



總監報告 Director's Note

海洋生態 互享共賞 Our Ocean, Our Action

水資源保育議題是本年度年報的焦點所在，我們除了分享保育成果，亦會介紹保育河流、湖泊，特別是急速消失的海洋生物多樣性的方法。與此同時，我們亦同樣重視陸生動物的保育工作，繼續支援受四川5·12大地震破壞的大熊貓保護區重建工作，並資助了小熊貓、羚牛、莽山烙鐵頭蛇及兩種鳥類 - 黑鶻鷗及黑嘴端鳳頭燕鷗等物種的研究。然而，潔淨的水源及健康的海洋，對地球及人類的生活質素始終是至關重要。

眾所周知，水是生命之源，但長久以來卻不斷遭受破壞，只是在最近數十年，人們才真正瞭解現實的情況：淡水資源匱乏，海洋不是無底深潭，再也經不起持續的肆虐。可幸的是，保育海洋及淡水資源的意識亦因而日益提高。人類與水資源關係失衡，污染並改變了海洋生態，亦令不少人口稠密的地區出現缺水危機。

這種情況對地球而言絕非吉兆。很多人以為地球上的氧氣來自熱帶雨林，事實上，至少一半的氧氣是來自海洋裏的浮游植物，這些細少的微生浮游植物，有助吸收加速氣候變化的二氧化碳。

This year, our annual report focuses on the aquatic conservation issues, successes and how each of us can contribute to preserving the rapidly disappearing biodiversity found in our rivers, lakes and oceans, especially our oceans. The Foundation also remains equally committed to our terrestrial conservation issues. The Foundation continues to support efforts to rebuild the panda reserves after the devastating 2008 512-earthquake in Sichuan, fund field studies to understand red pandas, takin, pitvipers and two birds - black shama and Chinese crested terns. However, clean water and healthy oceans are critical to our planet's survival and to our quality of life.

Water has always been respected as vital to life but it is only in recent decades that we've really come to realize that freshwater is limited and our oceans are not bottomless dumping grounds. The oceans cannot take any more abuse. With that understanding, there has been an increasing awareness of the many ways we can make a difference despite mankind's historically negative impact on the world's aquatic environments; both freshwater and saltwater. Our dysfunctional relationship with water has created water shortages for the world's most dense populations, which have polluted and changed the ecology of the oceans.

This does not bode well for Planet Earth. Whilst many believe that the oxygen we breathe is derived from the Rainforests, the truth is that at least 50% of our oxygen actually comes from the phytoplankton in our oceans. The tiny, microscopic planktonic plants also help to absorb the damaging CO₂ that is accelerating the climate change we are all experiencing.



那麼，我們如何締造不一樣的明天？

香港城市大學副教授單錦城一直致力培育馬蹄蟹以增加野外種群數量，今年與保育基金及海洋公園合作，讓學生在學校實驗室裡培育馬蹄蟹，以備在2011年將馬蹄蟹放回野外。同學們從中不但學會了課本以外的生態知識，更瞭解到清潔的海洋對我們的重要性。

鯨鯊身價不菲，除了大型的魚鰭，鯨鯊的鰓、皮及肉均有商業價值，過度捕殺令鯨鯊數量大幅減少。王亞民教授在中國沿海地區從事的研究，透過抽取鯨鯊樣本分析基因數據，令我們進一步瞭解太平洋一帶的鯨鯊種群關係；更引發了「I Love Whale Sharks! Please Protect Them!」運動，呼籲公眾停止食用魚翅。

蠔螈及其他兩棲動物可說是淡水生態系統的哨兵，牠們的皮膚對污染物、含氧量低及污濁的環境尤其敏感，對環境改變起了警示作用。過去三十年來，野外的中國大鯢已減少了80%，幸而繁殖中心成功培育了不少數量的個體。保育基金資助了倫敦動物學會的Samuel Turvey博士舉辦國際工作坊，制定保育中國大鯢生境的行動計劃。由於現時已有數以千計的中國大鯢在人工環境生活，展望不久將來野外中國大鯢的數量可以漸漸恢復。我們亦在浙江省數個細少池塘考察安吉小鯢的情況，同樣地，研究員亦有將人工培育的安吉小鯢放回野外生活，擴大野生種群的數量。

So how are we making a difference?

Professor Paul Shin of City University of Hong Kong is raising horseshoe crabs for release. Through a partnership with Ocean Park and the Foundation, school children are raising the horseshoe crabs in their school laboratories, for ultimate release in 2011 and in the process, learning the ecology and importance of a clean ocean in our lives.

Whale sharks were considered the "million dollar shark" due to their large fins and commercial value for their gills, skin and meat. The pressure from fishing was noticeably reducing their numbers. Through Professor Wang Yamin's research along the Chinese coast, whale shark samples were taken for DNA analysis and nutrient composition. With this knowledge we can better understand the relationship between the various whale shark populations around the Pacific whilst also helping to promote whale shark conservation through the "I Love Whale Sharks! Please Protect Them!" campaign to stop the consumption of shark fin soup.

