



**East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership**  
**8th Meeting of Partners, Kushiro, Japan**  
**16-21 January 2015**

**AGENDA DOCUMENTS**

**VERSION 4**

**Please note the following changes from the Agenda Documents Version 3.**  
**Doc 3.2.1 Partner Report: China, Cambodia, WWF**  
**Doc 3.3.1 Task Force Report: SBS TF**  
**Doc 6.1.2 Partner Workplan: China**  
**Doc 5.2.7 Shorebird Working Group Informal meeting (16:00 – 16:50 on Monday 19 Jan)**

**NOTES ON STATUS OF DOCUMENTS**

This is the first version of the Agenda **Documents**, circulated to Partners and to registered participants for the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Partners (MoP8) before the Meeting date. It is also available on the MoP8 web page at <http://www.eaaflyway.net/mop-8/>. Additional material may be provided at registration or during the Meeting.

**ANNEX**

There are additional supporting documents for some agenda items. These supporting documents are attached to the same email as separate documents.

- *Annex. Doc 3.3.1.2\_Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds statement (19th December 2014)*
- *Annex. Doc 3.3.2.1\_Input of Asian Waterbird Census and Waterbird Population Estimates*
- *Annex. Doc 4.3.3\_Review International Policy Framework EAAF*
- *Annex. Doc 4.5.2\_CMS COP PROGRAMME OF WORK ON MIGRATORY BIRDS AND FLYWAYS (Annex 1 to Resolution 11.14)*
- *Annex. Doc 4.5.4\_CAFF Strategy Series Report No. 5, May 2014\_Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)*
- *Annex. Doc 5.1.5\_FAO EMPRES animal health 360 No.44(2)/2014*

**INSTRUCTIONS**

In order to save paper and reduce impacts on our environment, **no paper copies of the final agenda document for the MoP8 will be printed or provided. If participants require a printed copy then this is the responsibility of each Participant.**

Please keep your documents well organised.

**1.1 Appointment of Meeting chairperson and rapporteurs**

No agenda document required.

## 1.2 Approval of Provisional Agenda for the 8th Meeting of Partners

### Explanatory notes:

This document remains as draft status until adopted by the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting.



### Action required by Partners:

To adopt the Agenda *as shown below*, after any final modifications permitted by the Meeting chairperson. Note that the full program including times of sessions, side meeting sessions, break-out group sessions and other MoP activities has been provided in the Agenda and Program document.

*Our schedule is very tight so please arrive promptly for the start of meetings*

**Day One: Friday 16 January 2015** at Kushiro Tourism and International Relations Center

| <b>Opening Ceremony (8:45 - 10:00am)</b>  |   |              |
|---|---|--------------|
|   | Welcome from the EAAFP Chair (3 mins)   |              |
|   | Welcome from Japan, Host Country of MOP8, and Kushiro City, Host City of MoP8 (10 mins)   |              |
|   | Presentation of Certificate to the new Partner: CBD, Myanmar, ACB and Vietnam (12 mins)   |              |
|   | Presentation of Certificate to the five new Network Sites: Mongolia (1), Japan (2), Myanmar (3), Australia (1) and Thailand (2) (30 mins)   |              |
|   | Photo of participants and VIPs (5 mins)   |              |
| <b>Morning Tea &amp; Press Conference (10:00 - 10:30am)</b>   |   |              |
| <b>1. Introductory session (10:30am - 12:00pm)</b>  |   |              |
| 1.1   | Appointment of Meeting chairperson and rapporteurs  |              |
| 1.2   | Approval of the Provisional Agenda for the 8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Partners  | Document 1.2 |
| 1.3   | Approval of Minutes of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Partners  | Document 1.3 |
| 1.4   | Welcome to Partners and Admittance of Observers (1 min each)<br>Very brief introduction by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• each Partner delegation (30 mins)</li> <li>• Chair/Coordinator of Working Group and Task Force (15 mins)</li> </ul> | Document 1.4 |
| 1.5   | Presentation of new Partners' plans and activities: CBD, Myanmar, ACB and Vietnam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBD (5 mins)</li> <li>• Myanmar (20 mins)</li> <li>• ACB (10 mins)</li> <li>• Viet Nam (10 mins)</li> </ul>                  | Document 1.5 |
| <b>Lunch (12:00 - 13:00)</b>  |   |              |
| <b>2. Special Session: Information sharing and discussion on minimizing bird strikes from wind turbines (13:00 - 16:30)</b> |   |              |
| 2.1   | Presentations (4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richard Grimmett, BirdLife International</li> <li>• Tris Allinson, BirdLife International</li> <li>• Tatsuya Ura, Wild Bird Society of Japan</li> <li>• Kaori Tsujita, Japan</li> </ul>      |              |
| 2.2   | Discussions   |              |

|   |   |              |
|---|---|--------------|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Panel Discussion</li> <li>▪ Open Discussion</li> </ul> |              |
| <b>Afternoon Tea (16:30 – 16:45)</b>  |   |              |
| <b>3. Reports (16:45 - 18:00)</b>   |   |              |
| <b>3.1 Brief reports from the Secretariat (16:45 - 18:00)</b>   |   | Document 3.1 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overview of activities since MOP7 including financial matters.</li> <li>▪ Sustainable Financing for EAAFP and the Secretariat</li> <li>▪ Matters arising from 7th Meeting of Partners</li> </ul> |   |              |
| <b>Dinner (18:30 - 20:30): Welcome Reception hosted by Kushiro City at ANA Crowne Plaza Kushiro</b>   |   |              |
| Opening speech from Kushiro Mayor   |   |              |
| Speech from MOE-J (Director of Wildlife Division)   |   |              |
| Speech from EAAFP Chair   |   |              |
| Speech from Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia  |   |              |
| Toast by Chair of Kushiro City Parliament   |   |              |

### **Day Two: Saturday 17 January**

|  |   |                |
|--|---|----------------|
| <b>3. Reports (8:30 – 14:30)</b>   |   |                |
| <b>3.2 Brief report from each Partner (8:30 - 12:00) 7 mins Each</b>   |   |                |
| 3.2.1  | Governments (14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, USA, Cambodia, China, Bangladesh, Thailand, Mongolia, New Zealand, Malaysia</li> </ul>       | Document 3.2.1 |
| 3.2.2  | International Non-Governmental Organisations (8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AWSG, ICF, WI, WWF, BirdLife International, WBSJ, WWT, PMNT</li> </ul>  | Document 3.2.2 |
| <b>Morning Tea (10:00 – 10:20)</b>   |   |                |
| 3.2.3  | Intergovernmental Organisations (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ramsar, CMS, CAFF</li> </ul>   | Document 3.2.3 |
| 3.2.4  | Special Partner (1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Incheon City</li> </ul>  | Document 3.2.4 |
| <b>Lunch (12:00 – 13:00)</b>   |   |                |
| <b>3.3 Brief report from each Working Group and Task Force (13:00 - 14:30) 7 mins Each</b>   |   |                |
| 3.3.1  | Working Groups (7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anatidae, Shorebird, Crane, Seabird, AI, CEPA, Black-faced Spoonbill</li> </ul>   | Document 3.3.1 |
| 3.3.2  | Task Forces (6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Scaly-sided Merganser, Monitoring of Waterbird population and sites, Yellow Sea Ecoregion, Amur-Heilong Basin, Baer's Pochard</li> </ul> | Document 3.3.2 |
| <b>4. Implementation Status (14:30 – 18:00)</b>  |   |                |
| <b>4.1 Objective 1: Develop the Flyway Site Network (14:30 – 14:50)</b>  |   |                |
| 4.1.1  | Current status of Flyway Site Network (Judit Szabo, EAAFP) 10 mins  | Document 4.1.1 |
| 4.1.2  | Effective management of Flyway Site Network (Lew Young, Ramsar) 10 mins   | Document 4.1.2 |
| <b>4.2 Objective 2: Enhance communication, education and public awareness (14:50 – 15:00)</b>  |   |                |
| 4.2.1  | EAAFP World Migratory Bird Day (Tomoko Ichikawa, EAAFP) 10 mins   | Document 4.2.1 |
| <b>Afternoon Tea (15:00 – 15:20)</b>   |   |                |
| <b>4.3 Objective 3: Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, knowledge and promote exchange of information (15:20 – 16:40)</b> |   |                |

|   |  |                |
|---|--|----------------|
| 4.3.1   | Waterbird monitoring (BirdLife International) 20 mins  | Document 4.3.1 |
| 4.3.2   | Review of populations of waterbirds considered under EAAFP (Kaori Tsujita, Japan) 10 mins  | Document 4.3.2 |
| 4.3.3   | Review of the international policies for the conservation of migratory shorebirds: A way forward (Eduardo Callo-Caijiao, UQ) 10 mins   | Document 4.3.3 |
| 4.3.4   | Review of Shorebird hunting (Eduardo Callo-Caijiao, UQ) 10 mins  | Document 4.3.4 |
| 4.3.5   | Propose a Task Force for Eastern Curlew (Paul O'Neill, Australia) 30 mins  | Document 4.3.5 |
| <b>4.4 Objective 4: Build capacity to manage waterbirds and their habitats (16:40 – 16:50)</b>                                    |  |                |
| 4.4.1   | Proposal on the development of next EAAFP Implementation Strategy taking into account the opinions from FNS managers in Japan (Kaori Tsujita, Japan) 10 mins                                   | Document 4.4.1 |
| <b>4.5 Objective 5: Develop flyway-wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds (16:50 – 18:30)</b> |  |                |
| 4.5.1   | UNWTO: Destination Flyways and EAAFP sites (Taej Mundkur, WI) 8 mins   | Document 4.5.1 |
| 4.5.2   | CMS: Global Programme of Work on Flyways and Migratory Birds 2014-2023 (Taej Mundkur, WI) 10 mins  | Document 4.5.2 |
| 4.5.3   | Report of the CMS Action plans on Chinese Crested Tern, Black-faced Spoonbill and Spoon-billed Sandpiper (Simba Chan, BirdLife International) 20 mins  | Document 4.5.3 |
| 4.5.4   | Overall goals and objectives of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (Pete Probasco, USA) 30 mins  | Document 4.5.4 |
| 4.5.5   | proposal for a collaborative academic program to investigate the costs and feasibility of restoring/reconstructing tidal mudflat habitat for migratory shorebirds (Richard Fuller, UQ) 15 mins | Document 4.5.5 |
| 4.5.6   | Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds using the Mitigation Hierarchy (including Biodiversity Offsets) in Development Projects (Ward Hagemeyer, WI) 10 mins                                      | Document 4.5.6 |
| <b>Meeting closed.</b>  |  |                |
| <b>Informal meeting:</b> Sustainable Financing for EAAFP and the Secretariat (arranged by Spike Millington, EAAFP)                |  |                |
| <b>Informal meeting:</b> Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group (arranged by Kisup Lee, WG Chair and Yu Yat Tung Coordinator)        |  |                |

### **Day Three: Sunday 18 January**

A Full-day bus field trip to Kushiro-shitsugen Wetland and Akkeshi-ko Lake, hosted by Japan, is scheduled. Kushiro-shitsugen Wetland and Akkeshi-ko Lake have been designated as an EAA Flyway Network site and a Ramsar site. The sites are important bird areas and support a good number of migratory waterbirds, ducks, geese and cranes including Red-Crowned Crane. Please be aware of that you will need warm coats, outdoor shoes (preferably waterproof), woolen hat, warm gloves, binoculars, etc. for this field trip. Lunch will be provided.

- Basic info
- Field Trip Itinerary
- List of Waterbirds in Kushiro-shitsugen Wetland and Akkeshi-ko Lake

Full day (8 hours, 8:00-18:00), including lunch.

### **Day Four: Monday 19 January**

|   |
|---|
| <b>5. Development of EAAFP activities (9:00 - 18:30)</b>                          |
| <b>5.1 Participatory Workshop: Shorebird WG and Yellow Sea TF (09:00 - 11:00)</b> |

|   |  |                |
|---|--|----------------|
| 5.1.1   | Implementation of the Priority Shorebird Conservation (Ken Gosbell and Doug Watkins)                                 | Document 5.1.1 |
| <b>Morning Tea (11:00 – 11:10)</b>  |  |                |
| <b>Sustainable Financing Announcement (11:10-11:20)</b>   |  |                |
| <b>Side Events Session A (11:20 - 12:10)</b><br>Parallel Sessions to develop status reports, 2015 workplans and issues and recommendations for all Partners. <b>A rapporteur should be nominated for each meeting for MoP8 minutes.</b>   |  |                |
| 5.1.2   | Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative meeting, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor  | Document 5.1.2 |
| 5.1.3   | Black-faced Spoonbill WG meeting   | Document 5.1.3 |
| 5.1.4   | Baer's Pochard TF meeting, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor   | Document 5.1.4 |
| 5.1.5   | Avian Influenza WG meeting, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor  | Document 5.1.5 |
| <b>Lunch (12:10 – 13:00)</b>  |  |                |
| <b>5.2 Participatory Workshop: CEPA Working Group (13:00 - 15:00)</b>   |  |                |
| 5.2.1   | A Participatory Workshop for Flyway implementers: Communicating the Partnership (Lew Young, Ramsar and Sandra Hails) | Document 5.2.1 |
| <b>Afternoon Tea (15:00 - 15:10)</b>  |  |                |
| <b>Side Events Session B or Session A continued (15:10 - 16:00)</b><br>Parallel Sessions to develop status reports, 2015 workplans and issues and recommendations for all Partners. <b>A rapporteur should be nominated for each meeting for MoP8 minutes.</b>  |  |                |
| 5.2.2   | Management Committee meeting (MC members only), 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor  | Document 5.2.2 |
| 5.2.3   | Monitoring TF meeting, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor   | Document 5.2.3 |
| 5.2.4   | Seabird WG meeting, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor  | Document 5.2.4 |
| 5.2.5   | Spoon-billed Sandpiper TF meeting, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor   | Document 5.2.5 |
| 5.2.6   | Anatidae WG meeting, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor   | Document 5.2.6 |
| <b>Side Events Session C (16:00 – 16:50)</b><br><b>or Side Events Session B or Session A continued</b><br><b>Shorebird Working Group Informal meeting (16:00 – 16:50, in the plenary room)</b><br><b>OR</b><br><b>Black-faced Spoonbill WG meeting (16:00 – 16:50, on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)</b><br><b>Side Events Session A OR Session B continued</b><br>Parallel Sessions to develop status reports, 2015 workplans and issues and recommendations for all Partners. <b>A rapporteur should be nominated for each meeting for MoP8 minutes.</b> |  | Document 5.2.7 |
| <b>5.3 Report back with recommendations from each WG and TF (16:50 – 18:40) 10 mins Each</b>  |  |                |
| 5.3.1   | Shorebird WG and Yellow Sea TF joint meeting   |                |
| 5.3.2   | Black-faced Spoonbill WG meeting   |                |
| 5.3.3   | Baer's Pochard TF meeting  |                |
| 5.3.4   | Avian Influenza WG meeting   |                |
| 5.3.5   | CEPA WG meeting  |                |
| 5.3.6   | Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative meeting   |                |
| 5.3.7   | Monitoring TF meeting  |                |
| 5.3.8   | Seabird WG meeting   |                |
| 5.3.9   | Spoon-billed Sandpiper TF meeting (move to the end)  |                |
| 5.3.10  | Anatidae WG meeting  |                |
| 5.3.11  | Management Committee meeting   |                |
| 5.3.9   | Spoon-billed Sandpiper TF meeting  |                |
| <b>Meeting closed.</b>  |  |                |

**Day Five: Tuesday 20 January**

|   |  |                |
|---|--|----------------|
| <b>6. Development of EAAFP Work Plan 2015-16 (9:00 – 18:00)</b>   |  |                |
| <b>6.1 Participatory Workshop: Development of EAAFP work plan for 2015-16 (09:00 – 18:00)</b>                                       |  |                |
| 6.1.1   | Secretariat's Work Plan and Budget for 2015-2016 (09:00 - 10:00)   | Document 6.1.1 |
| 6.1.2   | Separate smaller discussions to develop each Partner's own workplan for 2015-16 (10:00 - 12:00)<br>Partners will develop their own work plan for 2015-16 in line with circulated format.   | Document 6.1.2 |
| <b>Lunch (12:00 – 13:00)</b>  |  |                |
| 6.1.3   | Brief report of EAAFP workplan from each Partner (13:00 – 16:30)<br><b>8 minutes each</b><br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Australia</b></li> <li>2. <b>Japan</b></li> <li>3. <b>Thailand</b></li> <li>4. <b>USA</b></li> <li>5. <b>New Zealand</b></li> <li>6. <b>Republic of Korea</b></li> <li>7. <b>Bangladesh</b></li> <li>8. <b>China</b></li> <li>9. <b>Mongolia</b></li> <li>10. <b>Myanmar</b></li> <li>11. <b>Vietnam</b></li> <li>12. Cambodia</li> <li>13. Singapore</li> <li>14. Malaysia</li> <li>15. Russia</li> <li>16. Indonesia</li> <li>17. <b>PMNT,</b></li> <li>18. <b>BirdLife International,</b></li> <li>19. <b>WWF,</b></li> <li>20. <b>AWSG,</b></li> <li>21. WI,</li> <li>22. ICF,</li> <li>23. WBSJ,</li> <li>24. WWT</li> <li>25. Ramsar</li> <li>26. ACB</li> <li>27. <b>Rio Tinto</b></li> <li>28. <b>IUCN</b></li> <li>29. WCS</li> <li>30. Philippines</li> <li>31. CMS</li> <li>32. CBD</li> <li>33. CAFF</li> <li>34. FAO</li> </ol> |                |
| <b>Afternoon Tea (16:30 - 16:50)</b>  |  |                |
| 6.1.4   | Discussion and Consolidation of EAAFP 2015 Work Plan (16:50 - 18:00)   |                |
| <b>Dinner (18:30 - 20:30):</b> hosted by EAAFP Secretariat at ANA Crowne Plaza Kushiro<br>EAAFP Deputy<br>MoE Japan<br>Kushiro City |  |                |

## Day Six: Wednesday 21 January

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 7. Report and Approval of Key Decisions from MOP8 (9:00-11:30)   | Document 7                       |
| 8. Next Meeting: Announcement of MOP9 (11:30-12:00)  | Document 8                       |
| 9. Meeting Closed (12:00 noon)   |                                  |
| 10. Optional Session - Symposium for Kushiro-city citizens: Promotion of local activities for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats (13:00-15:30)<br>**This symposium is specially organized for Kushiro communities and their activities on migratory waterbird conservation, arranged by Kushiro City. If you are interested in attending, you are very welcome. |                                  |
| 10.1   | Opening Ceremony (13:00 - 13:10) |
| 10.2   | Presentations (13:10 - 14:30)    |
| 10.3   | Panel Discussion (14:30- 15:30)  |

## DOCUMENT 1.3

### 1.3 Approval of Minutes of the previous (7th) Meeting of Partners

#### Explanatory notes:

The document *Draft Report of the Sixth Meeting of Partners* as provided on the website of the EAAFP is the official record of proceedings (minutes) of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

*Draft Report of the Seventh Meeting of Partners:*

[http://www.eaaflyway.net/wordpress/documents/MoP7\\_Draft\\_Report\(Minutes\)\\_4Sep.pdf](http://www.eaaflyway.net/wordpress/documents/MoP7_Draft_Report(Minutes)_4Sep.pdf)

The *Report of the Seventh Meeting of Partners* remains as draft status until adopted by the 8th Meeting of Partners.



#### Action required by Partners:

To adopt the *Report of the Seventh Meeting of Partners* as the final version of the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting, incorporating any adjustments permitted by the chairperson of the present (8<sup>th</sup>) Meeting.

## DOCUMENT 1.4

### 1.4 Welcome to Partners, record of apologies, admittance of observers

#### Explanatory notes:

A provisional attendance list may be provided to participants at the start of the Meeting based on those who have registered with the EAAFP Secretariat before the Meeting. It should indicate those who are seeking to be admitted to the Meeting as observers.

A final attendance list may be provided during the Meeting based on those who confirmed their registration during the Meeting.

This final list will be included in the Report (Minutes) of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Partners.

Each of delegation of Partners (and observers) may briefly introduce him/herself.

### Record of Apologies

#### *Notes provided by the EAAFP Secretariat*

At the time of writing, apologies and best wishes has been received from the following Partners:

- Anson Tagtag (Philippines)
- Scott Perkin (IUCN)
- Scott Newman (FAO)
- Steve Zack (WCS)
- David Coates (CBD)
- Steve Rusbridge (Rio Tinto)



#### Action required by Partners:

To ask the Secretariat to follow-up with absent Partners by sending the draft Report of the Meeting and offering to discuss any issues arising from MOP8.

## DOCUMENT 1.5

### 1.5 Presentation of new Partners

#### Explanatory notes:

Since MoP7 in June 2013, four new Partners have joined the EAAFP. The number of Partners is now 34, an increase of fourteen new Partners since the Secretariat was established in 2009.

A Certificate of Participation will be presented to each of these Partners during the Opening Ceremony (listed in order of joining EAAFP).

In this session, each Partner will introduce its own strategy or activities to conserve migratory waterbirds and habitats (approx. 10 min per Partner).

|                                    |                                 |                   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Convention on Biological Diversity | Inter-Governmental Organization | 26 November 2013  |
| Myanmar                            | Government Partner              | 17 June 2014      |
| ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity      | Inter-Governmental Organization | 02 July 2014      |
| Viet Nam                           | Government Partner              | 19 September 2014 |



#### Action required by Partners:

To witness and welcome the new Partners!

