

# A Year to Fight for The Environment and Our Health

## 2021 Annual Report





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## This Year is Full of Hard Work, Growth, Hardship and Happiness

There are some things in 2021 that are noteworthy.  
Because of the pandemic, we are fearful and anxious  
Because of the pandemic, there are a lot disputes in the society,  
During the pandemic, we have to work and study from home in response to the pandemic.  
During the pandemic, we wear masks when leaving the house.  
In order to prevent pandemics, we get vaccinated.  
In order to prevent pandemics, people found that they can actually cook.  
In order to prevent pandemics, people have learned how to teach online and use virtual conference software.  
In order to prevent pandemics, the accustomed in-person gatherings on weekdays has become a luxury.  
In order to prevent pandemics, dining and having coffee with friends at the same table becomes precious.

In the year of 2021, because of our concerted efforts to prevent the pandemic,  
We were able to control the pandemic in a short period of time, so people are slightly relieved and smile again.  
Taiwan's vaccination rate is increasing at a fast pace.  
The international community has seen Taiwan's achievements in pandemic control as well as the high compliance with Covid-19-preventive measures.

However, our efforts on environmental education and protection in 2021 are also worth documented.  
When the pandemic became severe, we conducted nature observations and environmental education with the public on the internet,  
So people can still enjoy the fun of observing nature so as to release the stress even if they have to stay at home.  
We continue to promote energy saving actions, board games and hands-on courses for families to learn together.  
When the pandemic eased, we resumed the restoration work with masks on to protect the habitats.  
You can easily see earnest volunteers working on beaches and river banks.  
Our volunteers continue to record and maintain the designated habitats, parks, and fixed-spot observation sites.

On the coast and the North Cross Highway, volunteers work hard to document the changes in the ecology and environment.  
There is also a group of volunteers striving on promoting the new initiative - algal reef referendum.

This year, despite the stress from the overall environment,  
It seems that more and more people realize that only when the environment is safe, can we live and work in peace and contentment.

This year, keeping everyone safe is the priority  
People seem to start realizing temporary inconvenience will bring greater good for everyone.

This year, we feel blessed after the hard work

This year, we have made a lot of progress on online courses as well as vaccine knowledge,

This year, we have also taken a leap forward in ecological protection,

because the first referendum of environmental protection initiated by NGOs was officially kicked off.



Chairman

*Yueh Mei Liu*





## Introduction of SOW

Society of Wilderness (SOW) was founded on June 25, 1995 with the purpose of conserving Taiwan's natural ecology and environment through education and habitat protection. Headquartered in Taipei, we have eleven chapters across Taiwan, one chapter preparatory office, nine liaison offices, five SOW partners overseas, and more than 20,000 current civilian members who are committed to environmental protection.

### Purpose of SOW

SOW acquires legal guardianship and management rights of waste lands through purchases, leases, commissions or donations, with the intent of protecting habitats and letting Mother Nature repair damaged lands while restoring the vitality within them. By doing so, future generations will have the opportunity to explore the mystery of nature as well as the meaning of life.

### Mission of SOW

- ★ Preserve natural species in Taiwan.
- ★ Allow natural succession in the wilderness.
- ★ Promote ecological conservation.
- ★ Provide opportunities of ecological education for the public.
- ★ Assist the government with water/soil preservation and natural resources protection.
- ★ Develop talent in ecological conservation.

### Committees and Task Forces

- ☆ Interpreter Education Committee
- ☆ Promotion Education Committee
- ☆ Family Education Committee
- ☆ Children's Education Committee
- ☆ Habitat Work Committee
- ☆ Research & Development Committee
- ☆ International Affairs Committee
- ☆ Local Care and Guardian Committee
- ☆ Climate Change Education Committee
- ☆ Green Life Map Development Task Force
- ☆ Special Education Task Force
- ☆ Nature Center Development Task Force
- ☆ Aboriginal Task Force





## Changing is a New Beginning

It takes millions of years for the environment to nurture life, but it can collapse in a blink.

The earth is what we only have. Both a healthy environment and biodiversity are the keystones for human sustainable survival. Before deliberating the values of the environment, we should examine the relationship between human and the environment from an ecological point of view, that is, the ego selfhood, personal self, social self as well as environmental self. The key is to open and free your heart, transform from understanding to comprehending, switch from inertia to innovation mode, then you will figure out the context and find the direction of an environment-friendly journey as long as you are willing to ponder and reflect repeatedly.

The quality of education is a fundamental task for generations to come, and the essence of training relies on empowering and improving people's knowledge and ability. As a volunteer-oriented NPO, we try to inspire people through conscience, truth, affection and learning; we continue to do so with a naive belief, "Nothing is impossible to a willing heart", just like the Classic Chinese fable, Journey to the West, the monk Tang Sanzang moves forward slowly but firmly and steadily, even knowing there are numerous challenges and barriers ahead.

The versatile education programs imitating the diversity of nature is the primary strategy of the Society of Wilderness (hereinafter called "SOW"); habitat protection action is the most fundamental and effective strategy, by means of experiential activities and education to safeguard the environment. SOW has integrated both approaches and developed a

unique and extraordinary volunteer system that has been continuously succeeding, innovating, and evolving.

Initiative advocacy is an approach to fulfill SOW's visions, it is also the guideline of protection actions. Tracing back to 2011, the first half year started with Earth Hour and followed by Earth Day, Biodiversity Day, and Synchronized Habitat Survey, etc., all of the above events are defined as Earth Initiatives; in the second half of 2011, we started with raising public attention to ocean conservation and coastal cleanup activities, and gradually carried out coastal expedition, river education, river waste survey, rapid screening of marine waste, concerns of artificial coastlines, and International Coastal Cleanup Day. These advocacies, which were promoted by environmental education programs, have successfully attracted the attention of all sectors of the society, and generated more than 90,000 attendances to contribute to the environmental sustainability in Taiwan.

The deepen value proposed by SOW many years ago - gathering the collective strength, planting seeds, nourishing the land, and promoting the value of environmental protection, is used to encourage people to look forward, just like the classic quote of the famous fable, The Alchemist, "*when you truly desire to pursue something, the whole universe will work together to help you.*" Last fall, delegates from the PR department of President Chain Store Corporation (hereafter called PCSC) visited SOW and invited us to collaborate on holding environmental protection and education as well as public

interest activities. The campaign is themed "Adding and Subtracting New Life", addressing the sustainability of mountain forests and ecological cities. Thanks to the high-value donations from the public through the PCSC coin donation platform, those projects that were suspended because of capital shortage can be completed as scheduled and expected, the donations are like a good rain after a long drought.

I may not be loved by others, but I love others as myself. Environmental sustainability can't be achieved by chance, the protection action is certainly not a containment of social development, but rather a power to unite the public with full-hearted passion. There are people who still confine themselves to the conventional idea that construction means progress and development equals competitiveness, therefore, they tend to ignore the importance of basic needs. Every change is a new start and the road to environmental

sustainability is full of obstacles. What we are really looking at is the macro view of long-term livelihood rather than dividing the spoil. The responsibility of environmental protection lies on the shoulders of you and me, and no one could get away with it.

Here is a passage from SOW's objectives to resonate the true meaning of environmental sustainability: May we and the future generations explore the mysteries of nature and understand the meaning of life from the deliberately preserved wilderness in Taiwan.





## How to Love Our Land ?

Do we need everything we own? Or simply like to own? How can we love the land and fulfill the needs of living at the same time?

Taiwan is a beautiful island; how can we love her more? How can we get closer to her? How can we protect her more? There are precious natural resources and species in the mountains, wetlands, oceans which we love dearly; when the environment is damaged by human activities, what can we do for her?

What one person can do is little, but all great deeds start from a simple belief!

A group of people in Taiwan devote their life and time into caring for specific species and safeguarding these species' habitats in the gentlest way.

A group of people quietly walked all over the coastlines of Taiwan, cleaning up the beaches, reducing use of plastics, collecting marine debris, minimizing the damage to the land through actions.

A group of people safeguard the habitats, devote love and care to explore the beauty and sorrow of the land, and hope to leave a pristine land for nature.

From one person to 20,000 people, the Society of Wilderness (hereinafter called SOW) is supported by the collective devotion of people who have been sowing seeds, nurturing and educating across Taiwan, hoping one day, all 23 million people can share the common belief.

The above is the content of the SOW's award-winning film of the 4th "Y.L. Lin Taiwan Devotion Award". Announced on December 30, 2020, SOW, which has been established for 25 years and promoted environmental protection awareness throughout Taiwan, won the award with a prize of NT\$30 million. The chairman who received the award said, SOW advocates "accompanying other lives with our life", hoping that such love helps human beings develop a deeper connection with the land and other people, and join in the powerful force to continue the mission of safeguarding Taiwan's ecology.

The great honor belongs to all volunteers and staff who have collaborated and accompanied each other in SOW for the last 25 years. We also welcome more people to join the force to continuously devote ourselves happily and selflessly to protect Taiwan ecology !



## "Environmental Education Feast" Exhibits the Fruitful Achievements of Environmental Education

The Department of Environmental Protection, Taipei City Government held the annual "Environmental Education Feast" award ceremony on August 7, 2021. Through the annual event, the outstanding organizations that have won the Taipei Environmental Education Award will be commended, and their fruitful achievements of environmental education will be displayed.

The Society of Wilderness (hereinafter called SOW) has won the honors of Taipei City's "Excellence Award" and national "Merit Award" in the 5th Environmental Education Award. This time, SOW enrolled again and won the Taipei City Group's excellence award, and represented Taipei City in the competition of the 8th National Environment Education Award. The award-winning achievements of the SOW are mainly: the Taipei headquarter as the hub, collaborating with 12 chapters across Taiwan, training and empowering nature conservation talents, rolling out conservation programs reaching over 10,000 attendance; completing the river waste survey of the Tamsui River in Taipei City area and garbage hotspots map, all the above proves SOW is a leading facilitator of environmental protection.

Since the first day of its establishment, SOW consistently uses a gentle approach to educate the public as it's the most effective way to raise people's awareness of issues of nature and environment, so as to speak up for nature genuinely and eventually participate in the protection actions which aim to save the environment from overexploitation step by step. We strongly believe education is the best way to transform people's mind and behavior, and



eventually exert long term influence. When people come to experience and understand nature, and are moved, consciousness and action can be derived to protect the environment.