Salamanders and other amphibians are the sentinels for our freshwater aquatic ecological systems. Their sensitive skin reacts to the pollutants, lack of oxygen and turbidity. Chinese giant salamander wild populations have declined by 80% over the past 30 years but fortunately, aquaculture centres have succeeded to maintain and breed some of these endangered sentinels. The Foundation co-sponsored research scientist Dr. Samuel Turvey of the Zoological Society of London to organise an international workshop for the Chinese giant salamander that would develop action plans to save the salamander's habitat, thus allowing reintroduction to replenish their numbers. With thousands of Chinese giant salamanders under human care, it shouldn't be very long before their numbers recover in the wild habitats. Another salamander under investigation is the Anji salamander found in just several small ponds in Zhejiang Province of China. Here too, aquacultured individuals have been released to bolster the waning wild population numbers.



若然只單純將動物放回野外生活，卻妄顧牠們的生存環境，牠們未必可以存活下去，我們需要清潔的水源，希望民眾改變污染的成習。公眾教育向來在保育研究工作中屬不可或缺的一環，彼此相輔相成，才能達致成果，我們期望將社區轉化成保育社群。保育基金另一項工作，是致力提升保護區員工、保育生物學者及環境教育者的能力。我們透過舉辦工作坊，提升保護區員工及教育工作者的技能，從而提高工作水平。我們亦有透過大學生贊助計劃，為本科生及研究生提供體驗的機會，讓同學感受野外研究的困難，亦期望他們對保育研究有更深的體會，觸動他們投身保育事業。

公眾教育是保育基金的核心工作，可以推動更多人身體力行改善生態環境，建設更美好的將來。請在日常生活中實行「4-R」原則-即減少使用、物盡其用、循環再用及代替使用，並由現在開始計算個人的碳足印及水足跡，採用可持續資源，特別是選擇環保海鮮。我並非倡議停止食用海鮮，但為了維護個人及海洋生態健康，大家應選購來自可持續漁業的或水產養殖場的海鮮，消費者的選擇，足以改變周遭的世界，請作出精明的選擇，齊來改變現狀吧!

Re-introduction of animals into the wild isn't enough. Without community support to clean the water ways and change polluting habits to sustainable actions, reintroduced animals will also fail. For most natural systems, including public education into the conservation research programmes is a critical component to ensure conservation success. Community also means the conservation community. Capacity building for reserve staff, potential conservation biologists and environmental educators is one more way that the Foundation is making a difference. Organising workshops for reserve staff and educators strengthens their skills and continually raises the bar in all that they do. Exposing university undergraduate and graduate students to the Foundation's funded field work helps them understand the challenges facing research scientists but also gives the students an insight into the rewards derived from conservation research and encourages them to pursue a conservation oriented career.

Our public-education campaigns play a central role influencing individuals to take action to improve the situation and help create a better world. Beginning with each of us practicing the "4Rs" on a daily basis, that is Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Replace, now is the time for us to take responsibility for our individual carbon and water footprints by committing to use only sustainable resources, especially sustainable seafood. I'm not advocating that everyone stops eating seafood, but we must take responsibility for the health of the world's marine ecosystems by choosing to eat only seafood from sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Consumers do shape the world around them through their choices. Act wisely and demand change!

明智選擇海鮮 迎接永續的明天 Sustainable Seafood for a Sustainable Future!



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蘇眉 Humphead wrasse



香港紅斑 Hong Kong Grouper



馬蹄蟹 Horseshoe crab

展望未來一年，我們將繼續亞洲水生及陸生動物的研究，新的研究項目包括暹羅鱷、爪哇懶猴、海南長臂猿及靛冠噪鶇。我們更會加大力度將保育工作推廣到社區層面，包括支援社區為本的項目及資助教育工作坊。只有當地社群認識保育議題、參與制訂保育方法並身體力行時，保育工作方可帶來真正而持久的改變。

我衷心感謝在野外工作的研究員、科研委員會成員及各位善長，研究團隊面對著惡劣的環境，仍然努力不懈、科研委員會成員撥出寶貴時間審核研究計劃書，以及各位善長慷慨捐款，讓我們能實踐保育行動。只要各界攜手，我們可以協助維持豐富的生物多樣性，締造不一樣的明天。

謝謝!

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Looking forward, we will continue to support crucial field studies with our aquatic and terrestrial habitats of Asia as our focus. New species include the Siamese crocodile, the Javan slow loris, the Hainan gibbon and the blue-crowned laughing thrush. We will redouble our efforts to promote community-based conservation by supporting community-based projects and sponsoring educational workshops. When communities understand the issues, develop their solutions and carry out the work, then we will have lasting change for a better planet.

None of what we do would be possible without our researchers in the field, our scientific advisors and our generous donors. Thank you for working under difficult conditions, volunteering your time and giving the funds that allow the real conservation work to happen. Working together, we will make a better future and preserve precious biodiversity.

Thank you,

Suzanne Gendron

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