## DOCUMENT 1.5.1

### 1.5.1 ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

*Report prepared by ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity*

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

Number of proposed new FNS

*Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

Number of National Partnership meetings held

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

**A tool for mapping migratory bird species in protected areas in the ASEAN Region**

*By Jerome Alano and Christian Elloran<sup>1</sup>*

Background and objectives

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity is an intergovernmental regional organization that facilitates cooperation and coordination among the ten ASEAN Member States (AMS) on the conservation and sustainable use of Southeast Asia's rich biological diversity. Through its Biodiversity Information Management (BIM) unit, ACB develops and utilizes readily available tools to promote the use of biodiversity data and create knowledge products as decision support systems for conservation and protection activities and programmes in the region. . One of these tools is the "Species in Protected Areas" web service that allows overlays of species occurrence and distribution data from IUCN on to the habitats map and existing ASEAN Protected Areas from the World Database of Protected Area (WDPA) data and Birdlife international (Important Bird Areas and Endemic Bird Areas). The species in PA web service is an online tool that enhances the creation of maps to track the progress of conservation activities in PAs as indicated by the presence or absence of threatened and/or endemic species in these areas through time. This tool can be viewed

at [http://chm.aseanbiodiversity.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=257](http://chm.aseanbiodiversity.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=257).

Application of the Species in Protected Areas Tool on Migratory Birds Management

The species in Protected Areas online tool can be used to generate maps on migratory birds. This can be done by overlaying occurrences and distribution of migratory bird species on habitats/areas over existing protected areas. This will help us determine if their stopover/feeding areas are protected or not, or if current protected areas adequately cover these habitats. This can then pave the way to formulating decisions that can improve protection of both endemic and migratory birds.

Sample Product Generated on Migratory Birds

As a product of the tool, a poster on mapping migratory bird species in protected areas in the ASEAN region was developed illustrating a scientific way to determine if these critical habitats for both local and migratory species are properly protected using globally available information that are readily accessible by anyone over the internet. ACB keeps its own species database in Darwin Core 2 format that is also used by global data providers such as IUCN, Catalogue of Life, and GBIF, for easier cross-referencing.

Conclusions

Mapping biodiversity data by using the online interactive tool will determine if the area is a critical habitat of important bird species (Important Bird Areas or IBA and Endemic Bird Areas or EBA). The map generated using this tool can then serve as a precursor to Protected Areas declaration through scientific means.

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

*Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

## DOCUMENT 3.1

### 3.1 Brief report from the Secretariat

*Report prepared by Spike Millington, the Chief Executive of the EAAFP Secretariat*

#### **Secretariat Report 2013-2014**

Secretariat developed the annual workplan based on the Implementation Strategy approved at MoP6 and is ordered by Outcome and Key Result Area (KRA) from the Strategy, with activities listed for each KRA. The work plan was for the EAAFP Secretariat, but successful implementation depends on actions from Partners, Working Groups and Task Forces. An additional Outcome is added for internal Secretariat activities. This document identifies activities to be undertaken in 2014 towards each KRA. The report on each activity is described below.

Outcome 1: Internationally important sites are identified for all migratory waterbirds across the Flyway, and prioritized for conservation and inclusion in the Flyway Site Network.

1.1 An initial list of internationally important sites is identified based on existing information, and is communicated to all national governments of the Flyway by March 2013. A more comprehensive list of sites necessary to support the life cycles of the Flyway's waterbirds, including up-to-date information and covering all waterbird groups, is completed by 2016.

Activity 1.1.1: Encourage countries to submit updated information on existing and potential sites, especially priority sites.

- Ongoing, but very few updates submitted. The Cheonsu Bay SIS from Republic of Korea, the Wasur National Park SIS from Indonesia and the Farewell Spit SIS and the Firth of Thames SIS from New Zealand.

1.2. Initial guidance on the prioritization of these sites for nomination in the FSN is developed and made available to Partners by MoP7, and is reviewed/revised at each successive MoP.

Activity 1.2.1: Post Birdlife/Wetlands International FNS assessment report on the EAAFP website

➤ Completed

1.3. The Flyway Site Network is progressively expanded to include all critical sites identified for migratory waterbird populations (target of 7-10 new sites per year, in line with identified priorities).

Activity 1.3.1: Encourage and provide technical information to help nominations of priority sites with country partners

Activity 1.3.2: Provide technical support to key countries (e.g. Thailand, Philippines, ROK, NZ) to nominate sites, through EAAFP staff visits to countries or engaging local consultants

- Nine new Network Sites designated in 2014, with at least 10 in process. EAAFP staff visited several countries to encourage site nominations, sometimes as part of New Partner registration, but also through site manager workshops and other meetings. Technical support provided to translation and SIS development. Three from Thailand currently are under review and few sites from Philippines and Mongolia are under consideration.

Outcome 2: The management of internationally important sites demonstrates sound integration of wetland biodiversity conservation and sustainable development that benefits local communities.

2.1 A range of management guidelines and case studies to enhance the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, emphasising participatory management processes and benefits to local communities, are made available by December 2012 for site managers and stakeholders at all levels to consider, through the EAAFP website and other media.

Activity 2.1.1 Identify and disseminate guidance and best practice on management planning for critical sites and species

- a) Contact partners to request guidance/best practice
- b) Identify international best practice, e.g. data from Global Information Network flyway meeting and other forums designed at identifying best practices
- c) Disseminate to partners through website

➤ Ongoing

2.2. Management plans that provide for the participation of local stakeholders including local communities, are developed, implemented and regularly reviewed and updated for all FSN sites and other internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds. (Interim target of comprehensive management plans for 5 sites / year, in line with identified priorities)

Activity 2.2.1: Document gap analysis for management needs based on Science Workshop discussion at MOP7 and analysis on constraints from Philippines site manager workshop in Sept 2013

- Ongoing, results getting written up for scientific publication by SO

Activity 2.2.2: Continue to provide support to development and review of management plans, such as promote sister sites and related exchange mechanisms, providing guidelines to sites, encourage MPs, then share through e.g. website and Identifying translation needs.

- No new sister sites, but discussions on crane site between Korea and Russia. Management planning included in site manager workshops

2.3. Collaboration is developed with other international initiatives relating to the management of migratory waterbird habitat through participatory processes.

Activity 2.3.1: With CAFF, promote the role and importance of EAAF in the conservation of Arctic-breeding migratory birds as part of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI), e.g. CE to attend AMBI inception meeting and prioritizing key species, habitats and action items focused on EAAF for future AMBI focus, highlighting the role and importance of EAAF at Arctic Biodiversity Congress and coordinating data inputs for Arctic Birds Index for EAAF species

- CE attended Inception meeting and Arctic Biodiversity Congress and co-authored the AMBI plan for EAAF, to be submitted, as part of overall AMBI plan, to Arctic Council in January 2015.

Activity 2.3.2: Continue dialogue with ASEAN Center for Biodiversity to identify areas of cooperation, particularly in SE Asia, to identify options for getting migratory waterbirds on the agenda of ASEAN Environment Minister meetings

- ASEAN Center for Biodiversity became EAAFP Partner in 2014 and discussions ongoing on cooperation

Activity 2.3.3: Explore opportunities with CBD to include migratory waterbirds and restoration of coastal wetlands in CBD activities

- CBD Secretariat became EAAFP Partner in 2014 and Caring for Coasts Initiative included in CBD Resolution at CBD COP 12. Also CBD Notification on migratory birds is in process. CE attended CBD restoration workshop in Korea and promoted wetland habitat restoration.

2.4. Model projects at Flyway Network sites are developed with the full involvement of related national and site partnerships, addressing key threatening processes, social and economic needs, and contributing to sound integration of wetland biodiversity conservation and sustainable development that benefits local communities.

Activity 2.4.1: Support CBD/WTO Destination Flyways project linking sustainable tourism to Flyways. In EAAF Chongmin Dongtan (China) and Geum Estuary (Korea) are selected sites and EAAFP is Advisory Member for the project and will help identify and support activities at these two Network sites

- EAAFP supported initial Destinations Flyway project meetings in Geum Estuary and BirdLife and UNWTO made a MOU for Geum Estuary DF project. Produced campaign T-shirts on SBS and Destination Flyways concept.

Activity 2.4.2: Ask partners to identify best practice and post on website

- Ongoing

Outcome 3: The ecological, social and economic values of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds are recognized in development and impact assessment processes

3.1. Migratory waterbird conservation is mainstreamed into national policies, plans and programmes, facilitated by National Partnerships (i.e. national development planning

recognizes the importance of migratory waterbird species and habitats/sites and requires EIA where an internationally important site would be impacted).

Activity 3.1.1: Update website with information on ecological, social and economic values of sites through literature review and asking partners

➤ Ongoing

Activity 3.1.2: Undertake analysis of the policy landscape for the conservation of migratory shorebirds in EAAF through consultancy supported by Australian government

➤ Completed and report posted on website

Activity 3.1.3: Ask Partners to submit information on relevant national policies, programs, including EIA/SEA and how migratory waterbird conservation and network sites are/could be incorporated

➤ Ongoing, but limited response

Activity 3.1.4: Ask Partners to identify best practice related to mainstreaming migratory waterbird conservation and share with Partners/post on website

➤ Ongoing

Activity 3.1.5: Identify additional guidelines and best practice with regard to measuring, valuing and publicizing the ecological goods and services provided by sites

➤ Ongoing, primarily through literature searches

3.2. Guidelines and case studies on development and impact assessment processes relevant to network sites and their catchments are made available and adapted as appropriate.

Activity 3.2.1: Collect and disseminate best practice/case studies on threat/impact assessment

➤ Information collected from site managers at meetings

Outcome 4: There is a high level of awareness and recognition of the ecological, social and economic values of migratory waterbirds and Network sites.

4.1 Partners use the flyway-wide communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) strategy at national and site levels as ongoing guidance for the awareness and communication activities of the Flyway Partnership.

Activity 4.1.1: Support implementation of CEPA Strategy, including regular meetings with CEPA WG

➤ Ongoing, including Communications Officer participation in Asian Wetland Symposium/Ramsar Pre-COP meeting in Cambodia in October 2014.

Activity 4.1.2: Secretariat promotes CEPA at network sites and encourages Partners to do so during site visits

➤ CEPA training is part of site manager workshop training. Promoted World Migratory Birds Day with materials.

Activity 4.1.3: Secretariat continues CEPA activities, such as publishing newsletters, publications, and use of social media.

- Ongoing. Published Newsletter (4), posted news on the web (266), updating SNS (196) in 2014.

4.2. A compilation of communication and awareness resources is made available to the Partners by December 2012 and a mechanism for translating and updating these resources established.

Activity 4.2.1: Update and upload CEPA materials on website and translate CEPA strategy and materials, as appropriate

- Ongoing. Website pages in Korean, Chinese, Japanese and other materials translated into Russian (IUCN situation analysis) and Japanese (Implementation Strategy)

Activity 4.2.2: Produce CEPA products, materials and resources, such as updated brochures, posters, video and photos

- Ongoing. Updated EAAFP Brochure (2) and species flyers. Published awareness raising materials (posters, postcards, T-shirts etc)

Outcome 5: There is a broad level of recognition of the activities and achievements of the Flyway Partnership.

5.1. Activities promoting the Partnership are implemented consistent with the Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Strategy

Activity 5.1.1: Update and expand website to include country pages with multiple languages, site pages with maps and forum pages for Task Force and Working Group members for easier information sharing

- Ongoing, The EAAFP websites in Korean and Chinese completed. Japanese website is being developed now. Initial discussion with Thailand and Indonesia completed.

Activity 5.1.2: Undertake events in Korea, notably Incheon, for World Migratory Bird Day and encourage and provide materials to other Partner countries and organizations

- Completed

Activity 5.1.3: Develop and give presentations and lead discussion sessions at national and international scientific and conservation meetings, e.g.

- International Ornithological Congress in Japan in August 2014
- AWSG meeting about port development in Australia in Sept 2014

- Completed
  - At IOC CE and SO gave presentations and lead discussion group
  - At AWSG SO gave plenary talk about EAAF
  - At EAAF R&D conference in the Philippines SO gave two plenary presentations and participated in discussion groups
  - SO gave plenary presentation at International Goose Meeting in Beijing and lead discussion about research needs

Activity 5.1.4: Coordinate with Partners and develop side-events and workshops around CBD COP 12 in Korea

- Completed. EAAFP has extensive representation at CBD COP 12, including press conference, Partner meeting, side-events, workshops, CEPA Fair and exhibition booth

Activity 5.1.5: Participate in Planning Committee for Asia Parks partnership and raise EAAFP and network sites profile at World Parks Congress in Australia in November 2014

- Completed

Activity 5.1.6: Participate in World Wetland Day event co-organised by Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea and encourage to hold a migratory waterbird workshop for Korean site managers, decision-makers and stakeholders to highlight the common goal between EAAFP and Ramsar

- Completed but Korean site manager workshop not yet held

5.2. National and sub-regional partnerships are developed and strengthened as a critical mechanism for delivery of the EAAFP Implementation Strategy

Activity 5.2.1: Consult with Partners on development of National Partnerships and encourage National Partnership meetings.

- Ongoing, especially during visits of EAAFP staff to Partner countries and through site manager workshops

Activity 5.2.2: Post examples of National Partnerships on website

- No examples received A report on the National Shorebirds Network Meeting in Japan was posted.

Outcome 6: Scientifically sound information is available on the flyway-wide status and trends of waterbird populations and their habitats.

6.1. Assessment and monitoring programmes are enhanced through increased collaboration and integration of activities to provide scientifically sound information on the status and trends of migratory waterbird populations

Activity 6.1.1: Communicate with WGs and experts to collate improved information on species and sites and post on website.

- Ongoing. Major review of Anatidae is under way. Information on threatened species posted. FNS SISs constantly updated, maps constantly updated. New information and scientific articles weekly posted on website

Activity 6.1.2: Encourage Asia Waterbird Census coordinators to submit counts to regional database

- Encouragement ongoing. No data received by EAAFP office.

Activity 6.1.3: Work with colour-banding coordinators to enhance information sharing.

- Ongoing – better sharing thanks to Facebook.

6.2. Wetland assessment programmes are developed for at least three priority regions by 2016 to provide information on the status of migratory waterbird habitats

Activity 6.2.1: Support Yellow Sea meetings in China, Korea and Singapore focusing on inter-tidal habitat

- CE participated in meetings held in China (Sept) and Singapore (June) focusing on inter-tidal zones. Korea meeting delayed by MOF. EAAFP attended YSLME meetings in Korea.

Activity 6.2.2: Support Paulson Institute and State Forestry Administration - China assessment on Chinese coastal biodiversity and habitats, including the Yellow Sea.

- CE on Steering Committee of China Coastal Blueprint and participated in inception meeting in April 2014

Activity 6.2.3: Hold discussions with Partners (including Russia and China) on future of the Amur-Heilong TF

- Discussions held with Russia during EAAFP-supported workshop in Vladivostok in November 2014 – AHTF workplan draft received 2014 December

Activity 6.2.4: With CAFF/AMBI support wetland and species assessment programmes in Arctic region, including participating in the inaugural AMBI meeting in Canada in February and the Arctic Biodiversity Congress in December

- Completed

6.3. Updated information is available on the status and threats to internationally important sites and to Flyway Network sites in particular

Activity 6.3.1: Update information on population status, trends and threats

- Ongoing. Populations constantly under revision, scientific information collated and posted on webpage.

Activity 6.3.2: Encourage Country partners to take an active role in providing updated information for individual Network sites

- Ongoing, but limited feedback from Partners

6.4. A set of key threatening processes to migratory waterbirds is identified, and associated technical briefs are compiled on the EAAFP website, to illustrate examples of best practice mitigation measures.

Activity 6.4.1: Update information on threats analysis and best practice

- Available scientific literature weekly updated on webpage.

Activity 6.4.2: Work with the CAFF Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative and others to identify key threats to priority species.

- Completed as part of development of AMBI EAAF Plan

Outcome 7: Information is available on the internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in all countries of the Flyway.

7.1. An analysis of count data has been published by December 2013 and used to identify internationally important sites and gaps for migratory waterbirds in the Flyway and inform conservation measures.

Activity 7.1.1: Compile and publish updated information on sites and their waterbirds

- Limited information received from partners

7.2. Knowledge gaps at internationally important sites have been prioritized by December 2013 and progressively addressed by survey activities according to available resources.

Activity 7.2.1: Encourage country partners to identify sites lacking information and propose surveys

- Ongoing, but progress slow

Activity 7.2.2: Support targeted surveys at key sites

- Only indirect support

7.3. Data on internationally important sites are available and shared among Partners.

Activity 7.3.1: Compile and publish information on sites, including developing site pages on the website

- Ongoing, but no site pages on website, need a process for doing this

Outcome 8: Knowledge of the ecology and migratory strategies of waterbirds is enhanced to support conservation action.

8.1. International collaborative migration research projects are implemented for migratory waterbirds to better understand the connectivity across the Flyway and inform development of the Flyway Site Network.

Activity 8.1.1: Improve networking, information sharing and communication, e.g. by encouraging an emphasis on these tasks in Working Groups and Task Forces, and including Partners and relevant organizations in key meetings and events, as well as collaboration with other groups working at Flyway-wide scale, e.g. Global Flyways Network

- Ongoing communication and participation in relevant forums, such as IOC and EAAF Waterbird Symposium in Philippines in December 2014, Anatidae meeting in Beijing November 2014. Global level discussions on flyways at CMS CoP.

8.2. Focused attention is given to improving the knowledge base on migratory waterbirds for three priority subregions – the Yellow Sea, Amur/Heilong Basin and Yangtze Valley

Activity 8.2.1: Support Yellow Sea meetings, see Activity 6.2.1

- See Activity 6.2.1

8.3. Migratory Waterbird Marking Protocols are developed for most migratory waterbirds

Activity 8.3.1: Update and disseminate protocols and information on colour marking

- Ongoing, via email, facebook, webpage

Outcome 9: Knowledge of the potential role of migratory waterbirds in disease transmission, especially Avian Influenza, is enhanced.

9.1. International collaborative projects are implemented to increase the understanding of avian influenza (and other relevant zoonotic diseases) and their impacts on migratory waterbirds through surveillance programmes at Flyway Network Sites and other important sites.

Activity 9.1.1: Post information from collaborative projects and encourage its dissemination

- Ongoing

9.2. Networks for communication are enhanced, focusing on migratory waterbirds and disease related-issues amongst environment and wildlife agencies and researchers, and other relevant partners.

Activity 9.2.1: Enhance communication with AI WG and related structures to respond to AI outbreaks and provide advice to national government agencies and others in a timely manner

- Communication and advice to partner countries, notably Korea, as a result of AI outbreaks in 2014. Enhanced communication with AI International Scientific Committee, EAAFP AI WG and experts to minimize threats to wild birds, especially from AI “control” measures

9.3 Guidelines for improved management planning of wetlands of international importance for waterbirds, aimed at reducing the risk of disease, are disseminated, reviewed and updated

Activity 9.3.1: Post updated guidelines from AI WG

- Included in above

Outcome 10: Natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders at internationally important sites have the skills and support to enable sustainable management of waterbird habitats.

10.1. Capacity development and training programmes address needs in the areas of migratory waterbird monitoring and conservation, habitat management, sustainable development, and communication, education and public awareness, and participatory methods.

Activity 10.1.1: Undertake one international and one national site managers’ workshop (in one country) in collaboration with Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia, following successful workshop in Philippines in 2013

- International workshop held in Indonesia and national workshop held in Vietnam. Evaluations very positive.

### 1.1 Flyway Site Manager Workshop, Jakarta

Obtained more than six SISs from Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines, Bangladesh and Thailand for new nominations and two SISs from Republic of Korea and Indonesia for updating <http://www.eaaflyway.net/the-flyway/flyway-site-network/>  
Potential sites submitted by site managers

- Kupang Bay, Indonesia
- Boeung Chhmar, Cambodia
- Hakaluki Haor, Bangladesh
- Sundarban Mangrove Forest, Bangladesh
- Koh Libong Non-Hunting Area, Thailand
- Huai Talad Reservoir Non-Hunting Area, Thailand

### 1.2 Vietnam National Site Manager Workshop, Hanoi

Organised by EAAFP and RRCEA and hosted by Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment. Total 60 from Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and local authorities and 10 international participants from IUCN-Vietnam, RSPB participated. The following sites, Xuan Thuy, Tram Chim, U Minh Thuy, Bau Sau, Ca Mau, Thai Thuy IBA and Lang Sen Protected Area were identified for internationally important habitats for Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders' Gull, Chinese Egret, Sarus Crane and other waterbirds.

Activity 10.1.2: Encourage partners to include migratory waterbirds in capacity building and training programs and activities

- Ongoing, and some Partners, both country Partners and non-country Partners are very active in this regard

Activity 10.1.3: Make available training materials online

- Ongoing. EAAF training manual being developed, training materials from other flyways and some countries linked

10.2. National capacity building programmes are established to facilitate the ongoing management of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

Activity 10.2.1: Encourage national partnership meetings and communication among stakeholders to identify priority needs assessments and develop tailored capacity building programs for wetland managers and decision makers – e.g. put information from different stakeholders on country pages and encourage people to use it as a discussion forum. See Activities 5.2.1/2

- Partly achieved in context of site managers workshops

10.3. Priority for capacity building efforts is given to developing countries that are members of the Partnership, giving consideration to the number of internationally important sites in each country.

Activity 10.3.1: Identify potential support to developing countries to strengthen capacity

- Ongoing, including visits to several developing country Partner countries

Activity 10.3.2: Support developing countries in nominating network sites and assisting with SIS development and technical support.

- Quite a lot of focus on this in 2014 with 9 new network sites and others in process EAAFP staff visited potential sites in Thailand, Vietnam and Philippines and participated in stakeholder discussions

Outcome 11: Collaborative flyway-wide actions for waterbird species and habitats have improved the conservation status of priority species.