As stated in the achievements, SOW fellows have not only completed every environmental education task, but also made use of every opportunity to break through filter bubbles, developed creative and in-depth environmental education modules in order to come out with a Blue Ocean Strategy which was in line with current trends. For example, the "Marine Debris Monitoring Program" (commonly known as coastal cleanup activities) has been extended to the "Coastal Expedition" to attain a comprehensive picture of marine debris coverage. Derived from the same concept, two campaigns - "Expedition in the Rivers" and "Expedition in the Mountains and Forests" were also launched to lead volunteers to explore Taiwan step by step. In the process, Japanese experts were also invited to share their experience and knowledge in the "River Waste Investigation Technology Workshop". In 2020, we were able to conduct the rapid screening survey of the Tamsui River Basin for the first time, and completed the hotspot distribution map.



## Less Disturbance, More Chances of Survival

Since the beginning of 2020, the Coronavirus disease rapidly spread around the world, and turned into a global pandemic in an instant. In order to curb the spread of the pandemic, all countries implemented border control to restrict international trading and traveling, and all of sudden, all exchanging activities were paused. But during the hiatus period, something magical happened. Thanks to the low human activities, all wild lives got a chance to breathe and relieve. In Taiwan, the long-lost whale shark reappeared in Kenting; in Thailand, because the tourism industry was hit badly, the captive elephants were released to return to their habitat; the Venice Canal in Italy, used to be a tourist hotspot, has returned to its pristine appearance; because of the lockdown, the canal became clearer with various fish and jellyfish swimming in it.

SOW's objective is to acquire the stewardship and management rights of wild land through "purchase, long-term lease, trust or donation, to enable nature to self-manage and restore its vitality, allow us and future generations to discover the mysteries of nature and comprehend the meaning of life from the wilderness deliberately conserved in Taiwan." It never comes to us that in the pandemic we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, but when the pandemic is over, will the peace and beauty still sustain ?

Nature ecology is meant to sustain and not flourish only at the expense of the pandemic, or lose its vitality after the pandemic disappears. In response to the pandemic, SOW continues to strive with the spirit of "gentleness and firmness". With gentleness,

it's possible to communicate; with firmness, our efforts can be sustained. SOW volunteers and staff collaborate on the projects of wetland and coastline conservation (such as 52-jia the important wetland conservation and utilization plan, opposing improper photoelectric development on the Taitung Zhiben Wetland...), water environmental protection of rivers, mountains and forests (such as reconstruction of hydrophilic ecological environment at the exit weir of New Taipei City No. 2 Floodway, Hualien Mafo River and Hualien River ecological corridor planning in the upper reaches of the river...), river restoration (such as river management and ecological inspection methods for water environment construction, citizen participation and the establishment of an information disclosure platform, setup of the eco-friendly public participation platform for Soil and Water Conservation Bureau), urban green space, and etc.

The pandemic may be gone In the foreseeable future, and human beings will resume traveling and disturb the ecology again. SOW fellows can only pray that people impose less disturbance and give more space to other creatures who share the land with us.



## Every Right Deed is Noticeable Only When People Start Doing it

Referendum is a way for citizens to express their opinions of policies and it requires a formal process including proposing and collecting a certain number of qualified voters' signatures. It may result in the adoption of a new policy or specific law.

In December 2020, when the referendum to relocate the LNG(Liquefied Natural Gas) receiving terminal from the Tatan Algae Reef was officially passed, up to 350,000 signatures needed to be collected before the referendum could be formally concluded. None of us had experience nor knew how to progress as it's the first ecology-related referendum initiated by the public. So we might as well do the thing we know the best, which is education. On December 17th, the goodwill promotion tour started from the home of algae reef - Taoyuan and then traveled around the island. At the beginning, we encountered some predicaments: 8-9 out of 10 passersby on average never heard of algae reefs, so it's very unlikely to ask them to provide personal information and sign up. Facing a lot of rejection and slow progress, SOW fellows started feeling frustrated, but fueled by the enthusiastic nature, they had adjusted the approaches and become more tacit in skills and teamwork.

The goodwill promotion group has circled the island twice. It was rainy when we returned to Taipei after the first round. We stood in the Longshan Temple square, the unfriendly security guard and indifferent passersby dealt a blow to our confidence. Although I have been through all kinds of challenges and hardships during the tour, I still couldn't help but get emotional. Fortunately, the cordial SOW fellows worked hard in relays throughout the process to keep the morale up.



The goodwill tour may not be of much help to boost the number of signatures, but the two rounds of tour had reached out to more people and demonstrated SOW fellows' persistence and enthusiasm on environmental protection. Lots of people asked us "Aren't you feeling stupid and tired?" No matter how stupid or tired we are, we need to take the first step in order to march forward, because every right deed is noticeable only when people start doing it.

## Safeguard Zhiben Wetland

Year 2021 is critical for the survival of Zhiben Wetland. Aside from continuously conducting ecological surveys and interpretation conducted by SOW's Taitung Chapter, SOW also collaborates with the Kadidibu tribe and other environmental NGOs to appeal to the Regional Planning Committee of the Ministry of the Interior to reject the case of Zhiben Optoelectronics for the reason that the implementation of optoelectronics should pursue co-prosperity with the environment. The campaign includes the following three activities:

### 1. Ring-necked Pheasant Survey in Spring

For the fourth consecutive year, the ring-necked pheasant survey was held during the breeding season, six teams of parent-child groups in Taitung, about sixty participants, were invited to conduct the survey by "seeing





or hearing", and recorded 147 ring-necked pheasants. The results revealed that the species breeds stably in the alluvial fan of the Zhiben wetland.

### 2. Safeguard the Eggs and Chicks

The beach on the north shore of Zhiben estuary is the main breeding area for summer migratory birds such as Little Terns and Swallow Plover, but the breeding season also coincides with the peak season for locals to catch monk goby fry and fish. The fishing activities often cause Little Terns' eggs or chicks killed under the wheels. Therefore, SOW's Zhiben Wetland team launched "Protecting the Eggs and Chicks" initiatives, such as setting up explanatory signs, calling on people and vehicles to follow a fixed route, as well as assembling volunteers to investigate and record the breeding process of Little Terns. However, there were still tragic cases of chicks killed under the wheels.



### 3. Joint Actions Against Zhiben Optoelectronics Case

The Regional Planning Committee of the Ministry of the Interior held a review meeting on the land use change of the Zhiben Optoelectronics case in September and October 2021, and requested the developer to submit supplementary documents to the committee for review. However, due to ongoing disputes over ecological destruction and disrespect for tribes, the Taitung County Government issued a statement on November 24th to terminate the development contract with the Shengli Energy Preparatory Office. Issues such as the termination of the development process are still being clarified.

During the period, SOW together with the Kadidibu Tribe, the Environmental Rights Protection Foundation, the Earth Citizens Foundation and etc., had held several press conferences to appeal that the development of optoelectronics should respect the locality and co-exist with nature.

### 2021 Love the Sea with No Worries

#### ICC Sea-loving Survey

The "Sea-loving Holiday" website tailor-made by SOW publishes statistics on the types of marine debris listed in the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC). A total of 127 batches of coastal cleanup data were collected by 7,260 participants in 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic (level 3 alert from May 15th to July

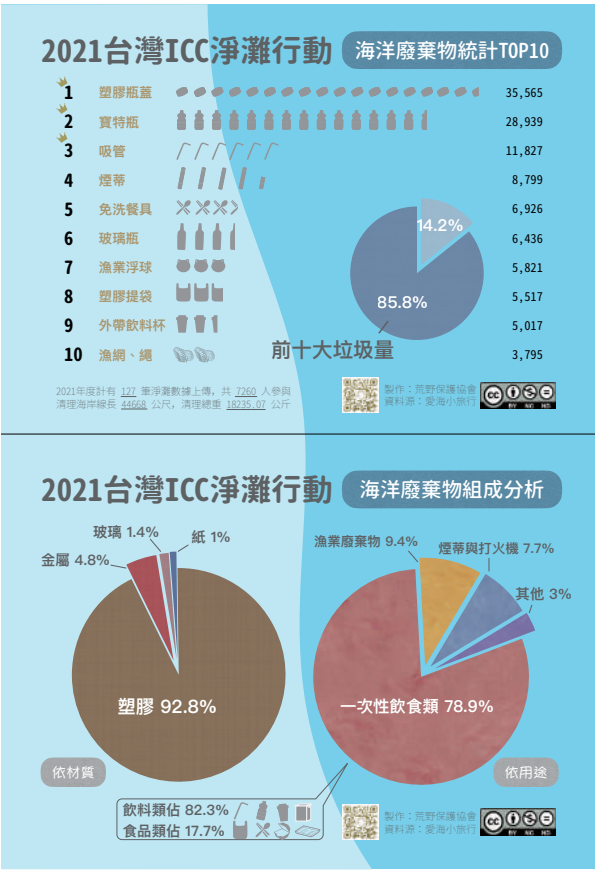
26th in 2021, and continued level 2 alert until the end of the annual statistics), the number of participants and activities were less desirable than previous years. But still, 18,235.1 kilograms of debris have been removed along the 44,668-meter coastline.

According to the updated ICC statistics, the top three categories of debris are: "plastic bottle caps, plastic bottles and straws", and the top ten categories account for 85.8% of the total, similar to the previous year's data. According to the types of materials, 92.9% of debris is made of plastic, and 80% of it is related to food and drink.

#### Who is the Perpetrator?

Aside from publishing the statistics, SOW also continues the "Beach Safety Classification" established in 2020 which defined 5 levels, A to E, based on the average amount (quantity) of hazardous marine debris per 10 meters long of each beach, such as iron and aluminum cans, glass bottles, needles, lighters, fish hooks, etc. The beach has zero hazardous marine debris classified as level A, while those with more than 20 hazardous marine debris found every 10 meters are identified as level E.

