



Spoonbills Speak

echoes across the Pacific



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The Official Newsletter of SAVE (Spoonbill Action Voluntary Echo) International

A Project of Earth Island Institute

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SOLAR IN WETLANDS: TAIWAN'S CONFLICT OF GREENS UPDATE

Budai and Chigu abandoned salt pan wetlands are recognized as RAMSAR-quality habitats for the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill, and yet, they have been chosen by the Taiwanese government as development sites for utility-scale solar panel projects. A company has already been selected to develop the 8th salt pan in Budai, a site important not only for the spoonbill, but also for local people who need the wetland for its flood mitigation capabilities. These communities also hope to use the wetland as a source of water for aquaculture in the future.

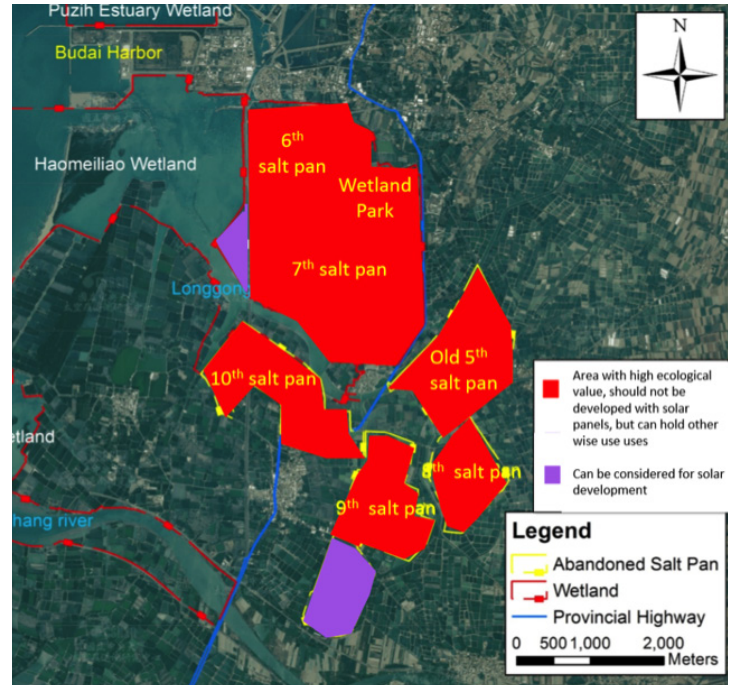
Ecological assessments done by leading scientists contracted by Taiwan's central government Construction and Planning Agency (CPA) and suggestions for alternative solar development locations identified by the researchers in charge of the Wetland Wise Use Plan for Budai were ignored. However the central government insists that a compromise was met with the scientific community. In a recent wetland symposium hosted by the CPA, Symbiotic Ark 2.0, international wetland experts stated that solar projects should only be considered for wetlands if and when a wetland is so highly degraded it is no longer recognizable as a wetland, which is not the case in Budai or Chigu. The experts went further to recommend that solar development projects should double as restoration projects, but only after all other alternatives have been exhausted. Taiwan has the potential to use the political support that exists for renewable energy to promote innovation and smart development, but so far the support has only manifested as top-down pressure on local agencies to provide land for development. There has been no support for universities or industry to spur creative design and innovation.

- BY ADRIENNE DODD



Birds in Budai utilizing prime habitat at the abandoned salt pans

Photo Credit: Adrienne Dodd



Above: Map produced by researchers of the Budai Wetland Wise Use Plan identifies areas which they suggest should not or could be considered for solar development