11.1. Collaborative projects across the ranges of priority species of migratory waterbirds are improving their conservation status.

Activity 11.1.1: Support through Secretariat and Crane and Black-faced Spoonbill WGs to UNESCAP NEASPEC Migratory Birds in NE Asia project aimed at conservation of cranes and Black-faced Spoonbill in NE Asia

- EAAFP Participated in NEASPEC Inception meeting and field survey in DPRK. EAAFP Black-faced Spoonbill WG created and supported, and held two meetings in Incheon and at CBD COP 12.

Activity 11.1.2: Support to Birdlife-Rio Tinto Project for seven key shorebird species, focusing on the key site of Seocheon County, Korea to protect intertidal habitats for shorebirds as part of Rio Tinto's biodiversity offset program

- EAAFP supported Birdlife's communication and initial meetings on this project, with Seocheon County. A MoU is made between Seocheon County and BirdLife.

Activity 11.1.3: Support to work plans of single species WGs and TFs

- EAAFP provided direct support to the Black-faced Spoonbill WG and technical input into Baer's Pochard action plan, as well as communication with Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Scaly-sided Merganser TFs

Activity 11.1.4: Support EAAF work initiated by CAFF Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative.

- Ongoing, see above

11.2. International Single Species Action Plans are produced and implemented for globally threatened species and populations of migratory waterbirds to act as a flagship for wetland conservation.

Activity 11.2.1: Through WGs and TFs, develop action plan for Baer's Pochard and Scaly-sided Merganser

- See above

Activity 11.2.2: Consider creating other SSWGs, e.g. for Swan Goose, Baikal Teal, Saunders' Gull, building on existing networks or cooperative activities

- Eastern Curlew WG proposed for MOP8. Discussions on Swan Goose, Baikal Teal and Saunders's Gull held with existing collaborative networks, but no decision made to create SSWGs

Activity 11.2.3: Provide updates on Single Species Action Plan implementation, e.g. for Black-faced Spoonbill, Siberian Crane

- No action plans updated per se

Activity 11.2.4: Encourage collaboration and communication among sites important for Spoon-billed Sandpiper (e.g., Chukotka, Rudong, Inner Gulf of Thailand, Geum Estuary, Sonadia, Gulf of Martaban, Vietnam, southern China), including potential nomination as Flyway Network sites, as part of SBS TF.

- Ongoing, Thailand and Myanmar sites are new network sites and Vietnam site proposed. Collaboration and communication very active, and idea of regional project has been discussed

Outcome 12: Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Secretariat functions

12.1: Secretariat fully staffed

Activity 12.1.1: Recruit Communications Officer

- Completed in April 2014

Activity 12.1.2: Recruit interns, based on identified needs and supervisory capacity

- Ongoing. 15 Interns have worked at the Secretariat for periods of 2-12 months since MOP7

12.2: Professional capacity of staff increased

Activity 12.2.1: Identify capacity building opportunities as they arise, e.g. attending workshops, training

- Ongoing, all staff have participated in meetings in 2014

Activity 12.2.2: Provide on-the-job training through regular presentations, and develop training materials to post on website.

- Ongoing

12.3: MoPs successfully organized

Activity 12.3.1: Begin preparations for MoP8 in January 2015

- Extensive work with Japan on MOP8 has been conducted

12.4: New Partners secured

Activity 12.4.1: Encourage approval of Myanmar, Vietnam and CBD Secretariat as Partners.

- All became Partners in 2014, along with Asean Center for Biodiversity

12.5: Relationships maintained with Incheon City Government and MoE Korea

Activity 12.5.1: Identify and develop activities with Incheon City and local stakeholders, including education, awareness, research, and conservation actions for conservation of important tidal flats and threatened waterbird breeding sites in Incheon.

- Ongoing. Many activities have been conducted including direct support to World Migratory Bird Day, work of Incheon NGOs and the creation and meetings of the Incheon-Gyeonggi Task Force. The 2014 report and action plan for 2015 is

developed and available at the EAAFP website. <http://www.eaaflyway.net/yellow-sea-ecoregion-for-chinese/incheon-gyeonggi-ecoregion/>

Activity 12.5.2: Develop MOUs with Incheon universities for interns to work at Secretariat, EAAFP Secretariat staff to give lecture series, etc, to strengthen links and cooperation with EAAFP Secretariat host city and build capacity.

- Completed: 3 interns from Incheon University have worked at Secretariat

Activity 12.5.3: Continue to hold regular meetings with MOEK and identify cooperation activities.

- Ongoing, regular meetings are held and discussions on key subjects, such as AI, migratory bird observatories, etc.

12.6: Potential additional financing identified for execution of Implementation Strategy Activities

Activity 12.6.1: Identify opportunities for fund raising and develop proposals, including private sector and corporate entities

- No progress

12.7: Identify options for translating key documents

Activity 12.7.1: Use interns, with quality control from local experts to translate key documents and post on country pages on the website as these are developed.

- Ongoing

12.8: Operating systems in place

Activity 12.8.1: Provide technical support to website development (probably through a contract with IT firm)

- Interns and now a contractor have been employed for this

Activity 12.8.2: Finalise and approve staff policy for Secretariat

- Ongoing

## **Financial Report for 2013-2014**

The Secretariat maintains accurate and detailed financial records that have been inspected by an international independent auditor, BDO LLC, for fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

The Korean financial year starts on January 1 and ends on December 31. At the end of fiscal year 2013, the Secretariat had a balance of KRW 348 M, approx. USD 318.2K), mainly used for EAAF Partnership activities and personnel expenditure for the secretariat.

An overview of the financial status of the Secretariat in fiscal year 2013 is shown below.

| Balance of year 2012 | Income in 2013 | Expenditure in 2013 | Balance of year 2013 |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|

| Unit: 1000 KRW |               |               |               |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 281,290        | 657,223       | 590,110       | 348,403       |
| (USD 257,240)  | (USD 601,030) | (USD 539,655) | (USD 318,615) |

Funds received by the Secretariat in 2013 totalled KRW 938.5M (approx. USD 858.3K)

- (1) From the Host City as per the hosting MoU: KRW 509M (ca. USD 465.5K).
- (2) From Partner Republic of Korea, a voluntary donation: KRW 65M (ca. USD 59.4K).
- (3) From Partner Japan, as a voluntary contribution: KRW 21.8M (ca. USD 19.9K).
- (4) From RSPB for the translation of IUCN report : KRW 8.1M (ca. USD 7.4K)
- (5) From New Zealand for the support of administration of the partnership :  
KRW 5.7M (ca. USD 5.2K)
- (6) Interest income: KRW 0.6M (ca. USD 0.5K)
- (7) Refund and miscellaneous income : KRW 47.0M (ca. USD 43K)
- (8) From the balance of last year's budget, carried-over funds for Partnership activities: KRW 281.3M (ca. USD 257.2K)

Expenditures by the Secretariat in 2013 were KRW 590.1M (ca. USD 539.6K)

| MoU category  | Original MOU   | Approved for 2013 | Expenditure in 2013 | Balance        |
|---|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
|   |                |                   |                     | Unit: 1000 KRW |
| Personnel<br>(including associated costs)             | 250,000        | 301,900           | 273,214             | 28,686         |
| Office Equipment<br>(including a vehicle rental)      | 50,000         | 41,704            | 27,081              | 14,623         |
| Operational Costs of the Secretariat                  | 50,000         | 27,440            | 26,855              | 585            |
| Securing Office Space<br>(including associated costs) | 59,000         | 74,940            | 87,912              | -12,972        |
| Partnership Activities<br>(including overseas travel) | 100,000        | 205,797           | 175,048             | 30,749         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>509,000</b> | <b>651,781</b>    | <b>590,110</b>      | <b>61,671</b>  |

- (1) For 2013 ICG operational fund: KRW 493.4M (ca. USD 451.2K)
- (2) For CMS/UNEP funds: KRW 2.6M (ca. USD 2.3K)
- (3) For 2013 funds from Republic of Korea, Japan, and the interest income were retained for future usage such as monitoring of migratory birds or other relevant activities.
- (4) For RSPB fund 4.7M(ca. USD 4.3K) was spent for the translation of IUCN situation report into Chinese
- (5) For the carried-over funds, the Secretariat spent KRW 89.4M (ca. USD 81.8K)

The total budget balance of fiscal year 2013 is KRW 348.4M (approx. USD 318.6K)

(1) Details of budget balance

| Funding Source | Amount | Reference  |        |
|----------------|--------|--|--------|
| Unit: 1000 KRW |        |  |        |
| 2013 ICG Fund  | 15,645 | Balance of Personnel Expenditure category:                         | 1,014  |
|                |        | • As per MoU, this will be incorporated into 2013 personnel budget |        |
|                |        | Balance of Other categories:                                       | 14,631 |

|  |                |  |
|--|----------------|--|
|  |                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will be carried over to use for partnership activities</li> </ul>   |
| 2013 MoE Korea Fund                    | 65,000         | carried over to MoE Korea Fund   |
| 2013 MoE Japan Fund                    | 21,765         | carried over to MoE Japan Flyway Fund  |
| 2013 Interest Income                   | 609            | carried over to use for partnership activities   |
| Royal Society of Protection of Birds   | 3,389          | carried over to use for partnership activities   |
| New Zealand Government                 | 5,687          | carried over to use for partnership activities   |
| Miscellaneous income                   | 47,060         | carried over to use for partnership activities   |
| Unused Carried-over Funds to year 2013 | 189,248        | carried over to use for partnership activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICG Fund (2010-2012): 163,740</li> <li>MoE Korea Fund (2010-2012): 4,545</li> <li>MoE Japan Fund (2010-2012): 15,166</li> <li>Australia DEHWA (2010): 5,797</li> </ul> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           | <b>348,403</b> |  |

#### Major expenditures in year 2013

- (1) Hosting MoP7 in Alaska, USA: KRW 69M(ca. USD 63K)
- (2) Consultation Service cost for the Prioritization of flyway Network Sites: KRW 34M(ca. USD 31K)
- (3) Restoration of old office in GetPearl Tower : KRW 24M(ca. USD 22K)
- (4) Office rent : KRW 15M(ca. USD 14K)
- (5) Support for AI research(Japan fund): KRW 11M(ca. USD 10K)
- (6) Manila Workshop for wetland site managers: KRW 13M(ca. USD 12K)
- (7) Consultation Service cost for the Assessment of Flyway Network Sites : KRW 11M(ca. USD 10K)

#### Major Asset Acquisition in year 2013

- (1) Purchase of software for office such as Adobe and MS Office suits.

At the end of fiscal year 2014, the Secretariat had a balance of KRW 434 M, approx. USD 397K), used for EAAF Partnership activities and personnel expenditure for the secretariat.

An overview of the financial status of the Secretariat in fiscal year 2014 is shown below

| Balance of year 2013 | Income in 2014 | Expenditure in 2014 | Balance of year 2014 |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Unit: 1000 KRW       |                |                     |                      |
| 348,403              | 604,320        | 518,500             | 434,223              |
| (USD 318,615)        | (USD 552,650)  | (USD 474,168)       | (USD 397,097)        |

Funds received by the Secretariat in 2014 totalled KRW 952.7M (approx. USD 685.5K)

- (1) From the Host City as per the hosting MoU: KRW 509 M (ca. USD 465.5K).
- (2) From Partner Republic of Korea, a voluntary donation: KRW 70M (ca. USD 64K).
- (3) From Partner Japan, as a voluntary contribution: KRW 10M (ca. USD 9.1K).
- (4) From: Australia for analysing policy project : KRW 9M (ca. USD 8.2K)
- (5) Interest income: KRW 1.1M (ca. USD 1K)
- (6) Refund and miscellaneous income : 4.9M(ca. USD 4.5K)
- (7) From the balance of last year's budget, carried-over funds for Partnership activities: KRW 348.4M (ca. USD 318.6K)

Expenditures by the Secretariat in 2014 were KRW 518.5M (ca. USD 474.1K)

| MoU category  | Original MOU   | Approved for 2014 | Expenditure in 2014 | Balance       |
|---|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Unit: 1000 KRW  |                |                   |                     |               |
| Personnel<br>(including associated costs)             | 250,000        | 280,000           | 282,890             | -2,890        |
| Office Equipment<br>(including a vehicle rental)      | 50,000         | 42,000            | 13,303              | 28,697        |
| Operational Costs of the Secretariat                  | 50,000         | 35,000            | 19,893              | 15,107        |
| Securing Office Space<br>(including associated costs) | 59,000         | 30,000            | 31,546              | -1,546        |
| Partnership Activities<br>(including overseas travel) | 100,000        | 180,000           | 170,868             | 9,132         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>509,000</b> | <b>567,000</b>    | <b>518,500</b>      | <b>48,500</b> |

- (1) For 2014 ICG operational fund: KRW 435M (ca. USD 397.8K)
- (2) For 2013 funds from Republic of Korea, Japan, miscellaneous income and the interest income were retained for future use such as the conservation projects of migratory birds and habitats or other relevant activities
- (3) For the fund from Australia was used for the analysis of policy in major countries : 9M(ca. USD 8.2K)
- (4) For RSPB fund 3.4M(ca. USD 3.1K) was spent for the translation of IUCN situation report into Russian
- (5) For the carried-over funds, the Secretariat spent KRW 71.1M (ca. USD 65.0K)

The total budget balance of fiscal year 2014 is KRW 434.2M (approx. USD 397.1K)

(1) Details of budget balance

| Funding Source            | Amount | Reference  |
|---------------------------|--------|--|
| Unit: 1000 KRW            |        |  |
| 2014 ICG Fund             | 74,007 | Balance of Office management categories:<br>42,190<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be carried over to use for partnership activities</li> </ul> Balance of Partnership Activity categories:<br>31,817<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be carried over to use for partnership activities</li> </ul> |
| 2014 MoE Korea Fund       | 70,000 | carried over to MoE Korea Fund   |
| 2014 MoE Japan Fund       | 10,062 | carried over to MoE Japan Flyway Fund  |
| 2014 Interest Income      | 1,098  | carried over to use for partnership activities   |
| 2014 Miscellaneous income | 4,930  | carried over to use for partnership activities   |

|  |         |   |
|--|---------|---|
| Unused Carried-over Funds to year 2014 | 274,126 | carried over to use for partnership activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICG Fund (2010-2013): 151,924</li> <li>• MoE Korea Fund (2010-2013): 42,278</li> <li>• MoE Japan Fund (2010-2013): 20,515</li> <li>• Australia DEHWA (2010): 5,797</li> <li>• New Zealand Government(2013): 5,687</li> <li>• Miscellaneous(2013): 47,925</li> </ul> |
| TOTAL                                  | 434,223 |   |

#### Major expenditures in year 2014

- (1) Site Manager's Workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia and Vietnam : KRW 37M(ca. USD 34K)
- (2) Support for the EAAFP Seabird WG: KRW 11M (ca. USD 10K)
- (3) Support for the EAAFP BFS WG: KRW 10M (ca. USD 9K)
- (4) Support for EAAF Incheon-Gyeonggy Ecoregion Task Force project : 10M(ca. USD 9K)
- (5) Undertake analysis for the policy landscape for the conservation of migratory birds and resources : 9M (ca. USD 8K)
- (6) Contribution for the project of shorebird survey in DPRK: KRW 9M (ca. USD 8K)
- (7) Support for the Incheon NGO's civilian project : KRW 8M (ca. USD 7K)
- (8) Maintaining and developing of EAAFP website : KRW 8M (ca. USD 7K)

#### Major Asset Acquisition in year 2014

- (1) Purchase of software for office such as ArcGIS, MS windows7 and MS Office suits.



#### Action required by Partners:

To review the summary and decide and schedule any action arising.

### Report of EAAFP Secretariat Current Financial status

#### Structure of finance

- 1 Principal Source of funding : Host city(Incheon City Government)
- 2 Additional Funding : Contribution from country partners such as Korean government and Japan government for partnership activities

\*committed to provide KRW 509 million each year for operational costs and partnership activities under MOU

#### 3 Financial summary 2009 - 2014

(Unit: 1M KRW)

| Year               | 2009         | 2010     | 2011     | 2012     | 2013     | 2014     |
|--------------------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                    | Unit: 1M KRW |          |          |          |          |          |
| Host City          | 509(100%)    | 509(94%) | 509(89%) | 509(80%) | 509(84%) | 509(85%) |
| Partners' donation | 0(0%)        | 24(4%)   | 64(11%)  | 81(13%)  | 92(15%)  | 89(15%)  |
| Others             | 0(0%)        | 6(2%)    | 0(%)     | 48(7%)   | 3(1%)    | 0(%)     |
| Total              | 509          | 539      | 573      | 638      | 605      | 598      |

#### 4 contribution of operational fund 2009 - 2014

(Unit: 1,000 KRW)

| Year         | Total amount | Donor | Amount  | Purpose                   | Amount  |
|--------------|--------------|-------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| Unit: 1M KRW |              |       |         |                           |         |
| 2009         | 277,000      | ICG   | 277,000 | Personal Expenses         | 125,000 |
|              |              |       |         | Office operating Expenses | 52,000  |
| 2010         | 409,000      | ICG   | 409,000 | Personal Expenses         | 250,000 |
|              |              |       |         | Office operating Expenses | 159,000 |
| 2011         | 409,000      | ICG   | 409,000 | Personal Expenses         | 250,000 |
|              |              |       |         | Office operating Expenses | 159,000 |
| 2012         | 409,000      | ICG   | 409,000 | Personal Expenses         | 250,000 |
|              |              |       |         | Office operating Expenses | 159,000 |
| 2013         | 409,000      | ICG   | 409,000 | Personal Expenses         | 250,000 |
|              |              |       |         | Office operating Expenses | 159,000 |
| 2014         | 409,000      | ICG   | 409,000 | Personal Expenses         | 250,000 |
|              |              |       |         | Office operating Expenses | 159,000 |

Secretariat operational budget funded exclusively from ICG contribution

#### 5 Contribution of partnership activity fund 2009 - 2014

| Year            | Total   | ICG     | MOEK   | MOEJ   | Australia | New Zealand | RSPB  | CMS/UNEP | Australia DEHWA | Seosan city of Korea |
|-----------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|-----------|-------------|-------|----------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Unit: 1,000 KRW |         |         |        |        |           |             |       |          |                 |                      |
| 2009            | 100,000 | 100,000 |        |        |           |             |       |          |                 |                      |
| 2010            | 130,071 | 100,000 |        | 24,275 |           |             |       |          | 5,797           |                      |
| 2011            | 163,621 | 100,000 | 50,000 | 13,621 |           |             |       |          |                 |                      |
| 2012            | 228,147 | 100,000 | 50,000 | 13,634 |           |             |       | 17,013   |                 | 47,500               |
| 2013            | 195,850 | 100,000 | 65,000 | 21,765 |           | 5,687       | 3,399 |          |                 |                      |
| 2014            | 189,337 | 100,000 | 70,000 | 10,062 | 9,274     |             |       |          |                 |                      |

Contribution from partners and others used for partnership activities

#### Budget structure and 2015 budget plan

#### **[Proposal for 2015 Budget for the Secretariat]**

| Budget Category                                    | Original MoU   | 2015 Budget of EAAFP Secretariat |                   |                |
|--|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
|  |                | Subtotal                         | 2014 ICG Donation | EAAFP Burden   |
| Unit: 1,000 KRW                                    |                |                                  |                   |                |
| Personnel (including associated costs)             | 250,000        | 290,000                          | 250,000           | 40,000         |
| Office Equipment (including a vehicle rental)      | 50,000         | 30,000                           | 50,000            |                |
| Operational Costs of the Secretariat               | 50,000         | 35,000                           | 50,000            |                |
| Securing Office Space (including associated costs) | 59,000         | 42,000                           | 59,000            |                |
| Partnership Activities (including overseas travel) | 100,000        | 207,000                          | 100,000           | 107,000        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                       | <b>509,000</b> | <b>604,000</b>                   | <b>509,000</b>    | <b>147,000</b> |

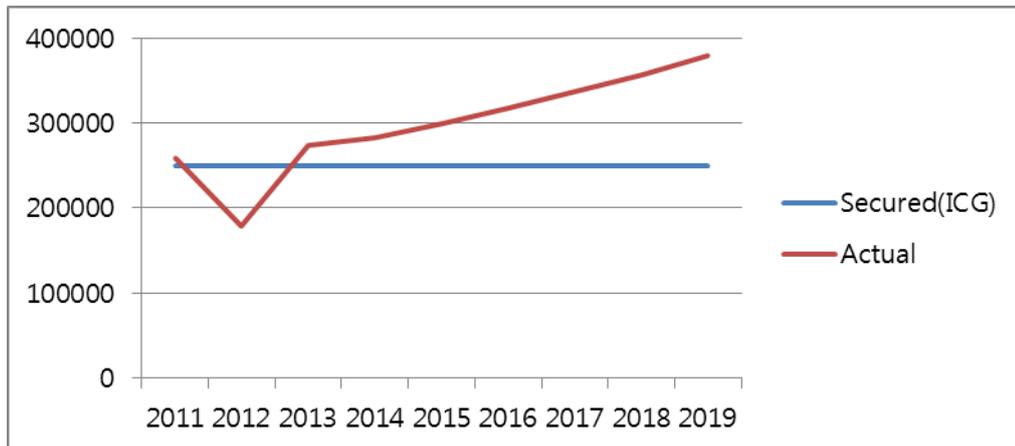
Operational cost entirely from ICG fund because there is no other contribution to Secretariat operational fund.  
 Most of unattached contributions tend to be used for partnership activity according to donor's request.