Because of Covid-19 pandemic, this year's data is less than that of 2020. The results show that the northeast coast of New Taipei City is the most hazardous area as many coastal sections of the city are at the highest level. Among them, the most polluted coastal section is located in Shimen District, New Taipei City, with 72.9 hazardous marine debris in quantity per 10 meters on average. Other counties and cities such as Keelung, Miaoli, Chiayi, Tainan, and Kaohsiung also locate hazardous D-level beaches. Potentially hazardous items in these areas may put more risk of injury to the visitors. In addition to providing reference for the public, we also hope the efforts of beach safety surveys can convince the public sectors and



the public to pay more attention to the issue of marine waste, so both people and marine lives can eventually live on a beautiful, pristine and safe beach again.

#### Clean Up and Reduce the Waste

In addition to promoting coastal cleanup, SOW also continues to advocate source reduction initiatives. Aside from leading the public and enterprises to clean up beaches and rivers in various chapters, SOW also conducted a rapid-screening survey of debris along Taiwan's coastlines from 2018 to 2019. The results revealed that more than half of Taiwan's waste was concentrated in 10% of the coastline. We plan to continue the survey in 2021 to track the progress by revisiting the marine debris hotspots to see if any improvements have been made, for instance, has the authorities followed up and solved the problems? Reducing the use of single-



use plastic products as well as the amount of marine debris at the source are the goals for SOW and enthusiasts who care about waste issues to work on continuously.

## Protecting the Ocean, Starting from the River

### 2021 Extending the Coverage of River Debris Rapid-Screening Survey to Taichung Wu River Basin

There is an ecologically-rich river, Wu River, running through populated Taichung city, but it's facing pollution and destruction. SOW's Taichung Chapter has been closely monitoring the Fazi River (a tributary of the Wu River Basin) and held at least 80 river cleanup events since 2019. In addition to the cleanup data, we hope to gather more data to get a hold of debris volume in the Wu River as well as the distribution of hotspots. This year, a survey team comprising 24 voluntary citizen scientists from SOW Taichung chapter and Fubon Life Insurance was organized to systematically collect the data. The covered area stretches upstream from the Wu River Basin to the five major tributaries (Fazi River, Dali River, Han River, Toubiankeng River, Caohu River), covering a total of 175 kilometers of the river bank, and 40.5 kilometers of coast on the left and right banks of the Wu River mouth. Based on the results, in the reachable river bank section (165.5 kilometers) in the Wu River Basin,



494,494 liters of waste in a total of 35,321 bags (14 liter-sized), and an average of 213.4 bags of waste per kilometer of the river bank were collected. The top three types of waste on the river bank are plastic bags (including food packaging bags), drink cups/straw/disposable tableware, plastic bottles and cans. The top 3 hotspots are "nearby area of Wuri High Speed Rail Station", "under the bridge of National Highway No. 1 in Dadu District" and "Wu River mouth". In the accessible coastal section (30 kilometers long) of the Wu River mouth, a total of 598,192 liters of waste packed in 42,728 bags were collected, and averagely 1,424.3 bags of waste per kilometer of coastline. The top three types of waste on the coast are plastic bottles and cans, fishing nets and ropes, drink cups/straw/disposable tableware. Disposable waste commonly used by people has become the main bulk of riverbank and coastal waste and we should adopt good living habits and "reduce plastic from the source". Hopefully, the public sectors can make use of the hotspot information and determine to remove the river waste. Let's aggregate the efforts of the government, corporations and the public to stop land debris from entering the ocean.

## SOW Switched Off Lights of the Historic Sites in Earth Hour

This year's Earth Hour event focuses on the historic sites around Taipei's North Gate (Cheng'en Gate), including Taipei Memory Warehouse, Railways Park of National Taiwan Museum, Taipei Post Office and Futai Street Mansion. The surrounding projection lights of the above sites were switched off to echo the event from 20:30 to 21:30 on Mar. 27.

In order to encourage the public to switch off lights and go outdoors, this year, SOW co-organized the "Leave a Little Green for the Earth" campaign with Taipei Memory Warehouse; approximately 800 visitors attended the



event. In the afternoon of Mar. 27, the "Zero x Wild Market" focused on themes of eco-friendly, local cuisines, natural cleaners, and zero-waste placemaking, in conjunction with SOW's environmental education promotion and experience activities to promote environment sustainability. The "Sound for Nature" night concert casting Suming, the Golden Melody Award-winning singer, and Lin Zijun, who is the member of new-generation internet celebrity SALU, conveyed their concern for nature through films and songs. At 8:30 in the evening, the lights of monuments around the North Gate were switched off to celebrate the Earth Hour event.

The flagship activity of Earth Hour is lights-off from 8:30 to 9:30 in that evening, partial areas of Hsinchu, Chiayi, Kaohsiung, and Hualien also echoed to "Lights-off on a street" initiatives, plus some sites participated online, there were about 1,300 locations in Taiwan switched off lights at that night and many of them are large chain companies. It exhibits public awareness and concerns on environmental issues. According to data provided by Taipower, in the hour of lights-off, the electricity consumption decreased about 125,000 kWh, equivalent to the consumption per person for 11 years. (Source:

Energy Bureau of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the average electricity consumption per person in 2010 was 11,255.5 kWh, and the average daily electricity consumption was 31 kWh)

In addition to encouraging the public to turn off lights on the day of Earth Hour, SOW has organized a series of environmental protection activities in the first half of 2021, including 36 sessions of "Turn on your night vision goggles" night observation activities, 11 lectures on climate change and "Agrarian Micro-Revolution" online film festival. It's SOW's first attempt at digital marketing and invited the Internet celebrity TK Story and Lin Zijun of SALU, which has generated 60,000 online viewership. With the theme rap song "You are the one", we hope to reach out to more young people to support the initiatives.

With changes of the times, we have to extend the influence to internet users. Hopefully through diversified approaches, we can reach out to more people to pay attention to environmental issues, be friendly to the environment, and take real actions.

Please scan the QR CODE  
for related images and videos.





# Walk the Talk on Habitat Protection

Habitat protection has always been the guiding principle of SOW. SOW volunteer groups, like nature interpretation, promotion, parent-child education, held various activities to lead the public towards the goal of habitat protection. Unlike other promotional activities, such as interpretive education, habitat protection requires everyone to roll up their sleeves, put on wading clothes, go deep into the work sites, and sweat over habitat maintenance and construction work, this kind of labor-intensive work often scares people away. Fortunately, SOW is supported by enthusiastic volunteers who rejoice in suffering, actively devote themselves to various habitat work, and have achieved admirable results.

Today, the demand for development is increasing all over Taiwan. Whenever there is a conflict between ecology and development, the ecology is usually compromised first. We constantly ask ourselves how to balance between ecology and economic growth? Numerous cases in other countries show that it's actually feasible, not 100% though, but as long as there is intention, the results can be satisfactory to all parties. In 2021, SOW has paid attention to 81 habitats around Taiwan, covering wild streams, wetlands, mountain forests, agricultural land, urban parks and other types of habitat, each of which has its own unique properties and faces different challenges and pressures. To address these issues, SOW's habitat volunteers have carried out protection patrols, survey and collection, micro-habitat adjustment, etc., to safeguard each habitat with actions. Working holiday is another approach to encourage the public and corporations to participate, ranging from relatively relaxing coastal cleanup, removal of invasive species to laborious habitat construction, etc.... Through physical labor work and directly contacting the land with senses, people can understand the beauty of nature and the importance of habitat.

In addition to physical participation, various habitat activities are also ways to convey and promote our message. Therefore, setting up an education center is essential. There are 8 SOW's nature centers currently operating in public or private locations, which essentially provide space for volunteers and the public for carrying out educational projects. At the same time, these centers are also used to store equipment, for people to rest and replenish after performing habitat work.

Controversy between ecological conservation and development projects has continued over the years, escalating the pressure level on many habitats and emerging environmental controversial issues. In view of this, starting from 2021, the Habitat Working Committee added "issue advocacy" in addition to the existing 3 objectives: organization expansion, volunteer empowerment and land protection". In 2021, the Habitat Working Committee participated in the advocacies, "Controversy on the Photoelectric Installation of Zhiben Wetland", "Promoting the Referendum on the Protection of Algal Reefs", "The Deforestation of Secondary Forests in Dalunwei Mountain of Taipei City", etc. By paying close attention to and actively participating in environmental issues, the conservation actions have been expanded from site-based habitat work to a more comprehensive coverage.

Along the way, we can see that public awareness on environmental issues is increasing over the past years. However, the political and social atmosphere nowadays is polarized, and environmental issues are more diverse and complicated. Even so, we still hope that through the promotion of protection actions and active participation of volunteers, we can safeguard the natural environment from human-made destruction, so the precious nature can be passed onto the future generations.

## Habitat Protection Achievements

Project Type	Achievement
Land purchase and protection	• SOW's Land No. 1 - Yilan Dongshan
Adoption and maintenance	• Taipei-Wugu Wetland Ecological Park
Cooperative management	• Taipei Fuyang Natural Ecological Park • Taipei Yongchunpi Wetland Park • Taipei Youth Park
Entrusted management	• Kaohsiung Mt. Guanyin Lotus-pond Wetland • Kaohsiung Tianliao Protected Habitat
Leased land conservation	• Hsinchu Dashanbei Youluo Farm • Yilan 52-jia Wetland • Yilan Shuanglianpi
Leased land conservation	• Kentish Plover Survey in Wazihwei Wetland, Taipei • Mortonagrion Hirosei Ashahina monitoring in the surrounding wetlands of Shezi Island, Taipei • Carnivorous plant Habitat Conservation Monitoring and Maintenance in Hsinchu Zhubei Lotus Temple Wetland • Hsinchu Sustainable Biodiversity Promotion • Chiayi Invasive Species Management and Biodiversity Promotion • Yilan Shuanglianpi Nature Reserve Restoration • 52-jiar Wetland Waterbird-Friendly Habitat Construction • Coastal Walking Expedition Project and SOW Walking Expedition Promotion Project • Wu River debris rapid-screening survey, Taichung • Survey and maintenance of carnivorous plant habitat in Hualien area • Wetland ecology protection in Danshui River basin, Taipei • Wugu Wetland Ecological Survey and Environmental Education • The best venue to practice Satoyama Village and environmental education - Shuanglianpi Environmental Education Classroom • Shuanglianpi wetland terrestrial ecological Survey, wetland environmental education and community participation • Ecological Park - Fuyang Natural Ecological Park
Protection Actions and Others	• City Nature Challenge • Simultaneous Bird Survey in Danshui River Basin, Taipei • Hsinchu Dashanbei Sauter's Brown Frog Crossing the Road Conservation • Spartina alterniflora removal promotional activities in Taichung Gaomei Wetland • Invasive species prevention and education, Taichung City • Fazi River protection • Protect Zhangixalus arvalis (Farmland tree frog) • Protect Taitung Zhiben Wetland • Danshui River protection - removal of Spartina alterniflora • Water birds protective fence construction in the north pier of Taipei Harbor • Holding coastal cleanup activities to avoid water bird breeding season • Crab protection in Danshui River • Wugu water bird beach protection





