


# BENA SMITH

## SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, INTERNATIONAL



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## PERSONAL PROFILE

Over 25 years' work experience in nature conservation management and planning gained from the U.K., and countries in Asia and West Africa. Managed high conservation status nature reserves, visitor centres, visitor programmes, and designed ecological monitoring programmes for species and habitats of conservation concern. Extensive site management planning skills, experienced in biodiversity prioritization for conservation action and conservation strategy planning, and managed a wide range of national and international consultant wetland projects.

Over a decade based in East Asia managing the renowned Mai Po Nature Reserve (Ramsar Site) in Hong Kong carrying out large-scale wetland habitat management and enhancement projects to benefit a range of species of global conservation concern, notably the iconic Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*.

Travelled widely throughout China, Japan and South Korea advising wetland managers and administrators on best practices in restoration, creation and management techniques, and project managed a Conservation Initiative for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway which set conservation priorities for migratory waders, particularly around the Yellow Sea Region. Recently worked for the consulting arm of Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and delivered a wide range of wetland projects for clients in the U.K. and Asia.

## BENA'S EXPERIENCE INCLUDES:

- Project Manager for various grant funded projects in Asia including, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Darwin Initiative, Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund and IUCN MekongWET
- Jiulongkou Wetland Park Concept Masterplan (China)
- Hengqin National Wetland Park Concept Masterplan (China)
- The designation and management of Ramsar Sites – A practitioner's guide
- Proposed development of the Songdo Wetland Park (South Korea)
- Visioning Report for Hwaseong Wetlands (South Korea)
- Site Management plans for Mai Po Nature Reserve (Hong Kong) and Boeung Prek-Lapouv Protected Landscape (Cambodia)

## EDUCATION

BSc (Hons) Environmental Science.  
University of Southampton, U.K.

MSc (Distinction) Conservation  
Management. University of East Anglia,  
U.K.

Accredited Professional Wetland Scientist

## KEY PROJECTS AT WWT:

Develop and implement blue carbon focused intertidal wetland conservation projects in China and South Korea.

Large-scale habitat restoration, sustainable rice schemes and community-led ecotourism projects in the Cambodia Lower Mekong Delta.

Providing specialist skills and experience to WWT's international wetland management, restoration and creation projects in Asian countries.

Design and management of wetland habitats and rivers in the U.K. and China. Visitor center master planning and interpretation. A wetland management trainer.