Photo/Image Credit: Adrienne Dodd

PORTLAND CONFERENCE WORKING GROUP MOVES SAVE CLOSER TO PROPOSAL TO RECONCILE SALT PAN CONFLICT

Several members of SAVE's Executive Committee traveled in September to Portland, Oregon for the three-day Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Conference held by the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU). After panel discussions and "lightning talk" presentations, the roughly 100 participants divided into 10 working groups on various topics. All members of the SAVE delegation took part in the group "Resolving Conflicts of 'Greens': Energy Planning for Sustainable Landscape Conservation." Dr. Yekang Ko, one of the conference organizers, led this group. Now an associate professor at the University of Oregon, Yekang joined the SAVE Executive Committee while earning her Ph.D. at U.C. Berkeley, during which time she co-authored an article about Korea's "conflict of greens" published in the journal *Environment*. This article helped establish the importance of habitat for endangered species in such conflicts. She



Participants of the Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Conference
Photo Credit: Yekang Ko

is now recognized as an international leader in the field of resolving conflicts between competing sustainable development policies. The other members of this working group included SAVE members Randy Hester, Marcia McNally, myself, and Dr. Hsiao-Wen Wang; Adrienne Dodd (a member of Dr. Wang's research team at National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan); renewable-energy experts from California, Hawaii, and Washington; and Flora Chen from the University of Oregon.

The working group discussed conflicts in existing renewable-energy projects (such as solar farms and tidal energy) in the United States, along with the current conflict over solar-energy development in the Budai Wetland in Taiwan. The working group drafted a comprehensive framework to help avoid conflicts of greens in regional or national renewable-energy policies. They intend to publish the framework and relevant case studies next summer. A team from SAVE will test the framework in Taiwan in March. The next APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Conference will take place in September 2018 in Hong Kong.

- BY DEREK SCHUBERT

SECRET WEAPON FOR SPOONBILL SURVIVAL: LAEP 205 STUDENTS

In the spring of 2017 U.C. Berkeley students re-envisioned two coasts facing each other across the Taiwan Strait where *Platalea minor* is under siege and habitat protection is being overruled by poorly informed national interests. Led by Professors John Radke and Matt Kondolf, the LAEP 205 studio focused on lands around Xinghua Bay in China and counties near Chigu Lagoon in Taiwan. All are critical wintering grounds for spoonbills and dozens of other endangered, endemic, or migrating species. And national policies in both are destroying essential habitat at a blitzkrieg pace. China has targeted the Xinghua Bay fishery and farming region for conversion to massive industrial development. Taiwan has invaded the Chigu fishery breadbasket to create a giant solar farm.

But the 205 students developed healthier and far more place-appropriate futures. The team of Yang Liu, Tadao Fujiwara, and Alan Kapoor showed how "sponge city" principles could solve multiple

problems not only in Xinghua Bay but also in aging cities coast-wide. Dining Liu, Christy Chung, and Stephanie Moore strengthened the symbiotic relationship between landscape quality, fisheries, and spoonbill habitat in Fuzhou. Yiyi He, Nimisha Wasankar, and Vicente Tinoco made a design proposal for an inter-generational Fuqing. The work of LAEP 205 students is gaining the attention of local scientists who now think a wild bird reserve can be salvaged amidst the landscape destruction around Xinghua Bay [see update by Cristina Bejarano].