### Persistence on Habitat Protection

In the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SOW, the number of habitats monitored in Taiwan has increased to 79, and various habitat protection projects are still continuing. The numerous efforts have been made, including conserving rare insects and plants (*Mortonagrion hirosei* and rare aquatic plants); conserving insectivorous plants in Hsinchu and Hualien as well as the protection of migratory animals during breeding season (such as the Kentish plover, land crab in the Danshui River, and the Sauter's brown frog in the Dashanbei area in Hsinchu); and other habitat restoration projects have been carried out at Shuanglianpi, Wugu Wetland, Fuyang Natural Ecological Park. Two new nature centers were set up this year, Tainan Shuiyun Ecological Education Center and Taipei Zhoumei Environmental Education Base.

SOW's habitat ecology survey has accumulated over 150,000 observation records this year, thanks to all the participants for their contribution. It has been 3 years since SOW's No. 1 land in Dongshan Mountain, Yilan was acquired. A total of 972 species were recorded, and the infrared camera finally caught the image of a pangolin this year. So far, a total of 8 rare and valuable species and 5 other conservation-deserving species have been recorded. SOW will continue to monitor and hope to preserve more habitats for all lives to thrive together.

### Conservation Leasing and Friendly Farming: the Protection of the 52-Jia Wetland

52-Jia Wetland is an important national wetland located in Yilan County which has a natural paddy field environment and rich wetland ecology. It spans three townships: Wujie, Dongshan and Suao, a total of 298 hectares in area. Every winter, migratory birds fly from far north, even Siberia, to seek food here, including black-faced spoonbill (Class I), the Class II protected species like ospreys, black-winged kites, peregrine falcons, water pheasants, and etc. A total of 228 bird species and 9 out of them are conservation birds rest in the 52-jia Wetland, among which nearly 3,000 black-winged stilts stop here to feed each year. This is an important wintering area for migratory birds as well as an international bird watching hotspot. However, 91% of 52-Jia Wetland area is privately owned, and conventional agricultural farming still puts people at odds with birds and the environment. It is often seen birds are poisoned by pesticides during the spring plowing period.

SOW safeguards the 52-Jia Wetland ecology by means of "friendly contracting farming" and "environmental education". This year, we have held 27 events on the friendly-farming rice field with an area of 5,820 square meters, including 1 public speech, 3 working holidays and 7 nature experiences events, with a total of 278 attendances. We also conducted 2 advanced training sessions with 15 volunteers; 1 volunteer basic training session with 22 participants; 13 fixed-spot surveys with a total of 40 participants.



### Purchasing Lands to Protect: The Achievements for SOW No. 1 Land in the 3rd Year

It's the third year since SOW No. 1 land was acquired and we have been following the objectives, "conducting ongoing surveys, holding environmental education activities and improving the procedures of land purchase and management", so as to allow nature to manage itself with minimal human interference. The 3-year survey results prove that SOW No. 1 land is home to many precious species in the low elevation mountains.

The survey incorporates the use of infrared cameras to supplement the manual investigations then uploaded the observation records to the iNaturalist platform, and new discoveries are made from time to time. So far, a total of 5,966 records have been collected by 58 participants, covering 972 species (636 of them are identified), including 508 insect species, 250 plant species and 86 arachnid species. Thanks to the fellows for their hard work.

The newly recorded protected species this year include Taiwan Partridge, Chinese Sparrow hawk, maroon oriole and Taiwan Blue Magpie. It is gratifying that the infrared camera has finally captured the image of a pangolin. In the past three years, we have recorded a total of 8 species of birds and 5 species of mammals, which are listed in the protected category. There is another finding suggested by experts is a new species of Staphylinidae in Taiwan, but it has only been photographed once, more information is needed to verify. We believe that SOW No. 1 land provides a healthy habitat for wildlife to reproduce for generations. So, hopefully there will be more places like this anytime soon, for example, SOW No. 2 land.

### Habitat Construction: Wugu Wetland Construction for Waterbirds

Wugu Wetland is one of the important wetlands in northern Taiwan for waterbirds to spend their winters. However, suitable habitats around Tamsui River for wading birds to rest and forage have been decreasing, these visitors from afar are facing a predicament. In order to tackle the problem, SOW and New Taipei City High Riverbank Construction Management Office have constructed new habitats for waterbirds in Wugu Wetland since 2017.

In 2019, due to the severe water shortage, the beach became dry land, so we called off the maintenance work and alternatively worked on the beach area adjacent to the eco pool. However, lacking the help of large-scale machinery and equipment, we can only manually clean the area covered with plants and barely provide a half of the beach area for water birds to use. Furthermore, the work was discontinued for more than 3 months because of the pandemic, without the help of volunteers, the reeds and salt grass continued to expand in the summer in which the plants grew vigorously.

Thanks to the assistance of the High Riverbank Construction Management Office for excavating the plants with machines and power





tools before winter came, we could get it ready before the arrival of water birds for wintering. When the machine excavated the plants and exposed the soil, Common Sandpipers and Little Ringed Plovers soon showed up, which indicates these wading birds have an urgent need for livable habitats. It is hoped that there will be more habitats for water birds to use in Taiwan.

### Species Conservation: Frog Protection in Hsinchu

In recent years, the disturbances such as opening of new roads, the development in mountain and forest areas, as well as construction of ditches and stream embankments, have had a severe impact on the reproduction of Sauter's Brown Frog. In October 2008, the frog survey team of SOW Hsinchu chapter found a large number of frog bodies, including many female frogs with eggs found dead on the industrial road in Dashanbei. Therefore, SOW Hsinchu Chapter set up a frog protection team in the same year and has been training frog protection team leaders since 2014 to call on volunteers, corporations, and schools to safeguard frogs cross the roads.

Over the past 13 years, the frog protection campaign initiated by volunteers has generated nearly 10,000 attendances and assisted 16,728 Sauter's Brown Frogs crossing the road. Through the event, the public learns more about the environmental issues and to

respect wildlife. A total of 18 frog species have been recorded in this area, including the rare *Pelophylax plancyi* and Taipei Tree Frog, these results demonstrate the importance of protecting the environment in the area.

In addition to helping frogs crossing the roads, SOW has also strived for environmental maintenance in recent years, such as regularly inviting corporates and the public to participate in working holidays to do works such as manual weeding, environmental cleaning, artificial stone laying, egg mass survey, night observation and frog survey etc. Aside from raising public awareness and care about the protection and maintenance of the environment, these activities can also attract more people from different backgrounds to join us.

### Species Conservation: Wetland Insectivorous Plants

Lotus Temple Wetland is the area with the most species of insectivorous plants in western Taiwan, including *Drosera spathulata*, *Drosera burmannii*, *Drosera indica* L. and *Utricularia caerulea*. The wetland is known as "the only stable living space for *Drosera indica* L." in Taiwan, and also home to rare wetland plants such as Formosana Yelloweyegrass and Drooping Fimbristylis.

Since the restoration work began more than 20 years ago, the habitat size of insectivorous plants has been shrinking, and several incidents of large landslides have escalated the habitat degradation. The drought in the first half of 2021 has prompted the growth of drought-tolerant grassy weeds and *Mikania micrantha*. This year, the survival of *Drosera indica* L. is threatened by the surrounding plants, the leaves grow thin and slender and only a few seeds are produced. Other priority protected plants also decreased sharply.

It's a long battle for SOW volunteers against water shortage and invasive alien plants. In summer, the volunteers risk summer heat stroke while trying to weed, but their efforts can't keep up with the growing speed of the weed. Aside from natural terrestrialization, the toughest challenge is that the original habitat is too cramped and lacks surface water, so the insectivorous plants can't disseminate the seeds by water to other areas and can only be replenished and sowed by volunteers in winter time. The volunteers have been striving persistently against such a harsh environment, and set up the longest history of Taiwan NGOs' habitat conservation which demonstrates our continuous dedication to the environment.

### Species Conservation: *Mortonagrion hirosei*

After the discovery of *Mortonagrion hirosei* in the Wugu Wetland in 2005, it's been 16 years since SOW started the conservation work. In addition to the routine work such as regular survey, conservation pool management and habitat maintenance, this year, an intern student of National Taiwan University intern from Y. L. Lin Hung Tai Education Foundation joined in the project and shared his own expertise, the satellite telemetry technology, to help locate the potential habitats of *Mortonagrion hirosei* which laid a solid foundation for the nationwide surveys in the future. We also cooperated with Professor Huang, Guowen, from the Institute of Hydraulic Engineering of National Taiwan University, to set up water level gauges in the Huanggang River Estuary Wetland, Shezi Island Wetland and Wugu Wetland to obtain climate and water level data to analyze the preference of *Mortonagrion hirosei* on the environment and provide accurate information for the species restoration and habitat construction.

The Zhoumei Environmental Education Base, established in cooperation with the Taipei Municipal Water Resources Department, was officially opened in March this year. So far, a total of 6 working holidays, 4 ecological tours and 2 promotion programs were held, with more than 700 attendances. In the river cleanup activities, a total of 105 bags (sized 100L) of garbage and invasive species have been removed.

In addition to ecological surveys and environmental education, we have also invested in staffing who will focus mainly on connecting and educating the local communities. It is hoped that more people will join in the force to protect the *Mortonagrion hirosei*.

