

# **Waterbird Count Training Workshop**

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Organised by

Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

Supported by

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
Department

## Waterbird Count

- A count focused to record numbers of the waterbirds
- Waterbirds include grebes, egrets and herons, storks and spoonbills, ducks, waders, gulls and terns.

Why do we count them?

- An indicator to the condition of the wetland environment
- How many waterbird present?
- Hong Kong is a member of Ramsar party.

Waterbird Count  $\Leftrightarrow$  Ramsar Site

## Background

- First winter waterbird count in January 1977  
- Asian Waterbird Census
- Extended to all winter months in winter 1992-93
- Subvention from AFCD since 1997 and counts in all months

## Aims

- Long-term Monitoring
- Provide a comparable figure in regular time
  
- Annual trend
- Monthly trend

# Waterbird Monitoring Programme

Three parts:

- 1) Monthly Waterbird Count (all months)
- 2) Shorebird Monitoring (spring and autumn)
- 3) Egretry Count (spring and summer)

## Monthly Waterbird Count

- Take place in 2nd or 3rd week of each month
- Count in day with high tide
- Covers most of the Deep Bay area, divided to 15 areas

## Monthly Waterbird Count

- Different habitats, numbers of birds, topography, accessibility

=> Different counting methods

- Intertidal areas => communicate with mobile
- Fishponds => standard transects
- Cormorants => roost site counting



# Bird Counting Technique

- Equipments
  - Binocular, telescope
  - Calibrate counter
  - Map
  - Notebook/datasheet, recorder
- Standard method

~ Let us practice ! ~