Projection of financial situation until 2019

1. Personal expenses

| Year          | 2011            | 2012    | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018     | 2019     |
|---------------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
|               | Unit : 1,000KRW |         |         |         |         |         |         |          |          |
| Secured (ICG) | 250,000         | 250,000 | 250,000 | 250,000 | 250,000 | 250,000 | 250,000 | 250,000  | 250,000  |
| Actual        | 259,000         | 178,847 | 273,214 | 282,890 | 299,863 | 317,855 | 336,927 | 357,142  | 378,571  |
| Balance       | -9,000          | 71,153  | -23,214 | -32,890 | -49,863 | -67,855 | -86,927 | -107,142 | -128,571 |

- \* Reflected Inflation rate (average 3% raise per year)
- \* Salary and related cost increase (average 3.0% per year)
- \* Reduced actual personnel budget in 2012 caused by absence of CE for 6months

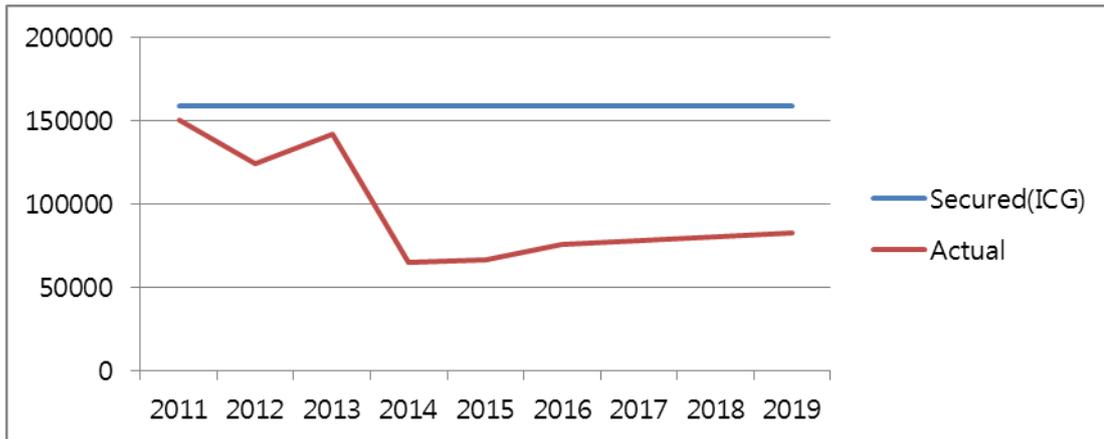


After 2015, new sources of fund for personal expenses are required for maintaining stable EAAF secretariat

2. Other operational expenses (office maintenance + management + equipment)

| Year          | 2011           | 2012    | 2013    | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    |
|---------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|               | Unit: 1,000KRW |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Secured (ICG) | 159,000        | 159,000 | 159,000 | 159,000 | 159,000 | 159,000 | 159,000 | 159,000 | 159,000 |
| Actual        | 150,000        | 123,981 | 141,848 | 64,742  | 66,684  | 75,685  | 77,956  | 80,294  | 82,703  |
| Balance       | 9,000          | 35,019  | 17,152  | 94,258  | 92,316  | 83,315  | 81,044  | 78,706  | 76,297  |

- \*Reflected Inflation rate (average 3% raise every year)
- \*Saved office rent cost from moving to the building owned by ICG in July, 2013



Raise in operational cost subjected to inflation rate  
 For new source of fund for operational cost is required for maintaining stable EAAF secretariat

### 3. Partnership activity fund

Secured budget for partnership activities is insufficient to conduct work plan : additional funds of 147M KRW are required from other contribution  
 More variable partnership activities to achieve the purpose of EAAF partnership and new projects in line with the increased number of partners and sites

#### For EAAFP sustainable financing

1. A more stable and diversified stream of funding is required to a) ensure staffing and operational costs of Secretariat at current levels, taking into account inflation and salary and pension increases b) support partnership activities as EAAFP expands Partners, sites and related technical, communication and management activities For strengthen

#### Introduction of New fundraising system

1. proposed sustainable financing options and plan in that manner of sharing with national partners, as an agenda for MOP8
2. considered economic condition of national partners

### **Matters arising from MoP7**

#### Summary of Actions Arising from MoP7

| Action No.  | Agenda Reference | Description of action required   | Lead responsibility | Helpers     | Status    |
|-------------|------------------|--|---------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Hosting MOU |                  |  |                     |             |           |
| 1           | 2.1, 5.3         | Partners to write to IMC and/or Korea Ministry of Environment to express appreciation for hosting of the Secretariat. Secretariat will collect and forward letters | All Partners        | Secretariat | Completed |
| 2           | 2.1, 5.3         | Statement (resolution) of appreciation and offer of Special Partner status, as adopted by MoP7, to be conveyed to IMC by Secretariat.                              | Secretariat         |             | Completed |

|                                |            |   |                                  |                                 |                             |
|--------------------------------|------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3                              | 2.1, 5.3   | Partners to propose voluntary contributions to the Secretariat operating budget and/or EAAFP flyway activities.   | All Partners                     |                                 | Completed                   |
| Flyway Network Sites           |            |   |                                  |                                 |                             |
| 4                              | 2.2        | By June 2014, provide Site Information Sheets for all existing Flyway Site Network sites, with up-to-date site boundaries.  | Government Partners              | Secretariat, Other Partners     | Partly Completed            |
| 5                              | 3.6, 3.1.5 | By June 2014, develop spatial information on staging, breeding and non-breeding areas of migratory waterbirds in the EAAF.  | Secretariat                      | Monitoring TF                   | Ongoing                     |
| 6                              | 3.6, 3.1.5 | By June 2014, obtain boundary polygons of Important Bird Areas relevant to migratory waterbirds in the EAAF.  | Birdlife                         | Secretariat                     | Completed                   |
| 7                              | 3.6, 3.1.5 | By June 2014, obtain boundary maps of waterbird count sites.  | International NGO Partners       | Secretariat                     | Partly Completed            |
| 8                              | 3.1.1      | Each Government Partner to identify a national priority list of candidate sites for the Flyway Site Network and develop a process for new nominations.  | Government Partners              | Secretariat, other Partners     | Unknown status/Not started? |
| Flyway Population Information  |            |   |                                  |                                 |                             |
| 9                              | 3.1.4      | Coordinate the additional work needed to update the draft population list and review and provide updates to the population estimates through the WPE6 process   | Secretariat                      | Wetlands International Experts  | Ongoing                     |
| 10                             | 3.1.4      | Provide updated information on population sizes, and trends and provide the basis for deriving the FSN thresholds and update FSN thresholds by Oct 2013.  | Secretariat                      | Wetlands International, Experts | Ongoing                     |
| Working Groups and Task Forces |            |   |                                  |                                 |                             |
| 11                             | 3.1.4      | For MoP8, make recommendations by end of 2014 on; the scope of the activities of taxonomic Working Groups through consultation with these Groups; and establishment of an ongoing mechanism for dealing with such technical issues. | Secretariat                      | Experts, WGs                    | Unknown status/Not started? |
| 12                             | 3.5.3      | Complete the Action Plan for the Scaly-sided Merganser and appoint members and chair for the Task Force.  | Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force | Secretariat, Anatidae WG        | Ongoing                     |
| 13                             | 3.5.5      | Establish the Baer's Pochard Task Force by appointing the lead organisation, chair and coordinator and produce an action plan by end of August 2013.  | Secretariat                      | WWT, Anatidae WG                | Ongoing,                    |

|                     |             |   |                          |                       |                     |
|---------------------|-------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 14                  | 3.6         | Provide updates of details of avian influenza contacts for existing representatives in each country.  | Government Partners      | Avian Influenza WG    | Ongoing             |
| 15                  | 3.6         | Check that the EAAFP website documents on colour-marking protocols in the Flyway are the most recent versions.  | All Partners             | Secretariat           | Completed           |
| 16                  | 3.4.1       | Finalise the Seabird Working Group's report presented at MoP7 and upload to website.  | Seabird WG               | Secretariat           | Completed           |
| 17                  | 3.4.2       | Progress intra- and inter-governmental discussions to develop a Yellow Sea partnership program.   | China, South Korea       | Yellow Sea Task Force | Ongoing             |
| 18                  | 3.4.2, 6    | Send message of congratulations regarding proposed protection of the Luannan coast (North Bohai Wan), as endorsed by MoP7, to the Government of China.                  | Secretariat              | Yellow Sea TF         | Pending             |
| 19                  | 3.3.3       | Prepare a short report on the MoP7 Science Forum and preceding questionnaire.   | University of Queensland | Secretariat           | Completed           |
| Secretariat Support |             |   |                          |                       |                     |
| 20                  | 3.2.1       | Partners to trial the template (on EAAFP website) for case studies and report back to the Secretariat.  | All Partners             | Secretariat           | Partly Completed    |
| 21                  | 3.2.1       | Supply powerpoints, photos and other materials that can be used by FSN site managers to develop their own CEPA materials, to the Secretariat.                           | All Partners             | Secretariat           | Ongoing             |
| 22                  | 3.2.2       | Partners encouraged to provide recommendations and actions to translate key documents into local languages.   | All Partners             |                       | Limited progress    |
| 23                  | 3.3.3       | Partners and experts to email Secretariat with scientific articles or references worth sharing.   | All Partners             | Secretariat           | Ongoing             |
| 24                  | unspecified | Provide national and Partner reports to the Secretariat sufficiently ahead of MoPs to enable analysis and reporting by the Secretariat.                                 | All Partners             | Secretariat           | Ongoing             |
| 25                  | unspecified | Prepare a synthesis report on the contributions of Partners to implementing the Implementation Strategy, since MoP6 (using cards pasted to the wall chart during MoP7). | Secretariat              |                       | Completed           |
| 26                  | 3.1.4       | By Nov 2014, make recommendations on establishment of an ongoing mechanism for dealing with technical issues to support implementation of the Partnership.              | Secretariat              | All Partners          | Needs clarification |

|       |       |  |              |             |                  |
|-------|-------|--|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| Other |       |  |              |             |                  |
| 27    | 3.4.2 | Promote the importance of migratory waterbird conservation, particularly in Yellow Sea in bilateral inter-governmental forums. | All Partners | Secretariat | Partly Completed |
| 28    | 5.3   | Confirm the proposed host, location and date of MoP8   | Japan        | Secretariat | Completed        |

## DOCUMENT 3.2.1

### 3.2.1 Brief report from each National Governments

## DOCUMENT 3.2.1.1

### 3.2.1.1 Australia

*Report prepared by Paul O'Neil and Mark Carey*

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

Number of proposed new FNS

Australia has 19 Flyway Network Sites, plus one currently nominated. All sites except the most recent site have Ramsar Convention protection.

The new site that Australia nominated in December 2014 is the Delta Downs area in the south-east Gulf of Carpentaria. No other Flyway Network Sites are currently proposed by Australia.

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

Number of National Partnership meetings held

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

Department of the Environment, Migratory Species Section participates in biannual meetings with the Ramsar Implementation Committee (formally known as the Wetlands and Waterbird Taskforce). The committee comprises all state and territory government agencies responsible for implementing Ramsar obligations in their jurisdictions. The Committee is updated regularly on the activities of the EAAFP.

The Department of the Environment actively participates in promoting migratory bird conservation through global events such as World Wetlands Day, World Migratory Bird Day and World Wildlife Day. The Department also promotes awareness of threatened species each year on the 7<sup>th</sup> September, Australia's Threatened Species Day.

The Department recently undertook work to revise the *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds*. Under section 285 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) wildlife conservation plans may be prepared for the purposes of protection, conservation and management of listed migratory, marine, cetacean or conservation dependant species. The Department's existing *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds* came into effect in February 2006, and was the first wildlife conservation plan developed under the EPBC Act. A review in 2013 recommended the plan should be updated to outline a national framework identifying research and management actions to protect migratory shorebirds. In preparing the revised plan, the Department held two expert workshops with stakeholders in April 2014. State and territory government officials were involved in the draft plan through the Ramsar Implementation Committee. The Department undertook a statutory three-month period of public consultation which concluded on 3 December 2014. Once public consultation comments are assessed, a revised wildlife conservation plan will be

considered by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee for advice on content prior to its submission to the Minister for endorsement.

To facilitate public consultation on the draft *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds*, an officer from the Department attended the 9th Australasian Shorebird Conference in Darwin, 19-21 September 2014. The Department also provided an overview of the draft plan to Australia's bilateral migratory bird agreement partners (Japan, China and the Republic of Korea) at consultative meetings, 11-14 November 2014.

Australia, Japan, China and Republic of Korea are nearing completion of a lengthy process to update the annexes to the three bilateral migratory bird agreements (JAMBA, CAMBA & ROKAMBA). All species of birds on these annexes must be placed on the migratory species list under Australia's national environmental law (the EPBC Act). This makes them Matters of National Environmental Significance and gives them, and their important habitats, special protection during development assessment and approval processes. Currently Australia's migratory species list is significantly outdated, largely due to the outdated annexes to JAMBA, CAMBA and ROKAMBA. Completion of these updates will considerably increase the efficiency of environmental assessments of development projects around Australia.

***Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange***

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

The Department co-funded an Australian Research Council (ARC) collaborative grant program to analyse available migratory shorebird population data in Australia and New Zealand. The chief investigator, Dr Richard Fuller of the University of Queensland, began the three year program in 2010/11. Results of the study are now informing Australian Government policy, such as threatened species listing. As a result of Dr Fuller's research, two migratory shorebirds were nominated for threatened species listing in 2014. The evidence presented places Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) in the critically endangered category and Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) into the endangered category under the EPBC Act.

Recently, the Department provided additional funding to Dr Fuller and Eduardo Gallo-Cajiao to investigate the impacts of hunting on migratory shorebirds in the EAAF. This research will significantly improve understanding of the levels of hunting activity throughout the flyway.

The National Avian Influenza Wild Bird Steering Group (the NAIWB Steering Group) was established in January 2006 to facilitate collaboration between Commonwealth, state and territory departments and non-government organisations undertaking surveillance for avian influenza (AI). Primary Industry agencies agreed to strengthen national surveillance for avian influenza in both poultry and wild birds.

The NAIWB Steering Group is responsible for development and implementation of a yearly operating plan and coordination of surveillance activities for AI in wild birds in Australian states and territories.

Nationally coordinated activities have been conducted since 2006, with funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and in-kind support provided by the jurisdictional agencies, researchers and representative's institutions.

A combination of healthy, live and hunter-killed wild birds (active surveillance) and sick or dead wild birds (passive surveillance) are targeted. Sources for active wild bird

surveillance data include state and territory government laboratories, universities and samples collected under Australia's Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS). Samples from sick birds include submissions from members of the public, private practitioners, universities, zoos and sanctuaries. The Australian Wildlife Health Network manages the Program.

Results from the NAIWB Surveillance Program are used to inform policy development and planning by Australian Government, state and territory government agencies and contributed Australia's National Animal Health Information System (NAHIS). These data inform Australia's international reporting, particularly to the bilateral migratory bird agreements; summary data are also provided to industry at regular intervals through each sampling year.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

Nil organized by government, but some NGO-run training in shorebird identification and bird banding occurs at some of the more accessible sites such as Moreton Bay and Eighty-Mile Beach/Roebuck Bay. All Australian Flyway Network Sites (except one) are also Ramsar Sites, and many are also protected areas such as National Parks. As such, they are subject to state government environment agency activities including visitor management, weed control, feral animal control, and environmental research and monitoring programs.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

Australia has three migratory bird agreements with Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and the Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA). Signatories to JAMBA, CAMBA and ROKAMBA are committed to taking appropriate measures to preserve and enhance the environment of migratory birds, in particular, by seeking means to prevent damage to such birds and their environment. These agreements also commit the governments to exchange research data and publications, to encourage formulation of joint research programs, and to encourage the conservation of migratory birds.

Since 2012, the Department has been working on correcting a number of errors to each Annex to the agreements. Agreement with all three countries was reached on 7 July 2014, which initiated Australia's domestic treaty amendment process. The amendments to the Annexes of the Agreements will come into force 90 days after the exchange of diplomatic notes, which is not anticipated to occur until early 2015. During the 90 day period, resultant additions and removals from the list of migratory species under the EPBC Act will be arranged by legislative instrument to coincide with the entry into force of the amendments.

The Annex to each Agreement consists of a list of species recognised as regularly migrating between the two countries. The recommended amendments to the Annex to the JAMBA are the addition of 10 species, the removal of 13 species, and the updating of the scientific names of 11 species and the common names of nine species already listed on the Annex to reflect currently recognised taxonomy in Australia and Japan. The recommended amendments to the Annex to the CAMBA are the addition of 10 species, the removal of 28 species, and the updating of the scientific names of 13 species and the common names of eight species already listed on the Annex to reflect currently recognised taxonomy in Australia and China. The recommended amendments to the Annex to the ROKAMBA are the addition of 3 species, the removal of 8 species, and the

updating of the scientific names of 13 species and the common names of 15 species already listed on the Annex to reflect currently recognised taxonomy in Australia and the Republic of Korea.

The EPBC Act stipulates that all species included in the Annexes to the JAMBA, CAMBA and ROKAMBA must be included under the Act as migratory species and afforded protection as a Matter of National Environmental Significance. As a result of the recommended amendments, there will be a net addition of 5 species and removal of 28 species from the EPBC Act migratory species list.

Australia is a signatory to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (CMS). Migratory species may be listed on Appendix I or Appendix II of CMS (or both), with Appendix I species recognised as endangered. Appendix II species are those which have an unfavourable conservation status and which require international agreements for their conservation and management, as well as those which would significantly benefit from international cooperation that could be achieved by an international agreement. All of Australia's 37 migratory shorebird species are listed on CMS Appendix II, and Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) and Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) are also listed on Appendix I. Endangered migratory species included in Appendix I, in addition to enjoying strict legal protection by Parties, can benefit from the development of Concerted Actions. These can range from field research and conservation projects to the establishment of technical and institutional frameworks for action.

International Single Species Action Plans are an important instrument to promote and coordinate activities that seek to protect and restore habitat, and to mitigate obstacles to migration and other controlling factors that might endanger species. Countries do not need to be Parties to CMS to participate in either CMS Memoranda of Understanding or Single Species Action Plans. As an example, three existing migratory waterbird Single Species Action Plans are implemented within the Flyway (Chinese Crested Tern, Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Black-faced Spoonbill).

Australia is a signatory to the *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance* (see <http://www.ramsar.org>). The Ramsar Convention, as it is commonly known, is an intergovernmental treaty dedicated to the conservation and 'wise use' of wetlands. The Ramsar Convention focuses on conservation of important habitats rather than species. Parties are committed to identifying wetlands that qualify as internationally significant against a set of criteria, to nominating these wetlands to the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar List), and to ensuring the maintenance of the ecological character of each listed Ramsar site.

As at November 2014, Australia has 65 Wetlands of International Importance that cover a total of approximately 8.1 million hectares. Many of Australia's Ramsar sites were nominated and listed using waterbird-based criteria, and in some of these cases migratory shorebirds are a major component of the waterbird numbers (e.g. Roebuck Bay and Eighty-mile Beach Ramsar Sites in Western Australia).

## DOCUMENT 3.2.1.2

### 3.2.1.2 Japan

*Report prepared by Kaori Tsujita*

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets: 6

Number of proposed new FNS: 2

*Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

Number of National Partnership meetings held

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- MOEJ held workshops for promoting communication and collaboration among local governments which has an FNS for Anatidae and for shorebirds.
- MOE-J held national liaison meeting for the promotion of EAAFP twice.
- Newsletters were published more than ten times for FNS of Anatidae and shorebirds and other related groups.
- Mailing lists were operated for FNS of Anatidae and shorebirds and other related groups.

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- Monitoring (spot census) on shorebirds (including White Spoonbill, the Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders's Gull and Common Shelduck that are considered as indicators in tidal flats) was conducted at about 100 fixed sites during periods of August-September, December-February and April-May as a part of Monitoring Sites 1000 project by MOE-J.
- Monitoring (spot census) on Anatidae was conducted one or more times during each of three periods of September-November, December-January and February-May at about 80 fixed sites as a part of Monitoring Sites 1000 project by MOE-J.
- The Population Census of Anatidae has conducted since 1970. Prefectural governments take the initiative to carry out census simultaneously every year in January at about 9,000 sites. Total number of Anatidae counted by the census was 1,883,352 in 2014.
- The results of Monitoring Sites 1000 are publically available on the website.
- A total of 1,344 shorebirds including 31 species were newly banded in FY2013. Recapture and ring recovery was recorded for 65 shorebirds including 17 species in FY2013. In addition, observation of flagged shorebirds was reported for 188 cases including 15 species.
- A total of 1,967 Anatidae including 15 species were newly banded in FY2013. Recapture and ring recovery was recorded for 203 Anatidae including 12 species in FY2013.

*Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

- MOEJ held workshops for promoting communication and collaboration among local governments which has an FNS for Anatidae and for shorebirds.
- At least 2 sites (Yatsu Tidal flats and Fujimae-Higata) have local capacity building programs.

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

- Saunder's Gull cooperative research has been conducted with China and South Korea since 2001 under the framework of bilateral agreements. In FY2013, three breeding adult Saunder's Gulls were captured and attached with satellite transmitters in South Korea, and their tracking data have been obtained.

- U.S.-Japan Joint Research on Short-tailed Albatross Satellite Tracking has been conducted since 2001 under the framework of bilateral agreements.