### Species Conservation: Protective Fence Construction for Water Birds in the North Pier of Taipei Harbor

SOW has been promoting coastal cleanup and source waste reduction initiatives since 2005, in order to build an eco-friendlier environment for all wildlife. We started collaborating with the New Taipei City Government in 2014 to advocate "No beach cleaning during nesting season". Monitoring data in the past years show the stable growth of water bird nests (Kentish plover) during breeding season which proves the advocacy seems effective, but in fact we still see a lot of human disturbances (such as four-wheel drive vehicles and wild dogs) occurred on the beaches which pose a hazardous threat to these birds.







After a few runs of communication and field trips in 2021, SOW finally obtained the consent of the Ministry of the Interior Construction Administration, with the support of the National Army to build protective fences on the beach in order to effectively reduce human-made disturbance. SOW collaborated with the International Institute of Water Conservancy and Environment (IIWE) and Micang Elementary School for the first time to build a temporary "protective fence" on the north pier. The teachers and students of Micang Elementary School worked together to manually erect the fence and attach hand-written banners on the fence to advise the public not to drive into the beach during the breeding season so as not to accidentally run over young chicks or eggs.

In the future, SOW will continue to lobby the public sectors to set up "temporary water bird sanctuary during brooding season" and build protective fences to reduce human disturbance allowing bird parents to brood their chicks safely.

## Species Conservation: Firefly Microhabitat Construction in Ecoparks

Taipei Fuyang Park started to build microhabitats for frogs and fireflies in 2018. Through friendly habitat management, it's hoped to reduce human disturbance and build healthy habitats for native species to thrive and maintain the rich biodiversity.

Fireflies are one of the indicators of environmental quality. In recent years, only two types of terrestrial fireflies - *Luciola kagiana* and *Luciola filiformis* have been found in Fuyang Park, while aquatic fireflies are still absent. Before constructing a habitat for fireflies, volunteers need to study the life cycle of fireflies. At first, in terms of environment, it requires a pool or an intermittent temporary water area and loose soil. The second element is food, withered branches and leaves can nurture a large number of snails and shellfish to provide food for firefly larvae. Thirdly, during the mating season, people are advised not to use flashlights to reduce light pollution so that fireflies can reproduce successfully. Through ecological monitoring, we have found a large number of snails which are the food of aquatic firefly larvae, in the three sampling sites, which indicates it's highly feasible to restore aquatic fireflies in Fuyang Park.



## Species Conservation: Crab Protection Action in Danshui River

There are many land crabs inhabiting the freshwater estuary area in Taiwan, and summer is the peak season of breeding and migration. During the journey of foraging and releasing larvae, they often mistakenly cross roads and get killed by wheels. In order to safeguard land crabs to mate and reproduce safely, as well as to increase awareness of road killing issues and promote citizen science, SOW initiated the "Danshui River Estuary Land Crab Protection Action" since 2020 and invited the public, experts and scholars to participate. A total of 18 crab protection events were held from July to September 2021. On the night of spring tide, the crab protection team walked along the banks of Danshui, Bali and Guandu and recorded a total of 543 land crabs, 72 of them were road-killed, the probability is as high as 13.6%, many egg-bearing female crabs and thousands of baby crabs that were not born in time unfortunately perished. In the future, we aim to cooperate with experts and the public sectors to build a land crab ecological corridor, and also promote land crab-related issues through speeches, hoping more and more people will jointly protect the valuable land crab ecology.



## Habitat Survey: City Nature Challenge

There are 44 countries and 419 cities/regions around the world participating in the 2021 City Nature Challenge and SOW continues to take charge of the preparations for Taiwan and expands the scope to 16 counties and 8 regions. During the 4-day event, the total number of observations reached 51,550, a total of 4,547 species were recorded by 1,274 participants. Although there is no competition this year due to the pandemic, the Taiwan team still sets outstanding achievements, such as The Northern Taiwan Division ranks 10th in the world in the number of total observations and 9th in the total number of recorded species. As for individual participation, two SOW fellows rank second in the global personal records, namely "Tony2148" with 4,184 total observations and "Ku6777" with 816 recorded species count. In addition, the Formosan giant flying squirrel recorded by "bobohog" in Tainan was selected as one of the most special observation records in the world.

This year, on the iNaturalist platform, the number of observations in Taiwan exceeded 1 million, and SOW's habitat survey project, which aims to record the habitats cared by SOW, also accumulated over 150,000 observations. Thanks to all SOW volunteers and citizen scientists who have retained the valuable data for Taiwan. The 2022 City Nature Challenge will be held from 4/29 to 5/2 and we sincerely invite everyone to go out and witness the rich biodiversity of Taiwan with us.







# "SOW Nature Center" Persisting with the Initial Intention and Safeguarding Whole-heartedly

In order to make it easy for the public to "get close to nature and understand nature", SOW provides ecological guided tours and nature experience activities in many "intangible" nature education centers (ie, fixed-spot interpretation) in each chapter. The site chosen for a nature center is either located in ecologically sensitive areas that need protection or in reusable idle spaces. After formulating a proposal, we will approach and get corporations' support to set up a nature center to safeguard locally and carry out conservation activities.

In recent years, we started contracting with public sectors for the rights to operate a "physical" nature education center and adopt environmental education that is more familiar to the public to promote our visions and inspire more people to care about the environment, meanwhile, we also provide suggestions to the authorities on how to improve the operations.

Looking back on the operation of the Nature Center in 2021, there were some expansions but also some stagnation due to policy adjustments. Furthermore, many activities were suspended because of COVID-19 pandemic. But we have adjusted our approaches, actively communicated and coordinated with various parties, so that our initial intention of environmental education promotion and protection can be continued.



## Features and Project Type of SOW Nature Centers in 2021

Nature Center	Features and Project Type
Wanli Wetland Education Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Taiwan rare Aquatic plant provenance shelter</li><li>• Promote wetland ecological protection</li><li>• Wetland construction and protection actions</li><li>• Habitat protection volunteer training</li></ul>
Wugu Ecological Wetland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The largest ecological wetland in New Taipei City</li><li>• Constructing the biological Noah's Ark in Northern Taiwan</li><li>• Outdoor environmental education (interpretation, surveys, working holidays)</li></ul>
Taipei Mangrove Ecological Education Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The largest mangrove nature reserve in Northern Taiwan</li><li>• Promote ecological conservation of wetland and mangrove</li><li>• Citizen scientist monitoring and surveys</li><li>• Promote crab protection in Tamsui River estuary</li><li>• Promote ecological Tamsui River</li></ul>
Zhoumei Environmental Education Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The front-line safeguard base of Mortonagrimon Hirosei</li><li>• Promoting education programs about river ecology</li><li>• Promote ecological Tamsui River</li></ul>
Hsinchu Yorotian Friendly Farming Base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote friendly farming</li><li>• Friendly farming training venues</li><li>• Promote "farm-to-table" education</li><li>• Advocate banning the use of herbicides</li></ul>
Shuiyun Ecological Education Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental education and fundamental training base</li><li>• Enrich human and river geological structure evolution venues</li><li>• Promote community agro-ecological maps</li><li>• Shallow mountain ecology and environment survey</li><li>• Demonstrate the prototype of citizen power plant</li></ul>
Namaxia Utung Nature Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A quality venue for nature experience</li><li>• DIY house building project</li><li>• Life education programs</li></ul>
Shuanglianpi Ecological Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protect the national important wetlands (Shuanglianpi)</li><li>• Wetland conservation school</li><li>• Environmental education venue</li><li>• Promote friendly farming</li><li>• Farming therapy and farm-to-table education</li></ul>



## Wanli Wetland Education Center

The center has been holding activities of protection, restoration and education for native aquatic plants for a long time. Affected by the pandemic this year, many activities were forced to stop, and only the minimal manpower was kept for the complex maintenance work.

However, during the standstill period, we have the opportunity to slow down, and ponder over the future direction and planning for the Wanli Wetland Education Center.

In order to make teaching and maintenance work easier, firstly, we re-paved the trails around the sheltered pool and built new trails; the hedge and shrubs were trimmed to provide a broader view for interpretation. We also took advantage of the lockdown period to renovate the toilet and added a new toilet and a shower room, so that the volunteers who come to assist in the future can clean themselves after work. We have preempted and made full preparations for the post-pandemic era, hoping more people will participate in wetland protection in the future, so that Taiwan's wetlands can thrive for a longer time.

## Wugu Ecological Wetland

SOW safeguards the Wugu wetland through ecological surveys, habitat conservation work, environmental education, patrol and reporting of illegal incidents. With the support of "New Taipei City High Riverbank Construction Management Office" and "MSI Technology", the software and hardware of the park have been maintained and upgraded.

Ecological surveys: the monthly surveys of birds and plants continued during the pandemic. In 2020, SOW started collaborating with TIIWE (Taiwan International Institute for Water Education), and added insects (Lepidoptera and Odonata), amphibians and reptiles in the surveys, so we can learn more about insect species and seasonal changes in the wetland.

Habitat work: Despite a serious shortage of manpower caused by the pandemic, we were grateful to get the support from the High Riverbank Construction Management Office to provide machinery and tools to remove the common water hyacinth in the southern pool, only reserved a small group of the plant to purify the water. Another invasive plant - Mikania micrantha has spread quickly due to shortage of manpower, but we managed to remove it before flowering when the pandemic has slowed down. However, the maintenance work for water bird beach had also stopped due to lack of manpower. Fortunately, with the machinery and tools provided by the High Riverbank Construction Management Office, we were able to restore the beach and get it ready before the water birds came to spend the winter.

Environmental education: Affected by the pandemic, many guided tours were forced to cancel, including the "Swallow watching in Summer" event, a video film was played instead, leading the public to enjoy the spectacular scene of flying swallows through the lens.

## Taipei Mangrove Ecological Education Center

Since 2019, SOW has contracted Luodong Forest District Office of the Forestry Bureau to operate the "Mangrove Ecological Education Center", with an average of 25,000 visitors per year, hosting 150 environmental education

activities, with more than 5,000 participants.

