

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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nss.org.sg

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01.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR 2022/2023



**DR
SHAWN
LUM**

President
2022/2023

The restrictions imposed by the pandemic eased in 2022, but far from being a return to things as they were pre-pandemic, the Nature Society (Singapore) ramped up the scale and pace of transformation across many operational and strategic areas. It ushers in what we hope will result in a more effective nature conservation organisation.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In many ways the year was characterised by consolidation and planning, and there were a number of notable achievements. In November 2022, NSS was conferred the Charity Transparency Awards 2022. We have been recognised for disclosure and transparency year after year and this is a reflection of the thought and hard work that goes into running our charity.

Thanks to the dedication of our members, BirdLife International and IUCN family, we have continued to remain relevant in conservation science. Dr. Anuj Jain in particular made notable contributions to our understanding of bird ownership, the songbird trade, and the dynamics of the tropical swallowtail moth, *Lyssa zampa*.

CONSERVATION AND ADVOCACY

The most important conservation event of the year took place in December 2022. COP15 of the Convention of Biodiversity

was described as perhaps being humanity's final chance to reverse the decline in global biodiversity. Will the international community be able to achieve the goals of the Kunming-Montreal (aka Post-2020) Global Biodiversity Framework? In what ways can Singapore meaningfully help in the preservation and restoration of the natural world, when our country is small and largely urbanised? I am convinced that the members and leaders of the NSS will find a way. Our natural heritage cannot thrive in isolation.

NSS made its voice heard in regional conservation by supporting BirdLife's calls for the transfer of the Straw-headed bulbul to Appendix I of CITES and the inclusion of the White-rumped shama in Appendix II. BirdLife also announced its new global conservation strategy at the 2022 BirdLife Congress and now we have to make the strategy work together.

The Conservation Committee and other NSS members continued to serve as important advocates for the conservation of nature through discussions with our Singapore public agencies. The Green & Blue Plan, part of URA's Long-Term Plan Review, featured many NSS inputs as well.

NSS also gives feedback on pending nature or wildlife-related legislation. The import and trafficking of endangered wildlife was a topic of discussion in 2022 for policy-oriented nature groups and legal experts.

PROGRAMMES

Our flagship programme *Every Singaporean A Naturalist* (ESN) continues to help nurture the future generation of nature enthusiasts in Singapore schools through activities and walks. It also held the Inaugural ESN Symposium in November 2022.

The Marine Conservation Group began preparing a bid to help host the IUCN Species Survival Commission Horseshoe Crab Specialist Group Workshop in 2024.

The 38th Annual NSS Singapore Bird Race held in December 2022 was our biggest event yet. It has become a regular activity and one of the natural history highlights annually in Singapore. The indefatigable Bird Group team made it such a successful event along with the support of NSS members and volunteers combined with the generous support of MapleTree Investments.

The NSS Rewilding Project was also officially launched on 10 Feb 2023 and marks the continuation of NSS efforts to restore and rewild Singapore.

PARTNERSHIPS

2022 saw notable collaborations which include the launch of the Our Wild Neighbours initiative (OWN). Through

collective efforts, OWN and NSS seek to achieve coexistence between people and wildlife in Singapore.

A few other collaborations included wildlife surveys of Pulau Ubin in support of the Drama Box production of *Ubin* and surveys of the Resorts World Sentosa coastal forest. NSS also provided input for the environment-friendly retrofit of the DBS Newton Building that aims to make the building an oasis for nature as well as a financial hub.

NSS STRATEGIC PLAN

At the 2023 Annual General Meeting, we will hear much more about exciting initiatives in these areas. In collaboration with National Council of Social Service (NCSS), NSS has received funding for the implementation of the digital transformation revamp as well as strategic plan revision to ensure NSS remains relevant and sustainable for the next 5-10 years.

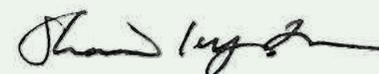
From the various member surveys conducted throughout the year, we understand that we need to communicate more effectively with our membership, stakeholders, and the wider public. We can also do more to optimise the wealth of talent and dedication in our staff, members, and

wider supporters. We continue to believe that nature conservation is vital and we need to do more to demonstrate all we do to make it happen. I am optimistic that, thanks to the hard work and love for the organisation shown by our staff and members during the past year of envisioning and reorganisation, we can achieve these ambitious goals together.

LOOKING AHEAD, AND THANK YOU

After 15 years as NSS President, I am happy (and relieved) to announce that I am stepping down and collectively, we have put together a new leadership team for 2023/2024.

If I have helped NSS achieve anything to date, it was only because of the amazing people I have had the privilege of working with. There are too many to mention in this space, and I will be working for a long time to properly thank all of you. I must at least thank our Patron, Prof. Tommy Koh, my predecessor and mentor, Dr. Geh Min, my long-serving comrades (LKP, MH, HHC, MS, YYC, BC, PC), Joe Lim and Kerry Pereira, Vina Dharmarajah, and, of course, the entire NSS membership. Eve, I thank you most of all.





02. ABOUT NSS

- 2.1. Executive Committee
- 2.2. NSS Secretariat
- 2.3. Special Interest Groups (SIG) Chairs
- 2.4. Corporate Governance



**WATCHING
THE WILD,**

**WATCHING
OVER
THE WILD.**

Nature Society Singapore (NSS) is a non-profit, volunteer-based organisation that helps preserve Singapore’s natural heritage. Founded in 1954 as the Singapore branch of the Malayan Nature Society, we became an independent organisation known as Nature Society (Singapore) in 1991.

With over 1,000 members today, we remain steadfast in our goal to conserve biodiversity and habitats. Our work has made significant impact in various areas, and NSS has been consulted by public agencies for numerous developments including Chek Jawa, Cross Island Line, Tengah Forest Town, and numerous other conservation initiatives.

We are proud to have been an Institution of Public Character (IPC) since 2008. In addition, we have been honoured with the Charity Transparency Award every year since its introduction in 2016. This award recognises our efforts to uphold best practices in governance, accountability, and financial management.

OUR VISION

To be Singapore’s leading advocate of biodiversity and habitats.

OUR MISSION

With our evidence-based approach and partnerships with agencies, peers, and corporates, we lead habitat and biodiversity conservation in Singapore and with partners in the region. Through engagement, education, research, and advocacy, we inspire and enable people to take action towards a sustainable and biodiverse planet.

Learn more at nss.org.sg



2.1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2021/2022



Dr. Shawn Lum
President



Mr. Leong Kwok Peng
Vice President



Mr. Andrew Lin
Honorary Treasurer



Mr. Morten Strange
Honorary Secretary



Ms. Evelyn Ng
Honorary Assistant Secretary



Mr. Joel Leong
Committee Member



Mr. Goh Ter Yang
Committee Member



Mr. Albert Liu
Committee Member



Mr. Lester Tan
Committee Member

2.1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2021/2022

NAME & DESIGNATION	APPOINTMENT DATE	ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS	BACKGROUNDS	NO. OF CONSECUTIVE YEARS ON THE EXCO
Dr. Shawn Lum President and HR & Nomination Committee	21 May 2021	8/8	Senior Lecturer, NTU	22
Mr. Leong Kwok Peng Vice-President	21 May 2021	7/8	Retired Engineer	10
Mr. Andrew Lin Hon. Treasurer	21 May 2021	8/8	Retired Accountant	1
Mr. Morten Strange Hon. Secretary	21 May 2021	8/8	Retired Engineer	4
Ms. Evelyn Ng Hon. Asst. Secretary	21 May 2021	7/8	Educator	2
Mr. Goh Ter Yang EXCO Member	21 May 2021	6/8	Senior Biodiversity Manager, WCS	2
Mr. Albert Liu EXCO Member	21 May 2021	5/8	Civil Service	1
Mr. Lester Tan EXCO Member	21 May 2021	8/8	Educator	1
Mr. Joel Leong EXCO Member	25 Jan 2022	7/7	Entrepreneur & Business Owner	1

2.1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022/2023



Dr. Shawn Lum
President



Mr. Lester Tan
Vice President



Mr. Andrew Lin
Honorary Treasurer



Mr. Joel Leong
Honorary Assistant Treasurer



Ms. Natasha Raina
Honorary Secretary



Mr. Morten Strange
Honorary Assistant Secretary



Mr. Goh Ter Yang
Committee Member



Mr. Albert Liu
Committee Member



Dr. Yeo Seng Beng
Committee Member

2.1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022/2023

NAME & DESIGNATION	APPOINTMENT DATE	ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS	BACKGROUNDS	NO. OF CONSECUTIVE YEARS ON THE EXCO
Dr. Shawn Lum President and HR & Nomination Committee	21 May 2022	8/8	Senior Lecturer, NTU	23
Mr. Lester Tan Vice-President	21 May 2022	8/8	Educator	2
Ms. Natasha Raina Hon. Secretary and HR & Nomination Committee	21 May 2022	7/8	Director, Duke-NUS	1
Mr. Morten Strange Asst. Hon. Secretary Communications Committee	21 May 2022	7/8	Retired Engineer	4
Mr. Andrew Lin Treasurer and Finance Committee	21 May 2022	8/8	Retired Accountant	2
Mr. Joel Leong Asst. Treasurer	21 May 2022	5/8	Entrepreneur & Business Owner	1
Dr. Yeo Seng Beng EXCO Member and Strategy & Audit Committee	21 May 2022	8/8	ENT Surgeon & Associate Professor, NTU	1
Mr. Goh Ter Yang EXCO Member and Education Committee	21 May 2022	5/8	Senior Biodiversity Manager, WCS	3
Mr. Albert Liu EXCO Member and Fundraising and Membership Committee	21 May 2022	5/8	Civil Service	3

There was a total of 16 Meetings involving NSS EXCO in the financial year ending 31 December 2022

2.2. NSS SECRETARIAT



Mr. Joseph Lim | Accounts & Admin Officer | 1994 - current

Joe is an integral part of the NSS Secretariat for nearly three decades. He handles all of the society's financial, operational and governance needs while also taking care of our members' applications and enquiries. Joe continues to always provide unwavering support to the organization and our members and his commitment and dedication are greatly appreciated by all who work with him. Joe enjoys traveling to places around the Mediterranean to take in their archaeological sites, ancient cities and museums.



Mr. Kerry Pereira | Members & Outreach Manager | 2013 - current

Kerry joined NSS as our Members Programme & Outreach Officer, and in the last 10 years, has grown into his current role as the Members & Outreach Manager. He is the first point of contact for our corporate & organisational events and works closely with volunteers to organise a range of activities under the NSS umbrella. Kerry is passionate about engaging people from all walks of life to showcase the wonders of nature and to highlight the importance of being more responsible stewards of our environment. He enjoys reading and hiking and raptor watching in his spare time when he has a break from 3 young children who keep him very busy!



Ms. Sung Mei Yee | ESN Senior Project Officer | 2018 - current

Mei Yee joined NSS as our first *Every Singaporean A Naturalist* (ESN) hire, and under her guidance, the programme has reached new heights, fuelled by her passion to inspire and nurture future environmental stewards. She graduated from NTU with a degree in Environmental Earth Systems Science (specialisation in Ecology) and her personal interests include hiking and traveling to experience beautiful natural landscapes and places.



Ms. Michelle Hariff | ESN Project Officer | 2022 - current

Michelle joined NSS as our second ESN hire, and has since helped to spread a sense of wonderment and care for our natural heritage with various schools and communities here in Singapore. She graduated from NUS with a degree in Arts (Hons), and with her background in the arts and an avid interest in community outreach, she continues to contribute to the engagement of our young environmental stewards.



Ms. Sylvia Tan | Rewilding Assistant Manager | 2023 - current

Sylvia Tan is the latest addition to the NSS Team. She graduated from NTU with a degree in Environmental Earth System Science (specialisation in Ecology and Ecosystem) and prior to working in NSS, she was a Forest Ecology Research Assistant for the past 4.5 years. In her new role with us, she manages and organises the end to end logistics and reports for the NSS Rewilding Project as well as engages volunteers and students to help make Singapore a greener place!

2.3. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIG) CHAIRS



Mr. Tan Gim Cheong
Bird Group



Mr. Leong Kwok Peng
Conservation Committee



Mr. Abiel Neo
Butterfly & Insect Group



Mr. Goh Ter Yang
Education Committee



Mr. Tan Hang Chong
Jalan Hijau



Mr. Kua Kay Yaw
Marine Conservation



Mr. Pandian Parthasarathy
Nature Ramblers



Dr. Bian Tan
Plant Group



Mr. Yeo Suay Hwee
Vertebrate Study Group

2.4. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

OTHER NSS COMMITTEES

Conservation	Mr. Leong Kwok Peng (Chair)
Education	Mr. Goh Ter Yang (Chair)
Programmes & Outreach	Ms. Ngo Kang Min (Chair)
Volunteer Management	Ms. Huang Ningxin (Chair)
HR & Nomination	Dr. Shawn Lum Ms. Natasha Raina
Fundraising & Membership	Mr. Albert Liu
Finance	Mr. Andrew Lin
Strategy & Audit	Dr. Yeo Seng Beng
Communications	Mr. Morten Strange Mr. Peter Connell
Co-Opted Council Members	Dr. Ngo Kang Min Mr. Ben Szeto Ms Tan Beng Chiak Mr. Goh Si Guim Dr. Ho Hua Chew
Finance Advisory Group	Mr. Bhagyesh Chaubey Dr. Lee Lay Tin Mr. Douglas Elliott
NSS Advisory Group	Prof. Ng Soon Chye Mr. Mason Tan Dr. Geh Min Prof. Lye Lin Heng
NSS Patron	Prof. Tommy Koh

GOVERNANCE EVALUATION CHECKLIST

NSS has complied with the Code of Governance for Charities and IPCs. NSS's Governance Evaluation Checklist for the period Jan 2022 to May 2023 can be viewed at the end of this Annual Report as well as on the Charity Portal at www.charities.gov.sg.

Dr. Shawn Lum has been on the NSS Board for 23 years and after a year-long search for the right candidate to take over leadership of the organisation, and ensure its stability and sustainability Dr. Yeo Seng Beng, a senior member of NSS will be President 2023/2024

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI) POLICY

NSS has a COI policy that aims to protect NSS and its members from any appearance of impropriety. It mandates that all EXCO Members and Staff must exercise the highest duty of care and judgment when dealing with matters relating to NSS, and to disclose all interests (commitment, investment, relationship, obligation, involvement, financial, or otherwise), which may be a potential conflict of interest. The policy provides procedures and guidelines on how conflict of interest situations are to be handled. All EXCO Members and staff are to complete a declaration at the beginning of their service, as well as make a new declaration on an annual basis or when there are any changes.

OTHER NSS POLICIES COMPLETED

- Employee Handbook and Code of Conduct Policy - for Staff & Interns
- Volunteer Handbook and Code of Conduct - for Volunteers
- Whistle Blowing Policy
- Personal Data Policy

PENDING NSS POLICIES

- Reserve Policy**
NSS is in the midst of creating a reserve policy.
- Loan Policy**
NSS is in the midst of creating a loan & donation policy.

NOTES

- This report covers activities from Jan 2022 to May 2023.
- No EXCO Member receives any remuneration for their services and no staff are responsible for determining their own remuneration.
- No staff is a close member of the family of the EXCO and none are paid more than \$100,000 a year.
- Corporate Bank: DBS Bank Ltd; Auditor: Robert Tan Partners PAC
- As a Registered Society and an Institution of Public Character, NSS has appointed an Executive Committee (EXCO) to carry out the oversight and governance of the organisation as per current NSS Constitution. NSS discloses that 3 staff receive more than S\$50,000 in this financial year, however none are a close member of the family belonging to the Executive Head or a governing board member of the charity.