### DOCUMENT 3.2.1.3

#### 3.2.1.3 Cambodia

*Report prepared by Srey Sunleang, Director of Department of Wetlands and Coastal Zones, Ministry of Environment*

##### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets: 1

- Tonle Sap (Prek Toal Core Area and Boeung Tonle Chhmar Core Area of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve)

Number of proposed new FNS: 3

- Stung Treng Ramsar Site
- Koh Kapi Ramsar Site
- Ang Trapeang Thmor

##### *Objective 2: CEPA*

Cambodia has joined the East Asian Australasia Flyway Partnership in 2007. The conservation and protection of breeding colonies of migratory waterbirds and its habitats are particularly stated in the Prek Toal Core Area Management Plan for year 2007 to 2011 and updating to 2015-2019.

The establishment of the FNS is ongoing. Three national partnership meetings were held at all levels including local, provincial and national levels (2011). Purpose of the meeting is to recognize Prek Toal Core Area of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve and as the Ramsar site as well as the Flyway Network Site which is contributed to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats within the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership; and to strengthen information sharing and lessons learnt. A total of 150 participants attended the meetings from local communities, Protected Area rangers, local authorities and relevant governmental organizations and NGOs.

Video documentary and video spots are produced to promote public's interest in the conservation of waterbirds and visitor attraction.

Translation and dissemination of Flyway document. The Flyway document have been translated from English to Khmer (national language) as the followings:

1. Partnership for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and the Sustainable Use of their Habitats in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. (Short Title “Partnership for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway)
2. Implementation Strategy for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership: 2007 – 2011
3. Communications Strategy for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership
4. Information Sheet on Flyway Network Sites
5. Fourth Meeting of Partners, Songdo, Republic of Korea, 23 and 24 February 2010
6. Information Brochure on Partnership for the EAST ASIAN Australasian Flyway

##### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

Annual celebration of the World Migratory Bird Day with the participation of government officials, NGOs, teachers, students and local communities has been conducted.

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

Promote bird watching activities

Migratory bird education in universities  
Welcome to the bird program

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

Waterbird monitoring programme was developed in 2001 at Prek Toal Core Area. A comprehensive monitoring programme has put in place from 2003 onward, aim to estimate population size and detect annual population trend of key species of large waterbirds. The detection of population increase and decrease of species concern is critical to evaluate the success of the management intervention.

*Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation:

Number of training workshops had been conducted for the wetland site managers, NGOs and other stakeholders.

Number of sites with local capacity building programs:

Prek Toal, Koh Kapi, Boeung Tonle Chhmar, and Ang Trapeang Thmor.

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

There are 3 international projects have been developed and implemented in the FNS including Tonle Sap (Prek Toal and Boeung Tonle Chhmar Core Areas of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve), Stung Treng and Koh Kapi Ramsar Sites, and Ang Trapeang Thmor.

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions:

Beside the FNS under the management of Ministry of Environment, there are many other sites that are being managed by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

**DOCUMENT 3.2.1.4**

**3.2.1.4 Thailand**

*Report prepared by Nirawan Pipitsombat*

Objective 1:

Develop the Flyway Network of Sites of international importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, building on the achievements of the APMWCS networks

| Task  | Activities   |
|---|--|
| Number of Flyway Network of Sites with current and updated Site Information Sheet | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Now Thailand has only a wetland site at Krabi Estuary, Krabi Province (Ramsar Site no. 1100) to be Shorebird network, as Thailand's first migratory bird network, on November 9, 2005. The updated information of the Krabi Estuary is in the process and supposes to finish on March 2015 and will submit to the EAAFP Secretariat no later than May 2015.</li> <li>- Thailand already submitted the new two sites, Khok Kham wetland and Pak Thalay – Laem Pak Bia wetlands for the new flyway site networks to the EAAFP Secretariat since 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014.</li> </ul> |
| Number of propose new FNSs  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The next three FNSs, Huay Jarakae Mak Reservoir Wildlife Non – Hunting Area, Sanam Bin Reservoir Wildlife Non-Hunting Area and Huay Talad Reservoir Wildlife Non-Hunting Area, are on the process to get approval from</li> </ul>   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | the National Wetland Management Committee and suppose to submit to the Secretariat no later than March, 2015. |
|--|---|

Objective 2: Enhance communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory water birds and their habitats

| Task   | Activities   |
|--|--|
| 1. Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP) | The National Partnership are as follows:-<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation</li> <li>- Pak Thalay Tambon Administrative Organization</li> <li>- Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BCST)</li> <li>- Thai Wetlands Foundation</li> <li>- Bang Pu Nature Education Center</li> </ul>  |
| 2. Number of National Partnership meeting held                                   | ONEP organized 2 workshops about FSNs nomination on 24 <sup>t</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2014 and about Information Sheet of Khok Kham Wetlands on 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2015.   |
| Task   | Activities   |
| 3. Activities to promote migratory water birds conservation awareness            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) conducted many public relation activities to promote wildlife conservation especially migratory water birds such as conservation youth camps in many wildlife non – hunting areas every year</li> <li>- Pak Thalay Tambon Administrative Organization organized Migratory Shorebirds Festival to promote public awareness on migratory birds and its habitat conservation to tourists.</li> <li>- BCST in cooperation with Asian Wetland Census organize Bird Festival to disseminate knowledge about migratory waterbirds and its habitat to all people every year at Khok Kham.</li> </ul> |
| 4. Migratory water birds incorporated into developing plans and policies         | Thailand already compiled projects and activities to promote migratory water birds and its habitats in the National Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plan (NBSAP) in the part of Wetland Management and Action Plan such as Survey and Study of Migratory Water Bird in Protected Wetlands, Nomination of Importance Wetland as the Flyway Site Network. Therefore, the DNP already set up project and activities in their own management plan such as precautionary and monitoring of emerging diseases program, leg band labeling, and migratory bird population count.   |

Objective 3: Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, build knowledge and promote exchange of information on water birds and their habitats.

| Task | Activities |
|------|------------|
|------|------------|

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory water birds and their habitats | DNP in cooperation with academic institution and both national and international NGOs conducted the migration of migratory birds and exchange data and information with the international NGOs such as Asian Wetland Bureau, Wildbird society of Japan. Therefore, the DNP also monitor the status of the migratory bird's population every year esp. in migratory season. |
| 2. Improved monitoring of migratory water birds and habitats                                     | The DNP brings new technology such as Geolocator to monitor migratory route of migratory shorebirds. In 2011 the Geolocator was used to tag with the Lesser Sand Plover and the migratory routes are from Thailand to Myanmar and then Tibet. In 2015, 40 migratory water birds will be tagged to monitor the migratory route.   |
| 3. Information shared and widely available (improved networks)                                   | The DNP shares data and information with Asian Wetland Bureau and Department of Lives Stock to monitor the Avian Influenzas.   |

Objective 4: Build the habitat and water birds management capacity of natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders.

| Task  | Activities   |
|---|--|
| 1. Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory water birds and site conservation | The DNP conducts training course on bird identification, sample collection and habitat management to all DNP staff. In the year 2014, the three training course were organized for 150 DNP staffs. The next step, the 100 persons of the local staffs who have responsible on local habitat management and for the other 30 animal guarantees station staff. |
| 2. Number of sites with local capacity building programs  | 2 sites (Khok Kham and Pak talay-Laem Pakbia   |

Objective 5: Develop, especially for priority species and habitats, flyway wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds

| Task  | Activities  |
|---|---|
| 1. Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory water birds and habitat conservation | None. Thailand has international cooperation in migratory route monitoring. In this year, Thailand already got financial support from UNDP – GEF to conduct the project on Conserving Habitat for Globally Important Flora and Fauna in Production Landscape. The habitat of the Spoon bill sand piper was selected and therefore, the reintroduction of Sarus crane will be implemented by the Zoo Organization. |
| 2. Number of sister sites or similar  | none  |

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| collaborative programs/actions. |  |
|---------------------------------|--|

## DOCUMENT 3.2.1.5

### 3.2.1.5 USA

*Report prepared by Pete Probasco*

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

The United States (US) currently has one designated Flyway Network Site, the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, which was nominated in 2012 and formally added to the EAAF network during MOP7 in Alaska. The Site Information Sheet for the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (<http://www.eaaflyway.net/documents/network/sis/sis-usa-eaaf109.pdf>) is up to date.

The United States is taking steps to nominate a second Flyway Network Site called the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area (TLSA) located in northern Alaska. The US Fish and Wildlife Service's Alaska Regional Director, Geoffrey Haskett, and Assistant Regional Director, Pete Probasco, met with staff of the Bureau of Land Management, the federal agency that has jurisdiction over the TLSA and adjacent land, and discussed its potential nomination to the EAAF network. Efforts are underway to identify key areas within the TLSP to be nominated and to inform local community members about these efforts.

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

The United States has a Steering Committee member that is helping develop the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI), a circumpolar Arctic effort to conserve and manage arctic-breeding waterbirds. The AMBI Steering Committee, and principally the Russian member, have worked closely with many parties in the East Asian Flyway to develop a step-down conservation plan for arctic-breeding species that migrate along the EAAF. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies are active participants in meetings where issues on East Asian-Australasian waterbird species are discussed. National and international conferences include the Climate, Conservation, and Community in Alaska and Northwest Canada; the Alaska Bird Conference, the American Ornithologist's Union meeting, the Pacific Seabird Group Meeting, and the International Wader Study Group Meeting.

Migratory waterbird conservation issues are promoted through numerous outreach efforts, including many public events, media news releases, and outdoor activities to improve public knowledge of the value of migratory bird resources. Bird resources in remote areas of Alaska are co-managed between federal, state and native groups via the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council (AMBCC). The AMBCC engages rural residents to participate in the regulatory process to help conserve bird resources while meeting the needs of native subsistence users living in remote Alaskan villages. Outreach efforts through this process include press releases, public meetings, and distribution of printed regulations to all households in rural Alaska throughout the year to enhance public awareness.

Many federal agencies are involved with the conservation planning of migratory birds in Alaska. Within the US Fish and Wildlife Service, conservation framework plans (i.e., business style plans) are in the process of being generated for high priority species, including the Canada Goose, Black Brant, Greater White-fronted Goose, Steller's Eider, Spectacled Eider, Harlequin Duck, Emperor Goose, Common Eider, Black-legged Kittiwake, Dunlin, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Yellow-billed Loon. These conservation frameworks will direct how and where the US Fish and Wildlife Service will allocate funds and resources for monitoring, research, and conservation in Alaska.

#### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

The US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal and state agencies conduct surveys at sites important to EAAF migratory birds throughout Alaska. This includes annual aerial surveys of many waterfowl species, boat-based surveys of many marine birds, and ground-based surveys for shorebirds and landbirds. Species-specific studies are also conducted on Yellow-billed and Red-throated Loons, and Dunlin that rely on all or portions of the EAA flyway. These studies focus on migration patterns, demographic vital rates, and factors limiting population size.

In spring 2015, a number of entities, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, will begin conducting ground-based surveys for waterbirds on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge to determine the distribution and relative abundance of waterbirds. This geographically-broad, land-based survey is the first to be conducted on the refuge, and information collected will be used to update the Site Information Sheet for this EAAF network site.

State and federal biologists within Alaska participate in a number of broad networks aimed at collecting long-term baseline data, including the Arctic Shorebird Demographics Network, the Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring, and the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey, and numerous waterfowl-specific surveys. Furthermore, efforts to develop digital archives of seabird data include the North Pacific Pelagic Seabird Database and the North Pacific Seabird Colony Register, as well as the North Pacific Seabird Diet Database.

Knowledge from these monitoring and archival efforts are published in peer-reviewed journals, available on-line, or available from project leaders.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Migratory bird management occurs throughout Alaska on the 1) US Fish and Wildlife Service's 16 National Wildlife Refuges (76.7 million acres); 2) National Park Service's 15 national parks, preserves, monuments and national historic parks (about 54 million acres); Bureau of Land Management units (about 72 million acres); and several forests managed by the U.S Forest Service (21.9 million acres). In addition, the State of Alaska has 31 state wildlife areas totally over 3 million acres. Federal and state personnel are involved in numerous training workshops/courses aimed at bettering conserving and managing areas and the waterbirds that depend on them. Each of the federal and the state agencies conduct some level of outreach to build local capacity.

In addition, there are a number of non-governmental entities involved in migratory bird capacity building including Audubon Alaska, the Wildlife Society, the Wilderness Society, Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Alaska Geographic Association, and others.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Federal biologists are involved in a number of international projects related to migratory waterbird and habitat conservation in the EAAF, including the Arctic Shorebird Demographics Network, and the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative. Federal biologists are also active within international professional societies, including the Circumpolar Seabird Working Group, the Pacific Seabird Group, and the World Seabird Union. These projects and organizations vary from focused on-the-ground conservation studies to formal groups that focus on communicating and sharing information and developing collaborative and integrated approaches to conservation.

The US is not involved in any sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions in the EAAF.

### **DOCUMENT 3.2.1.6**

#### **3.2.1.6 New Zealand**

*Report prepared by Bruce McKinlay*

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

There are two New Zealand sites recognised as part of the FSN. These are Farewell Spit and the Firth of Thames. In Sept 2014 maps were approved and submitted as shapefiles to the EAAFP Secretariat for posting on the EAAFP website. Site information sheets using the current template are being developed for these two FSN areas. It is intended that these will be completed and submitted in January 2015.

#### Number of proposed new FNS

New Zealand has completed to a draft stage a report assessing important migratory shorebird sites against FSN criteria. The report is: *Development of guidelines for nomination of New Zealand shorebird sites for designation under the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership: Background Report, proposed criteria and priority recommendations*. The report was completed as a contract for DOC by Keith Woodley, Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust. This report is in the process of being peer-reviewed prior to publication.

The report identifies eleven additional sites which meet FSN criteria. New Zealand will progressively work through these and seek appropriate domestic approval for individual sites before submitting completed SIS to the EAAFP Secretariat.

#### Objective 2: CEPA

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

Number of National Partnership meetings held

NZ Department of Conservation officials and Office Holders from Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust have regular conversations as part of project management to advance the objectives of the Flyway and the conservation of habitats and populations of shorebirds along the Flyway. Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust and Massey University made significant contributions to this National Report.

In May 2014 DOC/PMNT undertook a joint visit to Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve and DPRK to advance conversations with colleagues and officials.

#### Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

There remains a strong commitment by Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalist Trust to engage with the Community through talks and activities in the Auckland Area.

Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust also undertakes a number of open days at the Shorebird Centre and engages with visitors there in both structured and unstructured presentations where the opportunities arise.

Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalist Trust publishes a quarterly journal *Pūkorokoro Miranda News* in which migratory waterbird issues regularly feature.

The NZ Department of Conservation, through the Hauraki Office, is engaged with the New Zealand Dairy Company Fonterra, in the national Living Waters partnership which focuses on environmental restoration and mitigation within the Miranda/Pūkorokoro catchment. Shorebirds/waders are a key focus of the partnership, with management actions, such as predator control, targeted to their protection. The Living Waters project includes advocacy days/open days where they include information on shorebirds and our efforts as a key message. Project publications are available which include details on the biodiversity values of the shorebirds

The Hauraki Office of the Department of Conservation office is engaged with community groups to coordinate and support volunteer work on mangrove management on the Waihou River (within the Firth of Thames EAAFP site). One of their strong interests is the avifauna values of the site and how these may best be promoted through practical management.

The Takaka Office of the Department of Conservation works with concessionaires to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness at Farewell Spit. The concessionaire runs trips for customers specifically to watch shorebirds at this site.

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

Pūkoro Mirānda Naturalists Trust has prepared and delivered submissions to local government (Auckland City) to get greater recognition of the requirements of migratory water birds for three significant harbours around the City.

Pūkoro Mirānda Naturalists Trust is also contributing to the development of *SeaChange: a spatial plan for the Hauraki Gulf* (which includes the Firth of Thames FSN site), a joint project of local government, state agencies and community groups to develop an integrated management plan for the Hauraki Gulf.

The NZ Department of Conservation (DOC) has a programme of work to prioritise actions for the protection of estuarine values and ecosystem services.

Specifically this work includes:

- Revising the New Zealand estuarine classification system in partnership with National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research. This classification is a foundation for developing priorities for management and representation for protection
- Ensure DOC's operational effort is focused to achieve best use of resources for estuarine management. The Ecosystem Management Units concept will be refined to maximise efficiency for estuarine conservation in sites with aligned terrestrial, marine and freshwater programmes.
- Input into the review of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy to support protection of estuarine values..
- Foster awareness of Mātauranga Māori<sup>1</sup> within DOC, review current initiatives relating to estuarine ecosystems and develop partnership projects.

### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

Research led by Dr Phil Battley Massey University and others

Ecology of Bar-tailed Godwits staging at Yalu Jiang, China.

Jimmy Choi completed his PhD thesis, which was defended in November 2014:

Choi, C.-Y. 2014. The Northward Migration Stopover Ecology of Bar-tailed Godwits and Great Knots in the Yalu Jiang Estuary National Nature Reserve, China. PhD thesis, Ecology Group, Massey University

Two papers have been published from this work; another 3-4 are planned:

1. Choi, C.-Y., Battley, P. F., Potter, M. A., Rogers, K. G. and Ma, Z. 2014. The importance of Yalu Jiang coastal wetland in the north Yellow Sea to Bar-tailed Godwits *Limosa lapponica* and Great Knots *Calidris tenuirostris* during northward migration. – Bird Conservation International, available as a pre-print FirstView.
2. Choi, C.-Y., Battley, P. F., Potter, M. A., Ma, Z. and Liu, W. 2014. Factors Affecting the Distribution Patterns of Benthic Invertebrates at a Major Shorebird Staging Site in the Yellow Sea, China. – Wetlands 34: 1085-1096.

### Red Knot tracking

Eight Red Knots were tracked with geolocators from New Zealand to the Arctic and back, revealing that all eight birds for which data were gathered used northern Australia (or possibly West Papua, to the north) and eastern Asia (Yellow Sea/Taiwan) on both northward and southward migrations. The only other tracking work of New Zealand Red Knots was of two birds tagged in Russia, both of which flew direct from New Zealand to

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<sup>1</sup> Mātauranga Māori may be defined as traditional knowledge held by Māori of the environment and natural things.

China when heading north. Birds in New Zealand therefore show two quite different migration strategies; at this stage we do not know why this difference exists. This work clarified the numbers of staging and stopover sites used on migration, and revealed the very late migration of an individual from a subspecies that breeds on the New Siberian Islands of Russia.

Results were presented at as a conference talk at the Birds New Zealand annual conference (June 2014) and are being written up for a Special Issue of *Emu Austral Ornithology*, the scientific journal of Birds Australia. The issue will focus on the importance of the East Asian-Australian Flyway and the threats to the migratory waterbird populations which use this route. Phil Battley will be a guest co-editor for this issue, for which submissions are due on 1 April 2015.

#### Godwit migration timing

The project on the genetic basis to timing of migration is still in progress. Blood samples are being analysed by a PhD student and initial population structure work has been undertaken. The aim of the work is to search for genetic correlates of migration timing in godwits (i.e. "migration genes"). Behavioural data from this project (and the preceding PhD project from which this developed) have been presented at national and international conferences including:

International Ornithological Congress, Tokyo, August 2014

Australasian Ornithological Conference, Auckland, December 2013

Ecology Society of New Zealand, Palmerston North, November 2014

We now have a 7-year data set of departures of individual godwits at the Manawatu estuary, and will complete an 8<sup>th</sup> season in March 2015. Geolocators have been retrieved from birds from the southern North Island (Manawatu Estuary) and southern South Island (Catlins, Otago). A bird tracked to the southern site probably flew >12,000 km nonstop from Alaska to the non-breeding grounds, which would be a record flight for a tracked non-stop endurance flight.

#### Changes in shorebird numbers at the Manawatu Estuary

A long-term data set of shorebird counts from the Manawatu Estuary has been compiled, and shows substantial decrease in numbers and diversity of shorebirds over a 40-year period. Numbers of Bar-tailed Godwits and Red Knots are scarcely a third (ie less than 33% remain) of what they were in the early 1990s, and formerly less common Arctic waders are now absent or very uncommon. Results should be written up for publication in *Notornis* in the coming year.

Results of collaborative research with the University of Queensland show the likely casual nature of this decline is due to global stressors beyond New Zealand.

#### Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

Members of Birds NZ (Ornithological Society of New Zealand) and Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust continue to undertake a nationally coordinated shorebird count two times a year (in June and November), with some additional counts done in February.

These counts include the two Flyway Network Sites in New Zealand. The June and November 2013 counts covered about 50 estuaries, harbours and coastal lagoons. A total of 15 800 trans-equatorial waders of 13 species were counted during the June-July 2013 wader censuses. There was good national coverage. Numbers of Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit were around 1 000 lower than in 2012

A total of 115 000 trans-equatorial waders of 16 species were counted during the November-December 2013 wader censuses. National coverage was excellent. The differences were approximately 4,000 more godwit and 4,000 more knot than in 2012. Turnstone were just over 2 000 in 2013, which more than doubled the 2012 count of 914.

The Birds NZ wader count data is fed into the Asian Waterbird Census. The February count in New Zealand is timed to coincide with the Australian 2020 shorebird counts to assess the Flyway populations of Bar-tailed Godwit and Red Knot.

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

New Zealand is an active participant in the leg-flagging/colour-banding programme for trans-equatorial migrant waders, especially Bar-tailed Godwit and Red Knot.

Banding permits and banding records are maintained by the Department of Conservation. The database of sightings of leg-flags, colour-bands and alphanumeric sightings of waders/shorebirds in New Zealand is maintained by members of the Pūkoro Mirānda Naturalists' Trust and Birds NZ. The Trust are responsible for integration with other leg-flagging projects on the flyway, under the auspices of the Department of Conservation's Banding Scheme.

During the reporting period we were able to have a number of conversations with counterparts in China to improve the exchange of information on bands returns and recoveries.

