



Spoonbills Speak

echoes across the Pacific

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

SAVE PRESENTS OVER 100 ENDORSEMENTS TO TAIWANESE LEGISLATURE

In February SAVE launched an endorsement campaign to enlist the support of environmental, human rights, and green industry groups from around the world. The 108 endorsements received were presented at a hearing at the Taiwanese legislature on March 12. Rainforest Action Network, International Rivers Network, Rocky Mountain Institute, Audubon Society, Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Taiwan Women, and the Formosan Association for Human Rights were among those who endorsed SAVE's seven-point request to President Teng-hui Lee. Endorsements came from Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Africa, Europe, South and Central America, Canada, and the United States. The endorsement statement focused on the core issues of the Bin-nan debate: Taiwan's potential violation of Agenda 21, impacts on water supply, global warming, the anticipated demise of local and indigenous ways of life, wetlands destruction, and further endangerment of the black-faced spoonbill. The request ended with "DENY THE BIN-NAN INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX". A special thanks to Lily Hsueh and Malcolm Coulter for their efforts on this campaign!

SAVE DELEGATION BRINGS HOPE TO THE FATE OF THE BLACK-FACED SPOONBILL

A seven-member team presented the new analysis and alternative plan prepared by this year's environmental planning masters students from UC Berkeley. Twenty presentations were made in seven days (some times six in one day!) to audiences as diverse as the Chi-gu fishermen, Tainan County Magistrate Mark Chen, a consortium of national environmental organizations, the heads of each of the four Taiwanese political parties, the Environmental Protection Administration and Council of Agriculture, and the Taiwan national legislature. Each team member presented a part of the documented, scientific concerns: the black-faced spoonbill (Malcolm Coulter and Tom Dahmer), land use (Randy Hester), water supply (Matt Kondolf and Jeff Hou), and CO2 emissions (John Byrne and Tze Luen).



During the trip the delegation traveled to Chi-gu and were able to see the black-faced spoonbill enjoying their winter habitat. Another unexpected but thrilling part of the trip was to witness the eco-tourism activity (new restaurants, tours to the lagoon, bird watching platforms) that has emerged in coastal Tainan County since NTU and UCB students first proposed the idea to the fishermen last year.

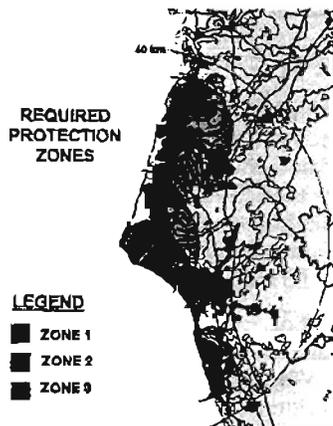
The impact of SAVE's work has been tremendous. During the trip the team received extensive press coverage. Premiere Vincent Siew made headlines on April 2nd when he publicly criticized his staff for not apprising him of the water issues. The EIA Committee last week rejected the first two sections of the Bin-nan EIA (analysis of an alternative location for the industrial complex and the option of developing a smaller port alternative in the same location), asking Tuntex Corporation for more information. Twenty-five legislators attended the opening day of the hearings to demand that the project be denied. Minister of Economic Affairs Chih-kang Wang is now saying that the government is waiting to hear the opinions of a wide range of interest groups before making a decision on the project. EPA chief Dr. Hsung-Hsiung Tsai has said the decision on the EIA will be postponed until after conferences on national economic development (April 24 - 25) and national energy policy (May 26 - 27) are held.

NEW RESEARCH PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN SAVE CAMPAIGN

UC Berkeley graduate students played a key role in the recent SAVE trip to Taiwan by providing both new research on impacts the Bin-nan industrial complex would have on the black-faced spoonbill and a sustainable alternative to the proposed industrial park. Highlights include:

- **EXISTING WETLAND ECOSYSTEM.** Existing wetland ecosystem in the Chi-gu area includes lagoons, tidal mudflats, fish ponds, salt ponds, riparian corridors, and rice fields.
- **LOSS OF LAGOON ECOSYSTEM.** Chi-gu Lagoon is the last remaining major lagoon ecosystem on the west coast of Taiwan.
- **CHI-GU ECOSYSTEM AND BLACK-FACED SPOONBILL HABITAT.** More than 50% of the world's population of black-faced spoonbill winter in Chi-gu, making it the world's most important spoonbill habitat.
- **CHI-GU CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES.** To raise the globally endangered black-faced spoonbill above the level of 'critically endangered', the current population of about 600 needs to be increased to 3,000 birds.
- **HABITAT LOSS.** Development of the Bin-nan industrial complex and West Coast Highway will result in significant loss of critical black-faced spoonbill habitat.

- **ECOLOGICAL HAZARDS.** Development of the proposed Bin-nan industrial complex has anticipated impacts including accidental oil spills and effects of associated urban development.
- **PROTECTION OF BLACK-FACED SPOONBILL HABITAT.** Wetlands within a 30 to 40 km radius range from the main roosting site need to be protected as foraging grounds for black-faced spoonbill.



- **PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PLAN.** Restricts development in the core habitat area, encourages regulated production of fish and salt ponds, requires mitigation and habitat replacement for new development, and monitors pollution.
- **ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** Based on eco-tourism, agriculture, fishing, and green industry, this plan is estimated to generate between 24,000 and 38,000 jobs and annual revenue of NT\$14.6 billion.
- **RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE ECO-TOURISM DEVELOPMENT.** By locating development inland and limiting coastal development to existing urbanized areas, less spoonbill habitat will be lost by eco-tourism.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, MONITORING, AND TOURISM.** These components are integral parts of the alternative development which would ensure long-term sustainability of the region.

SAVE FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

In September 1997 SAVE launched a grassroots fund raising effort, raising close to \$9,000 U.S. (enough to send its scientific delegation to Taiwan). Members of SAVE's Berkeley Chapter asked friends and family to join and to give money if possible. Many added to the spoonbills' nest egg – some contributors adopted spoonbills and became instant grandparents. Jeff Hou, Sheng-lin Chang, Keelong Hong, and Matthew Smeltzer made successful presentations to Bay Area-based Taiwanese organizations to enlist support. Thank you to our members and donors!

This year's fund raising effort is being kicked off with T-shirt sales. The gray T-shirt is long-sleeved with SAVE written on the back in red lettering. The front features the artwork of Kimmy Chen's aunt, Ching-chih Teng, who drew a beautiful black-faced spoonbill in Chinese brush painting style. T-shirts are available to SAVE members for \$15.00 U.S. in medium, large, and extra-large. To order make out a check to U.C. Regents – SAVE and send it to our UC Berkeley address c/o Randy Hester. Hurry while the supply lasts!

MESSAGE FROM CHI-CHAO THE SPOONBILL

I arrived in Taiwan in October feeling very lonely for my home in North Korea. I soon forgot my homesickness as I discovered the great abundance of fish here in Taiwan. Soon after my arrival I also noticed there were many people coming to see me from Taiwan this year – some of whom I didn't even know were my adopted grandparents! I never felt so much at home in my life. I have been thinking that I might not even migrate northward this year. But I heard there were people in the oil business that were very upset when they discovered that us spoonbills had proclaimed we were going to stay in Taiwan forever. Stay tuned.



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