However, the contract expired in April, and the Luodong Forest District Office tended to operate by leasing, so the venue was no longer open to the public. However, adhering to the visions of environmental education and habitat protection, SOW continues to monitor the ecology of the "Tamsui River Mangrove Wetland" and its surrounding water areas, which are subordinate to the "Tamsui River National Important Wetland"

This year, with the fund from the public welfare platform of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and sponsorship from schools and Compal Computer, SOW was able to continue the work of investigation and environmental education in the lower reaches of the Tamsui River, including river cleaning, nature guided tours, mangrove dyeing, as well as other activities such as Wetland Monopoly and online picture books DIY, hopefully to influence more people to care for environmental issues in the Tamsui River basin and jointly safeguard the "Mother River" in the Greater Taipei area.

## Zhoumei Environmental Education Center

The Zhoumei Environmental Education Center is located on Keelung River in Zhoumei Plain and facing Shezi Island. In the early days, the old channel of Shuangxi River was discontinued when it was cut off for the use of local irrigation, the old channel was preserved and is now called Wufengang River.

The natural soil embankment is still reserved on both sides of the Wufengang River so that the trees can grow vigorously and the native tree species such as small-leaved Barringtonia, tallow tree, China tree, and Pongam tree can be conserved. This natural landscape has become an important habitat for urban wildlife as well as a rare and precious asset in Taipei City.

However, due to economic and development needs, it may no longer exist in the future.

To address this issue, the Taipei Municipal Water Resources Department and SOW jointly promote habitat conservation and environmental education in the estuary wetland of Huanggang River, Wufengang River and surrounding river basins. The long-term conservation efforts of Mortonagrion Hirosei which was listed as a near-threatened species in the IUCN Conservation Red Book have paid off. SOW persistently restored the experimental pond, removed invasive species and cleaned up the river bank waste. Through these actions and efforts of education, it is hoped to enhance the local community's awareness of conservation, so as to help Mortonagrion Hirosei to co-exist and thrive with humans. In the future, environmental education programs and activities will be held from time to time, hopefully inspire more people to participate in the conservation actions and pay attention to riverbank wetlands.

## Hsinchu Yorotian Friendly Farming Base

In the first half of 2021, due to drought and COVID-19 pandemic, the scheduled activities were suspended or postponed. However, the farming work can't be stopped as the crops need to be taken care of. Therefore, abiding by the regulations of the pandemic center of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, our volunteers took turns to work hard on the farm, and helped the farm to survive through the hard time.

At the beginning of September, the pandemic slightly subsided, and people gradually returned to normal routines. The Rural Classroom began operation on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 28 families returned to the fields with their children to take care of their crops. The 14<sup>th</sup> Vegetable Planting Class closely followed and kicked off on September





13<sup>th</sup>. These new forces joined the existing volunteers who participated in the removal of *Mikania micrantha* and river cleanup, boosting our morale and bringing a new vibe to Youluotian.

The nature DIY activities originally scheduled for four sessions were also held as planned, such as making solitary bee hotels, candied Roselle, plant dyeing, etc. With the enthusiastic public participation, the activities received constant praise.

Although the pandemic has disrupted our plans, we still uphold the original intention and work hard to safeguard nature. We also hope that more people will join us to march towards the common goal - making tomorrow better !

### Shuiyun Ecological Education Center

Shuiyun Ecological Education Center, formerly known as "Shuiyun Elementary School", is located between Niu Mountain and Guichong River in Dongshan Township. With stunning scenery and nostalgic vibes, the place is a hidden gem among the surrounding mountains.

SOW's southern parent-child group officially adopted the venue in Mar. 2021, they have been working hard to tidy up the environment and school buildings, and will continue various maintenance, including removing fallen leaves, weeding, tree pruning, repairing firefighting equipment, water and electricity maintenance, etc., it is expected to create a proper environmental education venue for us to share more stories of wildlife.

As for community connection, during the longan harvest season, with the assistance of the local community development association, we were able to witness the process of roasting dried longan for several times, as well as learn the history of the once-prosperous "Nui Mountain Oilfield ". We have also discovered the evolutionary traces of the rivers. All the rich

natural ecology is only a few miles away from the site.

Shuiyun Elementary School was once a shiny gem amidst the torrent of history. It is hoped that all the volunteer groups of SOW introduce versatile activities and programs in the future to give new life and transform it into a natural education venue to benefit all lives.

### Namaxia Utung Nature Classroom

Plum blossoms bloom, Tung flowers fall, fireflies flutter and new leaves sprout, the rhythm of changing seasons demonstrates the rich ecology of Utong Nature Classroom.

In order to provide an authentic experience of nature for children - sleeping with fireflies, the "Utong Nature Classroom House Building Project" was kicked off in 2008, this vast and interesting project has entered its 13<sup>th</sup> year. After being hit by numerous typhoons (including Typhoon Morakot), the main structure, interior and exterior walls and floor primers have been completed one after another.

The classroom has been cooperating with Namaxia Junior High School for 7 years to host the "Life Education Program". Led by the aboriginal elders, the students are able to know more about their own environment and experience the natural way of life. The construction project was affected by the pandemic this year, but we still moved forward at a steady pace. We started the construction of the lower half of the interior wall, and look forward to the results next year. Persistence is our belief, and it might have become an obsession because of our passion for nature.

When the nature classroom is complete, it is also a starting point to open up the opportunities for people to get close to nature and learn from it, thereby protecting nature and the wilderness.

### Shuanglianpi Ecological Classroom

The "Shuanglianpi Ecological Classroom", aiming to operate as a "wetland conservation school", has been calling on the public to protect the important national wetland - Shuanglianpi for many years.

Habitat Restoration: Providing a home for native species to thrive and survive from climate change and the subsequent risks is the priority task at present. When we found that the wild population of endangered plants in the lake area has been severely reduced, setting up a restoration sanctuary area enabled us to safeguard the plant provenance and to make up for the loss of the wild population.

Environmental Education: The objective is to inspire children of Yilan to care for their hometown and environment by passing on the spirit of the "Forest School " in Shuanglianpi. This year, because of the pandemic, the number of sessions decreased, and the routine "Underprivileged children Camp" had also been called off. However, the cooperation with the Taiwan Family and Child Fund (TFCF) was able to give these children a rare and beautiful experience to explore the area.

Friendly farming promotion: Continue to support contract farming and experimental fields, cooperate with local farmers to set up friendly farming fields. Although the harvest has been reduced due to unstable weather and preyed by wild animals, fortunately there are still some winter crops that can be donated to local disadvantaged students and communities. In addition, through the "farm-to-table courses", we can share the harvest and stories, and pass on the genuine passion of farmers to the consumers, so that everyone can enjoy the love of land.



### Xiaoyeliu Nature Classroom

In 2020, SOW deployed teams of specialists in the "Xiaoyeliu Nature Classroom" and "Chenggong Marine Environment Classroom". This year, we only stationed in the "Xiaoyeliu Nature Classroom" because the project was divided into different bids.

There are currently five course modules, including 4 existing ones, "The sculptor of the earth", "The little guardian - hermit crab", "Exploring Xiaoyeliu at night", "Little soldier of beach cleanup", and a new one, "Self-Guided Experience (tentative name)".

In response to the pandemic and needs of promotion, the specialists started to optimize the existing two courses, transforming "Sculptor of the Earth" and "The little guardian - hermit crab" into "online courses" to cope with the impact of the pandemic and increase the diversity of courses.

Statistics show that from January to October this year, a total of 264 events were held, with about 2,403 attendances. In the future, we hope to incorporate the resources of the Geopark to extend the coverage to more communities in the area, continuously review and improve the education material, and eventually set up an independent operation model to achieve sustainable management and optimize the effectiveness of promotion.





# Environmental Education, Not Just Keeping Race with the Times But Also Ahead of the Times

In 2015, the United Nations disclosed the "2030 Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs), which guide the world to achieve sustainability together. In response to the changes in the domestic and global environment, on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Executive Yuan approved the "National Environmental Protection Plan" aligned with the United Nations Agenda 2030 "Sustainable Development Agenda" and referenced the development trends as well as key issues of environmental protection at home and abroad. The plan includes long-term strategies and goals. By 2030, Taiwan aims to achieve the goals, respectively, "reducing carbon emission and disasters", "breathing freely", "clean water", "garbage upcycling", "zero loss of forests" and "coexistence with nature".

Coincidentally, in 2017, SOW initialized "sustainable mountain forests, ecological cities, and plastic-free oceans" as the core advocacies, starting with caring for the city, to the surrounding natural ecology and environment, and then safeguarding our homeland and Taiwan's natural habitats:

**1. Focus on Both Quality and Quantity: Improving the Quantity and Quality of Environmental Education Programs.**

SOW has been carrying out agrarian micro-revolution speeches and film exhibitions, ecological surveys of rivers and streams and protection, eco-park initiatives, introduction of Earthkeepers™ teaching modules and immersive experience education, etc., all the above actions are developed and optimized based on the existing framework, but deeper

and more holistic, so as to upgrade the quantity and quality of our environmental education programs.

**2. Keeping Pace with the Times: Breaking Through Filter Bubbles and Exerting Influence**

In response to the changes of the times, SOW actively develops and makes good use of new online media, such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Podcast and other self-media, through active management, we are able to break through one filter bubble at a time; SOW was invited by the Research and Conservation Center to co-curate "Noah's Ark - East Malaysia Borneo Tropical Rainforest Exhibition" opened on October 31, 2021. This special exhibition allows visitors to experience the beauty of the rainforest, its predicament and vitality of life, to care for the environment and to be moved by this mysterious and beautiful forest 2,000 kilometers away, and eventually join in safeguarding the rainforest.

Understanding is the first step to care for a piece of land, thus, ecological survey is the foundation to protect it. On one hand, SOW carries out habitat investigation, make use of the iNaturalist platform to appeal to more citizen scientists. When the nationwide observation record exceeded 1 million data, SOW's habitat surveys also reached 150,000. On the other hand, we conducted in-depth professional ecological surveys and education, focusing on carnivorous plants, wetland management, and carbon sequestration capacity of forests, these are the cornerstones to enhance our core capabilities and exert influence.