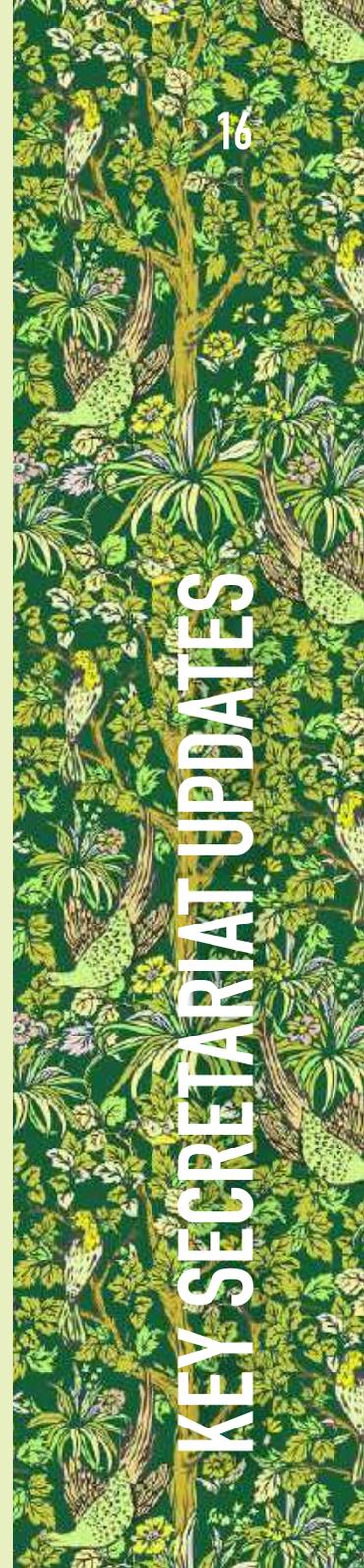
03. KEY SECRETARIAT UPDATES

- 3.1. NSS Strategic Plan & Rebranding
- 3.2. IT Infrastructure, Personal Data Protection & Charity Governance Award

3.1. NSS STRATEGIC PLAN & REBRANDING



The NSS strategic planning initiative saw NSS EXCO and other core members (our own G30) coming together to discuss key priority areas for the next five years. As National Council of Social Service (NCSS) funds consultancy grants to help charities like ours to hire consultants to review and revise their strategic plans, in Oct 2022, we applied for the NCSS Consultancy Grant, and were happy to receive an \$80,000 award sum. We have since hired Binomial Consulting as our external consultant to conduct this exercise and have conducted 3 workshops with them to help develop a new 5-year Strategic Plan that will be unveiled at the upcoming 2023 NSS AGM. Take a look at the graphic recording for a summary of what transpired at these sessions as well as the final outcomes to align our direction between 2023-2028.



NATURE SOCIETY SINGAPORE STRATEGIC PLANNING

Pre-Workshop Planning 2022



TARGETS



- INVOLVE THE LARGER GROUP of VOLUNTEERS **BUY IN**
- MAKING TARGETS REALISTIC
- EQUIP VOLUNTEERS WITH SKILLS TO EXECUTE THEIR COMMITMENT
- IDENTIFY PARTNERS
- FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES: REWILDING PROJECT, BIRDWATCHING INTEREST GROUP & ESN
- COMPETITIVE HR BENEFITS

THE POLL

- DONORS & SUPPORT SOURCES
 - GOVERNMENT
- GATHER SUPPORT & UNDERSTAND THEIR OPINIONS



ACKNOWLEDGE NSS' BEGINNINGS WITH MALAYAN, COOPERATE WITH REGIONAL NATURE GROUPS TO ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY EFFORTS

ALIGN THE PROCESS



FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS



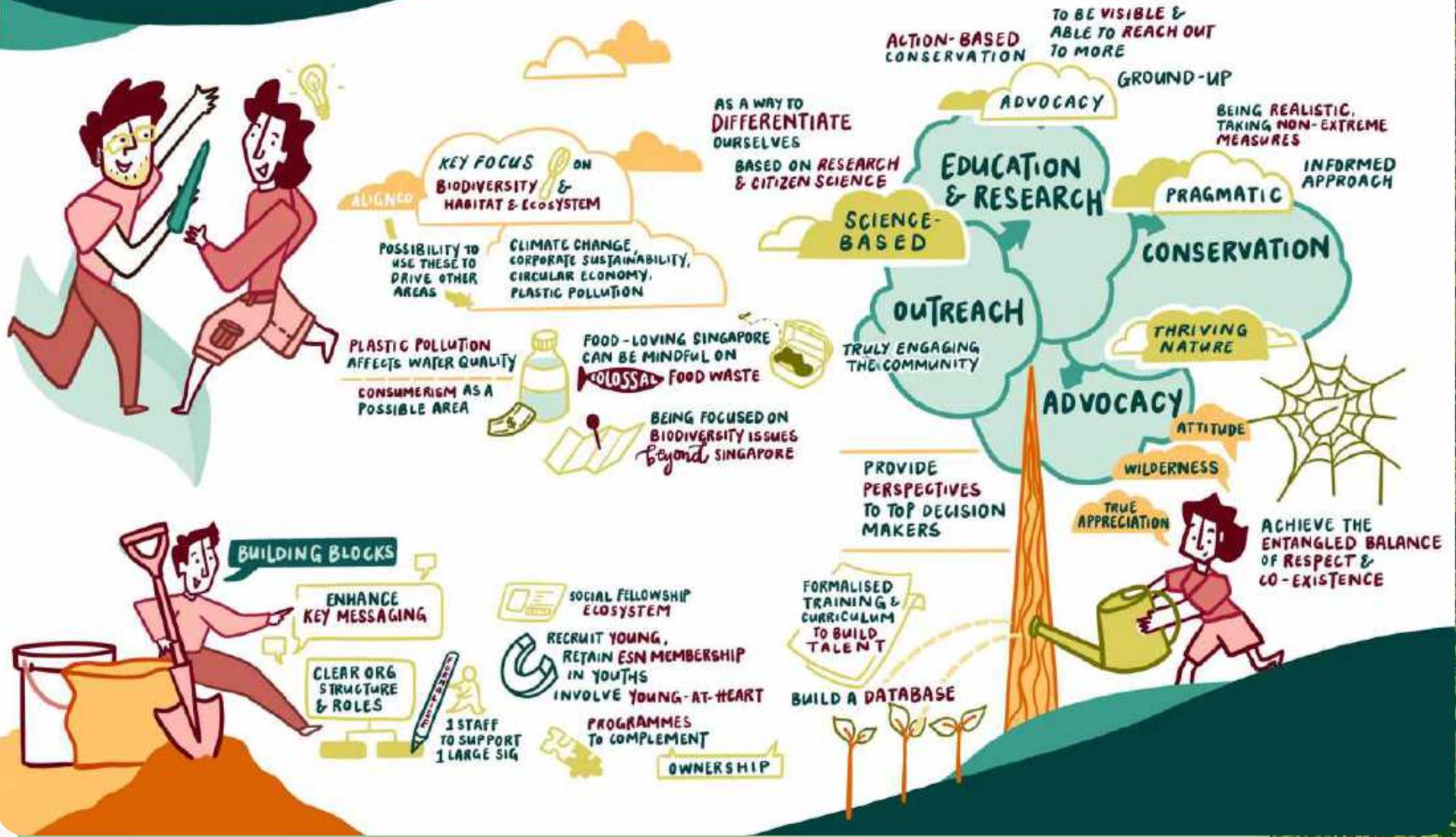
- Difficulty in GETTING YOUNGER TO STEP UP
- REBRAND - BUT KEEP THE PROGRAMMES
- SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SHOULD BE ALIGNED TO NSS' DIRECTIONS
- TO PROVIDE VALUE IN OTHER AREAS AS ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENTS ARE FORMALLY REQUIRED

NATURE SOCIETY SINGAPORE STRATEGIC PLANNING

18 FEB 2023



3.1. NSS STRATEGIC PLAN & REBRANDING



NATURE SOCIETY SINGAPORE STRATEGIC PLANNING

15 APRIL 2023



VISION

TO BE SINGAPORE'S LEADING ADVOCATE OF BIODIVERSITY AND HABITATS



MISSION

WITH OUR EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH AGENCIES, PEERS AND CORPORATES, WE LEAD HABITAT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN SINGAPORE AND WITH PARTNERS IN THE REGION. THROUGH ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY, WE INSPIRE AND ENABLE PEOPLE TO TAKE ACTION TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AND BIODIVERSE PLANET



POPULAR CHOICE: RETAIN

NEXT POPULAR: Nature Society SINGAPORE

MANGROVE TREE AS KEY IN NEXT ITERATION



ORGANISATION STRUCTURE, PROCESSES & CULTURE



SUCCESSION PLANNING & TALENT PIPELINE

EXCO LIMIT: 2+2+2+2+2
TREASURER: 2+2

SIG, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, & ALL IN COUNCIL: 3+3+3

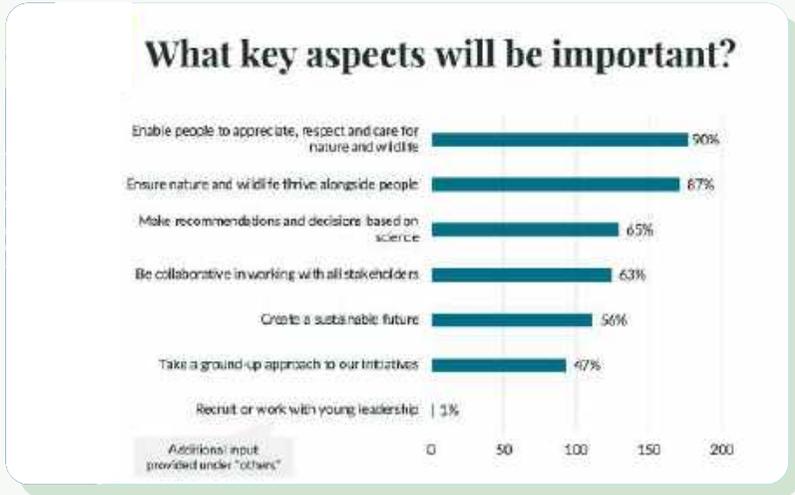
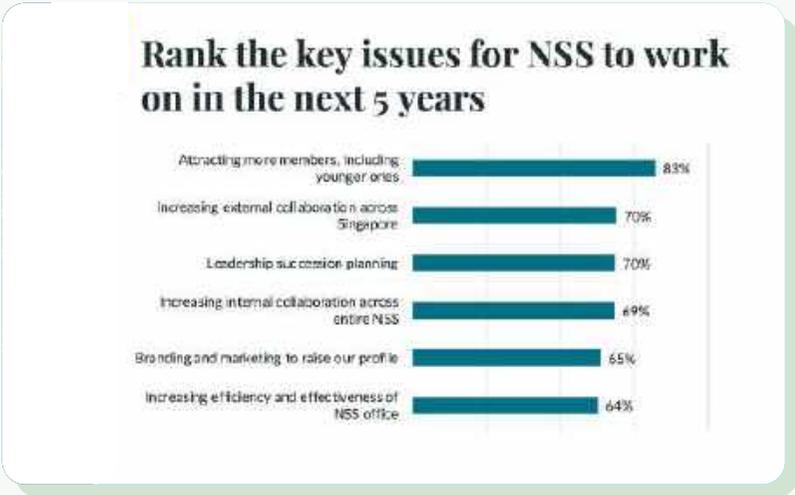
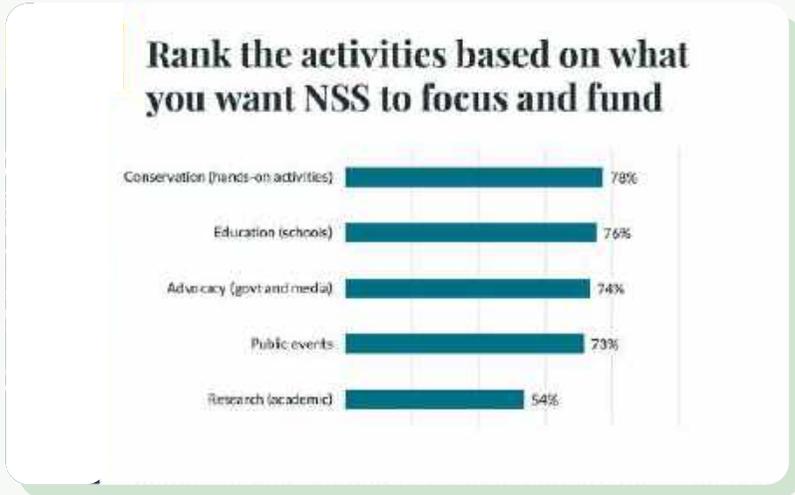
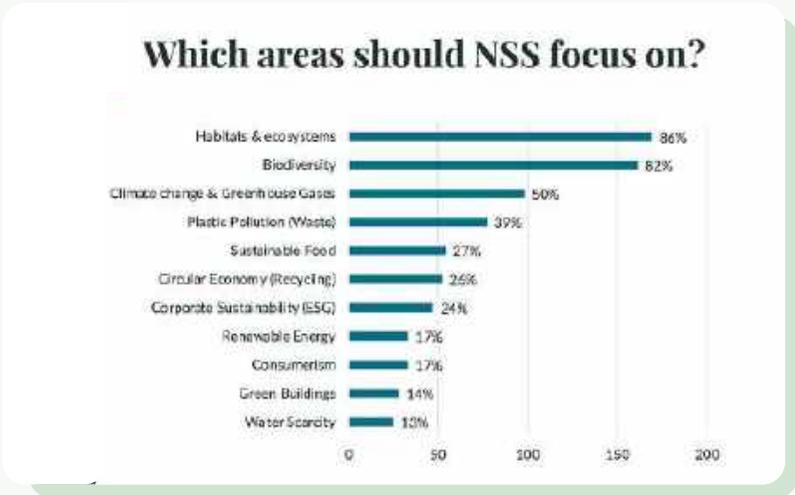
ALIGN CONSTITUTION, HANDBOOK, PRINCIPLES, POLICIES



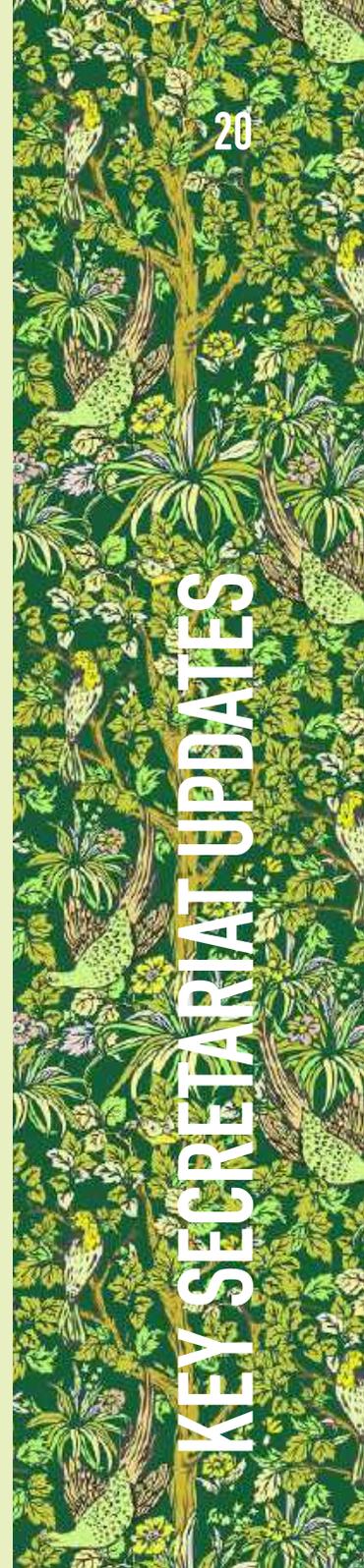
3.1. NSS STRATEGIC PLAN & REBRANDING

In parallel, the EXCO approved additional funding to supplement work done in the Strategic Plan to explore rebranding NSS from a vision & mission & logo perspective – all while conducting constant member surveys to ensure we are delivering solutions that appeal to and engage our members moving forward.

In March 2023, NSS conducted an all-member survey to aid us to better understand our member base and demographic as well as to determine what areas were important to our members. The slides below summarise the results of the survey and were instrumental in guiding us in our rebranding and strategic planning efforts.