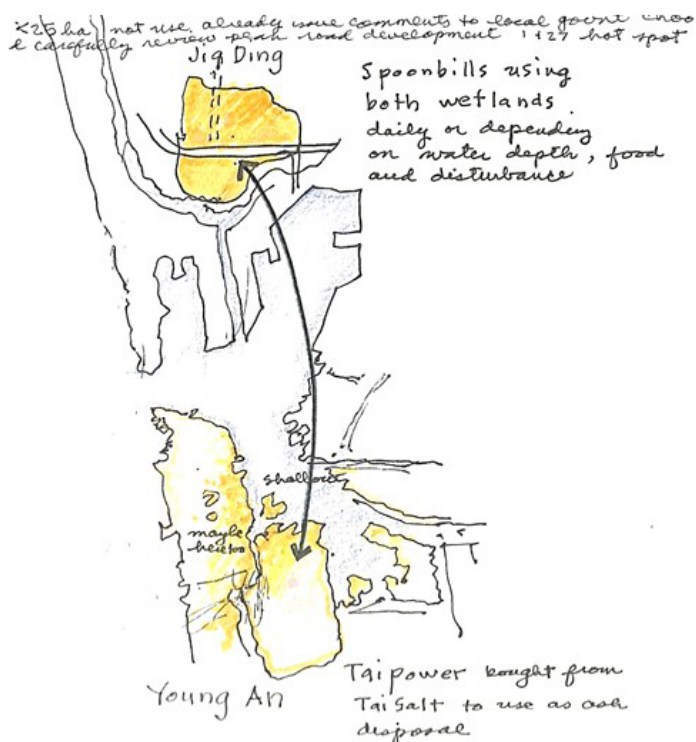
In Southwest Taiwan the central government has decided that solar farms will replace wetlands where nearly 70% of the spoonbill population winters [see update by Adrienne Dodd]. Although the switch to green energy is essential to curb global warming, Taiwan is mindlessly placing solar farms in vulnerable ecosystems. Students challenged the assumptions about location of these farms from various perspectives. They proved that they were the wrong projects in the wrong places at the wrong time and showed how to produce more energy in correct places in a timely manner. Sayali Lokare, Jameson Reeves, and Ellen Plane redesigned the energy system to capture solar where it is most needed to run high speed rail and other transportation components. Julieth Ortiz and Will Logsdon recreated coastal habitat and located solar inland in phases as sea level reclaimed previously filled tidal flats. The team of Michelle Wray, Jed Collins, and Sooyeon Yi turned solar on its head (or more accurately, on its side), utilizing vertical configurations that synergize energy production with other land uses from wetland habitat protection to dryland farming. The three teams' work was presented to a central government working group including the Office of Energy and Carbon Reduction convened by Dr. Alan Lin. He promised that the Industrial Technology Research Institute would model the effectiveness of the solar towers and that his group would determine policy changes needed to increase solar integrated with dryland agriculture and transportation lines. The group also agreed to share their complete inventory of suitability for solar farms so SAVE could compare that to the student map of best locations for solar energy facilities. The Berkeley students continue to provoke advances in government thinking about comprehensive environmental planning throughout the flyway.

- BY RANDY HESTER

RESEARCH CONTINUES IN XINGHUA BAY, CHINA THIS YEAR

As we go to press, SAVE International is in communication with a scientist in Fuzhou to continue the study of the Black-faced Spoonbill populations on the northern edge of the Xinghua Bay. Since the LA 205 studio first began its research in Fuzhou in the spring of 2016, industrial development has continued to expand. Former fish ponds are being filled and replaced by industrial warehouses. This year, SAVE and the studio will assist the research being conducted in Fuzhou, which will include a survey of local community members. This work may inform the development of a nature preserve in the area, and hopefully will protect what remains of the spoonbill habitat in the region.

- BY CRISTINA BEJARANO



Jiading and Yong-an Wetlands act as a single ecological unit and should be protected from further development.

Image Credit: Randy Hester

“ALIENATED HOMECOMERS” DISCUSS JIADING, YONG-AN WETLANDS UNDER SIEGE

This fall Jiading Wetlands Youth (JWY) launched a new, creative initiative to raise community awareness about the importance of Jiading Wetlands. Through public conversations between JWY and other high-profile environmentalists, members explore how their participation in the movement to protect the wetlands has changed their perception of homeland. According to JWY member Marcy Lin, “JWY has been accused of being ‘the outsiders’ manipulated by eco-activist groups. However, through conserving the wetlands we realized how little we knew about our hometown, geography-wise and community-wise. Conservation of Jiading Wetlands has become more than just eco-activism, but also the gateway of JWY’s journey of reconstructing its local identity.” The talks were broadcasted live on Jiading Wetlands Youth’s Facebook fan page (in Chinese). For more information on; Chiayi Talk: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLp6E7TUfbG0PFd1wv1EVsQ3I7hMcSKqr>, Kaohsiung Talk: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLp6E7TUfbG0OgbzdOSAJoOyYIQaAdynk>, Taipei Talk: on JWY’s Facebook fan page.

