



**Green Holiday: A Weekend Volunteer Tour for Wetland Conservation  
Wild Bird Society of Japan**

**Prepared by  
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<p>Type of Case Study</p>	<p>This project was based on the development of an international volunteer programme for ‘hands-on’ habitat management for adults of all ages working with the local university and members of the local bird society. Community engagement, working with the local university and local bird society, benefits local wetland conservation work.</p>
<p>Introduction to the Case Study</p>	<p>The programme consisted of lectures, a guided tour and practical conservation action working with local people. The overall aims were to improve the habitat through the removal of an invasive grass and to encourage young people to take action for nature conservation.</p>
<p>What was done and when and where did you do it?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed invasive cordgrass (<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>) spreading into Gaomei wetland, Taiwan, an IBA site of approximately 550 square metres.</li> <li>• 56 Japanese volunteers and over 500 Taiwanese volunteers participated in the conservation work through Green Holiday 2014 and 2015.</li> <li>• In a classroom setting with local university students, the volunteers learnt about wetland wildlife and the considerable effort that has to be made to protect wildlife.</li> </ul>



**Conservation work at Gaomei wetland by removing invasive cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*)**

*Photo: Hiroko Okamoto, Wild Bird Society of Japan*



**Cross communication with local university students. Open discussion on ‘what can we do for wetland wildlife’.**

*Photo: Hiroko Okamoto, Wild Bird Society of Japan*

<p>If relevant, identify your main target group for your activity</p>	<p>Mainly, but not exclusively, young people with concerns about the environment and with an interest in practical conservation work and in cooperating with other volunteers at an international level.</p>
<p>What was the result of the action?</p>	<p>The concept of Green Holiday was shared with the Taiwanese volunteers and a locally based Green Holiday has project has now been launched by the Wild Bird Association of Taiwan in collaboration with Ecotourism Taiwan for the protection of Gaomei wetland through the removal invasive cordgrass (<i>Spartina Alterniflora</i>). Young people, including university students, continue to be interested in joining this activity.</p>

What was the key to success?	The local coordinator of Ecotourism Taiwan helped a lot to develop this programme. Translators (Chinese/Japanese) and facilitators were essential to the success of the action.
What was your biggest challenge in achieving success?	Organising the tour consisted of several activities: identifying different field activities and conservation work, wildlife watching, cross communication with local university with a limited staff, and a modest budget were all quite a challenge.



**Group photo of Taiwanese and Japanese volunteers at Gaomei wetland, after the conservation work.**

*Photo: Victor Yu, Ecotourism Taiwan*

If relevant, identify key sponsors/partners for your activity	Partners: Ecotourism Taiwan, Wild Bird Association of Taiwan, Province University, Kuo Kuang Elementary School, Gaomei Elementary School Sponsor: Toyota Environmental Activities Grant Programme, Toyota Motor Corporation
How is the Case Study useful for other Partners?	We can promote local wetland conservation work and encourage young people to take part by sharing the concept of Green Holiday with EAFP partners.
Useful links	<a href="https://www.wbsj.org/activity/event/greenholiday/gh-taiwan-en3/">https://www.wbsj.org/activity/event/greenholiday/gh-taiwan-en3/</a>
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