KEY SECRETARIAT UPDATES



3.2. IT INFRASTRUCTURE, PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION & CHARITY GOVERNANCE AWARD

IT INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2020, when pandemic lockdowns were prevalent, NSS took the opportunity to revisit our processes and IT systems. We determined that the Society could use a reliable CRM (Customer/Constituent Relationship Management) system. Following months of research into the right CRM system for us, we signed up for the Salesforce Non-Profit Success Pack (NPSP).

In a parallel development, the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) had started providing grants to charities for large-scale infrastructural upgrades. We spent several months preparing the grant application for a complete revamp of both our frontend website as well as our back-end member and volunteer management system. Encouraged by the success, we put in another application to NCSS to automate our accounting system with XERO software. The second grant proposal was successful as well. I would like to thank our NSS staff and the IT Committee for their help in putting up these two applications.

The NSS team is now working with our vendor Pixely to implement the Salesforce CRM system as well as website revamp. Concurrently, another vendor is transitioning all NSS accounting records onto the XERO system by end March 2023.

Watch out for further IT updates as we look to deliver a better membership, volunteer and donor experience.

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

In 2022, NSS EXCO made the decision to hire personal data privacy expert, Privacy Ninja, as our Data Protection Organisation to put in place a revised Personal Data Policy as well as revamp our existing data management framework.



CHARITY GOVERNANCE AWARD

NSS is in the process of reviewing and revising all our policies to ensure that we are well-placed to win the Charity Governance Award for the second time (our first win was in 2016). The pandemic years saw NSS receiving large donations from the public and this has encouraged us to be as transparent as possible about our vision for the future, the programmes we run and the partnerships we forge. We are also working on ways to communicate more frequently via social and digital media to showcase our plans and actions so that members and donors can appreciate all that we do. We hope that this will in turn inspire confidence to donate to us, knowing that funds are being put to good use to achieve the governance, conservation and education aims of NSS.



04. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

- 4.1. Bird Group (BG)
- 4.2. Butterfly & Insect Group (BIG)
- 4.3. Jalan Hijau (JH)
- 4.4. Marine Conservation Group (MCG)
- 4.5. Nature Ramblers (NR)
- 4.6. Plant Group (PG)
- 4.7. Vertebrate Study Group (VSG)

4.1. BIRD GROUP

Mr. Tan Gim Cheong
Bird Group Chair



23



The Bird Group (BG) had a busy year post Covid-19 as the number of activities were scaled up, and would like to thank all members, volunteers and participants for their time and support.

38TH NSS SINGAPORE BIRD RACE

The 38th NSS Singapore Bird Race was held from 12-13 Nov 2022 attracted some 300 participants, making it our biggest bird race ever. Thank you to MapleTree Investments for your sponsorship, and to BirdLife

International (Asia) and National Parks Board (NParks) for your support.

COLLABORATIONS

1. NPARKS

The Straw-headed Bulbul Working Group co-led by NSS & NParks held its inaugural meeting in 2022 as part of the journey towards developing a species action plan. The BG continued to conduct shorebird surveys at Chek Jawa, Pulau Ubin and co-developed

the plan for comprehensive multi-year bird surveys at the Central Catchment Nature Reserve.

BG also leveraged on the NSS booth at Pesta Ubin (25 June 2022) to raise awareness on the Straw-headed Bulbul, where visitors to the booth included senior government officials.

2. MNS

In conjunction with the Malayan Nature Society (MNS) flagship Raptor Watch event which was held online in March

2022, the BG was invited to the Raptor Watch e-forum as panel speaker and gave a talk on the raptors of Singapore.

3. EBIRD

As the country partner for eBird in Singapore, BG promoted the recording of bird sightings and managed the data quality assurance on the international citizen science platform.

4. ASIAN RAPTOR RESEARCH & CONSERVATION NETWORK CONFERENCE (ONLINE)

The BG delivered the country brief for raptors in Singapore and acted as session chair for one of the lectures.

5. EXTERNAL AGENCIES

We attended engagement/feedback sessions with various agencies on development plans for:

Keppel Club BTO, Yishun Miltonia BTO, OBS Coney construction, Kranji Woodlands, Floating Photo-Voltaic systems for Upper Peirce Reservoir, HDB development at rail corridor at CCK, Choa Chu Kang Waterworks, KJE roadworks, and Seletar Airport Wildlife Hazard Management Meeting.

6. OTHERS

An article on the new species of birds added to Singapore's bird list was published in the Apr-Jun 2022 issue of *Nature Watch*.

The BG also hosted a webinar on the Cockatoos of Singapore.

BG provided expert inputs regarding the Oriental Magpie Robin for an NTU student project titled "Silent Streets" which took part in the Heritage Festival in May 2022.

BIRD CENSUSES

We continued our bird censuses to monitor the population trends of our

avifauna. These included the Asian Waterbird Census, Parrot Count, Annual Bird Census, Mid-Year Bird Census, Fall Migration Bird Census, and Raptor Watch.

BIRDWATCHING WALKS

Ten guided bird walks were conducted in 2022 at:

Gardens by the Bay
Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve
Jurong Lake Gardens
Pulau Ubin (Pesta Ubin)
Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve
Satay by the Bay
Dairy Farm Nature Park



4.2. BUTTERFLY & INSECT GROUP (BIG)

Mr. Abiel Neo
Butterfly & Insect Group Chair



25



BIG seeks to be a credible and action-oriented champion for the conservation of insects within NSS. To achieve this, in 2022 we have focused our efforts along 4 pillars:

1. Establishing credibility and expertise
2. Supporting broader NSS efforts
3. Conservation initiatives
4. Community outreach and education

In doing so, we have played our part in NSS' efforts to advance conservation, while building BIG's reputation as the go-to group in Singapore for expertise on the conservation of insect biodiversity.

The relaxation of Covid-19 measures in the first half of 2022 enabled us to resume in-person activities such as walks and surveys that had been paused during the pandemic. We thank NSS members for their strong support and look forward to increasing the frequency of these activities in 2023.

1. ESTABLISHING CREDIBILITY AND EXPERTISE

In April 2022, BIG published the refreshed *Field Guide to the Butterflies of Singapore*. Authored by veteran

BIG members, the compact pocket guide features 210 common butterfly species found in Singapore. This guide enables amateur butterfly watchers to identify their sightings in the field, where internet access is unavailable.

BIG is exploring digital resources for butterflies and other insect groups to enhance accessibility of knowledge to NSS members and the public.

In August 2022, BIG was privileged to be invited by the Johor Forestry Department to participate in the Panti Scientific Expedition 2022, where we surveyed Panti's forests with our counterparts from the Johor branch of the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS).

2. SUPPORTING BROADER NSS EFFORTS

BIG partnered the NSS secretariat, committees and other special interest groups to advance our collective conservation interest in 2022. We supported events such as the 2022 Festival of Biodiversity and NSS Biodiversity Race 2022, contributed to the Conservation Committee's book on Alexandra Woodland, and

conducted a Fun with Butterflies walk for young families in partnership with the NSS Education Committee.

3. CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Several conservation initiatives driven by BIG members reached key milestones in 2022. In July, a new butterfly garden was opened at the Land Transport Authority (LTA) Headquarters, adding a new green space in our urban environment for wildlife. In September, the Bukit Gombak Park celebrated its first anniversary. BIG members have worked closely with NParks and grassroots to curate a biodiverse park for wildlife to flourish. More than 70 butterfly species were recorded in its first year, an impressive total for an urban park.

BIG partnered Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) to survey the coastal forest fragments on its property. Despite

gloomy weather during the 3 surveys, we recorded more than 30 butterfly species, including several rare ones. We welcome opportunities like these to survey uncatalogued green spaces, which enables informed choices to be made for their conservation.

BIG aims to deepen our partnerships with government agencies and the community to preserve and enhance our natural environment. We recently began engagements with the Woodlands Botanical Garden, an impressive community garden that started as a ground-up initiative.

4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Engaging the community and educating Singaporeans about the importance of biodiversity and nature conservation remains at the core of BIG's efforts. We have been deliberate in ramping up these activities following the pandemic.

In 2022, we were thankful to be invited by schools like Yishun Town Secondary School and Invictus School to speak to their students about biodiversity and kickstart their butterfly garden efforts.

We resumed our scheduled butterfly walks for NSS members, which included well-attended sessions at Bukit Gombak Park, Dairy Farm Nature Park, Jurong Lake Gardens, Lornie Park Connector Network and Lorong Halus.

We aim to conduct walks for members at least once a month in 2023.

CONCLUSION

BIG had a busy and productive year in 2022. We thank our members for their tireless efforts that have reinforced our credibility and led to real world conservation wins. We encourage like-minded individuals to join us in 2023, as we champion the conservation of insects and their ecosystems.



4.3. JALAN HIJAU (JH)

Mr. Tan Hang Chong
Jalan Hijau Chair



NATIONAL DAY PARADE 2022 EXCO-GREEN GROUPS ENGAGEMENT

Tan Hang Chong represented NSS in a series of Green Groups engagements by the National Day Parade 2022 Organising Exco.

In July 2022, green groups were hosted pre-parade at the F1 pit building for a tour of sustainability initiatives that were being implemented, sharing how the ideas that were co-created together became an actuality for NDP 2022. With the increase in participants to 9,000 that year, deployment of compact and anaerobic food digesters around the participant village was ramped up. This allowed for some food waste generated to be composted and

distributed to community gardens. The first solar powered container was deployed at NDP 2022, which was an off grid air-conditioned facility used for hosting meetings and a rest area for staff and volunteers. Other features included a solar powered CCTV system, an electric buggy used for supply runs, mandatory recycling bins incorporated into contracts, attractive menus to appeal to youths to minimise food waste, water refill points, sustainably sourced materials for the NDP Pack and utilities monitoring on a cloud dashboard to optimise electricity usage.

END-OF-YEAR DISCUSSION FOR GREEN PARTIES

Tan Hang Chong represented NSS in the Singapore Youth Voices for Biodiversity (SYVB) End-Of-Year Discussion for environmental and biodiversity-related Civil Society Organisations on Sunday 12 Dec 2021. Our input was part of the collective effort under the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), to create solidarity among like-minded parties and gather youth voices for the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15).



4.4. MARINE CONSERVATION GROUP (MCG)

With the easing of Covid-19 restrictions in 2022, there have been slightly more opportunities for Marine Conservation Group (MCG) to conduct in-person activities. MCG was also actively involved with more government agency initiatives and participation in engagements to minimise impacts on the marine environment for development projects. Members of the group were also invited to give talks to organisations and forged collaborations with other green/blue groups.

IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES

Continuing from 2021, MCG conducted the marine debris workshops for Outward Bound Singapore (OBS), and education on marine debris via a train-the-trainer course was conducted for some senior OBS trainers so that they will be able to train their instructors in-house. MCG also supported several clean-up sessions at Sungei Pang Sua for various corporate groups.

As we plan to re-start the Horseshoe Crabs Research and Rescue (HSCRR) programme, a few survey sessions were conducted for the regular



Mr. Kua Kay Yaw
Marine Conservation Chair



volunteers, as well as new volunteers. Unfortunately, with the closing of the food centre along Kranji Loop, we lost shelter during bad weather, so the programme was interrupted again. With the opening of TIMMAC in the 2nd half of 2023, there is hope that the programme can resume.

Other activities that MCG conducted include the yearly Pesta Ubin kayaking, an intertidal walk for the members of Friends of East Coast Park (FoECP). The highlight of 2022 was the kayaking trip along Sungei Jurong organised by NSS. We were able to bring representatives from various stakeholders, government agencies and the Minister of National Development, Mr. Desmond Lee, to survey Sungei Jurong and discuss possible plans to conserve the area.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

The MCG represented NSS in a number of NParks' Friends of Park Network, namely the Friends of Marine Parks (FMP), Friends of East Coast Park (FoECP), and Friends of Ubin Network (FUN), and in 2022, Friends of Sungei Buloh (FSB).

In 2022, with the announcement of the Singapore Green Plan (SGP) 2030, various government agencies continue to create initiatives to support the plan and stakeholders were engaged to provide inputs and feedback. The MCG were involved with the Ministry of Sustainability and Environment's (MSE) National Action Strategies for Marine Litter (NASML) discussion and launch of the programme, the PUB Coastal Protection Plan and NParks Marine Wildlife Protection discussion.

Engagements for Developmental Projects includes Sentosa Development Corporation's (SDC) Light Activation on Seringat-Kias, Shell's Bukom SBM Pipeline Replacement, Immigration and Checkpoint Authorities' (ICA) Woodland

Checkpoint Extension, Housing and Development Board's (HDB) Keppel Club Redevelopment, Land Reclamation at Changi Bay, Marine Port Authorities' (MPA) Development at Marina Coastal Road, and Singapore Food Agency's (SFA) Fish Farms in Southern Islands.

TALKS

The vice-chair of the group, Lester Tan gave talks on horseshoe crabs by invitation of the Biodiversity Friends Forum and Our Singapore Reef.

EXHIBITIONS, SHOWS AND WORKSHOP

MCG participated in the NParks' Festival of Biodiversity and the Asia

Dive Expo (ADEX). The group put in and won the bid to host the 5th IUCN International Horseshoe Crab Workshop in Singapore.

MCG's plan for the 2023/2024 is to resume the horseshoe crab programme in the second half of 2023. We are looking into conducting an island-wide horseshoe crab survey, as well as expanding the number of horseshoe crabs monitoring sites. We are also looking into publishing the second version of the *Singapore Waters* book. Of all the plans, the most important event would be to organise the 5th IUCN International Horseshoe Crab Workshop in June 2024!



4.5. NATURE RAMBLERS (NR)

Mr. Pandian Parthasarathy
Nature Ramblers Chair



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ITEM

DATE

Ramble to Thomson Nature Park	22 Jan
Ramble at Singapore Botanic Gardens	19 Feb
Ramble at Clementi Forest	19 Mar
Ramble at Keppel Hill and Mount Faber	9 Apr
Pesta Ubin 2022: Ramble at Pulau Ubin	11 Jun
National Day 2022 Ramble at the Green Rail Corridor	6 Aug
Ramble at Windsor Nature Park	8 Oct
Ramble at Clementi Forest, Singapore Quarry & Thru Rail Corridor	5 Nov
Ramble at the Abandoned Raffles Country Club	10 Dec
Ramble at Clementi Forest*	17 Dec



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

4.6. PLANT GROUP (PG)

Dr. Bian Tan
Plant Group Chair



31



PLANT SURVEY 2022

A. RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA

The Plant Group (PG) finished the survey after working many weekends. In a departure from past surveys of this remnant forest, this time we included herbaceous and non-tree species, to give a more holistic picture of the habitat. A digital map of the major trees and paths was surveyed, with the highlight being the discovery of a handful of medium-sized *Dracaena maingayi* trees, along with several saplings. This is possibly the highest concentration of this threatened species in Singapore.

B. ALEXANDRA WOODLAND

PG conducted a survey of the different habitats in the *Alexandra Woodlands* which were included published in a book with the same name in November 2022. Highlights included the discovery of a population of the critically endangered orchid *Neuweidia veratrifolia*.

ETONHOUSE TREASURE CHEST LAUNCH 3 SEP 2022

The Treasure Chest app was an initiative of EtonHouse Community Fund, aimed at encouraging families to spend quality time in nature. This event was hosted by Bukit Panjang CC and the guest-of-honour was Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan. NSS had a display table with fungi, seeds, fruits, and aromatic leaves such as clove and citrus. One of the popular activities with children at our table was to toss the fruits of *Petrea volubilis* into the air and watch them spin

towards the ground. Also of great interest were the many dried (and edible) fungi on display.

PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

Three hands-on workshops were conducted, on Leaves (Oct 2022), Flowers (Dec 2022), and Ferns (Feb 2023). Future workshops are planned on Palms, Orchids, and other plant groups.

Plant Walks: Ferns, Figs, and Palms at Rifle Range Nature Park in collaboration with NParks, and Friends of Bukit Timah Forest. 4 Feb 2023. This fully booked walk included stories on the local geology, as well as threatened plant species of our freshwater swamps.