There are issues with communication and lack of resources to promote exchanges between banders and resighting observers around the flyway. There is a need to resource the clearing of flag/band sightings so the information is available to banders and researchers. New Zealand holds the perception that the language barrier for observers in East Asia is a real obstacle to passing on of observations to fellow workers. A discussion by the Coordination of Colour Banding Task force on suggestions to improve this is appropriate.

As part of wider work on Estuaries complete an online Estuarine Management Information Resource to enable agencies and community groups to share, learn and develop best practice for protection of estuarine values was established.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

Pūkoro Mirānda Naturalists Trust continues to host a series of training courses including field ornithology and ecology, and shorebird identification. These courses include sessions on why it is important to regularly count shorebirds and methodologies for doing so.

Crown Research Institutes and some technical institutes run a number of courses linked to training in wetlands, including identifying wetland biodiversity. Most of these training opportunities are offered to anyone wishing to attend.

The Landcare Trust developed WETMAK (<http://www.landcare.org.nz/wetmak>): a web based training resource with six basic wetland monitoring modules. It also has templates that can be used for various field and administrative management activities. It can be used by landowners, the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, community groups, as well as Department of Conservation and regional authority staff. In addition to the on-line modules, training days are also organised with 6 held around the country in 2012-14.

The biennial National Wetland Restoration Symposia provide training opportunities for all New Zealanders, on wetland management and monitoring. These symposia are organised by the National Wetland Trust, with the support of multiple agencies. They aim to provide a highly practical, participant-driven forum for knowledge exchange, training and networking for landowners, iwi, people committed to wetland biodiversity and restoration, policy makers and wetland scientists from all over New Zealand. The programme caters for all, including plenary and technical sessions, as well as soapbox,

practical sessions and fieldtrips with practical training on site (e.g. coordinated wetland monitoring training) and environmental education.

The Department of Conservation also has a number of on-line courses covering subjects that are useful in a wetland context, e.g. plant identification, bird monitoring, predator control (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/training-and-teaching/online-courses/>).

Local authorities hold various field training days, for instance the Auckland Council developed and delivered as a pilot a wetland restoration training day for community groups in 2014

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust hosted a week long field study Course each January dedicated to studying shorebirds. This is an extremely popular course and is over subscribed. It covers shorebird identification, catching and banding birds, shorebird monitoring techniques, data collection and recording, shorebird migration, coastal ecology, coastal entomology and botany.

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

During May 2014 representatives of Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust and NZ DOC visited Yalu Jiang and participated in the Dandong International Birdwatching Festival. As part of the festival the report: "Yalu Jiang Estuary Shorebird Survey Report 1999-2010" was launched as a joint project between PMNT and Yalu Jiang. New Zealand was represented by its Ambassador to Beijing and contact was made with a number of officials in Dandong and Beijing to further relationships for migratory shorebird conservation.

Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust and DOC representatives were also able to visit officials from the Nature Conservation Union for Korea (NCUK) at Pyongyang. An agreement to work together on shorebird habitat surveys in the DPRK over the next five years was signed between DPRK and PMNT.

Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust was represented by its Manager Keith Woodley at the International Wader Study Group Meeting in Estonia in October 2014. Keith made two presentations at the conference: The values and importance of the Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve, and Populations and conservation status of New Zealand Shorebirds.

Six senior members of Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust attended the AWSG meeting in Darwin.

Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust participated with members of the AWSG in surveys of the Gulf of Carpentaria to gather data on the migration of red knots through that part of the Flyway.

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust continues to value and invest in the Sister Site Relationship with the Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve. As noted, during May 2014 representative of PMNT and NZ DOC visited Yalu Jiang and participated in the Dandong International Birdwatching Festival.

**DOCUMENT 3.2.1.7**

### **3.2.1.7 Republic of Korea**

*Report prepared by Jong Ryool Kim, Korean delegation*

*Objective 1: Development of new Flyway Network Sites (FNSs)*

1.1 Nomination of new FNSs with publication of updated SIS (Site Information Sheets).

Newly nominated sites are as follows;

- Incheon Metropolitan City including Songdo Island, Southern Ganghwa-gun, Southern Youngjongdo Island, an inhabitable island that is long known to be a breeding site for Blackfaced Spoonbill: With visits of more than 1% of endangered species including Black-faced Spoonbills and Chinese Egrets, these areas are deemed to be of ecological importance.
- Gochang mud flats: a significant site due to the presence of concentrated number of stockbreeding farmhouses as well as migratory birds in the area. Given effective management plans in place to pre-empt the AI, this site can potentially serves as an important monitoring base.
- Heungdo, Gyeongsangnam-do: a major wintering and breeding spot for black - tailed gulls with yearly number of 25,000 birds visiting here.

1.2 Further developing and updating the existing SISs

- Han River Estuary, Haepyeong Gumi, Suncheon Bay and Cheorwon Plain.

1.3 Future management and conservation plans for the FNSs

- Follow-up measures for international initiatives such as 'CBD Caring for Coasts'; identifying some of the most damaged natural habitats for future restoration projects, eg. Haeyeong Gumi
- Establishment of action plans to conserve wetlands of significance, including Incheon mud flats which act as a major migration route for waterfowls, all the way from the Han River Estuary (EAAFP Incheon-Gyeonggi Task Force).

1.4 Expansion of activities and new projects on the FNS

- Supporting various programmes for better knowledge sharing to successfully promote the projects in the area of Geum River Estuary. Also worth noting is that this highly anticipated project has also been recognized as "international model" by the UNWTO.
- To better understand the ecological interdependence regionally, detailed ecological analysis will be carried out, especially in the area of Cheonsu Bay

1.5 Forstering partnerships between sister sites (FSN candidate sites)

- Strengthening sisterhood ties between Seosan Cheonsu Bay and breeding sites in Russia, for the protection of various species including Hooded cranes: detailed work in progress under the leadership of the EAAFP in conjunctions with ICF.

- With assistance of the Incheon - Gyeonggi Eco-region Task Force, potential nations such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Russia, Mongolia, Japan and China are working towards establishing sister habitat networks

### *Objective 2: CEPA*

#### 2.1 Raising awareness and public participation

- Actively engaging with various NGOs to promote awareness on migratory waterbird and habitat conservation.
- International level symposiums and seminars to be predictively utilized to boost general public's understanding on endangered fauna and flora.
- wide ranging programmes such as youth (primary, junior and senior high students) participating in wetland conservation activities, school to school exchange programmes and educational workshops to reach out for different age/ social groups.
- Education will also be provided for educators to generate more interest in waterbirds and natural habitat protection.

#### 2.2 Internet based activities to effectively raise awareness

- Various social media platforms such as Facebook and other SNS channels will be fully utilized to put the fundamental message out there; "co-existence of human and wild fauna"
- Efforts to be made to generate an on-going interest within members of the public; publishing public-friendly reading materials and ultimately gaining strong audience in this topic.

#### 2.3 '2015 World Migratory Bird Day'

- Nationwide celebrations and various workshops (Seosan City has expressed its interests in hosting the event in the year of 2015)
- Collaborative celebrations with regional representatives (such as major breeding spots and the cities such as Incheon Metropolitan City and Shinan County, etc) in progress

#### 2.4 Promoting CEPA activities

- Encouraging local governments to host CEPA - led activities on a regular basis
- Professional workforce to become available for various awareness raising campaigns; these campaigns will be organized by regional governments or NGOs
- Educational booklets on FSN to be distributed

- Promotion and education on FNS; workshops, symposium and festivals to be held with an active participation of volunteers.

#### 2.5 Promoting the work of EAAFP

- With the help of some of household names such as celebrities and well-known writers, promotional programmes will be offered targeting to reach out closer to the general public.

### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring and knowledge sharing*

#### 3.1 Enhanced knowledge and information sharing to better understand the current status of waterbirds and its habitats

- Expanding research on waterbirds and its natural habitat - Expert group consultation for each EAAFP Task Forces: Task Forces for Black-faced Spoonbill, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, plover, Scaly-sided Merganser and Baer's Pochard as well as a designated Task Force specializing in the Yellow Sea (in conjunction with Incheon - Gyeonggi Task Force).
- Preparatory meetings are underway for the establishment of potential Task Force for Saunder's Gull.

#### 3.2 Continuous monitoring on migratory waterbirds and its natural habitat

- Nationwide Annual Winter Waterbird Census of Korea
- Publication of monitoring results on a regular basis (twice every year in spring and autumn season)
- Capacity sharing with developing countries to enhance their migratory bird monitoring activities; these nations include North Korea, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia and Bangladesh.
- Strengthening public-private joint monitoring efforts to enhance the general public's participation.

#### 3.3 Improved networks to effectively share and distribute information

- National and international networking through international symposium on migratory birds.
- The need for real time information sharing mechanism between countries.
- Effective information sharing between researchers; regional workshops and bilateral meetings on migratory birds are expected to expand.

3.4 Further expanding research projects to establish accurate data base by re-exploring pre-existing research information.

- Studies to be extended for improved colour marking and satellite tracking system; ecological behavioral research to know more about migratory birds movement; to understand the interdependence between the alarming decline of species and habitat loss; and to investigate the correlation between the size of bird population and intense development adjacent to their natural habitats.

*Objective 4. Capacity Building*

4.1 Organization of national partnership meetings to enhance information sharing and active involvement of national partners with regard to the EAAFP's goals and objectives.

- Thematic national partnerships meeting and workshops (on specific species or habitats, Avian Influenza, ecotourism, etc)

- Provision of support for working group meetings and task forces

4.2 Development of a training programme for stakeholders, such as site managers, on conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

- Organization of a workshop to strengthen the capacity of FNS managers on a regular basis

- Development of education programmes to increase the capacity of FNS managers on a regular basis

- Organization of a stakeholder workshop, involving participation from researchers and government staffs from state and local governments, on conservation of waterbirds and their habitats to identify priority challenges, exchange views and opinions, and produce substantive outcomes

4.3 Incorporation of conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats into national planning and policy-making

- Establishment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> NBSAP (March 2014), and the subsequent development and execution of the annual implementation plan

- Ongoing implementation of the Biodiversity Contract Initiative (25 local authorities have adopted the initiative as of 2015) and outsourcing of a research project to review the initiative

- Development of a management plan for the National Migratory Bird Research Center (expected to launch in 2016)

- Implementation of the Land-use and Environmental Planning Linkage Scheme

*Objective 5: Negotiations for expanding the sites in the Flyway*

5.1 Development of a new national and international project and involvement in the existing projects regarding conservation of migratory birds and their habitats in major sites

- Implementation of conservation of waterbird habitats in the Geum River Estuary (one of 8 sites in the UNWTO's Destination Flyways project) and development of sustainable tourism programmes aimed at supporting local economies

- Implementation of international cooperative projects regarding conservation of migratory birds in the Yellow Sea (in the follow-up to the 2014 Korea, China, Japan and Australia Meeting on migratory birds)

- Implementation of the EAAFP Eastern Curlew Project (in collaboration with the Task Force for Eastern Curlew)

- Conducting an international cooperative research on Saunders' Gull (among Korea, China and Japan) and Crane species (between Korea and China)

5.2 Participation in international forum regarding implementation of the EAAFP's goals and activities

- Organization of a side event with the theme of migratory waterbirds at the Ramsar COP12

**DOCUMENT 3.2.1.8**

### **3.2.1.8 Philippines**

*Report prepared by Anson Tagtag*

**DOCUMENT 3.2.1.9**

### **3.2.1.9 Singapore**

*Report prepared by Sharon Chan*

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets: 1

Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

Number of proposed new FNS: 0

*Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

Number of National Partnership meetings held

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- Continued working with government partner agencies has bring about greater awareness of migratory birds and its habitat.
- Improved accessibility by relocating Sungei Buloh Visitor Centre. The new visitor centre was opened in Dec 2014
- Developed new content for the mangrove gallery at the new visitor centre promoting the EAAF as well as the importance of mangrove
- Events held to promote migratory birds

- Involving schools and public in citizen science by participating in the annual HeronWatch
- Conduct WadersWatch Workshop during migratory season
- Held a month long exhibition in partnership with Canadian Embassy on Migratory Birds during World Migratory Bird Day.

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- Continued with the monthly bird census to monitor the trend
- Continued monthly bird ringing and color flagging of the waders. Results shows the close link between Thailand and Singapore, Singapore and Johor, Malaysia
- Embarked on the use of geolocators to track redshanks.
- Continued with monthly surveillance for Avian Influenza where faecal swabs were taken for analysis. The results of the surveillance show that it is negative so far.

*Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

- Participate in the Shorebird ringing Expedition at Libong Island, Trang Province, Thailand on 16-21 March 2014
- Together with Birdlife International, co-organised Symposium on Intertidal Conservation in South East Asia

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

- As part of the Sister Wetland Affiliation Programme, SBWR led a group of
  - 22 students and 3 teachers on a week-long exchange programme, to Seocheon County, South Korea. They were hosted by Seocheon Girls High School where they have an exchange of their projects relating to migratory birds and the habitat
  - 25 volunteers to Mai Po and HongKong Wetland as part of their training programme and see how volunteers can play a role in conserving and protecting these migratory birds.

**DOCUMENT 3.2.1.10**

**3.2.1.10 China**

*Report prepared by Chinese delegation*

I Flyway Network Development

No new site officially designed during the reporting period.

However, there are initiatives promoting the new sites under the guidance of the national 12th Five Year Plan. 190 new national wetland parks, and nature reserves established during 2014.

Professor Lei Guangchun was officially announced by the State Forestry Administrations as the official focal point for issues related to the flyway site network development in China in December 2014.

## II CEPA

### 2.1 Campaign for the conservation of birds (Birds Week)

The first week of April is the official designated week for the campaign of bird and their habitat conservation in China. Every year, different types of exhibition, workshops, road/street campaign, and communication activities are organized by the government, specialized societies, NGOs, to enhance public awareness of bird conservation.



Figure 1a: Mr Zhao Xuemin, the Chairman of China Wildlife Conservation Society released rescued black storks



Figure 1b: Bird-love week campaign in Jiangxi Province

2.2 NGO – “Let the Migratory Bird Flying” organized campaign for the water birds through different measure, such as organizing national photographer competition



### 2.3 Bird Festivals in Yalujiang Estuary reserve, and in Chongming Dongtan Reserve (Yangtze River Delta)

### 2.4 National Wetland Culture Festival organized in Yellow River Delta

Special session was organized on the EAAF Partnership with the participation of the CEO of the Secretariat.

## III Research, Monitoring and Sharing of information

3.1 Publication of China's second national wetland inventory in Jan 2015, which revealed the coastal wetland reduced by 22% over the past 10 years, which is among the most threatened wetland ecosystems in China

3.2 China Wildlife Inventory included simultaneous water bird census for particular regions.

3.3 Major research works Crane census, satellite tracking on cranes, Scaly-sided merganser census, Lesser White-fronted Geese habitat studies, shore birds monitoring;

3.4 Initial assessment of the Baer's Pochard breeding and wintering populations, black storks breeding population in western China;

3.5 Flyway sites and other PA assessment by Beijing Normal University, and all related provincial forestry departments completed in 2014;

3.6 Coastal wetland blueprint project implementation. With the support of Lao Niu Foundation (600,000 USD), SFA teamed up with Paulson Institute and Chinese Academy of Sciences, the expert team led by Professor Lei Guangchun (Beijing Forestry University), Zhang Zhengwang (Beijing Normal University) and Yu Xiubo (Chinese Academy of Sciences) has been conducting the assessment of the current situation of the Chinese coastal wetlands, lessons learnt, and will formulate a national policy recommendation by June 2015.

### 3.7 Holding international conferences with partners and the EAAP Secretariat



September 16-18, 2014, International Conference on the Conservation and Management of Yellow Sea Tidal Flats was organized jointly with international partners with the support of Birds Life International and the Norwegian Embassy to P. R. China, over 150 participants from USA, UK, Russia, Australia, Korea, Japan and China participated in the conference, and reached conference recommendations to the government in the region. All relevant governmental ministries of China participated the conference. Most of the flyway site managers along the Yellow sea were also participated in the conference.



**IV Capacity Building**

**4.1 International training**

Beijing Forestry University successfully applied 300,000 USD funds from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce to organize workshops for the governmental officials in the East Asia-Australasia Flyway in July 2013 and 2014. Each workshop lasts for three weeks, and 32 participants from Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Indian and Pakistan participated in the training program.



**4.2 National trainings**

Over 10 training project had been completed with more than 2000 wetland reserve staff trained in 2014, and 200 bird-watchers, volunteers training for scaly-sided merganser training.

**V Cooperation within the flyway**

5.1 Hosting bi-lateral meetings with Australia, Japan organized in November 2014

5.2 China became the observer of the CAFF

5.3 China – Russia Migratory Waterbird Agreement

5.2 China –US bi-lateral cooperation, both official and unofficial cooperation

5.3 Yalujiang – Miranda sisters sites cooperation.

**DOCUMENT 3.2.1.11**

**3.2.1.11 Mongolia**

*Report prepared by Gombobaatar Sundev*

| <b>N</b>   | <b><u>Actions</u></b>  | <b><u>Date</u></b> | <b><u>Hosted organization</u></b>                         | <b><u>Outcomes</u></b>  |
|--|--|--------------------|---|---|
| <b>Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites (FNS)</b> |  |                    |   |   |
| 1  | Collected information and data on the Site Information Sheets for recently nominated sites: Mongol Daguur Strictly Protected Area (EAAF024), Ogii Nuur (EAAF040), Terhiyn Tsagaan Nuur (EAAF041), Khurkh-Khuiten Valley (EAAF074), Ugtam Nature Reserve (EAAF075), Dashinchilen Tsagaan wetlands | 2013-2014          | MEGDT, NUM, MOS, and other national and international NGO | -Collected all information and data for all sites<br>- New data and information on bird species and water quality were gathered by MEGDT tender |

|  |   |           |  |   |
|--|---|-----------|--|---|
|  | (EAAF114)   |           |  |   |
| 2  | Dashinchilen Wetland was newly nominated and accepted by EAAFP  | 2012-2014 | MOS, NUM, MEGDT, AWCF and governmental institutions              | -Dashinchilen Wetland newly established as new network site with EAAF114 code in 2014.  |
| <b>Objective 2: CEPA:</b>  |   |           |  |   |
| 1  | Promotion activities and actions of migratory waterbirds including shorebirds' conservation awareness made during the network site nomination, World migratory bird day, National bird watching day, National bird photography contest, National crane festival, and tourism training to more than 500 participants | 2013-2014 | MOS, NUM, EAAFP, MEGDT, governmental institution, and other NGOs | -More than 500 participants took in a part of actions and activities  |
| 2  | Hold World Migratory Bird Day   | 2012-2014 | EAAFP, MEGDT, governmental institutions, NUM, MOS, and other NGO | -More than 60 individuals in 2012, more than 100 people in 2013, and more than 200 attendees in 2014 attended in 2 different sites in Mongolia<br>-Three universities, 5 NGO's and MEGDT collaborated |
| 3  | National Bird Watchers Day  | 2013-2014 | MOS, NUM, EAAFP, MEGDT, governmental institution, and other NGOs | - More than 120 individuals in 2013 and 150 attendees in 2014 attended in the event during migration period   |
| 4  | Crane Festival in Mongolia  | 2014      | ICF, WSCC, and MAS   | -June 2014 Crane festival organized in eastern Mongolia and involved local people and protected area administration   |
| <b>Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange:</b> |   |           |  |   |
| 1  | Migratory shore bird monitoring at Dashinchilen Tsagaan Wetland and bird banding training   | 2013-2014 | EAAFP, AWCF, MEGDT, NUM, MOS, and other NGO                      | -120 local people and University students involved in the activity  |

|   |   |           |  |   |
|---|---|-----------|--|---|
| 2 | Migration surveys in connection with avian influenza of migratory water birds such as Whooper swan, Bar-headed goose, Swan Goose, Gadwall, and shorebirds at the sites  | 2012-2014 | OEI, USGS, YIO, NUM, MOS, MEGDT, WCS, ICF, WSCC, WWF, and other NGOs                                       | -More than 40 Whooper swan satellite tracked and known wintering sites<br>-More than 300 Whooper Swans and Goose neck banded and determined migration route and wintering sites   |
| 3 | Mongolia crane migration study  | 2013-2014 | ICF, WSCC, and MAS   | -Migration study of White-naped Crane in Mongolia and China was conducted by field team and important data on conservation have been gathered.  |
| 4 | National migratory bird database created  | 2012-2014 | MEGDT, NUM, MOS, and other NGO   | -First information on migration of migratory birds was created and Master thesis published.   |
| 5 | Waterbird species assessment and regional red list of birds published   | 2012-2014 | World Bank, Birdlife International, ZSL, MOS, NUM, MAS, MEGDT, WWF, WCS, WSCC, TNC, and other institutions | -All waterbird species were assessed by local and international experts and created database using IUCN format<br>-Regional Red List for Mongolian birds and Regional conservation action plan was published in English |
| 6 | National Report on the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat - Ramsar Convention by Gombobaatar (2012), A Guide to the Animals and Plants of Gun Galuutai by Ch. Gantigmaa, U. Aibek, P. Tsogtsaikhan, Kh. Terbish, S.Gombobaatar, S.Shar, B. Oyuntsetseg (plant). (2013), Mongolian Red Book (2013), The 5th National Report of Convention on Biological Diversity, Mongolia by Gombobaatar, S., Myagmarsuren, | 2012-2014 | World Bank, Birdlife International, ZSL, MOS, NUM, MAS, MEGDT, WWF, WCS, WSCC, TNC, and other institutions | -More than 5 major publication on migratory water birds were published in Mongolian and English   |

|                                       |   |           |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------|---|--|
|                                       | M., Conaboy, N., and Munkhjargal, M. (2014), The first national report of the Convention on International trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) by Myagmarsuren, Sh., Gombobaatar, S., Munkhjargal, M., Conaboy, N. (2014). |           |   |  |
| 7                                     | International Waterbird Census  | 2012-2013 | MOS, NUM, IWC and other NGOs                                    | -Wintering water bird surveys conducted 4 times and sent census data to IWC office.<br>-Wintering water birds census should be covered in other sites including western Mongolia                               |
| <b>Objective 4: Capacity Building</b> |   |           |   |  |
| 1                                     | Migratory shore bird monitoring and shore bird banding national and international training  | 2012-2014 | EAAFP, AWCF, MEGDT, NUM, MOS, and other NGO                     | -The first international shorebird training was organized for 16 trainees in Autumn 2012, 20 trainees in August 2013, and 12 trainees in August 2014.  |
| 2                                     | Avian influenza and migration of migratory bird surveys   | 2012-2014 | OEI, USGS, YIO, NUM, MOS, MEGDT, WCS, WSCC, WWF, and other NGOs | -WCS trained more than 30 trainees for bird catching and banding<br>-YIO and MOS team trained more than more than 20 students members of NUM and MOS<br>- 3-4 young researchers involved in WSCC banding works |

#### DOCUMENT 3.2.1.12

##### 3.2.1.12 Malaysia

*Report prepared by Malaysian delegation*

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets:

One (1) - Bako Buntal Bay (BBB), Sarawak, Malaysia

Number of proposed new FNS: Nil

*Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership- EAAFP):

- A stakeholders' awareness workshop was held on 17 December 2012 in Kuching aimed to inform the key stakeholders and major decision makers on the establishment of BBB as an EAAFP Network Site; involving 200 participants.
- The establishment of BBB as a flyway site has raised the awareness of various government agencies, key stakeholders and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) of the importance of BBB as a site for migratory birds.