There is less uplifting news. It is thought that the Construction and Planning Bureau is now considering Jiading Wetland for a solar farm to meet green energy goals. Further, the Wetland Review Task Force approved the plan by the Kaohsiung City Government to redraw the boundary of nearby Yong-An Wetland, and in so doing reduced the wetland from 133 ha to 41.25 ha. Tai Power owns this land and intends to build a new gas-fired power plant on the rest of the wetland even though the best available conservation biology indicates that the new

power plant would fragment the habitat and harm the populations of Black-faced Spoonbills and other species that live in the wetland (many of which fly between Yong-An and Jiading on a daily basis to forage, roost, or flee from disturbance). Further, Tai Power just announced it will host an international design competition for the proposed plant (<http://www.ecopp.com.tw>). JWY, SAVE and local environmental groups are working on a response as of this writing.

- BY MARCIA MCNALLY

BIKE TRIP TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF WETLANDS

Kaohsiung Wild Bird Society director and SAVE ally Lin Kun-Hai is on a 30-day bicycle trip around Taiwan to meet other environmental groups and conduct a field survey of 58 wetlands along the coast. When asked why he was making the trip, Kun-Hai said that because there were so many controversies on the development of wetlands, he hopes to examine their conditions and problems firsthand.

Despite having national wetland conservation legislation, many landowners and state-run utilities do not want their wetlands to be designated as wetlands. Kun-Hai’s vision is that wetlands will be connected to create an ecological strip throughout Taiwan to provide better conditions for migrating wildlife. This spring he will do another ride, and then create a comprehensive report. Good luck Kun-Hai!

- SUMMARIZED FROM ARTICLE BY CHIA-NAN LIN,
TAIPEI TIMES, 11-12-2017



Scenes from Lin Kun-Hai’s bike trip & many fellow wetland supporters along the way

Image Credits: Taiwan Environmental Information Center

www.saveinternational.org



Members of Team Spoon with Po-Hsiu Kuo (center) at the Asian Wetland Symposium in Saga, Japan in November 2017
Photo Credit: Po Hsui Kuo

TEAM SPOON COVERS THE FLYWAY

Team SPOON visited South Korea and Kanazawa prefecture in Japan to recruit new people to the conservation movement. Our team now has 318 members living inside and outside Japan. Corresponding to diversifying our membership, we started to write the Weekly Spoonbill Times in three languages – Japanese, Korean, and English.

Through talking with many people we decided to revise our vision a bit and made a new one, which emphasizes the importance of recognizing that the natural environment has been ignored over generations. We want to think about not only our connections with nature and society but also about the cycle over time.

This fall we went to Saga prefecture to join in the Asian Wetland Symposium to talk about our vision and actions, which is a really good opportunity for us. We keep going forward with Black-faced Spoonbills and hope to share more good news with you on the next annual report!

-BY AYAKO HONZAWA

(tear here)

THANK YOU!

Dear Friends of Spoonbills:

SAVE is very proud to celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2017. As we look back on a long and rewarding history, we honor our work, its far-reaching efforts and our many generous supporters. Looking forward to 2018, SAVE is planning to send a small contingent to Singapore for the Conference of the Pacific Rim Community Design Network. Started in 1998, this conference was created to bring professionals and researchers in the field of participatory planning and design together to collaborate, communicate, and support one another. SAVE has participated in all 10 conferences. Next year will be the 20th anniversary of the network. We hope you will renew your annual membership to SAVE, or join us in 2018 if you don't already have a membership. Thank you for your support!