PLANT WALKS AT RIFLE RANGE NATURE PARK

PG organised walks for NSS members at Rifle Range Nature Park on 4 and 11 Feb 2022.

PLANT WALK AT SUNGAI BULOH NATURE RESERVE

PG organised a plant walk on 23 April 2023 where participants discovered fungi, spiders, *Hoya*, *Clerodendrum*, as well as the usual mangrove species.

Many thanks to all PG volunteers for their dedication and enthusiasm!



4.7. VERTEBRATE STUDY GROUP (VSG)



ACTIVITIES AND OUTINGS

VSG has conducted two public/member outings at Bukit Batok Nature Park.

Collaboration with Herpetological Society Singapore (HSS) on a member outing at Dairy Farm Nature Park.

SINGAPORE PANGOLIN WORKING GROUP

Represented by Marcus Chua and Ng Bee Choo.

Two meetings held on 27 Apr and 22 Dec 2022.

Since 1996, 482 records of Pangolin rescues, road kills and sightings were compiled.

RAFFLES' BANDED LANGUR WORKING GROUP

Represented by Yeo Suay Hwee and Vilma D'Rozario.

The meeting was held on 28 Mar 2023.

Population final count at 74 individuals as of March 2023.

26 arboreal camera traps were deployed to further monitor the species behaviour in the trees. Besides Raffles' banded

Mr. Yeo Suay Hwee
Vertebrate Study Group Chair



langurs, slow loris, two species of civet, Horsfield's flying squirrel and colugos were also observed.

URBAN WILDLIFE WORKING GROUP

A new group was set up in Dec 2021 mainly focussed on vertebrates. NSS Staff Kerry Pereira is part of the working group.

BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH PROJECT FOR PANTI FOREST

Organised by Johor Forestry Department and Local Johor Universities.

Seven members from VSG who are also members of Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) joined this project with MNS Johor, and work is still ongoing to date.



A vibrant green and red lorikeet is perched on a tree branch, eating a piece of wood. The bird has a bright green body with a red patch on its wing and a blue patch on its tail. Its beak is orange and is currently holding a piece of wood. The background is a lush green forest with various types of leaves and branches.

05. SIGNATURE PROGRAMMES

5.1. Conservation

5.2. Education

5.3. NSS Every Singaporean A Naturalist (ESN)

5.4. NSS Rewilding Project

5.1. CONSERVATION

1. HDB/URA

KEPPEL CLUB

An engagement session was held on 10 Feb 2022 for an update on the environmental baseline study findings of the site slated for housing development.

The focus is on the birds recorded and crustacean in the existing ponds.

We brought up the issues of connectivity to Southern Ridges and whether URA can reforest the open field of the former BP refinery site for a temporary ecological function.

Further engagement was held on 8 Apr 2022 to discuss the siting of green corridors (10 ha or 20% of development area) within and around the development site.

We brought up the possibility of alternative corridor via western and northern boundaries and retaining the existing trees along the northern boundary.

We were also interested in the feasibility of an ecological connectivity from Mt. Faber across Telok Blangah Rd.

A site visit was organised by HDB & URA on 9 May 2022 to discuss the nature connectivities of the development.

CHOA CHU KANG/RAIL CORRIDOR

An engagement session was held on 27 Jan 2022 to update the development plan for the sites slated for housing development.

A 'Reimagine our Choa Chu Kang/Rail Corridor' closing engagement was held 16 June 2022 to discuss the revised conceptual plan that will retain the original alignment of the Rail Corridor with 2 ha of linear green links next to Pang Sua Canal and across the development.

DOVER/ULU PANDAN FOREST

An engagement to update on the EIA & EMMP for the proposed Dover East housing development was held on 2 Aug 2022.

This include the retention of a naturalised stream and harvesting of plant saplings to a nursery for future transplant.

BAYSHORE WOODLAND

An engagement on 25 Aug 2022 on the EIA findings of this 60 ha young forest along East Coast Park which will be developed for housing.

Bayshore Woodland is a significant green area in the east coast area.

YISHUN MILTONIA

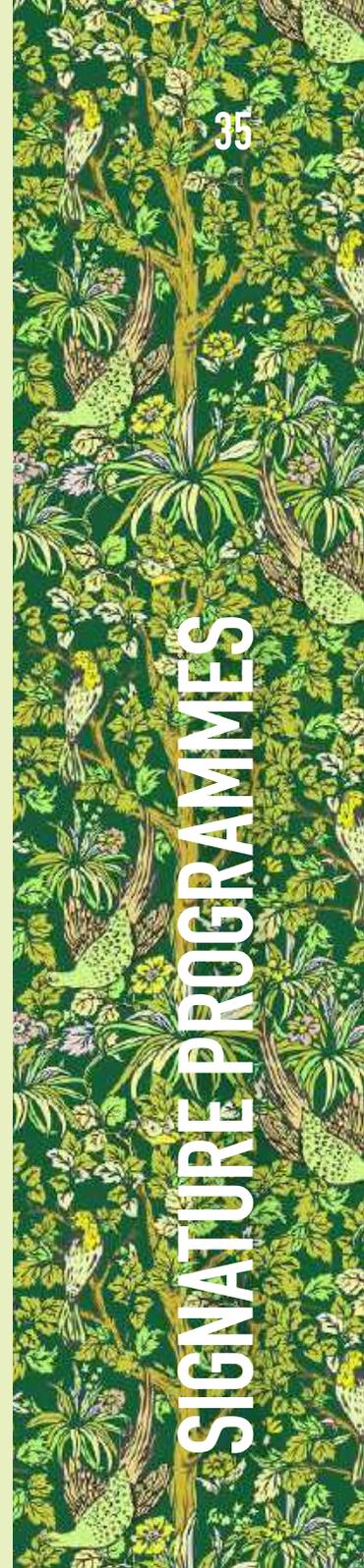
An engagement session was held on 12 Oct 2022 to discuss the updated EIS & EMMP of the development site. This include retaining 6.4 ha for biodiversity.

2. PUB

RESERVOIRS

An engagement session on 15 Mar 2022 to discuss the EIA findings of the pro-posed floating photovoltaic that will be installed on Upper Pierce Reservoir ad-jacent to Chestnut Water Work.

An engagement session on 4 May 2022 to scope the EIS for proposed floating photovoltaic for Lower Seletar and Pandan Reservoirs.





CHOA CHU KANG WATERWORKS

An engagement on 26 Mar 2022 to discuss the EIA findings of the proposed reconstruction of Choa Chu Kang Waterworks.

The expansion area would include the green area and streams south of the existing plant.

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Took part in the 'Our Coastal Conversation - City-East Coast' community dialogue session on 15 Oct 2022.

3. LTA

TENGAH

An engagement on 30 Mar 2022 to scope the EIA for the construction of Tengah vehicular interchange of KJE & Tengah.

CROSS ISLAND LINE

A Design Thinking Workshop was conducted 20 Jan 2022 for CR16 (Clementi Forest) MRT station.

An engagement session on 31 Aug 2022 to discuss the EIS for CRL MRT station sites at CR14 Turf City (adjacent to Eng Neo Forest) and CR15 Holland Plain.

The construction work will avoid Eng Neo Forest due to its high ecological value and habitat.

A 0.3 ha unique marsh will be impacted for CR15 and LTA will replace it with a recreated marsh adjacent to the existing.

A site visit to the future CR16 (Clementi Forest) MRT station site was held on 9 Sep 2022 by LTA & NParks.

4. ICA

An engagement session on 27 Jul 2022 to discuss the EIA findings for the Woodlands Checkpoint extension to Old Woodland Town Centre.

The development is in close proximity to Sg Mandai Kechil that leads to Mandai Mangrove & Mudflat.

Impact considerations include construction earth control measures and storm water retention system.

A forest patch south of Marsiling Park will be retained and integrated to the park by NParks.

A further engagement on 7 Oct 2022 to update slight modification the CIQ infrastructure works involving shifting of worksite further north.

5. ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

A site visit and discussion was held on 25 Jan 2022 with NUHS team at the hospital ground to discuss the proposed expansion site, the proposed landscape plan and the arborist recommendation of trees that needed to be felled or conserved.

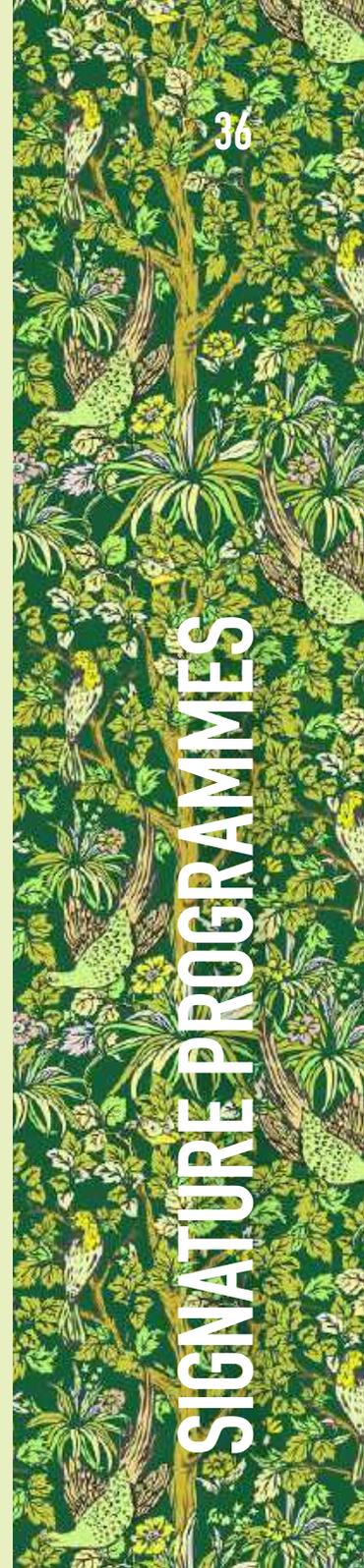
A discussion was held on 17 June 2022 with NUSH design team to discuss the expansion of Alexandra Hospital and its integration with the Rail Corridor.

Subjects discussed include potential tree planting areas, upcycling projects of felled trees and visit to an upcycling sawmill.

6. SFA

An engagement with stakeholders on scoping the EIA for the potential aquaculture development plan in the Southern Islands water - Pulau Satumu, Bukom and Jong.

Discussion include the impacts of open vs closed cage systems.



7. URA

Participated in URA Focus Group for Green & Blue Spaces held on 30 Apr 2022.

Subjects covered include update of the Green & Blue Plan, EPE and nature based solution for coastal protection.

Attended the Long-Term Plan Review Exhibition, on 6 Jun 2022 at The URA Centre hosted by URA.

8. JTC

A BEAP (Biodiversity & Environment Advisory Panel) was formed by JTC with nature group representatives to provide feedback for future development.

The 1st meeting was held on 16 Aug 2022. Subjects discussed include JTC Sustainability Vision, JTC biodiversity considerations for upcoming projects, better public communication, Coral Reef Garden adjacent to Sisters' Islands and the Old Jurong Line.

JTC is keen to explore the idea of an industrial heritage trail for the Old Jurong Line.

The 2nd meeting was held on 1 Dec 2022.

Subject discussed include the Agri-Food Innovation Park (AFIP), Jurong Innovation District (CleanTech Park, Bahar and part of Tengah), old Jurong Bird Park & Jurong Hill, North Coast Wafer Fab Park (Woodlands North Coast).

9. NPARKS

An engagement session held on 13 Jul 2022 to discuss the Bukit Batok Nature Corridor - an ecological link between Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and Tengah.

FRIENDS OF THE RAIL CORRIDOR (FORC)

7th FORC meeting was held on 28 Jun 2022 to discuss the heritage of the Rail Corridor North & South.

Attended the reopening of Bukit Timah Railway Station 1 Jul 2022.

8th FORC meeting was held on 29 Nov 2022 to discuss the interpretive signage for heritage of Rail Corridor North & South.

10. REWILDING THE RAIL CORRIDOR PROJECT

A collaboration agreement was signed with NParks in July 2022 for an initial 3 year term with possibility of another 3 year extension.

Ongoing discussions and site visit with NParks were conducted and matters discussed include planting sites, sapling selection



& collection, logistic, volunteers & sponsor activities and public engagement.

There were also exploratory discussions with PUB on possibility of planting on their land adjacent to the Rail Corridor.

In 2022, we raised funds to support an NSS Rewilding Officer.

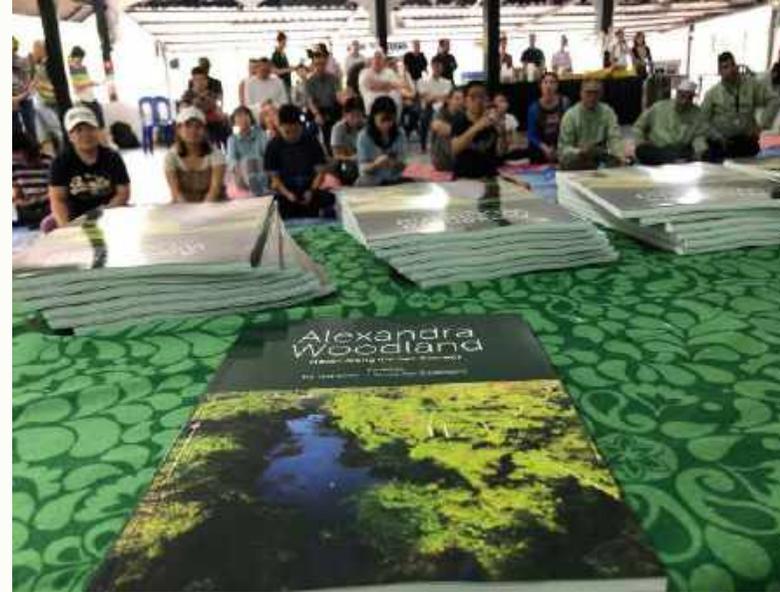
Rahman Jaafar joined us in Mar-Aug 2022.

Chua Chin Tat joined as in Sep-Nov 2022.

Sylvia Tan joined us in April 2023 as an Assistant Manager for the project and continues to support the NSS Rewilding Project to date.

The following activities were carried out in 2022:

- Nursery preparation with volunteers and sponsor in NParks and Pasir Panjang Nursery.
- Salvaging of plant saplings with NSS members and NUS RVRC student volunteers. Salvaging works were conducted with NParks guidance from Dover Forest East Saplings transferred to NParks Pasir Panjang Nursery & Ridge View Residential College.



11. PUBLICATION

The 3rd series on the Rail Corridor *Alexandra Woodland - Haven Along the Rail Corridor* was launched on 3 Dec 2022.

The launch event was hosted by Hang Jebat Mosque.

The book documented the biodiversity, heritage and our suggestions for its conservation.

Complimentary copies of the book were given to various Government agencies (MND, URA, HDB, NParks, PUB, JTC, LTA, SLA including Ministers), NLB and Alexandra Hospital development team.

12. SG JURONG KAYAK

We organised a kayaking and survey event on Sg Jurong on 7 Sep 2022.

The event had participation by Minister Desmond Lee, NParks group directors and representatives from JTC, URA and PUB.

NSS members made up the rest of the party.

The event was to have a quick survey of the flora and avifauna of the riverine habitat as Sg Jurong was featured as important green area along the Old Jurong Line/Rail Corridor.



13. SOCIAL MEDIA

NSS Facebook page has over 24,000 followers.

NSS Facebook group has close to 65,000 members.

We Support the Green Corridor Facebook Page has over 14,000 followers.

14. NHB

We collaborated with National Heritage Board for the Singapore Heritage Fest in Jun 2022 by conducting walks and virtual talks.

Andrew Lin conducted the walks in Tanglin Halt & Alexandra Woodland and Shawn Lum gave the talks of local streets and places named after flora and fauna.



