



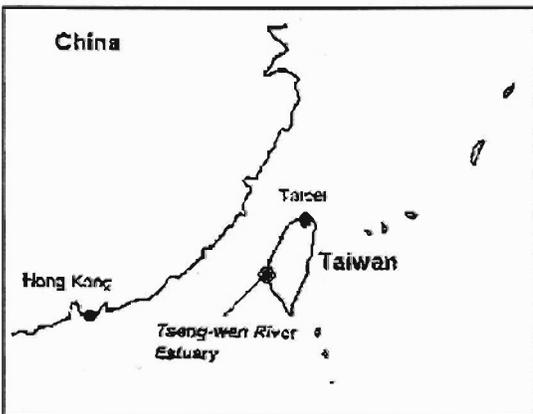
# Spoonbills Speak

*echoes across the Pacific*

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

## **BIN-NAN UPDATE: NO END IN SIGHT FOR EIA**

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Bin-nan industrial complex has been in the final stage of review at the Taiwan Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) since early April. While the decision was expected by July 31, the review process continues without an end in sight.



Due to the scale and wide-ranging environmental issues associated with Bin-nan, the EPA set up preliminary review committees and meetings to address different aspects of the EIA. **This is the first time since the implementation of EIA law in Taiwan that these procedures have been implemented.** Ten issues have been examined since April including: alternative development locations, alternatives to the industrial port, coastal erosion, lagoon ecology, water supply and drainage, impact on Tainan Science Park, CO2 emission and pollution control, fishery compensation, acid rain, and black-faced spoonbill and nature conservation.

At the first hearing on April 7th the alternative locations and port alternatives sections were found by the committee to be unsatisfactory. Subsequent meetings on the remaining issues yielded similar results in part due to SAVE's alternative EIA, which Committee members have been provided. The developers were asked to resubmit these sections with new studies and supplementary materials in lieu of outright project rejection.

According to EIA law the EPA has 60 days to review the project. If necessary the period can be extended for 120 days. While environmental groups argue that by law the final conclusion should have been reached by August 7<sup>th</sup>, the EPA reinterpreted it claiming that the time it takes for the developers to conduct new studies and re-submit will not count. Thus only 60 working days have expired.

According to a report by *The Independence Morning Post*, (July 28<sup>th</sup>) the developers are having extreme difficulties in preparing these studies in such a short time. The Tuntex group is considering a temporary halt to the project to gather the required information. According to SAVE's sources the EIA process is not likely to conclude until the end of 1998. Meanwhile the developers are investigating alternative sites in Mexico, Australia, and Malaysia.

## **1998 CENSUS COUNTS CONFIRM THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT**

A recent report from bird experts Tom Dahmer and Mary Felley has shed more light on the fragile existence of the black-faced spoonbill. In January 1998 a global census report recorded 613 black-faced spoonbills. The count was made from 24 reporting stations located in South Korea, Japan, China, Macau, Taiwan, and Vietnam.



While it could not be determined from this new data if the spoonbills are declining, increasing or remaining stable, the small count indicates that the birds are still at high risk of extinction. A total of 321 birds, roughly half of the world population, were counted last winter at the Tseng-wen Estuary in Taiwan. This is especially critical as this area is not under any type of protection or conservation management and is threatened by development. At this point in time there are only four areas in the world where black-faced spoonbill habitat is under some form of conservation. All four areas are in China and account for only 18% of the census count on the bird.

This new data confirms the importance of developing a conservation strategy for the Tseng-wen Estuary. The reports states that, "The Chi-gu area has proven to be the most important coastal conservation area in all of Taiwan. For this reason alone the Tseng-wen Estuary should be designated a conservation area from which industrial, infrastructural, and residential development is excluded".

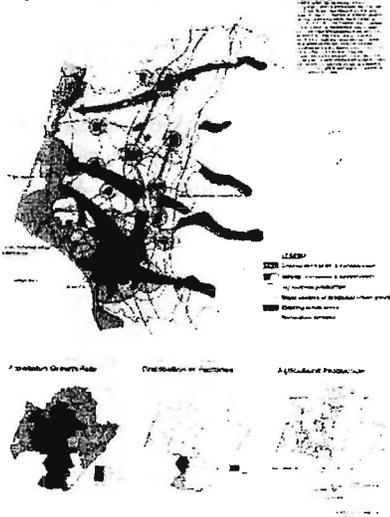
## **SAVE PREPARES PROPOSAL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN TAINAN COASTAL REGION**

Research for an alternative economic development and conservation plan continues. This effort is a joint project between SAVE teams at University of California Berkeley (UCB) and National Taiwan University (NTU) and is being conducted in partnership with corresponding government agencies and citizen groups.

In July the teams prepared a planning and funding proposal, *Integrated Planning for Sustainable Development in Tainan Coastal Region*. The proposal emphasizes the vital connection between quality of life achieved through conservation/alternative development of the coastal region and the success of growing inland high tech industry in the region. Based on related cases in the San Francisco Bay Area and Taiwan's own experience, the proposal recognizes the

### **TRENDS & OPPORTUNITIES** 區域發展趨勢

Regional Development Trend



need for integrated regional environmental planning. Four areas of research and planning are identified in the proposal: urban development, transportation, environmental protection, and eco-tourism.

The research is envisioned as Taiwan's Local Agenda 21 project, aiming to create a

new model of balanced economic growth, environmental conservation, and quality of life. The total budget is \$200,000 US and will span several years. SAVE is currently seeking funding for the project.

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## **SAVE UPDATE**

### ***Earth Island Institute Adopts SAVE International***

Earth Island Institute (EII) recently announced that SAVE International has become one of its projects. EII is an environmental organization which "develops and supports projects that counteract threats to the biological diversity and cultural diversity that sustain the environment". EII's philosophy is that, "through education and activism these projects promote the conservation, preservation, and restoration of the Earth". As an EII project, SAVE is eligible to receive support and assistance in building organizational capacity. SAVE's Coordinating Committee will meet in September to determine which of EII project services are most needed at this point in time. To learn more about the Earth Island Institute and its projects you can visit their website at: [www.earthisland.org](http://www.earthisland.org).

### ***SAVE Receives Largest Donation to Date***

SAVE International would like to give special thanks to the Yen-Chuang Foundation for its recent contribution of \$10,000. This has been our largest donation to date!

### ***Getting the Word Out***

This summer SAVE members have been busy making presentations at conferences around the world. Some of these include the HELP conference (Human Exchange for Local Participatory Planning in the Pacific Rim) held in May 1998 and the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) in Boulder, Colorado held in August 1998.

## **MESSAGE FROM CHI-CHAO THE SPOONBILL**



It's been a really rough summer in North Korea. El Nino bothered us the entire season – my mating dance is really off. I can't wait to get back to Chi-gu. My mom says it's too early to pack but I started putting stuff in my little suitcase anyway. Hope to see you guys again this year...Gotta go!  
Love, Your Friend, Chi-chao.