชายเลน
และพัฒนาทักษะด้านการสื่อสาร

คุณไม่จำเป็นต้องรู้เรื่องนก!
เพียงแค่มุ่งทักษะในการสื่อสาร





Figure 1 Promotion materials for application release on October 2021 and 3 professional mentors for the program.

- BCST selected up to 10 applicants by short essays and interview to join the “Young Shorebird Ambassador Course” to be conducted both in Bangkok and at Pak Thale Nature Reserve November and December 2021.

Step 2: trainings

- BCST held the first (out of three) 2 day-workshop by online training to introduce all selected applicants to the course due to COVID restriction in indoor gathering.
- The main topics in the first workshop included
 - o Introduction to migratory shorebirds
 - o Connections between shorebirds and human
 - o Nature games to familiarize applicants to bird ecology
 - o Basic shorebird identification

The applicants are required to develop and present the topic, concept and the type of



media that they would like to produce by end of November to our mentors

- The second 4 day-workshop was held at Pak Thale Nature Reserve with a stop at Khok Kham Nature Conservation Club, where BCST has a strong connection with a local conservation group that has been involved in the conservation of Spoon-billed Sandpiper for many decades
- The applicants have learned through field visits and field activities at the actual site about shorebirds and the connections between shorebirds and local livelihood, particularly salt farming
- During this workshop, the applicants were required to collect as many materials as needed to produce their media projects

Step3: Production January-February 2022

- The applicants submit their media projects for BCST to comment and evaluate
- The final media projects of all applicants will be premiered at the Thailand Bird Fair 2023, an annual event by BCST to be held in late November, followed by BCST social media (Facebook, Twitter, website)

- B. **Problems Encountered/Adjustments:** If there were some changes made, please indicate them and explain (ex. Unexpected circumstances, sudden cancellation, etc.)
- COVID social gathering. In November 2021, Thailand regulation was limited for indoor social event. Therefore, BCST decided to host it in the online platform.
 - First, BCST expect 1 month for media production, in the reality is too limited for young group to finalise the product. Therefore, we extend for 2 months.
 - The 2022 Bird Fair is still in the transition time from COVID. Normally Bird Fair participants are more 1000. BCST decided to do not host in 2022, and will host in 2023. The products will be shown in the event. However, we posted some VDO on our social media platforms, and host some photo exhibition in Sam Saen school.
- C. Details on any community education and public awareness activities associated with your project.
- D. Please include any additional supporters of this project

1.3 RESULT

Explain and evaluate the outcomes and findings of your project (Any visual data, including maps, graphs, tables, photos, etc. are highly preferred).

There were 111 applicants for the 1st round program around Thailand. The second round of interview, the only 12 people were passed to the training with our professional mentors.

Finalist of Journal group

- 1 Toothbeak
- 2 Phong Sakorn
- 3 Seagul

.

Finalists for photographing

- 1 Fatty bird gang



2 E Ka Hang Ratikarn
3 Pee Kaseampitak

Finalists of VDO production

1 Capiplara
2 The San

งคำพื้นหลัง | ล้างเฟรม



Figure 2 Activities of online training by Jamboard

The productions; 3 Thai articles were ready. Example of VDO production by young shorebird ambassador

1) This is VDO and photo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5HpYkEQNC4&t=10s>

2) Photo exhibition at SamSean school



Figure 3 Photo exhibition banner and open ceremony on 5 Jul- 9 Sep 2022

3) The journal with photos



Figure 4 Journals with photos by young shorebird ambassador

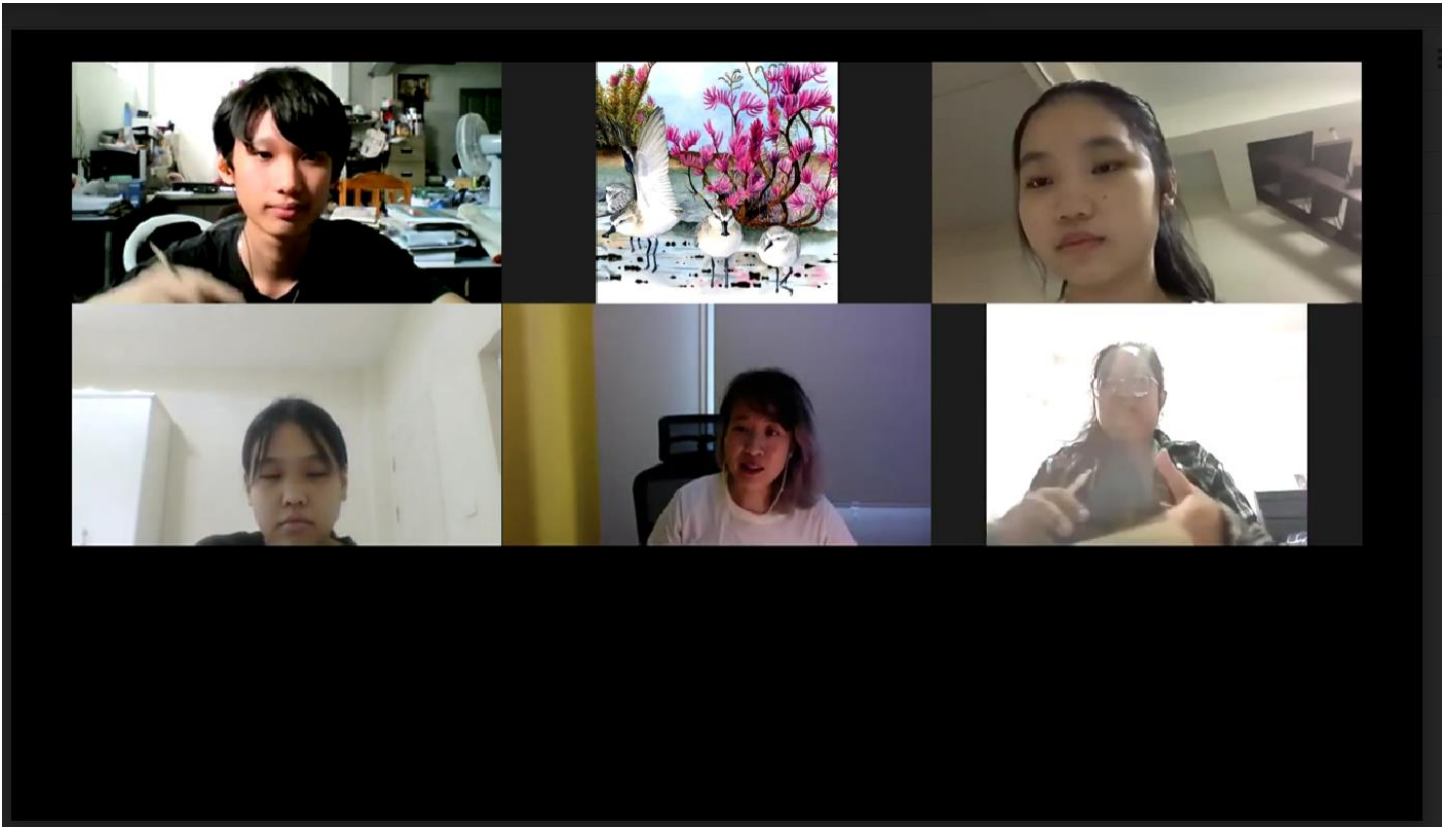


Figure 5 during the mentoring session

1.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

How might the outcome of your project be applied in future research.

Discuss how this project contributes to the implementation of the [EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028](#).

This project will directly contribute to Objective 2 – Enhance communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats of the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028.