5.2. EDUCATION

ONLINE ZOOM WORKSHOPS & TALKS FOR NSS MEMBERS & THE PUBLIC	DATE	SPEAKERS
Online Workshop: Fun with Singapore Marine Life	20 Feb 2022	Lisa Lim
Online Talk: Singapore’s Amazing Array of Spiders	26 Feb 2022	Nicky Bay
Night Walk: Fun with Nocturnal Animals at the Green Rail Corridor	21 Apr 2022	Gloria Seow
Online Talk: Co-living with Singapore’s Common Palm Civets	28 May 2022	Fung Tze Kwan
Pesta Ubin: Fun @ Pulau Ubin Shore to Summit Walk	25 Jun 2022	Gloria Seow
Wildlife Colouring & Drawing Workshop in Singapore	26 Jun 2022	Andrew Tay
Online Talk: Black Panthers are not from Wakanda – Unravelling the Mystery of the Malayan Leopard	31 Jul 2022	Ian Chew
Online Talk: Three Migratory Flyways of the Old Continent	27 Aug 2022	Yong Ding Li
Fun with Primates at Thomson Nature Park	28 Aug 2022	James Chua & Gloria Seow
Online Talk: Monitoring Rare Animals in the Deserts of North Africa	17 Dec 2022	Abdullah Nagy

All 10 online workshops and talks were organised and/or hosted by Ms Gloria Seow, Vice Chairperson of the Education Committee. A big thank you to all speakers. Recordings of the 10 sessions can be found on the NSS YouTube Channel where they continue to receive views, as well as on the *Fun with Nature* blog at funwithnature.blogspot.sg. The blog is still ranked #1 on Google under the search terms ‘Fun with Nature’.

Visit the Blog

We are looking for trained educators and volunteers with guiding experience to expand the Education committee. Please contact bengchiak@nss.org.sg if you are interested.



5.3. NSS EVERY SINGAPOREAN A NATURALIST (ESN)

Mrs. Sung Mei Yee & Ms. Michelle Hariff
ESN Senior Project Officer & ESN Project Officer



Every Singaporean A Naturalist (ESN) is Nature Society (Singapore)'s flagship citizen science project and nature education programme aimed at nurturing hearts and minds for nature, and ultimately lead participants to support advocacy and conservation of the natural environment around us.

ESN currently engages students and teachers in schools through their environmental-related Co-curricular Activities and/or school programmes. By participating in the various mandatory and optional components of our programme (Table 1), students and teachers of our onboarded schools will be able to explore, learn, and eventually, grow their love for and understanding of nature. **ESN has engaged a total of 51 schools across Singapore to date since launching in 2018.**

One of the key and mandatory components of our programme is the *Urban Biodiversity Monitoring*, where students are to monitor the species listed in their selected taxonomic group(s), either in or around the school vicinity, at least once every two weeks, and upload their monitoring data onto iNaturalist. **As of 8 May 2023, our participants have made a total of 6,381 observations of 397 species. Of which, 45.3% are research grade.**

In 2022, ESN conducted a total of 31

Table 1 – NSS ESN Programme Components

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS	MANDATORY	OPTIONAL
A. Teacher Training	Green	Grey
B. Student Training	Green	Grey
C. Urban Biodiversity Monitoring	Green	Grey
D. Skills Achievement Programme	Grey	Light Green
E. Naturalist Chatter	Grey	Light Green
F. Exclusive Guided Walks	Grey	Light Green
G. Annual Biodiversity Race	Grey	Light Green
H. Annual Symposium	Green	Grey
I. Guided Walks & Workshops for Teachers	Grey	Light Green

Student Training sessions at our new schools to build their competencies and skills, and successfully ran our first calendar year of improved programme, including existing and new events:

Held on 1 June 2022, the **NSS ESN Inaugural Biodiversity Race 2022** saw **19 teams from eight schools** racing against each other to photograph and upload as many fauna species as possible onto iNaturalist. Our race participants made a total of **372 observations of 71 species** across five gardens/parks in Singapore in a span of three hours.

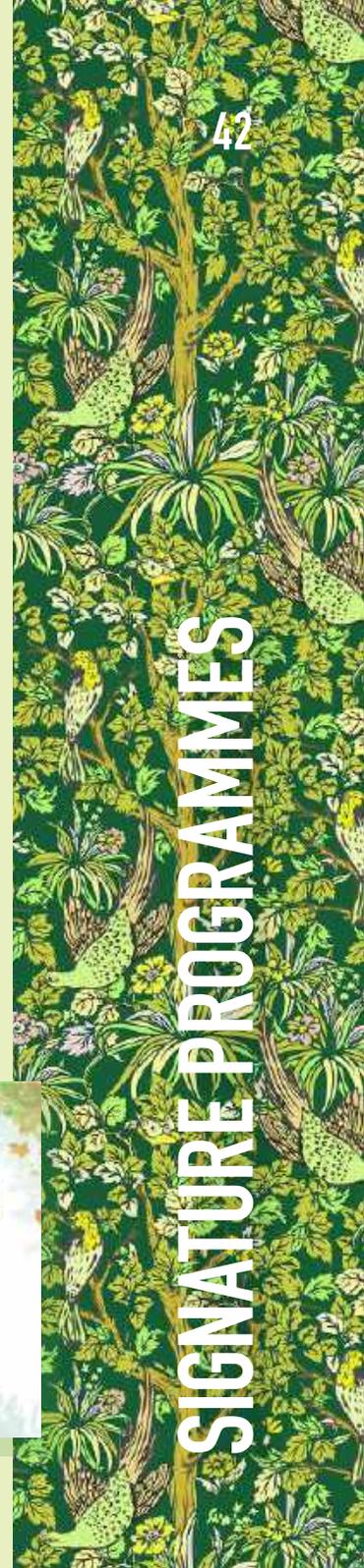
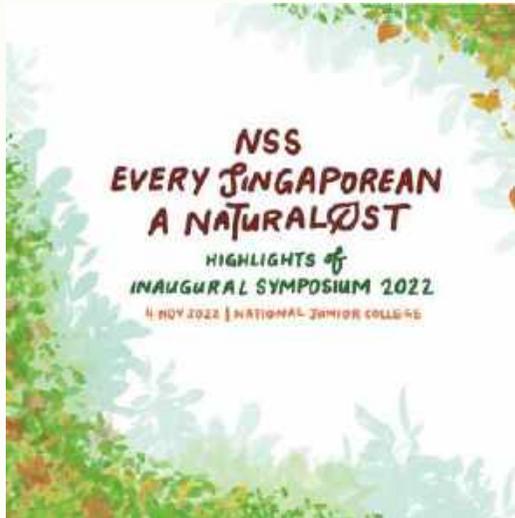


Of which, 89.25% were research grade. Seven teams from five schools also brought home **nine awards** across the following four award categories: *Highest Number of Species with Research-grade Observations, Most Unique Observation, Best-photographed Observation, and Best Video Montage.*

Held on 04 November 2022, the **NSS ESN Inaugural Symposium 2022** was attended by **97 students and teachers from 14 schools**. A platform for onboarded schools to celebrate achievements and share experiences, four schools presented inspiring projects they embarked on earlier in the year to raise awareness on local biodiversity or conservation issues using their knowledge and skills gleaned from ESN. **These projects ranged from a campus-wide BioBlitz and a mini bird race for families, to development of an online game on local biodiversity and**

invention of a device to prevent bird collisions. 11 schools also received awards for their *Urban Biodiversity Monitoring* achievements across the following three award categories: *Highest Number of Observations to Date, Highest Number of Observations in 2022, and Highest Number of Research-grade Observations in 2022.* (For more information on NSS ESN Inaugural Symposium 2022, please view page 18 of *NSS Nature Watch*, Volume 30, Issue 4, Oct-Dec 2022.)

Held in-person for the first time on 24 and 25 November 2022, the **NSS ESN 2022 Teacher Training** was the second of its edition and was attended by 44 teachers from 24 schools. This 2-day training was an essential introduction of necessary knowledge and skills for new teachers and a helpful refresher for existing teachers to run ESN for their students in 2023. The teachers also had the opportunity to experience learning about nature through educational nature board games, *Fly-A-Way*





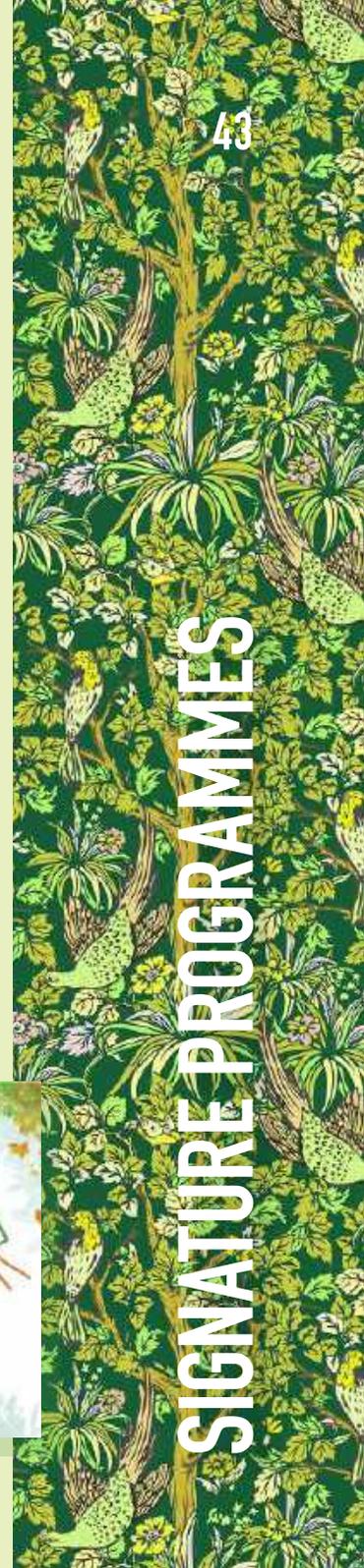
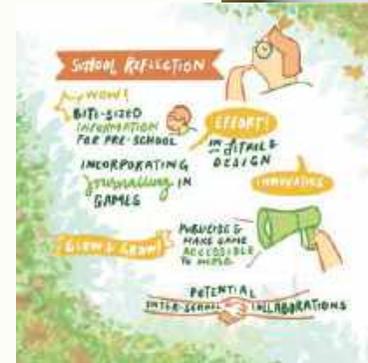
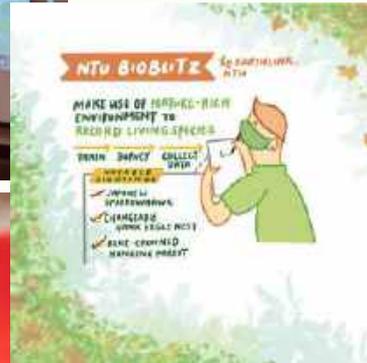
by *Playlogue Creations* and *Singapore Untamed* by *Accommodate Singapore*, as well as an educational guided nature walk at *Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve*. (For more information on NSS ESN 2022 Teacher Training, please view page 18 of *NSS Nature Watch*, Volume 30, Issue 4, Oct-Dec 2022.)

Additionally, ESN also **certified 160 students as Novice Naturalist** under our *Skills Achievement Programme*, organised **four sessions of Naturalist Chatter**, our online speaker series, on the theme of illegal wildlife trade, and ran **three sessions of Guided Walks & Workshops for Teachers** throughout 2022. These optional programme components provide students and teachers with opportunities to apply what they learned, to broaden and deepen their understanding of nature and nature conservation, and to grow their interest in our natural heritage.

Beyond schools, it is also NSS's ambition for ESN to reach out to communities, engaging the wider public in citizen science

and nature appreciation, through grassroots activities and organisations, corporate social responsibility projects, and partnerships with like-minded organisations. In 2022, ESN engaged its first community partner, *Outward Bound Singapore (OBS)* and trained 17 OBS instructors as part of the *OBS Environment & Sustainability Education (E&SE) Developmental Training Programme*.

In 2023, ESN will continue to improve its programme and start planning for its next phase of engagement!



APPENDIX A – MANDATORY NSS ESN PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

School Recruitment

Table 2 – Key Performance Indicators for NSS ESN School Recruitment

	Q3 '17 - Q2 '18	Q3 '18 - Q2 '19	Q3 '19 - Q2 '20	Q3 '20 - Q2 '21	Q3 '21 - Q2 '22	Q3 '22 - Q2 '23	2023
Schools onboard programme	6	16	24	25	40	40	44
Existing schools	-	4	14	23	26	40	37
New schools	6	12	10	2	14	-	7
Schools offboarded ¹ to date	0	2	4	5	4	4	7

¹ Offboarded schools are schools that have confirmed their exit from the programme.

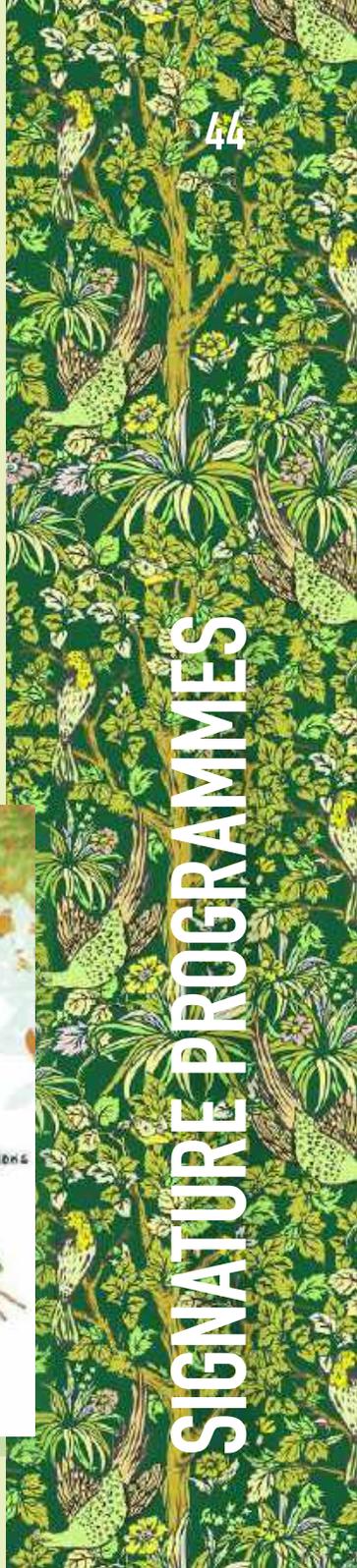


Table 3 – Key Performance Indicator for NSS ESN Student Training

	Q3 '17 - Q2 '18	Q3 '18 - Q2 '19	Q3 '19 - Q2 '20	Q3 '20 - Q2 '21	Q3 '21 - Q2 '22	Q3 '22 - Q2 '23	2023
Number of training sessions	-	32	23	16	28	9	17

Table 4 – Key Performance Indicators for NSS ESN Urban Biodiversity Monitoring

	Q3 '17 - Q2 '18	Q3 '18 - Q2 '19	Q3 '19 - Q2 '20	Q3 '20 - Q2 '21	Q3 '21 - Q2 '22	Q3 '22 - Q2 '23	2023
Number of observations to date	621	1,404	1,912	2,631	5,086	5,658	6,381
Number of new observations	621	783	508	719	2,455	572	723
% research-grade ²	2.25%	33.3%	47.0%	64.6%	57.1%	41.6%	38.6%

² Research-grade observations are verifiable observations with its date, location, audio and/or image files, and have its identification agreed by three or more iNaturalist users.



Table 5 – NSS ESN Inaugural Symposium 2022's Urban Biodiversity Monitoring Award Categories and Winners

AWARD CATEGORY	PLACING	AWARD WINNER	NO. OF OBSERVATIONS
Highest Number of Observations to Date	1 st	Hougang Primary School	2,472
	2 nd	Nanyang Technological University	866
	3 rd	Singapore Chinese Girl's School	296
Highest Number of Observations in 2022	Pre & Primary School		
	1 st	Sembawang Primary School	136
	2 nd	Teck Whye Primary School	52
	3 rd	Yu Neng Primary School	50
	Secondary School		
	1 st	Dunman Secondary School	67
2 nd	Nanyang Girls' High School	51	
3 rd	Punggol Secondary School	43	
Highest Number of Research-grade Observations in 2022	1 st	Pre & Primary School My First Skool @ 6 Segar Road	48
	1 st	Secondary School Raffles Girls' School (Secondary)	15



APPENDIX B – OPTIONAL NSS ESN PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

NSS ESN Skills Achievement Programme

The *Skills Achievement Programme* is a three-tier programme ('Novice Naturalist', 'Advanced Naturalist', and 'Expert Naturalist') that certifies students based on their ESN knowledge and skills competency per taxonomic group.