Number of National Partnership meetings held:

- Dialogue between managing agencies such as Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sarawak Forestry Department (SFD); major stakeholders such as Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment (NRE), Sarawak Ministry of Resource Planning & Environment (MRPE), Department of Irrigation & Drainage (DID), Flyway Secretariat; and also interested parties like NGOs for example Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) to initiate partnership to the flyway network held in February 2011.
- Debriefing of 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Partners (MOP7), EAAFP was held at NRE on 21 – 22 August 2013 at NRE to discuss on issues related to EAAFP, BBB and potential new sites.
- Preparation of BBB work plan was held at NRE on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014.
- Preparatory of 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Partners (MOP8), EAAFP was held at NRE on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness:

- EAAFP Dialogue in Kuching in February 2011.
- Waterbird Awareness Programme at Pantai Kampung Buntal on 17 September 2011 and Bako on 8 October 2011 in collaboration with MNS.
- Nature talk presented by Ecologist, SFC (Mr. Rambli Ahmad) at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Santubong on 5 September 2013.
- Talk on "Santubong National Park" which included BBB waterbirds awareness on 9 November 2013 in conjunction with Santubong Nature Festival 2013.
- Deputy General Manager of Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation, SFC (Mr. Oswald Braken Tisan) presented "Biodiversity of Santubong" which included BBB waterbirds awareness during a talk called "An Afternoon on Santubong" at Kota Sentosa Public Library on 16 July 2014 and Auditorium Dewan Bandaraya Kuching Utara (DBKU) on 24 September 2014.
- CEPA programme conducted by Bako National Park.

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- In Sarawak, migratory waterbirds are protected by the law (Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1998) and their habitat accorded protection as part of BBB included protected areas such as Bako National Park and Santubong National Park. Habitats for migratory birds are also protected under the National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance 1998.
- In Sabah, migratory waterbirds are protected under the Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997.
- In Peninsular Malaysia, birds including migratory waterbirds are protected under the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 (Act 716)

*Objective 3: Research, Monitoring, Knowledge Generation and Exchange*

### Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

- Asian Waterbird Census (AWC)  
Wetlands International - Asia Pacific coordinates the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC).  
The Asian Waterbird Census runs parallel to other international censuses of waterbirds in Africa, Europe and Neotropics under the umbrella of the International Waterbird Census (IWC). The census has three major objectives as in the following:
  - a) to obtain information on an annual basis of waterbird populations at wetlands in the region during the non-breeding period of most species (January), as a basis for evaluation of sites and monitoring of populations;
  - b) to monitor on an annual basis the status and condition of wetlands; and
  - c) to encourage greater interest in waterbirds and wetlands amongst people, and thereby promote the conservation of wetlands and waterbirds in the region.

### Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats:

- To enhance yearly monitoring programme and incorporate interested parties in the counts
- To further cooperate with MNS as national coordinator for Malaysia

### Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- SFC collaborated with MNS in conducting the yearly AWC in 2011 – 2012
- Information have been included the MNS website ([www.mnswetland.weebly.com](http://www.mnswetland.weebly.com))

### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

#### Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation:

- SFC has organised a workshop on Waterbirds Identification and AWC with Mr. Dave Bakewell (Chair of Bird Conservation Council, MNS) in January 2009.
- SFC staff (Ms. Tinna Wound) attended the “Information Sharing and Training Workshop for Wetland Managers in East and Southeast Asia” held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 25 – 29 August 2014.
- 3 SFC staffs (Mr. Jack Dering, Mr. Gilbert Paul, Mr. Muhammad Azizi) attended the Birding Workshop at Borneo Highlands Resort in 22 - 24 August 2014.

### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide Approaches*

#### Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

Nil

#### Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

Nil

**DOCUMENT 3.2.1.13**

### **3.2.1.13 Bangladesh**

*Report prepared by Md. Masumur Rahman*

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets : Five

Number of proposed new FNS: Two:

*Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP):

Number of National Partnership meetings held:

Number of National Partnership meeting has been conducted on regular basis as needed.

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness:

Water fowl census

Bird ringing program

Sattelite Transmeter Initiative

Migratory Bird Fair

Different types of awarness activities like school education campaining, Comunity level awarness campaining, hunting mitigation program, Wild bird monitoring program (avian influenza)

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies:

ECA( Ecological Critical Area) development, as Ramsar Signatory Moef running a project which is helping Migratory waterbirds, Wild life Protection and Security Act-2012, Signatory of CMS( Conservation on Migratory Birds Species)

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats:

Waterbirds census since 1989

Species information data base - IUCN Red list

GIS base habitate maping....

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats:

Hunting band program implemented by government

Monitoring program improvement by conducting mobile court

Project based vigilenc developing for migratory waterbirds

Protected area development by Moef- Sanctuaries, safe zone, Hot spot, national park declaration etc. for habitate preservation and social aforestration for habitate improvement

Information shared and widely available (improved networks):

Moef, BFD, IUCN, INGO,NGO, UNIVERSITIES,DoE etc

*Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation:

Number of training workshops and courses are conducted for site manager by Moef, BFD, IUCN, CREL, Bangladesh Bird Club, Public Universities etc

Number of sites with local capacity building programs:

Five sites ( Sonadia, Tangua, Hakaluki, Hail haor and Nijhum dip)

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation:

Five sites ( Sonadia, Tangua, Hakaluki, Hail haor and Nijhum dip)

Wildbirds monitoring and bird ringing program

Shorebirds conservation program

Habitat management plant and conservation action for the critically endangered Spoon-billed sandpiper conservation project at its wintering ground at Sonadia island Bangladesh

Spoon-billed sandpiper conservation project

Globally threatened birds conservation project in coastal area

Wetland birds conservation program

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions:

More than ten (10)

River Padma, Jamuna, Char kukri mukri, Domar char, char shahjalal, Meghna estuary, Sundorbon of Bangladesh, Chalon bill, Different forest area.

**DOCUMENT 3.2.1.14**

#### **3.2.1.14 Russia**

*Report prepared by Evgeny Syroyechkovsky*

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets: 10

Number of proposed new FNS: 0

*Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP): No progress

Number of National Partnership meetings held: 0

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness: Work is going on in state nature reserves and projects of BirdsRussia in the Russian Far East in connection to conservation of shorebirds and geese

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies: Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Swan Goose

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats: 7 research projects in the Russian Far East

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats: Monitoring programs are going as they were going before

Information shared and widely available (improved networks): All information is available from nature reserves and research institution reports in Russian language

*Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation: 0

Number of sites with local capacity building programs: 0

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation: 1

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions: 0

**DOCUMENT 3.2.1.15**

#### **3.2.1.15 Indonesia**

Report prepared by Indonesian delegation

**DOCUMENT 3.2.2**

### **3.2.2 Brief report from each Int'l Non-Governmental Organisation**

**DOCUMENT 3.2.2.1**

#### **3.2.2.1 BirdLife International**

*Report prepared by Cristi Nozawa*

Compiled by Becky Rush, BirdLife International – Asia Division, with inputs BirdLife International Secretariat – Asia Division (Singapore and Tokyo offices, Seabird Working Group), BirdLife International – Cambodia Office (Cambodia), Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (China Programme), Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (Hong Kong), Burung Indonesia (Indonesia), Wild Bird Society of Japan (Japan), Haribon Foundation (Philippines), Chinese Wild Bird Federation (Taiwan), Audubon Alaska (USA) and Viet Nature Conservation Center (Vietnam)

Note that the Malaysian Nature Society (the BirdLife International Partner in Malaysia) has submitted their inputs through their national reporting process. BirdLife Australia is reporting via the Australasian Wader Studies Group, also a Partner of EAAFP and so reporting directly. Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (Myanmar) and Forest and Bird (New Zealand) said they have nothing relevant to report. We did not receive inputs from Nature Society (Singapore) or Bird Conservation Society of Thailand.

#### Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

- China: 19
- Hong Kong: 1 FNS but no current and updated Site Information Sheets
- Indonesia: Two sites, Sembilang National Park in South Sumatra and Wasur National Park in Papua
- Japan: 6 in total. Two sites, “Izu-numa and Uchi-numa” and “Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke-wan” are nominated in 2014.

Number of proposed new FNS

- BirdLife Secretariat: BirdLife has encouraged Thailand and Myanmar to designate new Flyway Network Sites/Ramsar Sites at least till mid-2013 when we supported discussion between MOEJ with both the Thai and Myanmar delegates at MOP7. Previous efforts of the same project had resulted in designation of Flyway Network Site at least in Malaysia (Bako-Buntal Bay).
- Cambodia: There are no official flyway network sites in Cambodia yet. So far EAAFP did provide small funding to government partners for identify the sites and begin to designate Prek Toal bird colony as flyway site but it still not complete yet. BirdLife Cambodia wasn't involved with this but we are looking to be involved in the future if there is funding available. BirdLife Cambodia also see this is as opportunity to designate the site under Forestry Administration (Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery) as Flyway site as well.
- Japan: 2
- Indonesia: One site, Kupang Bay, Timor Island in East Nusa Tenggara
- Vietnam: 6. The proposed sites are understood to be Xuan Thuy, Ba Be?, Tram Chim, Bau Sau (Cat Tien NP), Con Dao and Ca Mau.

#### Objective 2: CEPA

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

- Alaska: Updates on EAAFP given at the Alaska Shorebird Group meeting in Dec 2013 (and will do so again in Dec 2014)
- Indonesia: Increased recognition of EAAFP in park management unit, especially in Alas Purwo National Park, Sembilang National Park, and Wasur National Park.

Number of National Partnership meetings held

- Indonesia:
  - 26 September 2014: meeting to review national secretariat activity during 2014 & discussing draft of migratory shorebirds identification manual.
  - 13 - 14 November 2013: meeting to discuss draft of guide book on monitoring migratory shorebirds in Indonesia.

- 4 November 2013: meeting to discuss Indonesian version of EAAFP Implementation strategy.
- Vietnam: One EAAFP meeting

#### Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

- BirdLife Secretariat: Published a leaflet about Flyway network in Japan.
- BirdLife Secretariat: Contributed materials and information to an exhibition on migratory birds and flyways held in Singapore in May and June by the Canadian Embassy at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve.
- BirdLife Secretariat: Successfully launched in 2013 'Welcome to the Birds', a new flyway-wide awareness campaign to raise awareness of birds and their migration throughout the EAAF. In 2013 with 10 organisations from across the flyway participated. Preparations have been completed for Welcome to the Birds 2014, with an anticipated 11 organisations across the EAAF to take part, beginning October 2014.
- BirdLife Secretariat: Promotion of waterbird monitoring and seabird conservation at the China Ornithological Society Meeting in Hangzhou, China. November 2013.
- Cambodia: Organized the World Wetland Day and Welcome to the Birds event which contribute to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness. We suggest EAAFP to have NGO CEPA focal point at each country partner and possibly use the same Ramsar NGO CEPA focal point.
- China: Local activities during Bird-Loving Week, BirdLife's "Welcome to the Birds" activities, artwork and animation projects on Spoon-billed Sandpiper.
- Hong Kong: Waterbird Monitoring Training Workshop; Black-faced Spoonbill Census Training Workshop.
- Japan: WBSJ held workshop at Tokyo Port Wild Bird Park (EAAF063) to strengthen CEPA activity at urban sites around the Tokyo Bay.
- Philippines: "Welcome to the Birds" is an annual event which Haribon celebrates every migratory season to recognize and show support to the conservation of the migratory birds. Schools and universities within and outside Metro Manila were visited and were introduced to the diversity of migratory birds and its importance. Other activities were the Bird Kite Flying Festival and birdwatching in different migratory bird sites. With the theme 'Malugod na Pagbabalik,' the Haribon Foundation organized the annual 'Welcome to the Birds' event as a contribution to BirdLife International's awareness-raising campaigns in celebration and recognition of the importance of migratory birds conservation. The celebration was divided into 3 Phases with: A) Teaching Tour where Haribon staff visited various schools, universities, and corporations to provide lecture on the diversity of migratory birds and their importance; B) Bird Kite Festival as the main event where awareness on migratory birds was emphasized through the Haribon booths, video presentations, and the kite flying event itself; and C) A birdwatching activity was organized to serve as an application of the knowledge participants acquired from the first two phases of the event.
- Philippines: For the entire duration of the 'Welcome to the Birds' event, infographic materials on migratory birds were posted in Haribon Foundation's social media accounts. Invitations as well as articles on migratory birds and the celebration were published in Manila Times.
- Taiwan: Some of our partners in Taiwan work on the promotion of migratory waterbird conservation awareness, including Wild Bird Federation of Taipei manager the Guandu Wetland Park; Wild Bird Society of Taoyuan, Wild Bird Society of Hsinchu, Wild Bird Association of Taiwan, Wild Bird Society of Chang Hwa, Wild Bird Society of Tainan and Kaohsiung Wild Bird Society monitor the costal shorebird in their county annually.
- Vietnam: Welcome to the Birds event by BirdLife/Viet Nature in Xuan Thuy National Park and Tram Chim National Park in both 2013 and 2014

#### Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- BirdLife Secretariat: An 'International Workshop on Intertidal Wetland and Management in the Yellow Sea Provinces of China' was held in Beijing, China on 15-17 September, 2014, bringing together over 160 government representatives with site managers and academics to raise awareness of the need to conserve intertidal areas in the Chinese Yellow Sea. Such a meeting has never been held before. A declaration was produced outlining six priority actions for implementation in China, including the protection of key sites.
- BirdLife Secretariat: Participation in 'The Workshop and the First Work Meeting of China Coastal Wetland Conservation Blueprint Project' hosted by the Paulson Institute, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Lao Niu Foundation. Since then we have shared data on key sites for species to feed into the red-lining recommendations that will be an outcome of this project.
- Hong Kong: The Mai Po Inner Deep Bay is already listed as Ramsar Site and related plans and policies have already been implemented.
- Taiwan: Sometimes uses migratory waterbirds monitoring data in EIAs.

#### Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange

##### Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

- BirdLife Secretariat: Conducted Seabird Species Prioritization project, to compile the basic information of seabird in EAAF region, identify species which is lacked of conservation efforts and hence give priorities in numbers of species for future considerations of their conservation activities.
- Hong Kong: Regular waterbird monitoring programme; Ecological baseline monitoring programme. More information at: [http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con\\_wet/con\\_wet\\_local/con\\_wet\\_local.html](http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con_wet/con_wet_local/con_wet_local.html)
- Philippines: Haribon has just started under the Birdlife-Arcadia project the formulation of site selection criteria of at least four sites for regular monitoring of the migratory species and in search for the Chinese Crested Tern, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, and Black-faced Spoonbill.
- Taiwan: Has regular waterbird census and banding in some places. In some important wetlands, such as Guandu Wetland in Taipei, the census is conducted monthly. Organized the Taiwan New Year Bird Count since 2014 to monitor the wintering bird population around Taiwan and the data we collected can be used to monitor the wintering waterbirds at the same time. In western central Taiwan around Taichuang and Chung Hwa, waterbird banding has been conducted for two decades. There are some other banding programs running in other places such as Kinmen and Pratas Island for 3-5 constituted years.

##### Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- BirdLife Secretariat: Habitat restoration and monitoring of the Critically Endangered Chinese Crested Tern in East China.
- Cambodia: BirdLife Cambodia and WCS organize a yearly Asian Water bird Census and Sarus Crane Census. BirdLife Cambodia also joined the International Black faced spoon billed census. Last year, a bird watching group led by one local NGO confirmed the presence of Spoon-billed Sandpiper at Kok Kapik Ramsar site (Cambodia coastal zone).
- China: China Coastal Waterbird Census, Black-faced Spoonbill Census, Chinese Crested Tern restoration, Spoon-billed Sandpiper monitoring.
- Hong Kong: Mai Po Management Plan ([http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con\\_wet/con\\_wet\\_look/con\\_wet\\_look\\_man/con\\_wet\\_look\\_man.html](http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con_wet/con_wet_look/con_wet_look_man/con_wet_look_man.html))
- Japan: Monitoring on Black-faced Spoonbill is conducted every January.

- Taiwan: Many coastal wetland IBAs are monitored regularly such as TW001, TW002, TW003, TW004, TW006, TW009, TW011, TW013, TW014, TW015, TW016, TW017, TW021, TW022, TW023, TW025, TW026, TW027, TW029, TW030, TW037, TW040, TW045, TW046, TW047. Some of the IBA such as Guandu Wetland (TW003) is well managed by Wild Bird Society of Taipei.

#### Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- Alaska: National radio shows highlighting Yellow Sea and migratory connectivity with the United States.
  - <http://birdnote.org/show/importance-yellow-sea-nils-warnock>
  - <http://birdnote.org/show/bar-tailed-godwit-migration-featuring-nils-warnock>
- Alaska: Talks given on the importance of Yellow Sea for North American waterbirds
  - Warnock, N. 2014. *Conservation of Pacific birds*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong (Mar).
  - Warnock, N. 2014. *Connecting Alaska to China: the Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica)*. First International Bird Fair of China, Fuzhou, China (Apr).
  - Warnock, N. 2014. *Alaska, breeding grounds for the flyways*. Camp Denali, Denali National Park, AK (Aug – 2 talks).
  - Warnock, N. 2014. *Connecting Alaska to China: the Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica)*. International Workshop on Intertidal Wetland Conservation and Management in the Yellow Sea Provinces in China Beijing, China (Sep).
  - Warnock, N. 2014. *A waterbird crisis of global proportions: the filling in of the Yellow Sea and implications for Alaskan birds*. Alaska Bird Conference, Juneau, AK
- BirdLife Secretariat: Publishing documents and materials of the Seabird Species Prioritization project in the EAAFP webpage (<http://www.eaaflyway.net/our-activities/working-groups/seabirds-working-group/>)
- BirdLife Secretariat: A ‘Symposium On Intertidal Conservation In Southeast Asia’ was held at Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve in Singapore on 11-12 June 2014, bringing together over 80 decision-makers and site managers from 11 countries across South East Asia along with academics and experts in the field of coastal management to raise awareness of the need to conserve and effectively manage intertidal areas.
- BirdLife Secretariat: Brochures, banners and other messaging to promote conservation messages have been produced, including:
  - Banner on Spoon-billed Sandpiper conservation
  - Banner on BirdLife’s migratory birds and flyways programme
  - Brochure on BirdLife’s migratory birds and flyways programme
- Cambodia: Report about result of Sarus Crane census in Cambodia was widely shared amongst the NGO conservation network in Cambodia.
- Hong Kong: No place to centralize all kind of information.
- Philippines: A booth, mobile library, and video presentations were prepared for the Bird Kite Festival for the participants to know more about migratory birds. Birdlife-Arcadia priority species (Chinese Crested Tern, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, and Black-faced Spoonbill) were highlighted during the event. Posters, information sheets, and brochures were also provided to the participants.

#### Objective 4: Capacity Building

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

- BirdLife Secretariat: Workshop for local governments in national network of shorebirds was held in September 2014.