-BY FIONA CUNDY, SPOONBILLS SPEAK EDITOR

_____ I would like to renew my membership for _____ (\$25, 50, \$100, \$250, \$500)

_____ I would like to join SAVE as:

- _____ a sponsoring member of SAVE for \$25
- _____ a contributor to the spoonbills' nest egg for \$50
- _____ an adoptive grandparent of a spoonbill for \$100
- _____ an adoptive parent of a spoonbill for \$250
- _____ adopter of an entire spoonbill family for \$500

Please make your check payable to SAVE/EII and return it to SAVE International, c/o Earth Island Institute, 2150 Allston Way Suite 460, Berkeley, CA, 94704. You can also donate through the SAVE website: earthisland.org/save/donate.

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
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SAVE IS 20!

A special look back at
SAVE International's history
throughout twenty years



Grassroots environmental efforts often come and go. With the 20th anniversary, the story of SAVE shows that environmental organizing can have sustaining power, with dedicated volunteers and expanding networks. With ongoing challenges in Taiwan, particularly in Jiading, the work of SAVE International is ever more important. The model of how SAVE operates over its first 20 years shows that environmental organizing is most powerful when actors from different sectors—local, regional, and global; community, volunteers, and professionals—come together for a common goal. Here's to another 20 years!

- JEFF HOU

I started working on the Black-faced Spoonbill issue in response to my Taiwan friends who needed help fighting a petrochemical plant, but I stuck with it because of I am committed to our much-expanded network of friends and allies working together to protect an endangered bird, landscape, and way of life. The commitment and creativity of others inspires me, as does the fact that we are slowly growing the population of a bird that was once almost extinct.

- MARCIA MCNALLY

Through all these years, SAVE has become a very intimate and almost sentimental existence to me. It connects my busy yet sometimes commonplace everyday life to the fate of our beloved BFS and its blue flyway. Happy anniversary SAVE! I am very honored to spend these past 20 years with you and I hope our journey continues for many more years.

- WAN-CHIH YIN

At one point, the then-President Lee openly challenged the movement by saying "Are birds more important than people?" attempting to sway public opinion against the birds. Just at the same time, we were working with the indigenous tribal people of Ita-Thao at Sun-Moon Lake trying to reclaim their ancestral land. It so happened that the number of BFS at the time and the number of people of the Ita-Thao were almost exactly the same, 200 plus, both facing extinction. The tribal people then capitalized on the President's words by demanding as much if not more attention than the BFS. One of their slogans was

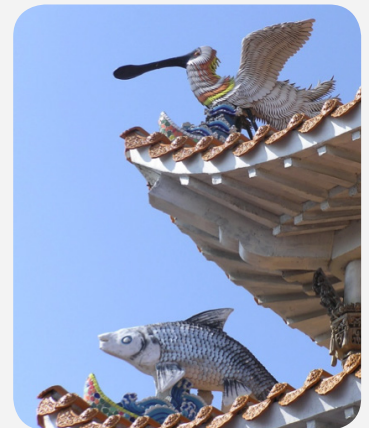
"The Ita-Thao is just as endangered as the Black-Faced Spoonbill." As the years went by, we know, the number of BFS has grown rapidly, now at ten-fold, while the number of Ita-Thao people has remained unchanged. Each time I meet with the Ita-Thao people, I urge them to make more babies in order to keep up with the BFS. Alas, birds are smarter than people. They understand the strength that comes with numbers. Or, birds are simply better at making babies.

- JOHN LIU

My master thesis in 1996 was about Taiwan's Chigu wetland sustainability issue. At that time, the number of Black-faced Spoonbills was less 300 and BFS were considered critically endangered. Its main habitat was threatened by the proposed Binan Industrial Development project. People felt hopeless to defeat the giant project supported by the capable company and central government. Nevertheless, the project was eventually suspended due to many grassroots campaign efforts. Among those big efforts, SAVE played an important role to connect local and international communities, leveraging local experience and identity with solid scientific investigation and participatory design skills. I was lucky to serve as a SAVE's liaison to Earth Island Institute in 2001 and present BFS struggles and sustainable design issues at the RAMSAR Convention conference in Costa Rica on behalf of SAVE in 1998.