**3. Advance Deployment: Fulfilling SOW's Mission to Safeguard the Earth**

Ecological conservation is an infinite game, the environment is constantly changing along with new generations. Each generation will encounter unique environmental problems that must be solved. As long as there are still human beings living on the earth, this game will not end. The first phase of SOW's Navigator Training was launched in April 2021, and the second one completed in October and November 2021. With the attempt to train those navigators, we are able to pursue a greater belief, build a

stronger partnership and mutual trust, and work together to achieve common beliefs. In addition, SOW has been active in adopting physical nature centers, obtaining management rights of wasteland, promoting citizen power plants in communities, synergizing benefits of green energy and social welfare, and introducing SDGs, etc. Hopefully, the strong foundation can push SOW to get closer to the global sustainable goals. These are our advanced deployments to fulfill our responsibility to the earth !

## Environmental Education Achievements

The eleven chapters of Society of Wilderness (SOW) in Taiwan regularly organize indoor seminars, training sessions, learning courses, and outdoor experience activities for volunteers in various groups. We design content specifically for children and families, take part in environmental initiatives, and carry out actions to let the general public become more familiar with us.

Item	Number of Sessions	Number of Participants
<b>SOW Family Group</b>	<b>1,519</b>	<b>33,714 1,196 families</b>
<b>Children's Environmental Education Initiatives</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>2,405</b>
Earth Initiatives (Turn Off Lights on the Street, Turn On Your Night Vision Goggles, What is Climate Change, Remove Alien Species, Habitat Surveys), Ocean Initiatives, Earth Film Festivals, Beach Cleaning...	<b>25</b>	<b>1,034</b>
<b>Environmental Actions</b>		
Wild Creek Investigation, Ocean Walk, Learning by Walking, Environmental Action Forum...	<b>275</b>	<b>5,559</b>
<b>Seminars</b>		
Promotion Speeches, Weekly Meetings, Monthly Meetings, Guided Reading at Film Festivals, Issue Promotion, Campus Tours...	<b>710</b>	<b>26,377</b>
<b>Volunteer Training / Advanced Courses</b>		
How to be a Volunteer, Interpreter, Promotion Lecturer, Children's Education Guide, Leader of Beach Cleaning, Marine Waste Surveyor; Climate Change; Energy Conservation Promotion; Editing and Interview Skills; Habitat Conservation; A Heart with Ecology; Wetland Care; Ocean Volunteers; Special Education; Empowerment...	<b>319</b>	<b>5,274</b>
<b>Learning Courses</b>		
Nature Observation, Nature and Humanities, Ecology Interpretation, Carpentry, Photography, Painting, Indigo Dyeing, Board Game, Green Life Map, Energy Conservation Workshop...	<b>252</b>	<b>4,220</b>
<b>Experience Activities</b>		
Point-count Observation, Nature Experience, Special Nature Experience, Habitat Work, Working Holiday...	<b>486</b>	<b>7,523</b>
<b>Others</b>		
Market Booths, Visits, Chapter Celebrations...	<b>67</b>	<b>4,652</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,758</b>	<b>90,758</b>

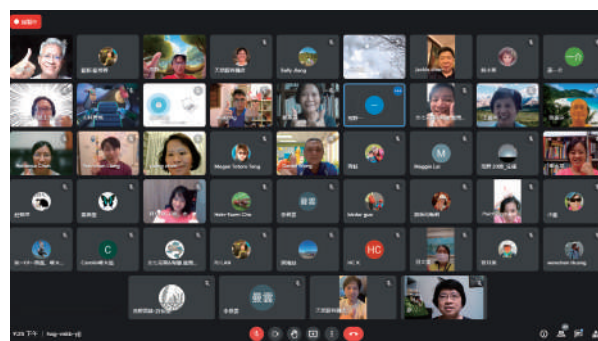


## Spiritual Growth During the Pandemic – Happy Docents

Only by understanding can we care, only by caring can we act, and only by action can we have hope. Interpretation is the first step to guide the public to understand and the docent is the key to open people's eyes to nature. The guided tours allow more people to realize the beauty and sorrows of the land, and then to act to safeguard the environment. These frontline docents are involved in various activities, such as cleanup of streams, beaches and habitats, guided tours, all kinds of environmental education, habitat surveys, and fixed-spot protection. They are motivated by a simple belief - do some things to make the world better.

The pandemic has changed our way of life, but SOW's voluntary docents across Taiwan still diligently invested in various activities, such as fixed-spot guided tours, stream and beach cleanup education programs, transformed their love for the environment into actions. A total of 261 guided tours have been held to influence more people and take actions together to protect the environment.

When you gnaw an apple, say to it in your heart "your seed will live in me, your future bud will bloom in my heart, your fragrance will be my breath, and we will be happy together and forever..." <The Prophet - Gibran>. Thank you to all the docents for your dedication in the past years, and may nature thrive with you.



## Promotion Speakers Accompanied with Everyone through the Pandemic

In 2021, many events have been called off because of the pandemic, and the number of public speeches also dropped drastically. However, the voluntary speakers have been actively seeking new opportunities, and continuing to promote environmental education through online film festivals.

In addition to the existing modules, "Beauty of Taiwan's Natural Ecology", "Seeing the Ocean Again", "Discovering the Beauty of Wetlands", "Green Life - Energy Saving and Carbon Reducing", "Making Friends with Nature" and "Flip it! Climate Change", this year, with the support of 7-ELEVEN's public fundraising coin donation program, we were able to obtain public broadcasting rights of many films and expand the coverage of the Earth Film Festival. During the lockdown period, people can still participate in the Earth Film Festival via the internet to break through geographical restrictions and reach more audiences.

Facing drastic changes in the world, the voluntary speakers still persistently strive to root our visions into more people's minds through speeches, and hopefully make them join us to change the world together.



## Parents and Children Learning Together to Become the Change You Want to Be

To address the first environmental initiative jointly advocated by NGOs - the algal reef referendum, the parent-child troops led their children to participate by learning and sharing the facts, such as what happened to the algal reef, What's the third Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Receiving Terminal? What does referendum mean? Why take such an action? What's our attitude to energy? These fellows have exerted their influence and resources to explain the issues of algal reefs to their relatives and close friends as well as stepped out of their comfort zone to promote eco-friendly concepts to strangers passing by. In the process, the members of parent-child troops have learned to communicate and listen to different voices, because passing on a beautiful environment for future generations is their core value and belief.

Under the impact of the pandemic, the regular gatherings and training at all levels were adjusted accordingly and carried out in various creative ways, such as swapping from physical gatherings to virtual meetings, so parents and children can continue to learn together and pass on the concept of co-prosperity with the environment. The pandemic also gave the mentors a chance to work together on compiling a book of teaching modules which integrated the wisdom and efforts of everyone. In the future, this book will be shared as a teaching material with all

teachers from primary and secondary schools in Taiwan to promote environmental education, and foster specific actions of environmental protection to a further and deeper extent.

## Continue Promoting Children Environmental Education Nationwide and Align with the World

The Children Environmental Education Group continues to conduct volunteer training and environment courses in the schools in Taipei, New Taipei, Taoyuan, Taichung, Yilan, Hualien, and Taitung. A total of 18 sessions of instructor training were completed. Although affected by the pandemic, from January to October 2021, the group managed to complete 148 service sessions and reach 2,960 teachers and students. Since 2010, a total of 1,753 courses were delivered by 2,843 instructors and reached 44,733 teachers and students from 357 schools.

The summer camp for underprivileged children was postponed to January 2022 due to the pandemic. The two sessions of 2-day camp have served 60 students in Xizhi and Taipei.

Following the successful introduction of the "Earthkeepers Camp" created by the American Earth Education Association for schoolchildren aged 10-11 in 2019, the "Sunship III Camp" for middle school students aged 13-14 will be launched at the end of this year. Let the children from Taiwan and other countries be the stewards of the earth and the pilots of the spaceship to safeguard the precious earth.





## Facilitating Citizen Action on Climate Change

The Climate Change Education Committee strives in holding various forums and workshops to show the public systematic scientific evidence that the earth's climate system is actually caused by human activities, and hopefully they will be willing to adjust their lifestyle to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Because of the pandemic, each SOW's chapter has encountered severe challenges in rolling out volunteer training and projects, but there were some fellows who managed to deliver 6 sessions of climate change speaker training in Taipei, Taoyuan, Hsinchu, Chiayi and Tainan, and were brave enough to deliver speeches via internet to continuously educate the public.

In terms of issue advocacy, all countries in the world are actively planning to move towards the goal of net zero carbon emissions. Taiwan's environmental NGOs, including SOW, are also vigorously pushing for the revision of environmental laws and supporting measures for energy transformation policies. In 2021, SOW held 4 sessions of volunteer training and 10 workshops nationwide focusing on energy transformation, environmental and social inspection procedures. At the same time, 5 online speeches and citizen forums were held to promote the knowledge of geothermal energy. In addition, we also conducted a series of online courses and in-depth forums designed for young students, hoping to encourage people to pay attention to the progress of Taiwan net-zero carbon emissions.



## From "Research" to "Development" – the Research and Development Committee

The Research and Development Committee plays as a think tank, assisting in planning and developing SOW's operation directions. For example, in 2015, the committee collected inputs from various perspectives to formulate the "Volunteer Management Measures". In view of the rise of the Internet era, SOW had no resources at all to develop online publicity. To address this situation, the committee developed the training for "Voluntary Reporters" in 2013, and then launched a Fan page "Reading Wilderness" and a Facebook Community "Reading Wilderness Exchange and Sharing Platform". Through these two online platforms, SOW was able to promote environmental education and initiatives, such as "Safeguard Zhiben Wetland" and "Cherish the Algal Reefs" to the online communities. However, after Facebook changed the algorithm, the number of likes of our self-made posts dropped from tens of thousands to thousands, and the number of fan page followers also plunged from more than 10 million to 2 million a year. During the pandemic period, only one session of "Marketing Volunteer" training was able to be completed. Despite this, the volunteers continue to manage the "Reading Wilderness" fan page and find other ways to break through.