Table 6 – Key Performance Indicators for NSS ESN Skills Achievement Programme

	Q3 '17 - Q2 '18	Q3 '18 - Q2 '19	Q3 '19 - Q2 '20	Q3 '20 - Q2 '21	Q3 '21 - Q2 '22	Q3 '22 - Q2 '23	2023
Number of 'Novice Naturalist' students to date	-	-	-	20	54	214	TBU
Number of new 'Novice Naturalist' students	-	-	-	20	34	160	TBU
For birds	-	-	-	20	34	133	TBU
For butterflies	-	-	-	0	0	27	TBU



NSS ESN Naturalist Chatter

The *Naturalist Chatter* is an online speaker series that provides the students and teachers with a broader and deeper understanding of nature and nature conservation.

Table 7 – Attendance & Details of NSS ESN Naturalist Chatter 2020 to 2023

Session	Naturalist Chatter	Date	Attendance
Naturalist Chatter 2020			
1	Importance of Biodiversity & Conservation in Singapore by <i>Dr. Shawn Lum</i>	19 Jun	131 attendees
2	Studying & Understanding Bird Migration by <i>Dr. Yong Ding Li</i>	02 Jul	186 attendees
3	iNaturalist (& NSS Singapore Nature Sightings Project) by <i>Sung Mei Yee</i>	17 Jul	66 attendees
4	Birds of Singapore by <i>Lim Kim Chuah & Dr. Yong Ding Li</i>	30 Jul	103 attendees
5	Butterflies of Singapore by <i>Dr. Ngo Kang Min & Tian How Ming</i>	14 Aug	61 attendees
6	Plants of Singapore by <i>Bian Tan</i>	26 Aug	101 attendees
7	Vertebrates of Singapore by <i>Dr. Vilma D'Rozario</i>	09 Sep	67 attendees
Naturalist Chatter 2021 Theme: Student-led Initiatives/Projects			
1	<i>A Lost World</i> by <i>Kevin Huang & Luke Ang, School of the Arts</i>	18 Mar	50 attendees from 9 schools
2	Estimating Carbon Emissions from Trees on Campus by <i>Nicole Chua and Vera Loh, Singapore Chinese Girls' School</i>	25 Aug	68 attendees from 6 schools
Naturalist Chatter 2022 Theme: Illegal Wildlife Trade			
1	Gotta Save 'Em All by <i>Sean Yap, Entomologist & NUS PhD Student</i>	11 Feb	103 attendees from 5 schools
2	Wildlife Trade in Southeast Asia by <i>Serene Chng, Programme Officer at TRAFFIC International</i>	11 Mar	85 attendees from 5 schools
3	Working Together for Singapore's Pangolin by <i>Dr. Charlene Yeong, Co-chair of Singapore Pangolin Working Group</i>	29 Apr	76 attendees from 4 schools
4	Wildlife & Me: Tackling Illegal Wildlife Trade in Singapore by <i>Anbarasi Boopal & Shauqi Mursalin, ACRES Co-CEO & Education Executive</i>	19 Aug	103 attendees from 7 schools
Naturalist Chatter 2023 Theme: Habitat Fragmentation & Habitat Loss			
1	Nature's All Natural Neighbourhood by <i>Shawn Fang, Little Red Jungle</i>	10 Feb	42 attendees from 7 schools
2	Islands of Green: Fragmentation & Its Impacts by <i>Kerry Pereira, NSS Members & Outreach Manager</i>	10 Mar	71 attendees from 10 schools
3	Climbing Trees for Wildlife Conservation by <i>Dr. Andie Ang, Chair of the Raffles' Banded Langur Working Group</i>	26 May	TBU

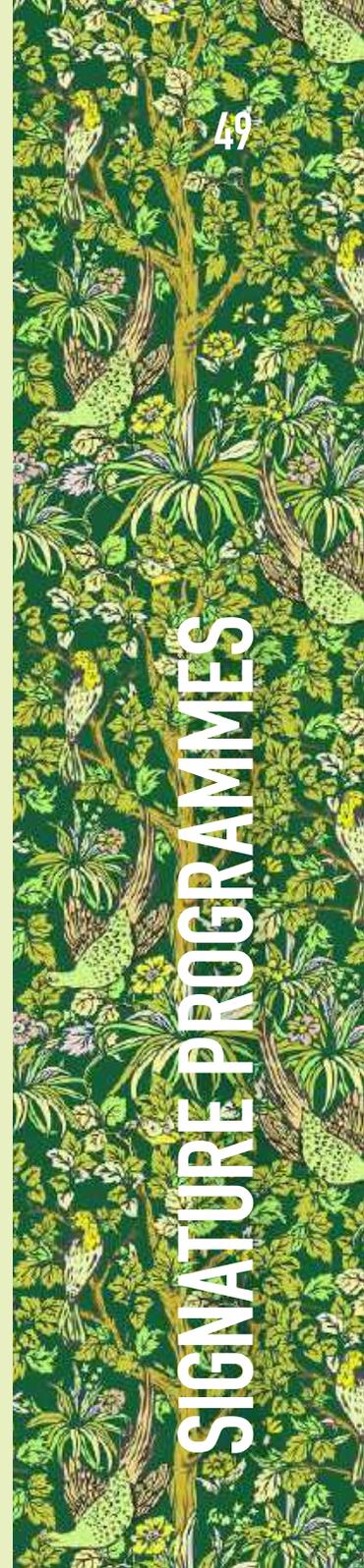
NSS ESN Inaugural Biodiversity Race 2022

Table 8 – NSS ESN Inaugural Biodiversity Race 2022’s Award Categories and Winners

AWARD CATEGORY	AWARD WINNER	OBSERVATIONS
Highest Number of Species	YuminChamps1 Yumin Primary School	19 Species
	Chunky Monkeys Dunman Secondary School	37 Species
Most Unique Observations	Dazhong Team 1 Dazhong Primary School	Slaty-breasted Rail
	Four Students Singapore Chinese Girls’ School	Green-crested Lizard
	Thunder Ducks Dunman Secondary School	Black-crowned Night Heron
Best-photographed Observation	YuminChamps1 Yumin Primary School	Oriental Pied Hornbill
	Chunky Monkeys Dunman Secondary School	Collared Kingfisher
Best Video Montage	YuminChampsA Yumin Primary School	-
	RGS TWS Team 2 Raffles Girls’ School	-



SIGNATURE PROGRAMMES



NSS ESN Guided Walks & Workshops for Teachers

Guided Walks & Workshops for Teachers are organised to continually build the capacity and competency of interested teachers and nurture their passion for nature and nature conservation, as ESN relies on them to educate, guide, and inspire their students throughout the programme.

Table 9 – Attendance & Details of NSS ESN Guided Walks & Workshops for Teachers from 2021 to 2023

Session	Guided Walk	Date	Attendance
2021			
1	Guided Bird Walk at <i>Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park</i>	04 Sep	11 teachers from 8 schools
2	Guided Butterfly Walk at <i>Singapore Botanic Gardens</i>	05 Sep	6 teachers from 5 schools
2022			
1	Guided Vertebrate Walk at <i>Bukit Batok Nature Park</i>	16 Mar	8 teachers from 5 schools
2	Introduction to Nature Photography Workshop	24 May	10 teachers from 6 schools
3	Guided Nature Walk at <i>Dover Forest East</i>	03 Sep	9 teachers from 5 schools
2023			
1	Nature Journaling Workshop for Teachers at <i>Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve</i>	15 Mar	19 teachers from 11 schools



5.4. NSS REWILDING PROJECT

Ms. Sylvia Tan
Rewilding Assistant Manager



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An agreement with NParks was signed on 22 July 2022. It is a collaboration aligned with NParks on the OneMillionTrees Movement along the Rail Corridor. This agreement is for an initial 3 years starting 1 Aug 2022.

Fruitful efforts to salvage and collect potential seedlings at the Dover Forest East occurred from September 2022 to October 2022 with the help of our NSS volunteers, students from the Singapore Chinese Girls School & Ridge View Residential College (NUS) on 10 different salvaging sessions with NParks guidance. These saplings were transferred to NParks Pasir Panjang Nursery (PPN) & Ridge View Residential College (NUS).

Some of the native species collected were *Baccaurea motleyana*, *Macaranga hypoleuca*, *Caryota mitis* and *Ficus aurata*. These saplings are currently growing in PPN and RVRC and will be used for future rewilding events along the Rail Corridor for the NSS Rewilding Project.

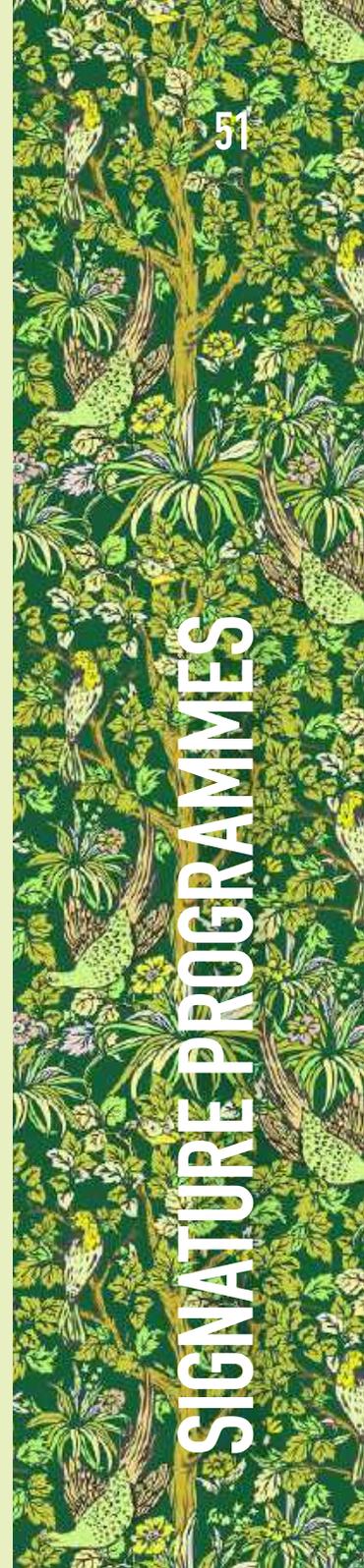


NSS officially launched the Rewilding Project on the 10 Feb 2023. The launch was attended by 8 NSS members, 3 students from the Singapore University of Social Science (SUSS), and staff from our Bloomberg sponsors. 50 trees were planted on the launch site on that productive day.

Since then, 2 volunteer events have been held along the railway corridor. Both events involved grass-clearing and weed-pulling to make way for subsequent planting events. Future works would include ground preparation, planting, maintenance, and monitoring of planted saplings. There are also ongoing discussions held with the National University Health System (NUHS) design team for expansion of Alexandra Hospital and its integration with the Rail Corridor. Potential tree planting areas, upcycling projects for felled trees are part of this discussion which may contribute to future rewilding works.



We welcome all NSS members, school, social and corporate groups to join us in this effort to restore and preserve our natural habitats.





06.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN 2022

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN 2022

- e-VIA Expo @ Bartley Secondary School
- NTU Biodiversity Week 2022
- Teachers Sharing at Queenstown Primary School
- Sharing on Straw-headed Bulbuls
- Drama Workshop on Straw-headed Bulbuls
- BL Environmental Education Session
- Ferns, Fish and Trees: A virtual tour of place names of Singapore
- Twilight at the Green Rail Corridor – Tanglin Halt to Alexandra Woodland
- Festival of Biodiversity 2022
- Not Your Grandfather's Road: A virtual tour of Singapore's streets named after trees
- Talk for Hong Leong Asia
- Nature in the Heartland at Punggol
- Booth at Pulau Ubin Day
- Nature Conservation Teacher Workshop for Meridian Primary School
- Forest Clean-up at Pulau Ubin
- Coastal Clean-up at East Coast Park and Kranji Mudflats and Sungai Pang Sua
- Introduction to NSS & Biodiversity Identification Practice session for NUS Students (Ridge View Residential College)
- BirdLife World Congress
- Climate Action Week '22 at Sports Singapore
- Ramble at Clementi Forest
- Urban Birds Workshop for Children





07. PARTNERSHIPS & DONATIONS

7.1. List of Donors

7.2. Donate to NSS

7.1. LIST OF DONORS



Thank you to our corporate sponsors. We were able to do all we do due to your generous donations that help us advance our vision and mission.

OUR VISION: To be Singapore’s leading advocate of biodiversity and habitats.

OUR MISSION: With our evidence-based approach and partnerships with agencies, peers, and corporates, we lead habitat and biodiversity conservation in Singapore and with partners in the region. Through engagement, education, research, and advocacy, we inspire and enable people to take action towards a sustainable and biodiverse planet.



Payment for donations can be made by *PayNow* or *PayLah!* by scanning the QR code or doing a *PayNow* transfer to Nature Society (Singapore)'s:



- A. **Unique Entity Number (UEN)** S61SS0142H or
- B. **DBS Bank Current Account Number** 0339023574
- C. **Giving.sg** <https://www.giving.sg/web/nature-society-singapore->

Please enter your name, contact number or email address in the Reference Number if you would like a tax deductible receipt.

Your generosity is much appreciated. Donations are tax exempt.

Let Singapore's Abundant Biodiversity Be Your Legacy

HAVE YOU LOVED NATURE ALL YOUR LIFE? PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING OUR CONSERVATION WORK WITH A GIFT TO NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE) IN YOUR WILL.

How to make a gift to the Society in your will

You can choose to inform us if you have considered us in your will, but it is not strictly necessary. Please ensure that your solicitor writes in the full name of the Society. We suggest below suitable forms of words that can appear in your will:

I give to Nature Society (Singapore) (hereinafter called NSS), Unique Entity Number S61SS0142H, _____ % of the residue of my estate

OR

a specific gift of _____

and I direct that (i) the proceeds may be used for the general purposes of NSS and (ii) a receipt signed by a person for the time being authorised by the Executive Committee of NSS shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

08.
IN THE NEWS



BIRD GROUP IN THE NEWS

The Bird Group was interviewed or provided expert knowledge or rare bird photos for various news, documentaries, and newspaper reports to various news channels:

1. ChannelNewsAsia interview on 12 new species of birds
2. CNA documentary “Singapore Green” for a segment on raptor migration
3. Channel 8 “Silver Carnival” episode 8 on birdwatching in Singapore
4. CNA Insider documentary “One Year in the Gardens”
5. ZaoBao story on nesting Black-naped Terns
6. Live CNA938 radio interview on World Migratory Bird Day

BIRD GROUP BLOG & FACEBOOK

The Singapore Bird Group blog continues to be an important platform to communicate with the birding community. In addition to our periodic bird and raptor reports, and census reports, 13 articles were published on the blog. The Singapore Birders Facebook continues to be active with postings on birds.



[Read the full story](#)



[Read the full story](#)



[Read the full story](#)



[Read the full story](#)



09.

JOIN US AS A MEMBER/VOLUNTEER/INTERN

WHY JOIN NSS?

Nature Society (Singapore) or NSS is dedicated to the study, conservation and enjoyment of the biodiversity and natural heritage of Singapore, our neighbouring countries and the wider world. The Society is a non-profit, non-government organisation. Our members work with commitment and altruism to conserve Singapore's remaining nature areas such as forests, mangroves, wetlands and reefs.

NSS was formerly known as the Singapore Branch of the Malayan Nature Society (MNS), formed in 1954. In 1991, we became independent as Nature Society (Singapore). Both NSS and MNS continue to maintain strong links with each other.

NSS organises guided nature walks, birdwatching, butterfly and insect watching, plant walks, intertidal walks, horseshoe crab rescues, nature surveys and censuses, clean-ups of nature areas, diving trips, Zoom and in-person talks, exhibitions, as well as overseas nature appreciation trips for its members and the public. Going on an NSS outing allows you to meet people of all ages, ethnicities, nationalities, and from all walks of life with a common passion – to appreciate and conserve nature.