After defeating the Binan project, SAVE continued its efforts to work on BFS habitat creation and protection along its flyway. With two-decades effort, the number of BFS has increased 10 times (2,601 BFS were recorded in Taiwan this year). SAVE always takes the firm stand on social ecological value, makes good use of science, and works closely with the grassroots. SAVE is also willing to take challenges and face confrontation whenever it's necessary. I am very proud to be a SAVE member and longtime volunteer (still today). Special thanks to Derek, Marcia, and Randy for their great, consistent, and relentless efforts and leadership. It's been a long journey and I am convinced what SAVE has done should be carried on forever for our better earth, better environment.

- WEN-LING TU



SAVE IS 20!

This year SAVE unceremoniously acknowledged its 20th birthday. In most ways it was just another day at the office except SAVE has no office and no staff to organize a celebration. What we do have is a small band of dedicated activists who have saved an umbrella species, dozens of other shore and wading birds, and thousands of fisherpeople's jobs from extinction at the hands of a monster industrial land grab called the Binan Industrial Complex. Then we created a cultural and ecological place-based economy that serves as a model throughout the spoonbill's flyway. We have grown from a Berkeley-NTU cartel to a full- flyway organization with partners at every stop. And we have done so at little cost. I think our funders can say that they have gotten their money's worth. Excuse a funny story. At a meeting in Seoul years ago the President of the Korean Federation of Environmental Movements was absent from the opening ceremony. He appeared at lunch, apologized for his earlier absence, and announced that he had been meeting with the Korean President. He was pleased to say that he had received funding in excess of a million dollars US. At dinner he asked me about SAVE's operating budget. I told him about 3000 dollars per year. He barely disguised his shock, graciously pretending he couldn't immediately translate 3000 dollars into won in his head.

SAVE is lean and mean. We are also fast learners about almost any topic, spatially informed, multidimensional, environmental plannerly, community development savvy, and fearless. We take pride in our volunteer-run organization and our oversized accomplishments, but there remain so many challenges that warn us not to celebrate prematurely. Most of our successes are threatened by sea level rise and political reversals.

This is an opportune time to reflect and reshape the future. SAVE formed in 1997 after John Liu and I met with a group of fishermen in Longshan Village who feared that a proposal to fill Chigu Lagoon would deprive them of their livelihoods. But it was Shenglin Chang, Jeff Hou, Annie Chiu, and Wenling Tu at Berkeley and Wan Chi Yin and her classmates at NTU who initially energized the organization. Shenglin

named the group: Spoonbill Action Voluntary Echo which made no sense to anyone but her at first, but makes perfect sense in retrospect.

Along the way we learned and applied conservation biology at a scale even Professor Michael Soule would envy. We combined that with our own expertise of community development and activist environmental planning in precedent-setting ways. We learned about the extinction vortex (you do not want to get near one), genetic bottlenecks (it is like having to marry your cousin), and umbrella species (Platalea minor is such an umbrella—its habitat requirements are so complex and bountiful that if enough habit can be created to support a sustainable population of spoonbills, dozens of other species will also be saved from extinction; the coastal ecosystem will thrive, from wild birds to fishing jobs.) We learned over and over that virtual capital fuels corporations and governments; that corporations are not people and they lie without a moment's hesitation (Binan promised 30,000 new jobs for local people, knowing full well that 17,000 jobs in fishing would be destroyed and in five years only several thousand jobs would remain, none for which local people would qualify). We learned that it only takes a single courageous politician and a natively wise fisherman to right that world of deception. We learned that creating an alternative plan with a constituency is a must in order to stop destructive real estate speculation and shape a sustainable future. We learned that Taiwan is spoonbill-friendlier than Japan, Korea, and China. We learned that ornithologists are terrific scientists and generally spatially illiterate and politically cowardly. (Praise the Gods for the late Malcolm Coulter.) We learned that to introduce innovation takes tolerance for the undeveloped. (The first Tainan County B&B where Jeff Hou and I stayed provided no bed and no breakfast. Jeff was far more tolerant than I was.) We learned that deep friendships develop within a cause and pull you through the most depressing setbacks. (Thanks John and Fuchang.) We learned that every person of privilege should vow to save an endangered culture, ecosystem, or species from extinction and expect to be meaningfully rewarded.