## The Natural Paradise in Peril The Malaysian Borneo Tropical Rainforest Exhibition

After two and a half years of preparation, the "The Natural Paradise in Peril - The Malaysian Borneo Tropical Rainforest Exhibition" co-curated by SOW Taiwan, SOW Sarawak, SOW Sabah, and Center of Austronesian Culture of Taitung University finally opened in the Endemic Biology Research and Conservation Center in Jiji Township in 2021. Aside from educating the public on the rich biodiversity of tropical rainforests, the exhibition also demonstrates Taiwan's support for SOW overseas chapters on the actions of Malaysia rainforest conservation. The exhibition integrates interactive projection, audio-visual multimedia, QR-code audio interpretation system and other special effects to bring the audience a new tropical rainforest experience, and show the public what overseas Chinese have contributed to rainforest conservation, not only countries in Europe and America are capable of conserving tropical rainforests, we can also contribute. Taiwan imports a large number of tropical rainforests trees every year, so we should also be accountable for it by pushing Taiwan's own

domestically produced wood products to be certified for sustainable management and take a more important role in our lives.

In conjunction with the exhibition, SOW Taiwan also published a book at its own expense, *The Natural Paradise in Peril - The Malaysian Borneo Tropical Rainforest*. The book covers all aspects of the rainforest, including amazing works by dozens of outstanding photographers and all contents were reviewed by a number of experts in meticulous production process. The book has a total of 180,000 words, and 1,082 pictures selected from more than 8,000. It's the first book published in the Chinese world exclusively for Borneo tropical rainforest and for people who are interested in exploring the biodiversity of tropical rainforests. The wood used in our lives may be related to the rainforest. Through this exhibition, people can get a glimpse of the mysteries of the rainforest from the view of biology, ecology and culture. After visiting this exhibition, it's advised to read the book "The Natural Paradise in Peril - The Malaysian Borneo Tropical Rainforest" to get a better understanding of the tropical rainforest environment of Borneo.





## The Inauguration of SOW Marketing

### SOW Digital 4T Transformation Courses

Year 2021 is the first year of SOW digital marketing. We started using online media in the Earth Initiative campaign to reach internet heavy users. To advance our online marketing capacity, we have set up a digital 4T training module, through video and podcast to discover the stories of SOW fellows growing with the land, and to document the touching moments. Aligning with the objectives of "advocating, protecting, living", two training courses were delivered to train 50 volunteers who had produced nearly 50 video or audio works to showcase the diversified nature of SOW in promoting environmental protection throughout Taiwan.



#### Note :

##### 4T 「Teach, Technology, YouTube, Teenager」

Teach : Train the volunteers with the potential to produce digital works for SOW in the future

Technology : All volunteers are able to learn and use digital technology fluently

YouTube : The stories of SOW can be passed on through video and audio, SOW 365 video and audio version

Teenager : Engaging youth aged 18-35 to join in SOW



### SOW launched a Podcast – Good Morning SOW

Podcasts can be played in any type of multimedia, it is known as a broadcast version of YouTube and a great medium to share anything related to the environment. Each episode is about 7-15 minutes long and the listeners can learn things about the environment at breakfast time. In addition to the introduction of the four major species this season, our official website will also provide simpler versions of information with pictures and learning sheets to interact with the public. "Good Morning SOW" is currently available on platforms including Apple, Google, KKbox, Spotify, SoundOn and YouTube.

### Agrarian Micro-Revolution in Taiwan, Delivering Physical Speeches across Taiwan

The Agrarian Micro-Revolution Film Festival focuses on the habitats safeguarded by SOW for a long time. Our original intention is to promote environmental protection and arouse people's concern for the land. This year is the inauguration of the agrarian micro-revolution. We reached the audience via face-to-face speeches to share personal experience and real stories to appeal to a bigger audience. Through different formalities, we can discover more possibilities, and call to action to care for the ecology which many lives depend on. We also collaborated with local independent bookstores to deliver speeches in Hsinchu, Taoyuan, Yilan, Hualien and Taitung, and reached nearly 100 participants.

## Facing Challenges of an Infinite Game

Opportunities are reserved for those who are ready.

Monitoring and safeguarding the environment is SOW's purpose and mission at the time when it was established, while climate change is a challenge that affects all people around the world. The industrial revolution 200 years ago opened up the era of environmental disturbances, and has created complex and unsolvable problems that can lead our lives in danger, since the environment is the basic need for humans to survive.

When the satisfaction of basic needs transformed into greed, and the pursuit of convenience and efficiency resulted in environmental deterioration, can humans surely win? We might be superior to others, but we are not omnipotent. Our world is facing severe challenges, and the environmental changes are much more complicated and difficult to solve. Shan't we stop and deliberate what we have done to the environment? The sun will still rise and set, but we will lose the opportunity of survival between the choice of greed and reflection.

This year, our efforts have been recognized by the general public. We received great

support through the coin donation platform of President Chain Store Corporation (PCSC) which enables us to roll out those eco-friendly initiatives which couldn't be done because of a lack of resources. Twenty-five years ago, the vision of a small group of people who love the land now thrives everywhere. Environmental protection is indeed a long way, we need to inspire and influence others by persistence and perseverance, so as to ensure that future generations have a good environment with the same quality.

The two major strategies - "Environmental Education" and "Habitat Protection" based on the purpose and objectives of SOW have not changed. Solid education, persistent protection are the efforts we have made in the past; supporting initiatives of environmental sustainability and improving SOW with diverse creativity are the directions for the future. It is an infinite game to overcome the challenges and predicaments on the road of environmental protection, which requires you and me to deliberate, perceive, participate, and collaborate to expand the influence just as we have been doing in the past.





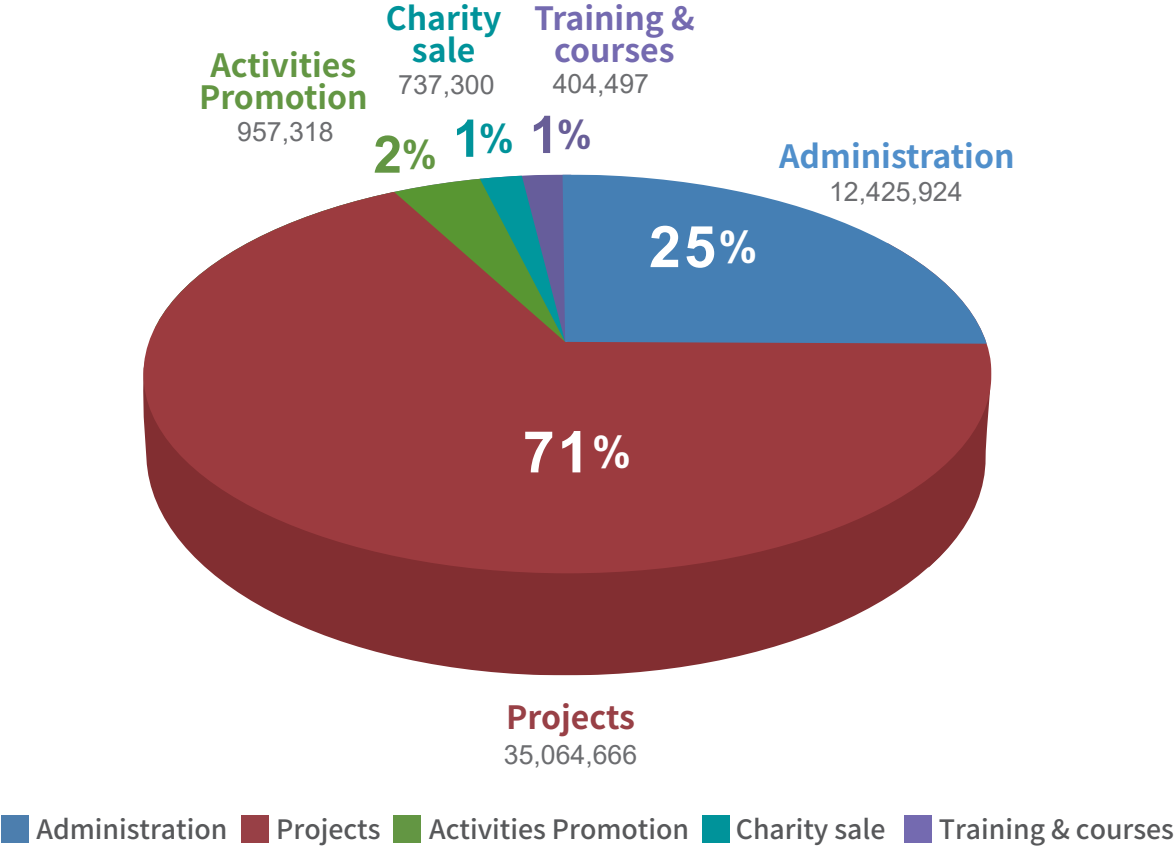
Financial Summary

Good Deeds Themselves  
will Generate Rewards

The vision of saving land for Taiwan continues this year. In addition to the original annual membership dues, small donations, sponsored donations, and external project income, we are very grateful for receiving two major grants: approx. NT\$50 million from 7-Eleven charity fundraising coin donation platform and NT\$30 million prize money from the Y. L. Lin Hung Taiwan Dedication Award, which solidifies the cornerstone of the sustainability of SOW as well as the environment.

Many a little makes a mickle and every penny matters. Carrying the expectations of the society, it's our responsibility to allocate the resource prudently and make adjustments according to the current needs. In addition to the donation announced on the monthly SOW Express and the official website, we are also held fully accountable under the supervision of the Taiwan NPO Self-Regulation Alliance.

We would like to thank all the sponsors and donors who recognize our efforts on environment protection, and thank you for staying with SOW all the time.



New Beginnings and Challenges

Due to the uncertainties caused by the pandemic, people are deliberately distancing themselves from others, we have to adjust the approach to reach out. Aside from holding physical activities, if appropriate, we have also launched online forums and online film festivals.

With the support of corporate partners who share the common vision and goals with us, SOW has developed customized projects for local environmental protection, ranging from forums, guided tours to nature experiences, and through one-off or multiple working holidays, allowing the corporate employees and their families to touch soil with bare hands and embody the concept of protection. Hopefully, aside from participating in the CSR events, they can also extend the love of nature to their daily lives, and influence more people to sustain the protection actions.

Thanks to corporate partners' support which boosts SOW's momentum to invest in the promotion of various environmental education and volunteer training, so as to encourage more conversation and practices on environmental sustainability.