The Society also publishes books on nature and organises conferences and workshops on the conservation and preservation of our amazing natural habitats.

JOIN NSS TODAY & RECEIVE NATURE WATCH FOR FREE!

The values that NSS upholds are a bulwark against the excesses of an ultra-materialistic society. If you too feel that protecting our biodiversity and natural heritage are important, join NSS today and support the Society in our work. Members will receive four issues of *Nature Watch* (NSS quarterly magazine) and a regular e-newsletter for free. Members also get to participate in fascinating nature-based activities and events which enable one to forge friendships with fellow nature lovers.

NSS MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION)

S\$40	Ordinary Member Age 18 and above
S\$75	Family Member Husband, Wife & Children under Age 18
S\$18	Junior & Student Members Age 12-18 & Full-time Students Age 18-35 enrolled in a Singapore-based institution
S\$1,000	Life Member Applicable to Ordinary Members who have joined for 10 years or more
S\$200	Affiliate Member Non-Profit Organisations & Schools
S\$4,000	Corporate Member Nominal Fee of S\$200 + Annual Tax-Exempt Donation of S\$3,800

NATURE WATCH SUBSCRIPTION ONLY (ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION)

Annual subscription (four issues) is inclusive of postage

S\$24	Singapore
S\$28	Malaysia & Brunei
S\$38	Countries in Asia
S\$45	Rest of the world (includes Australia, New Zealand, Japan, America, Europe and Middle East)

HOW TO JOIN NSS OR SUBSCRIBE TO NATURE WATCH

1. To join as a NSS member, please fill in this form <http://tinyurl.com/NSSmembershipform>. It allows you to settle the membership fees within the link. Once your membership is approved by the Executive Committee, you will receive *Nature Watch* and the e-newsletter for free, as well as be able to attend all member-only events.
2. To subscribe to *Nature Watch* only, kindly email contact@nss.org.sg.

HOW TO JOIN NSS AS A VOLUNTEER OR INTERN

1. To join as a NSS volunteer, please fill in this form <http://tinyurl.com/NSSvolunteerform>
2. To apply for internship, please fill in this form <https://tinyurl.com/NSSinternshipform>

PAYMENT FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS & DONATIONS

1. Payment for donations and magazine subscriptions can be made by *PayNow* or *PayLah!* by scanning the QR code or doing a *PayNow* transfer to Nature Society (Singapore)'s **Unique Entity Number (UEN) S61SS0142H**. Please enter your name, contact number or email address in the UEN/Bill Reference Number.
 
2. Fund transfers can also be made to Nature Society (Singapore)'s **DBS Bank Current Account Number 0339023574**.
3. **Giving.sg** <https://www.giving.sg/web/nature-society-singapore->
4. For other modes of payment, please get in touch with us via email: contact@nss.org.sg.
5. We also welcome individual and corporate donations to the Society. Please inform us via email (contact@nss.org.sg) of the amount you wish to donate, along with your name, title or organisation. Donations may be made by the payment methods mentioned above. Your generosity is much appreciated. Donations are tax exempt.



10. ANNEXES

- A. Annual Audited Report
- B. Governance Evaluation Checklist

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS0142H)

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 DECEMBER 2022

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS0142H)

I N D E X

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Independent auditor's report.....	3 - 5
Statement of financial activities.....	6
Statement of financial position.....	7
Statement of cash flows.....	8
Notes to financial statements.....	9 - 19

**NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS0142H)**

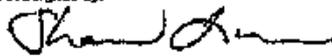
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR YEAR 2022/2023

President	- Shawn Kaihekulani Yamauchi Lum
Vice President	- Lester Tan (w.e.f. 21 May 2022)
Vice President	- Leong Kwok Peng (1 Jan 2022 to 21 May 2022)
Honorary Secretary	- Natasha Raina (w.e.f. 21 May 2022)
Honorary Secretary	- Morten Strange (1 Jan 2022 to 21 May 2022)
Assistant Honorary Secretary	- Morten Strange (w.e.f. 21 May 2022)
Assistant Honorary Secretary	- Evelyn Ng (1 Jan 2022 to 21 May 2022)
Honorary Treasurer	- Andrew Lin
Assistant Honorary Treasurer	- Joel Leong (w.e.f. 21 May 2022)
Committee Member	- Albert Liu
Committee Member	- Goh Ter Yang
Committee Member	- Yeo Seng Beng (w.e.f. 21 May 2022)
Committee Member	- Lester Tan (1 Jan 2022 to 21 May 2022)

STATEMENT BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In our opinion, the financial statements are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE) for the year covered by the financial statements.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

DocuSigned by:

275898884E8247D...

**SHAWN KAIHEKULANI
YAMAUCHI LUM
PRESIDENT**

DocuSigned by:

1FB26A21B888444...

**ANDREW LIN
TREASURER**

3 May 2023

Robert Tan Partners PAC

Chartered Accountants, Singapore

陳萬勝會計有限公司

61 Club Street Singapore 069436
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www.rtanppac.com
Co. Reg. No. 201525158E
Incorporated with Limited Liability

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE) (UEN : S61SS0142H)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)** (the "Society"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, and the statement of financial activities and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Societies Act 1966 (the "Societies Act"), the Charities Act 1994 and other relevant regulations (the "Charities Act and Regulations") and Singapore Charities Accounting Standard (CAS) so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the state of affairs of the Society as at 31 December 2022 and the results and the cash flows of the Society for the year covered by the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing (SSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority ("ACRA") Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities ("ACRA Code") together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Singapore, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ACRA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Statement by Executive Committee set out on page 2.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

.....Cont'd

Robert Tan Partners PAC

Chartered Accountants, Singapore

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61 Club Street Singapore 069436
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE) (UEN : S61SS0142H)

Responsibilities of Management and Management Board for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements in accordance with the provisions of the Societies Act, the Charities Act and Regulations and CAS, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SSAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also :

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

.....Cont'd

Robert Tan Partners PAC

Chartered Accountants, Singapore

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE) (UEN : S61SS0142H) (Continued)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements *(Cont'd)*

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the management board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the accounting and other records required to be kept by the Society have been properly kept in accordance with the provisions of the Societies Regulations enacted under the Societies Act, the Charities Act and Regulations.

During the course of our audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that during the year :

- (a) the Society has not used the donation moneys in accordance with its objectives as required under Regulation 11 of the Charities (Institutions of a Public Character) Regulations; and
- (b) the Society has not complied with the requirements of Regulation 15 of the Charities (Institutions of a Public Character) Regulations.



Robert Tan Partners PAC
Public Accountants and
Chartered Accountants
Singapore

3 May 2023

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS0142H)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2022</u> \$	<u>2021</u> \$
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property & equipment	14	372,593	389,023
		-----	-----
Current assets			
Sundry receivables	15	8,529	657
Deposit paid for software development		39,500	-
Fixed deposits	16	230,978	230,978
Cash & bank balances	17	1,505,144	1,338,855
		-----	-----
		1,784,151	1,570,490
		-----	-----
Total assets		<u>2,156,744</u>	<u>1,959,513</u>
 FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
Unrestricted Fund			
General Fund		1,869,250	1,764,503
		-----	-----
Restricted Funds			
	18		
Project Painted Wings Fund		16,567	22,095
MPOI Fund		50,198	50,198
Butterfly Trail @ Orchard Fund		1,988	1,988
Fedex (Pulau Ubin) Fund		3,662	3,662
Tan Teck Guan Fund		24,078	24,078
WRSCF Grant		96,213	74,082
NCSS Tech-and-Go! Charities Fund		76,078	-
		-----	-----
		268,784	176,103
		-----	-----
Current liabilities			
Accrued expenses		6,462	3,808
Subscriptions in advance		12,248	15,099
		-----	-----
		18,710	18,907
		-----	-----
Total funds and liabilities		<u>2,156,744</u>	<u>1,959,513</u>

The attached notes to financial statements form
an integral part of these financial statements.

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS0142H)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income for the year	197,428	557,069
Adjustments for :		
Depreciation	16,430	18,485
Interest income	(125)	(2,454)
	-----	-----
Operating income before working capital changes	213,733	573,100
(Increase)/decrease in sundry receivables	(7,872)	7,918
Increase in accrued expenses	2,654	85
Decrease in subscriptions in advance	(2,851)	(3,311)
	-----	-----
<i>Net cash from operating activities</i>	205,664	577,792
	-----	-----
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property & equipment	-	(1,697)
Deposit paid for software development	(39,500)	-
Interest received	125	2,454
	-----	-----
<i>Net cash (used in)/from investing activities</i>	(39,375)	757
	-----	-----
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
	-	-
	-----	-----
NET INCREASE IN FIXED DEPOSITS, CASH & BANK BALANCES	166,289	578,549
FIXED DEPOSITS, CASH & BANK BALANCES AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,569,833	991,284
	-----	-----
FIXED DEPOSITS AND CASH & BANK BALANCES AT END OF YEAR	1,736,122	1,569,833
	=====	=====

The attached notes to financial statements form
an integral part of these financial statements.

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS0142H)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. GENERAL

Nature Society (Singapore) is registered in Singapore under the Societies Act 1966 and as a charity under the Charities Act 1994. The Society has been accorded the Institution of a Public Character (IPC) status for the period from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2022 and this has been extended for another period from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2024.

The registered address of the Society is situated at 510 Geylang Road, #02-05 The Sunflower, Singapore 389466. The financial statements are expressed in Singapore dollars and are authorised for issue by the Management Committee on the date stated on the Statement by Executive Committee on page 2.

The principal activity of the Society is to promote interest in the natural history of Singapore and the surrounding region. This is achieved through conservation projects, field trips, seminars and nature publications.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) *Basis of accounting*

The financial statements of the Society have been prepared under the historical cost convention and comply with Singapore Charities Accounting Standard (CAS).

(b) *Revenue recognition*

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Society and the revenue can be reliably measured, regardless of when the payment is made. Revenue is measured at fair value of consideration received or receivable, taking into account contractually defined terms of payment and excluding taxes or duty.

(1) *Donations*

Income from donations of individuals and corporates are accounted when received.

(2) *Members' subscriptions*

Income received from subscriptions is recognised on an accrual basis.

(3) *Interest income*

Interest income is recognised on the time-proportioned basis using the effective interest method.

(4) *Contractual income from charitable activities*

Income received from performance of charitable activities is recognised on an accrual basis.

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS014ZH)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 2022

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(c) Grants & subsidies

Grants and subsidies from the Government are recognised at their fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant/subsidy will be received and all attaching conditions will be complied with.

When the grant or subsidy relates to an expense item, it is recognised as income over the periods necessary to match them on a systematic basis to the costs which it is intended to compensate. Based on the funding principles, accruals are made for any over/underfunding payable/recoverable. When the grant or subsidy relates to a depreciable asset, the asset is presented by deducting the grant against the cost of the asset.

(d) Property & equipment

All items of property & equipment are initially recorded at cost. The cost of an item is recognised as an asset if, and only if, it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Society and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Subsequent to recognition, property & equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation begins when the assets are available for use and is calculated on the straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows :-

Freehold office unit	-	50 years
Office equipment	-	3 to 5 years
Furniture & fittings	-	5 years
Renovations	-	10 years

The useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each reporting period and adjusted prospectively, if appropriate.

An item of property & equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal. Any gain or loss on derecognition of the asset is included in the statement of financial activities in the year the asset is derecognised.

(e) Receivables

Receivables excluding prepayments are initially recognised at their transaction price, excluding transaction costs, if any. Transaction costs are recognised as expenditure in the statement of financial activities as incurred. Prepayments are initially recognised at the amount paid in advance for the economic resources expected to be received in the future.

After initial recognition, receivables excluding prepayments are measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Prepayments are measured at the amount paid less the economic resources received or consumed during the financial year.

An allowance is made for uncollectable amounts when there is objective evidence that the Society will not be able to collect the debt. Bad debts are written off when identified.

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS0142H)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 2022

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(f) Payables

Payables excluding accruals are recognised at their transaction price, excluding transaction costs, if any, both at initial recognition and at subsequent measurement. Transaction costs are recognised as expenditure in the statement of financial activities as incurred. Accruals are recognised at the best estimate of the amount payable.

(g) Employee benefits

Defined contribution plan

The Society contributes to Central Provident Fund ("CPF"), a defined contribution plan regulated and managed by the Singapore Government. The Society's obligation in regard to CPF is limited to the amount it has to contribute to it. CPF contributions are recognised as an expense in the same period as the employment that gives rise to the contributions.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with CAS requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis and are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. These estimates and assumptions are not expected to have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

4. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	\$	\$
<i>Under General Fund</i>		
Tax exempt donations	292,135	223,817
Non-tax exempt donations	40,090	38,485
Membership subscription	38,607	39,884
	-----	-----
	370,832	302,186
<i>Under WRSCF Grant</i>		
Grant received	168,418	164,105
	-----	-----
	<u>539,250</u>	<u>466,291</u>

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS0142H)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 2022

5. INCOME FROM EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES	<u>2022</u> \$	<u>2021</u> \$
<i>Under General Fund</i>		
Administrative charge to WRSCF Grant	19,081	12,915
Contract income	18,604	12,844
Special Interest Groups & Committee activities	7,194	3,749
	<u>44,879</u>	<u>29,508</u>
6. GRANT FOR CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	<u>2022</u> \$	<u>2021</u> \$
<i>Under General Fund</i>		
NCSS VCF ICT grant	-	105
	<u>-</u>	<u>105</u>
<i>Under General Fund</i>		
NCSS Tech-and-Go! Charities Fund	76,078	-
	<u>76,078</u>	<u>-</u>
7. OTHER INCOME	<u>2022</u> \$	<u>2021</u> \$
<i>Under General Fund</i>		
Jobs growth incentive	2,087	9,893
Jobs support scheme	-	5,888
Special employment credit	170	180
Wage credit scheme	2,200	2,425
Bicentennial Community Fund	-	400,000
Other government subsidies	15,625	7,161
	<u>20,082</u>	<u>425,547</u>
<i>Under WRSCF Grant</i>		
Jobs support scheme	-	2,626
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,626</u>
	<u>20,082</u>	<u>428,173</u>

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS0142H)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 2022

8. COST OF GENERATED FUNDS (COST OF EVENTS & ACTIVITIES)

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	\$	\$
<i>Under General Fund</i>		
Cost of goods sold & contract performance	37,847	29,092
Special Interest Groups & Committee activities	32,352	28,657
	70,199	57,749
	70,199	57,749

9. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	\$	\$
<i>Under General Fund</i>		
Bank charges	1,483	1,762
Depreciation	16,430	18,135
Low value assets written off	4,534	-
Fines and penalties	-	14,000
General expenses	9,756	8,047
Insurance	6,440	2,138
IT Solutions & Digitalisation	19,046	-
IUCN subscriptions	736	692
Maintenance (MCST Plan No. 2439)	5,299	5,299
Postage	906	3,008
Printing & stationery	2,054	1,061
Professional services	17,815	-
Skill Development Fund	282	275
SGUnited Traineeship Program	-	24,956
Staff salary	138,243	105,170
Staff CPF	22,007	15,962
Telecommunications	2,728	2,419
Transportation	2,627	319
Travelling	2,330	-
Utilities	2,306	1,311
Website maintenance	1,615	2,141
	256,637	206,695
	256,637	206,695
<i>Under Capital Fund</i>		
Depreciation	-	350
	-	350
	-	350

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS0142H)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 2022

9. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (Continued)

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	\$	\$
<i>Under WRSCF Grant</i>		
Administrative charge from General Fund	19,081	12,915
Events & programme expenses	10,037	2,544
Printing & stationery	978	1,471
Postage	79	46
Medical	20	40
SDL	220	160
Staff - Salary	94,250	68,066
- CPF	16,028	11,574
Transportation	4,858	1,944
Telecommunications	736	252
	146,287	99,012
<i>Under Other Restricted Fund PPW</i>		
Publishing & printing expenses	5,528	-
	408,452	306,057

Some of these expenses were related to office administration but such amounts are not material and it is not practicable to identify or apportion the amounts for classification as governance costs.

10. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	\$	\$
<i>Under General Fund</i>		
Audit fee	4,335	5,656
	4,335	5,656

11. STAFF SALARY & CPF

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	\$	\$
<i>Under General Fund</i>		
Staff - Salary	138,243	105,170
- CPF	22,007	15,962
SGUnited Traineeship Program	-	24,956
	160,250	146,088

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61880142H)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 2022

11. STAFF SALARY & CPF (Continued)

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	\$	\$
<i>Under WRSCF Grant</i>		
Staff - Salary	94,250	68,066
- CPF	16,028	11,574
	110,278	79,640
	270,528	225,728

The Society discloses that none of its staff receives more than \$100,000 in annual remuneration and none of the staff serves as governing board member.

12. INCOME TAX EXPENSE

The Society is registered as a charity under the Charities Act 1994. As an approved charity, it is exempted from income tax under Section 13(1) of the Income Tax Act 1947.

13. TAX EXEMPT DONATION

During the financial year, the Society issued tax-exempt receipts for donations received amounting to \$292,135 (2021: \$223,817).

14. PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

	<u>Freehold office unit</u>	<u>Office equipment</u>	<u>Furniture & fittings</u>	<u>Renovations</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<i>Cost</i>					
At 31.12.2020	658,165	23,657	3,588	48,398	733,808
Additions	-	1,697	-	-	1,697
At 31.12.2021 & 2022	658,165	25,354	3,588	48,398	735,505
<i>Accumulated depreciation</i>					
At 31.12.2020	273,946	19,487	3,588	30,976	327,997
Depreciation charge for 2021	13,099	3,584	-	1,802	18,485
At 31.12.2021	287,045	23,071	3,588	32,778	346,482
Depreciation charge for 2022	13,099	1,529	-	1,802	16,430
At 31.12.2022	300,144	24,600	3,588	34,580	362,912

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS0142H)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 2022

14. PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT (Continued)

	<u>Freehold office unit</u> \$	<u>Office equipment</u> \$	<u>Furniture & fittings</u> \$	<u>Renovations</u> \$	<u>Total</u> \$
<i>Net carrying amount</i>					
At 31.12.2022	358,021	754	-	13,818	372,593
At 31.12.2021	371,120	2,283	-	15,620	389,023

The freehold office unit is register in the name of three trustees of Society. The market value of the property is approximately \$1,300,000 (2021: \$1,200,000) based on management estimation using open market value based on recent experience of market transaction entered into for similar properties in similar locations.

15. SUNDRY RECEIVABLES

	<u>2022</u> \$	<u>2021</u> \$
Sundry deposits	1,067	457
Staff advances	200	200
Prepayment	3,242	-
Others	4,020	-
	<u>8,529</u>	<u>657</u>

16. FIXED DEPOSITS

	<u>2022</u> \$	<u>2021</u> \$
General Fund	206,900	206,900
Restricted - Tan Teck Guan Fund	24,078	24,078
	<u>230,978</u>	<u>230,978</u>

The fixed deposits are placed on a 1 year (2021: 1 year) basis and earn interest at 0% p.a. (2021: 0% p.a.).

17. CASH & BANK BALANCES

The current account earns interest at 0.05% p.a. (2021: 0.05% p.a.) on the initial balance of \$250,000 (2021: \$250,000) only.

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS0142H)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 2022

18. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted funds are generated for specific projects and are to be applied only for the furtherance of those projects as follows :-

- (i) *Project Painted Wings Fund*
The objective of the fund is for research, gardening projects and dissemination of knowledge relating to butterflies. An amount of \$45,550 was donated to the Society upon inception of this fund.
- (ii) *MPOI Fund*
The fund consists of proceeds from the sale of books titled "Marine Parks of Indonesia" ("MPOI"). These funds will be used to carry out projects involving Singapore's participation in marine conservation work in Indonesia which benefits Singapore at large.
- (iii) *Butterfly Trail @ Orchard Fund*
The fund consists of monies raised, mainly from corporations, for gardening projects to attract butterflies to Orchard Road and nearby areas.
- (iv) *Fedex (Pulau Ubin) Fund*
The fund consists of sponsorship received from Fedex in support of nature guide volunteer training to lead under-privileged students and parents for a nature trail at Pulau Ubin.
- (v) *Tan Teck Guan Fund*
The Tan Teck Guan Golden Jubilee Gold Medal Fund has been renamed Tan Teck Guan Fund. The Tan Teck Guan Golden Jubilee Gold Medal Fund was established in 1992 to award a gold medal to outstanding NUS graduates in biodiversity and ecology. Over the years, an increase in gold prices combined with minimal returns on the principal due to low interest rates made it difficult to continue to fulfil the original purpose of the Fund. In 2019, the Nature Society (Singapore) reached an agreement with Mr John Tan Jiew Hoe, who endowed the original Tan Teck Guan Golden Jubilee Gold Medal Fund, to repurpose the fund from a permanent endowment to honour academic achievement to one that can be drawn down over time to carry out NSS conservation projects. The rewarding of outstanding students with a gold medal has been replaced by strategic deployment of the fund to fulfil vital conservation efforts of the NSS where funding might otherwise limit the launching or efficacy of a project. Portions of the fund may now be re-directed to NSS's general funds for use as indicated from time to time. The Nature Society will continue to use the Tan Teck Guan Fund to honour the legacy of the late Tan Teck Guan, with the intention to keep alive the spirit in which the original endowment was awarded.
- (vi) *Wildlife Reserves Singapore Conservation Fund (WRSCF) Grant*
This grant from WRSCF is funding for the Society's Every Singaporean A Naturalist (ESN) programme. This ESN programme is the Society's flagship citizen science project and is a nature education programme to provide students and teachers, and eventually the wider public, with hands-on conservation experience to deepen their appreciation and knowledge of nature. The goal is for every Singaporean to become a naturalist who cares about, loves, and protects nature. The grant is to fund the operation of the ESN programme in its third, fourth and fifth year, from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022.

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS0142H)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 2022

18. RESTRICTED FUNDS (Continued)

(vii) NCSS Tech-and-Go! Charities Fund

The funding is provided by the National Council of Social Service (NCSS). The objective of the fund is for Specialised IT Solutions funding of up to 80% of costs expended by the Society, subject to a maximum of \$110,175.50 for the implementation of a Member, Donor/Partner and Volunteer Management System, new website and e-commerce functions.

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no transactions between the Society and related party for the financial years ended 31 December 2022 and 31 December 2021.

20. RESERVES POSITION AND POLICY

The Society's Reserves Policy was formalized in January 2021 and the policy principles were used to report on the reserves position at the end of the financial years as follows:

	<u>2022</u> S\$'000	<u>2021</u> S\$'000	<u>Increase/ (decrease)</u> %
A Unrestricted funds			
General Fund	1,869	1,765	6
B Restricted Funds:			
- Project Painted Wings Fund	17	22	(23)
- MPOI Fund	50	50	0
- Butterfly Trail @ Orchard Road	2	2	0
- Fedex (Pulau Ubin) Fund	4	4	0
- Tan Teck Guan Fund	24	24	0
- NCSS Tech-and-Go! Charities Fund	76	-	100
- Wildlife Reserves Singapore Conservation Fund (2020)	96	74	30
C Endowment Funds	NA	NA	
D Total Funds	2,138	1,941	10
E Total Annual Operating Expenditure	483	370	31
Ratio of Unrestricted Funds to Annual Operating Expenditure (A/E)	3.87	4.77	

Reference:

- C** - An endowment fund consists of assets, funds or properties, which are held in perpetuity, which produce annual income flow for a foundation to spend as grants
- D** - Total Funds include unrestricted, restricted/designated and endowment funds
- E** - Total Annual Operating Expenditure includes expenses related to Cost of Generating Funds, Cost of Charitable Activities and Governance and Administrative expenses.

NATURE SOCIETY (SINGAPORE)
(UEN : S61SS0142H)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 DECEMBER 2022

20. RESERVES POSITION AND POLICY *(Continued)*

The Society has its 'Reserve Policy' to provide financial stability and the means for further improvement of its activities. It maintains the reserves at a level 2 years or more of operating expenditure based on last year's actual operating expenses.

The Society's Finance Advisory Group shall review the reserves annually and shall give its recommendation to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee makes annual review of the reserves to maintain it at a level it deems sufficient for its operating needs, taking into consideration the recommendation of the Finance Advisory Group.

Submission Form for Governance Evaluation Checklist (Enhanced Tier)

Please note that this checklist is based on the Code of Governance (2017).

Instructions: Please fill out the boxes. Input the reason if the selection is non-compliance for each field.

Applicable to large charities with gross annual receipts or total expenditure of **\$10 million or more**;

And IPCs with gross annual receipts or total expenditure **from \$500,000 to less than \$10 million**.

S/N	Code guideline	Code ID	Response (select whichever is applicable)	Explanation (if Code guideline is not complied with)
Board Governance				
1	Induction and orientation are provided to incoming governing board members upon joining the Board.	1.1.2	Complied	
	Are there governing board members holding staff appointments? (skip items 2 and 3 if “No”)		No	
2	Staff does not chair the Board and does not comprise more than one third of the Board.	1.1.3	Complied	
3	There are written job descriptions for the staff’s executive functions and operational duties, which are distinct from the staff’s Board role.	1.1.5	Complied	
4	The Treasurer of the charity (or any person holding an equivalent position in the charity, e.g. Finance Committee Chairman or a governing board member responsible for overseeing the finances of the charity) can only serve a maximum of 4 consecutive years . If the charity has not appointed any governing board member to oversee its finances, it will be presumed that the Chairman oversees the finances of the charity.	1.1.7	Complied	
5	All governing board members must submit themselves for re-nomination and re-appointment , at least once every 3 years.	1.1.8	Complied	
6	The Board conducts self evaluation to assess its performance and effectiveness once during its term or every 3 years, whichever is shorter.	1.1.12	Not Complied	Board effectiveness framework is in development.
	Is there any governing board member who has served for more than 10 consecutive years? (skip item 7 if “No”)		Yes	Our now ex-President has been on the Board for 22 years. We have now found a new President for 2023/2024 term.
7	The charity discloses in its annual report the reasons for retaining the governing board member who has served for more than 10 consecutive years .	1.1.13	Complied	

8	There are documented terms of reference for the Board and each of its committees.	1.2.1	Not Complied	Terms of reference for the Board is in development
Conflict of Interest				
9	There are documented procedures for governing board members and staff to declare actual or potential conflicts of interest to the Board at the earliest opportunity.	2.1	Complied	
10	Governing board members do not vote or participate in decision making on matters where they have a conflict of interest.	2.4	Complied	
Strategic Planning				
11	The Board periodically reviews and approves the strategic plan for the charity to ensure that the charity's activities are in line with the charity's objectives.	3.2.2	Complied	
Human Resource and Volunteer2 Management				
12	The Board approves documented human resource policies for staff.	5.1	Complied	
13	There is a documented Code of Conduct for governing board members, staff and volunteers (where applicable) which is approved by the Board.	5.3	Complied	
14	There are processes for regular supervision, appraisal and professional development of staff.	5.5	Complied	
	Are there volunteers serving in the charity? (skip item 15 if "No")		Yes	
15	There are volunteer management policies in place for volunteers.	5.7	Not Complied	Volunteer Management Policy is in development
Financial Management and Internal Controls				
16	There is a documented policy to seek the Board's approval for any loans, donations, grants or financial assistance provided by the charity which are not part of the charity's core charitable programmes.	6.1.1	Not Complied	Loan & Donation Policy is in development
17	The Board ensures that internal controls for financial matters in key areas are in place with documented procedures .	6.1.2	Complied	
18	The Board ensures that reviews on the charity's internal controls, processes, key programmes and events are regularly conducted.	6.1.3	Complied	
19	The Board ensures that there is a process to identify, and regularly monitor and review the charity's key risks .	6.1.4	Complied	
20	The Board approves an annual budget for the charity's plans and regularly monitors the charity's expenditure.	6.2.1	Complied	
	Does the charity invest its reserves (e.g. in fixed deposits)? (skip item 21 if "No")		Yes	
21	The charity has a documented investment policy approved by the Board.	6.4.3	Complied	A revised Investment Policy Framework is in development

Fundraising Practices				
	Did the charity receive cash donations (solicited or unsolicited) during the financial year? (skip item 22 if “No”)		Yes	
22	All collections received (solicited or unsolicited) are properly accounted for and promptly deposited by the charity.	7.2.2	Complied	
	Did the charity receive donations in kind during the financial year? (skip item 23 if “No”)		No	
23	All donations in kind received are properly recorded and accounted for by the charity.	7.2.3	Complied	
Disclosure and Transparency				
24	The charity discloses in its annual report — (a) the number of Board meetings in the financial year; and (b) the attendance of every governing board member at those meetings.	8.2	Complied	
	Are governing board members remunerated for their services to the Board? (skip items 25 and 26 if “No”)		No	
25	No governing board member is involved in setting his own remuneration.	2.2	Complied	
26	The charity discloses the exact remuneration and benefits received by each governing board member in its annual report. <u>OR</u> The charity discloses that no governing board member is remunerated.	8.3	Complied	
	Does the charity employ paid staff? (skip items 27, 28 and 29 if “No”)		Yes	
27	No staff is involved in setting his own remuneration.	2.2	Complied	

28	<p>The charity discloses in its annual report —</p> <p>(a) the total annual remuneration for each of its 3 highest paid staff who each has received remuneration (including remuneration received from the charity’s subsidiaries) exceeding \$100,000 during the financial year; and</p> <p>(b) whether any of the 3 highest paid staff also serves as a governing board member of the charity.</p> <p>The information relating to the remuneration of the staff must be presented in bands of \$100,000.</p> <p><u>OR</u></p> <p>The charity discloses that none of its paid staff receives more than \$100,000 each in annual remuneration.</p>	8.4	Complied	
29	<p>The charity discloses the number of paid staff who satisfies all of the following criteria:</p> <p>(a) the staff is a close member of the family³ belonging to the Executive Head⁴ or a governing board member of the charity;</p> <p>(b) the staff has received remuneration exceeding \$50,000 during the financial year.</p> <p>The information relating to the remuneration of the staff must be presented in bands of \$100,000.</p> <p><u>OR</u></p> <p>The charity discloses that there is no paid staff, being a close member of the family belonging to the Executive Head or a governing board member of the charity, who has received remuneration exceeding \$50,000 during the financial year.</p>	8.5	Complied	
Public Image				
30	<p>The charity has a documented communication policy on the release of information about the charity and its activities across all media platforms.</p>	9.2	Not Complied	A Communications Policy Framework is in development

Notes:

- 1 Staff: Paid or unpaid individual who is involved in the day to day operations of the charity, e.g. an Executive Director or administrative personnel.
 - 2 Volunteer: A person who willingly serves the charity without expectation of any remuneration.
 - 3 Close member of the family: A family member belonging to the Executive Head or a governing board member of a charity —
 - (a) who may be expected to influence the Executive Head's or governing board member's (as the case may be) dealings with the charity; or
 - (b) who may be influenced by the Executive Head or governing board member (as the case may be) in the family member's dealings with the charity.
- A close member of the family may include the following:
- (a) the child or spouse of the Executive Head or governing board member;
 - (b) the stepchild of the Executive Head or governing board member;
 - (c) the dependant of the Executive Head or governing board member.
 - (d) the dependant of the Executive Head's or governing board member's spouse.
- 4 Executive Head: The most senior staff member in charge of the charity's staff.

Declaration

**I declare that my charity's / IPC's governing Board has approved this Governance Evaluation Checklist and authorised me to submit on its behalf.
All information given by me in this checklist submission is true to the best of my knowledge and I have not wilfully suppressed any material fact.
The full responsibility for providing accurate and updated checklist information will rest with my charity's / IPC's governing Board.**



**Shawn Lum
President, Nature Society (Singapore)**