



Incheon Metropolitan City

Mr. Derek Schubert
President, SAVE International

c/o Earth Island Institute
2150 Allston Way Suite 460, Berkeley, CA 94704

August 19, 2016

Dear President Schubert,

I am Sang-bum Lee, Director General of the Environment and Greenery Bureau of Incheon Metropolitan City, writing on behalf of Mayor to deliver the city's reply to your letter.

Let me begin by appreciating SAVE International's commitment to conserving the Black-faced Spoonbill and other wild birds and wishing your organization's continued advance in its activities.

Your opinions on the project of rebuilding / modernizing the Seunggi sewage treatment plant are well received.

The proposed location in question at Namdong Reservoir is one of the two suggestions from the private sector, and there are two additional proposals resulted from the study commissioned by Incheon Metropolitan City – hence, our city is now reviewing a total number of four possibilities for the location.

Over the last 6 months our city held 11 Citizen Hearings, whose members are comprised of local residents, environment organizations, bird experts and relevant institutions in order to listen to various stakeholders on related issues such as location selection of the plant before making a policy decision.

Through a series of hearings, participants had in-depth discussions on water quality, environmental protection, disaster prevention, economics, constructability and impacts on citizens. What is noteworthy in the consultations is that bird experts and environmental organizations emphasized the importance of wetlands, the Black-faced Spoonbill and other migratory birds, the gist of which is also reiterated by Save International.

More specifically, they said that the Black-faced Spoonbill and many other birds are on the list of Natural Monument, Endangered Wild Species and the IUCN Red List and therefore are monitored and managed. They also referred to many studies home and abroad in order to highlight that conserving those species enables sustainable development and wiser use of nature, thereby enhancing the quality of life of residents.

Incheon Metropolitan City recognized the importance of conserving the Black-faced Spoonbill early on and has put in due attention and effort to protect the migratory bird. For example, our city designated the species as a mascot of the 2014 Incheon Asian Para Games to raise awareness of its protection.

Incheon Metropolitan City takes a multifaceted approach to balance environment protection and economic development. At the international level we hosted the Green Climate Fund to deliver a greener and sustainable urban development; the Secretariat of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership to protect wild birds and their habitats. At the local level, we are making effort to become an eco-city where residents and migratory birds can live in harmony by carrying out plans to establish a research institution on migratory birds and a wildlife rescue center.

Returning to the subject matter of the Seunggi sewage treatment plant, I restate again that our city is reviewing the four proposed locations by taking the conservation of the Black-faced Spoonbill into full and thorough consideration.

Once again I sincerely appreciate your thoughtful opinions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Sang-bum', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lee Sang-bum

Director General
Environment and Greenery Bureau
Incheon Metropolitan City