More recently we learned that SAVE is most effective at a distance and decreasingly so in your face. We are relearning that, to politicians and industrial leaders, wetlands and salt pans are nothing but empty wastelands awaiting a "highest and best" use. We are learning that the conflict of greens will occupy the next generations, making habitat preservation ever more vulnerable to non-green uses like real estate speculators, developers, and political payoffs; and sea level rise will intensify the conflicts. (No one I know wants to retreat from the coast and give back to the ocean.) How SAVE addresses these issues will determine its Half Life or Doubling Time. SAVE was formed of unstable atoms more like Hydrogen 7 than Carbon-14. Can it retain reckless abandon and also stabilize into a secure organization? (Derek, Marcia, Cristina, Yekang, and Fiona indicate it can, but they need help.)

When SAVE was formed, John and Hsia Chu-Joe declared Chigu Lagoon a hopeless cause but played along with my fantasy of preserving the rich fishing grounds. By the time they admitted their game, the Gods at Nankunshen Temple had already told me that we would stop Binan. Three times in a row my jiabei blocks landed one flat and one round side up in answer to my question, "Will we stop Binan?" The Gods were perfectly clear. But the Gods also said the spoonbill would not reach a sustainable population in my lifetime. So let's do the math. There were thought to be fewer than 300 spoonbills in 1988, only about 500 when we founded SAVE in 1997, and an all-time high of 3941 in 2017. Doubling time would go like this. If there were about 2000 spoonbills in 2012 and 3000 four years later, how many will there be after 10 years? The answer, about 5500. That would be good news except that present growth of 8% per year is expected to stall and go in reverse soon. Scientists now project a rapid decline, yes, a rapid decline, within the next two decades due to habitat loss throughout the flyway, especially in the Yellow Sea tidal flats. The spoonbill is in both Half Life and Doubling Time simultaneously.

SAVE has been the Little Engine that Could (we won that award once) that has been in the scientific and political trenches to fight

for a bird none of us even knew 20 years ago. I expect that there will be enough of us to give both SAVE and the Black-faced Dancer Doubling Time again and again.

- RANDY HESTER

SAVE taught me that science needs activism and activism needs science.

It is hard to believe that it has been 20 years since I first joined SAVE International in its effort to save the largest remaining population of Black-faced Spoonbills at Chigu Lagoon. At that point in time it was our greatest dream that SAVE would endure and expand its efforts to the broader Pacific Flyway. We were not sure that it was possible given our small volunteer capacity. I'm always proud and amazed to see the work continue as result of a few dedicated students, professors, and alumni across the Flyway. The spoonbills have a way of capturing one's heart.

- BARBARA BUTLER BAUNSGARD

Congratulations to SAVE on its 20th Anniversary! It seems like only yesterday that I was coming down the stairs at Wurster Hall in the fall of 1998 and saw a video of two enigmatic birds playing tug of war with a piece of grass. As a newly minted birder, I fell in love with what turned out to be Black-faced Spoonbills, an endangered species whose home was far from the Berkeley campus. I had also come upon Randy Hester's ED-1 class competition with a hundred or more sculptures of spoonbills displayed on the lawn outside of Kroeber Hall, all created by students. An enigmatic bird, an endangered species facing the extinction vortex—what could be a more compelling cause?

What followed was an awesome trip to Taiwan in 1999, with dinner at the Hunting Territory straight off the plane, a visit to Chigu to see the thin white line of spoonbills, a wonderful visit with faculty and students at NTU and presentations to the Taiwan Legislature. No laptops in sight or cell phones but long tubes of cardboard that contained carefully rolled up maps and plans. A different world.



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There then followed numerous challenges: Binan, an outbreak of Botulism, a threatening 24/7 airport near Chigu, and loss of tidal foraging in South Korea. What I most remember from those challenging days was the can-do attitude and collaborative nature of the SAVE members: faculty, staff, and students. It was always "So, what do we need to do?" I am still a birder. Black-faced Spoonbills I don't see here, but when I was in England in May birding with my sister, she spotted a spoonbill flying over the marsh in her home town of Aldeburgh. It was a nice reminder of Chigu all those years ago.

- SHEILA "GRANDMA SPOONBILL" DICKIE

We are Taiwan Black-faced Spoonbill Conservation Association (BFSA). We sincerely congratulate 20th anniversary to SAVE. It is our 20th anniversary, too. Black-faced Spoonbills are our best friend. They lead us to recognize the world, and also help us connect to each other. We have adopted an abandoned elementary school as our base. Our volunteers come here to have investigations and interpretations. We also are concerned about habitats and the environment. Thank you SAVE for all the assistance to us. Warmest wishes from TAIWAN to SAVE.

- TZU-YAO TAI

A note on the Black-faced Spoonbill Conservation Association (BFSA): In 1997, volunteers, enthusiasts and local fishermen co-organized and established the Black-faced Spoonbill Conservation Association to protect BFS and conserve its habitats, as well as to provide environmental education and Chigu Lagoon eco-tourism activities. In the early years they worked to establish a national park instead of the proposed large-scale petroleum-chemical industrial districts. Since that time there has been an emphasis on academic research (long-term monitoring) and the dissemination of findings through interpretation to the public.

Visit BFSA's website to learn more: <http://www.bfsa.org.tw/en/ep01.htm>

- PO-HSIU KUO

SAVE has taught me the importance of combining what might seem like mutually exclusive "oppositions": academism and activism, natural science and social science, renewable power plant and wetland habitat, and so on. The thoughtful actions have inspired me to try to get more essential alternatives. In 1999 at Berkeley, I suddenly got this strange idea and cried out at a SAVE meeting, "A good guy with bad information would be a bad guy." The epigram always makes me think about the importance of information quality and the ease of getting it. SAVE has led me not to be a bad guy. Thanks SAVE for 20 years of actions, and for years to come!

- TAMESUKE NAGAHASHI

Happy 20th Birthday. I cannot imagine my life without SAVE International. SAVE taught me what true environmental planning is, the intrinsic value of endangered species, the importance of responsible design and actions across regions. Through SAVE, I've met amazing people who deeply inspire me personally and professionally. Thank you SAVE!

- YEKANG KO

SAVE International and I joined Earth Island Institute the same year. I remember attending the Great Spoonbill Migration—a wonderful exhibit of dozens of spoonbill sculptures made from recycled materials. This type of creativity and community has been key to SAVE International's longevity and accomplishments. Congratulations on 20 years of service to the environment.

- SUSAN KAMPRATH

Congratulations on the 20th anniversary of SAVE international. I deeply appreciate your long years of meaningful activities.

In order to protect Black-faced Spoonbills, it is necessary to cooperate with bird watchers and local people, administration, experts, and international cooperation. SAVE has practiced as a pioneer and done a very big works internationally. SAVE made a proposal for wetland park in Fukuoka City's Island City in 2012 and proposed it to Fukuoka city government. Although it was a wonderful proposal which was studied from many points, unfortunately Fukuoka City did not seriously consider this proposal. In the near future, however, I believe SAVE's proposal will be a very important suggestion in maintenance and management during construction and also after opening. We have to work for that.

In Japan, Black-faced Spoonbills were counted 433 in 2017. There were only 95 birds in 2002 when the Japanese Black-faced Spoonbill Network started.

It will increase more in 2018. It is also an important character in the RAMSAR site of the tidal flat in Kyushu.

We became human beings who think of wild birds from watching wild birds. I would like to learn a lot from SAVE from now on. I am very thankful for meeting with SAVE.

- SATORU MATSUMOTO