- BirdLife Secretariat: Compilation of a draft of seabird monitoring manual in Chinese (for the Chinese Crested Tern project).
- Cambodia: No activities. Proposed EAAFP to organize a training about EAAFP and flyway site management in Cambodia.
- Indonesia: 25-29 August 2014: Experience sharing and Training Workshop for Wetland Manager in East & South-east Asia
- Taiwan: There are always one or two workshop/conferences regarding to migratory waterbirds (such as Black-faced Spoonbills or general issues) held in Taiwan in this decades.
- Vietnam: One EAAFP meeting

#### Number of sites with local capacity building programs

- Hong Kong: At least two (Mai Po Nature Reserve, Hong Kong Wetland Park)
- Indonesia: 3 sites: Alas Purwo National Park, Sembilang National Park, and Wasur National Park.
- Taiwan: Many local NGO works locally to raise the awareness of local people
- Vietnam: None

#### Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches

##### Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

- BirdLife Secretariat: Successful restoration of a deserted Chinese Crested Tern breeding site in eastern China.
- BirdLife Secretariat: Research the activities of each site-related EAAFP implementation strategy in order to make the proposal of next implementation strategy in MOP8.
- BirdLife Secretariat: A conservation project was begun in South Korea to conserve the intertidal mudflats of the Geum Estuary, the most important site for migratory birds in South Korea, and a regular stopover site for Spoon-billed Sandpiper. A site visit to meet with stakeholders including local government, EAAFP and the UN World Tourism Organisation was undertaken 17-22 May 2014. Two Project Coordinators have been hired to assist with the project on-ground in Korea. A monitoring workshop, to gather data and identify a methodology for collation in the future, was held from 1-5 September 2014. MOUs have been signed between BirdLife and the local government and between BirdLife and UNWTO to ensure the smooth progress and cooperation for this project.
- BirdLife Secretariat: Asia Partnership Meeting held 5-7 November 2014, bringing together all BirdLife Partners and Affiliates in Asia, along with BirdLife Australia and BirdLife Partners from across the world who work closely within Asia (e.g. Denmark, UK, Norway) and other key members of the BirdLife global Secretariat from Cambridge. One day of this meeting was focussed on increasing the effectiveness of flyways advocacy work, encouraging the Partnership to work together and share experience, and planning more effectively for their work in the East-Asian Australasian Flyway and the Central Asian Flyway. Another day of the meeting was dedicated to increasing communications and collaborations amongst the BirdLife Partnership.
- BirdLife Secretariat: Coordinated preparation of a workshop in China for control of illegal hunting on migratory birds.
- BirdLife Secretariat: Coordinated the discussion and preparation of workshop for land bird monitoring in Asia.
- BirdLife Secretariat: Supporting revision of the flyway waterbird list and 1% threshold estimation.
- Cambodia: No activities related to this. Flyway concept still not widely known and integrated to conservation initiative yet.

- Japan: Making sites information sheet about wintering sites of Black-faced Spoonbill and Hooded Crane under EASPEC programs.
- Taiwan: Few international projects, mainly on endangered species: e.g. Black-faced Spoonbills or Chinese Crested Tern, are running internationally.
- Vietnam: Projects on Black-faced Spoonbill, Spoon-billed Sandpiper.

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

- Indonesia: Not yet, but the national focal point would like to establish sister sites in Indonesia in the future.

## DOCUMENT 3.2.2.2

### 3.2.2.2 ICF

*Report prepared by Jim Harris*

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

N/A

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

Number of proposed new FNS

*Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP) N/A

Number of National Partnership meetings held N/A

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

- We have held education events related to cranes and wetlands at a Crane Festival in Mongolia that we helped organize, at Muraviovka Park in Russia, and at a dozen locations in China. The two sites in western China (Ruoergai and Cao Hai) are at the north and south ends respectively of the flyway for the eastern population of Black-necked Cranes, while the sites in eastern China are along the flyway for the Siberian, several other cranes, and many other waterbirds. At Cao Hai, we worked with local teachers to develop a curriculum on cranes, wetlands, and local people, and held teacher training. This curriculum has been endorsed by the county education bureau as part of education instruction for county schools. We also held teacher training at Muraviovka.
- We produced a 28-page waterbird calendar in Chinese, printing 7,000 copies that we distributed at 24 wetlands and nature reserves across northeast China and Bohai and to others involved in waterbird conservation and research. The calendar had brief text about water and climate change issues as well as the need for protection of cranes and other waterbirds from disturbance and poaching. We also produced thousands of pocket-sized crane cards for distribution to school children. We produced, "Home for Me and Crane," a one page poster with 12 month calendar for distribution primarily to children and villagers living near wetlands, featuring Red-crowned Cranes and wetlands.
- We held several activities at Momoge and Tumuji National Nature Reserves in northeast China for local people about wetlands, water, climate change and climate change adaptation.
- We produced two hundred tea sets bearing climate change adaptation and conservation awareness-raising slogans to be distributed to the local community and relevant stakeholders at Momoge.
- Two ICF staff spoke at a crane and wetland symposium at Kushiro in Hokkaido, Japan

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

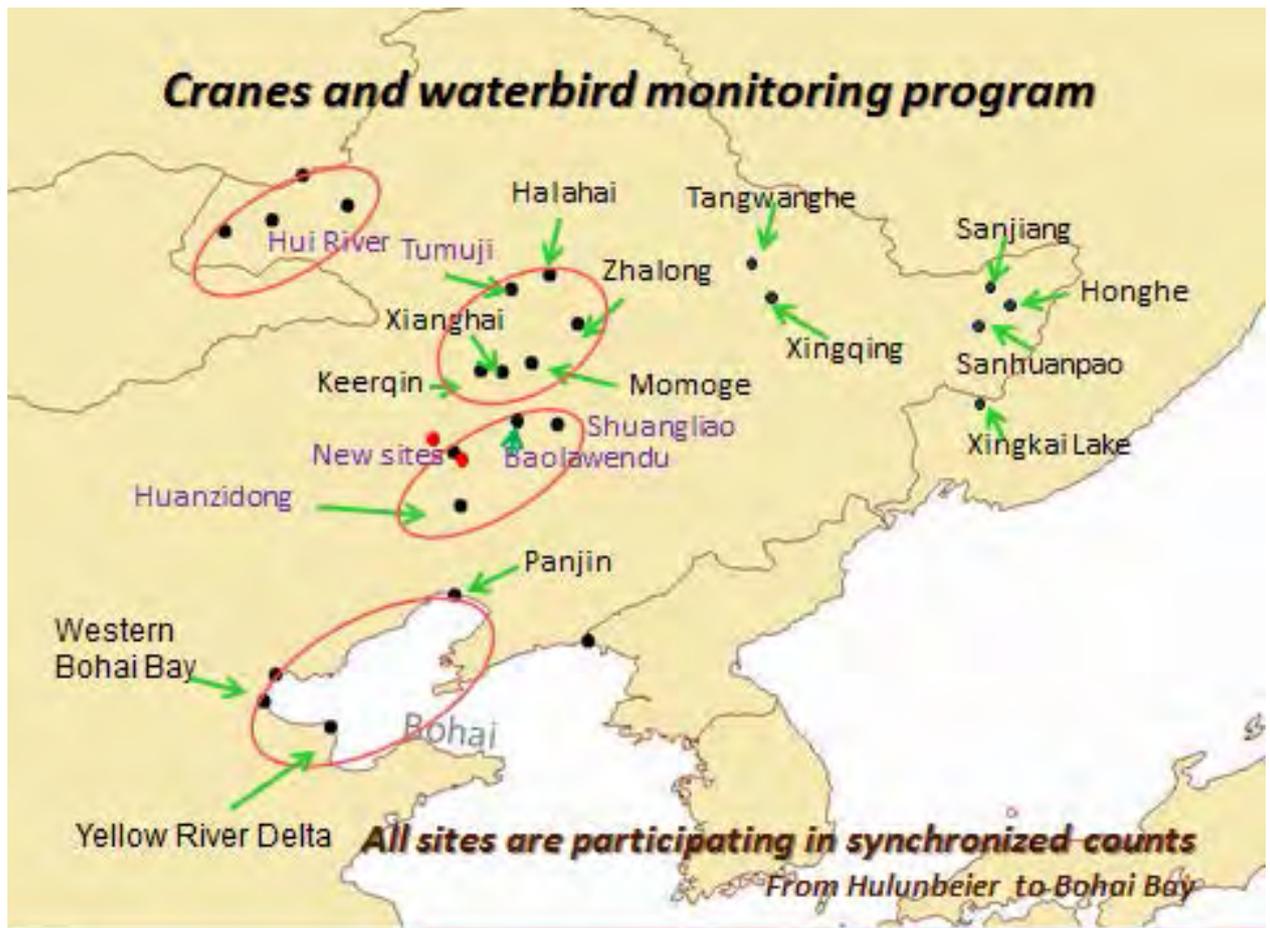
*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

#### Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

- Since the last MoP we have sponsored two meetings of the Black-necked Crane Network in China, each attended by over 40 specialists working on the species and its protected areas. The 2013 meeting, held at Cao Hai National Nature Reserve, included a day reporting on education activities at Cao Hai. The 2014 meeting, held near Qinghai National Nature Reserve, included a day of technical papers and status reports.
- We held two research meetings for those working together to monitor cranes and other waterbirds as well wetlands in sub lakes of Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve – including specialists in birds, fish, vegetation, hydrology, benthic invertebrates, zooplankton, and remote sensing who made presentations and contributed written reports on research and monitoring over the past year. Staff from Poyang Lake and Nanjshan National Nature Reserves participated. These meetings are part of over 12 years of cooperation on wetland and waterbird research and monitoring at Poyang Lake.
- We sponsored two basin-wide surveys of waterbirds at Poyang Lake.
- We are working with Momoge and Tumuji National Natures Reserves in northeast China on cranes, wetlands, community welfare and climate change. Working with the Chinese Academy of Forestry and the two reserves, we developed Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments for birds and habitats at both reserves and for a local community at Momoge.
- With the National Bird Banding Center of China, we completed a survey of Black-necked Cranes wintering in Tibet. That information, combined with data from Bhutan and data we helped collect in Yunnan-Guizhou, provided a new estimate of the world population for this Vulnerable.
- For the second year, we're working with partners (Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Wildlife Science and Conservation Center, Beijing Forestry University, Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve, and US Forest Service) to track movements and habitat use by White-naped Cranes during migration and winter.

#### Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- The crane flyway across eastern China is unique for its diversity of crane species (seven species, four of them threatened) and among the most rapidly developing regions on earth. The map below shows the wetland locations currently participating in the synchronous counts organized by ICF's Su Liying. Twenty-six sites are contributing data. Our data collected over recent years supported the successful application of Shuangliao to become a Jilin Provincial Nature Reserve, confirmed this past year.



- We completed the eighth annual transect of the immense Zhalong Marsh in northeast China, recording information on birds, vegetation and water. This year was the wettest of the eight, with good vegetation recovery in the eastern part of the marsh after years of low water. Waterbird numbers other than cranes were low.
- For the seventh year, we counted adult cranes and chicks at Hui River and other sites in Hulunbeier of northeast Inner Mongolia, the westernmost breeding area for Red-crowned Cranes. The early years had only 1-2 chicks/year due to disturbance and intervention at crane nests, but numbers of cranes and of chicks have increased due to higher water levels, our education efforts in local communities, and active enforcement by reserve authorities.

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- Working with the China Ornithological Society, we sponsored publication of China Crane News, with short articles on cranes and other waterbirds in English and Chinese.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

- For staff of Momoge and Tumuji National Nature Reserves in northeast China (and community members of Momoge), we held two workshops each lasting several days – one about Climate Change Adaptation for Species and Ecosystems, the other concerning Climate Change Adaptation for local communities. These workshops were followed up with practical experience and guidance to nature reserve staff in

working with local communities to develop Climate Change Adaptation Plans. We later conducted a study tour for reserve staff and community representatives.

- Our training courses in environmental education at Cao Hai and Poyang Lake in China, and Muraviovka in Russia all enhanced capacity of staff of these respective nature reserves.

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

- We assisted Momoge National Nature Reserve in developing a community development and conservation association involving local residents and local agencies. We're working with residents in two villages on strategies involving livelihoods and climate change adaptation.
- At Cao Hai in southwest China, we continued to support the Farmers Conservation and Development Association, securing a Ford Foundation grant to extend their work and capacity.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

- See above for description of our flyway research on White-naped Cranes, involving China and Mongolia.
- We coordinate efforts to protect the Critically Endangered Siberian Crane along its long flyway across Russia and China; we've secured funding to develop a ten-year Siberian Crane Conservation Plan for the eastern population with >99% of the world population. This activity will be associated with the CMS Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation of the Siberian Crane.
- The Black-necked Crane Network mentioned above and supported by ICF involved participation of Bhutanese specialists, including the species-wide winter count for the species; we have also invited Indian specialists to participate in the network meetings.

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

- We have secured funding for exchanges for environmental education between Cao Hai and Ruorgai National Nature Reserves, that protect critical habitats at north and south ends of the flyway for the eastern population of Black-necked Cranes.

### **DOCUMENT 3.2.2.3**

#### **3.2.2.3 WBSJ**

*Report prepared by Seiji Hayama*

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets 6

Number of proposed new FNS 2

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

Number of National Partnership meetings held

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

WBSJ held workshop at Tokyo Port Wild Bird Park(EAAF063) to strengthen CEPA activity at urban sites around the Tokyo Bay.

#### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats  
Information shared and widely available (improved networks)  
Monitoring on Black-faced Spoonbill is conducted at every January.

*Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

Making sites information sheet about wintering sites of Black-faced Spoonbill and Hooded Crane under EASPEC programs

**DOCUMENT 3.2.2.4**

**3.2.2.4 WWT**

*Report prepared by Deborah Pain and Baz Hughes*

WWT REPORT TO EAAFP MOP8

Special thanks to Diana and all WWT/WWTC staff who have contributed to this report



## CONTENTS

1. Yangtze Wetland Biodiversity Monitoring
2. Baer's Pochard
3. Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force
4. Spoon-billed Sandpiper
5. Cambodian Lower Mekong Floodplain Wetlands Project
6. Wetland Link International
7. World Wetland Network
8. WWT Consulting Projects in EAAF Countries

Slimbridge, December 2014

### 1. YANGTZE WETLAND BIODIVERSITY MONITORING

#### Activities since MoP7

- Monitoring plan developed and training (including breeding bird monitoring) undertaken at Longgan Hu NNR (Hubei).
- Monitoring training undertaken at Wang Hu NNR (Hubei).
- Developed basic database for collecting monitoring data (an application for mobile phones is under development).
- Wrote a Handbook of Bird Monitoring for Poyang Hu NNR (Jiangxi).
- Undertook, in conjunction with Coca-Cola (Hubei) Co., Hubei Daily and Chen Hu NNR Ramsar site team protection zone management team, a Summer Camp where 40 children and their families experienced the importance of wetlands and migratory birds.
- Continued production of quarterly newsletters for the Yangtze Waterbird Monitoring Network.
- Posters of the waterbirds of the Yangtze region have been produced and distributed to reserve offices, schools and bird watching societies. The latest versions feature herons, storks and spoonbills.
- Lectured the Hubei Province wildlife conservation team on bird monitoring and field identification; there were >60 reserve and >20 wetland park staff present.
- Participated in the wetland digital management and education project, delivered by Hubei Province Wetland Protection Foundation and Chen Hu Ramsar site. It included habitat restoration, wetland and bird education programmes and training for capacity building of wetland reserve staff in Hubei.
- Participated at Chen Hu bird watching festival (November 2014).

#### Plans for 2015

- Coordinated census of Yangtze floodplain scheduled for January 2015 (repeating surveys conducted in 2004, 2005 and 2011).
- Site monitoring plans to be developed for other reserve areas, as well as a revision of the monitoring plan for West Dongting Hu.

### 2. BAER'S POCHARD

#### Activities since MoP7

- Draft Action Plan prepared for submission to MoP8.
- Formed EAAFP Task Force (to be formally adopted at MoP8).
- Baer's Pochard status update published in BirdingASIA in late 2013. Hearn, R.D., X. Tao & G. Hilton. 2013. A species in serious trouble: Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri* is heading for extinction in the wild. BirdingASIA 19: 63-67. [Download](#).
- Detailed observations of breeding birds carried out at Hengshui Hu (Hebei) in summer 2014 by Beijing Birdwatching Society.
- Peak count of 65 birds (45 adult males, rest unaged/unsexed) observed in early August 2014.
- Peak count of c.12-13 pairs observed in spring 2014.

- No confirmed breeding attempts, but this is presumed to have occurred.
- Site remains the most important known breeding location for the species (by a considerable margin).
- Surveys conducted across Russian breeding range in 2013, supported by EAAFP (report available on EAAFP website).
- Surveys conducted at key sites in Russian breeding range in 2014:
- Only three birds located (one male and two unsexed individuals).
- No confirmed breeding was observed.
- Observations undertaken of summering Baer's Pochard in the Yangtze floodplain (between Wuhan and Xiaogan, Hubei, and Liuan, Anhui) in 2014.
- Seven birds, some apparently paired, seen near Xiaogan in June.
- A pair seen near Liuan in July.
- Study initiated of genetic status of captive Baer's Pochard to establish which of the current global captive population are pure Baer's Pochard, and use this information to inform captive management of Baer's Pochard.

#### Plans for 2015

- Winter census to be carried out in January 2015 at as many sites as possible, in conjunction with coordinated waterbird census of Yangtze floodplain. £5,000 secured for surveys in Myanmar.
- Task Force meeting to be held in spring 2015 at the 5th WLI Asia meeting, Hengshui Hu, China to discuss implementation of the Action Plan. The defined results in the Plan are:
- The impact of habitat loss and degradation is understood and significantly reduced.
- The impact of harvesting of birds and eggs from the wild is understood and significantly reduced.
- Knowledge of the ecological requirements of Baer's Pochard is significantly improved.
- The understanding of population status, distribution, key sites and demography is significantly improved.
- A flyway-wide network of protected and well managed sites is established and maintained.
- A global management strategy for the captive population is developed and implemented.
- Awareness of Baer's Pochard and its conservation needs is significantly enhanced, particularly among decision-makers.
- Appropriate policy for the international conservation of Baer's Pochard is in place.
- Conclude genetics study.

For more information on Baer's Pochard conservation see:

<http://www.eaaflyway.net/the-flyway/migratory-waterbirds-in-eaaf/the-flywaymigratory-waterbirds-in-eaafbaers-pochard/>

### 3. SCALY-SIDED MERGANSER TASK FORCE

#### Activities since MoP7

- The Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force was created (all members agreed to participate).
- Published a paper on population size and breeding range. Based on surveys during 2000–2012 and best available knowledge, we estimate the global population size to be c.1,940 pairs (or c.4,660 birds prior to reproduction). In Russia, surveys identified the breeding range in the Sikhote-Alin mountain range and the area adjoining the lower Amur River. Particular effort was made to define the edge of the range. Breeding densities in the Sikhote-Alin were applied to unsurveyed rivers within the range to estimate overall numbers. The breeding range comprises c.7,800 km of 120 rivers: 6,800 km in Russia, 600 in China and 400 in DPR Korea. In Russia it comprises 88 rivers of both the western and eastern slopes of the Sikhote-Alin Range, and two small

isolated areas, one in central Khabarovsk and the other in the Jewish Autonomous Oblast. All known and potential breeding areas were surveyed in China, where the breeding range comprises the western slope of the Changbai Mountains, and one isolated river system in the Lesser Xingan Mountains. Scaly-sided Mergansers are also assumed to breed on the eastern slope of the Changbai Mountains in DPR Korea.

•Regular surveys continued on the core breeding rivers in Russia. The breeding population dynamics of Scaly-sided Mergansers has been studied over a 15 year period (2000-14) in a core study area in the Kievka Basin and on several other rivers in the South Primorye. The breeding population initially increased between 2000 and 2003, then stabilised between 2003 and 2011

(Figure 1), except for one unusually high peak in 2006 probably related to a very cold spring and late migration of pairs to their breeding rivers. The number of breeding pairs fell significantly in 2012 and continue to be low in 2013 and 2014. It is possible that the numbers of pairs has actually been declining since 2009.

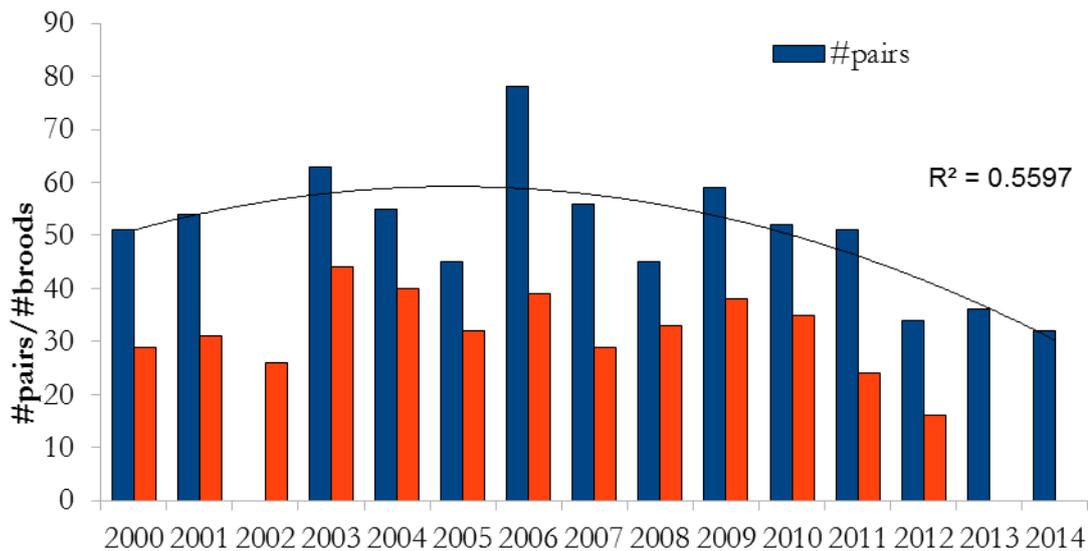


Figure 1. Between year dynamics of Scaly-sided Merganser breeding pair and brood numbers in the Kievka catchment, Primorye.

•An 80km survey on the Bikin River, Russia, was completed on 26-29 April 2014. Denis Kochetkov (observer) and Oleg Voronoy (boat driver) located a total of 27 pairs and 58 individuals. Pair density was 0.405 pairs/km. Assuming there is 721km of suitable habitat in the Bikin Basin and that pair density is similar throughout (which may or may not be true), this would produce a total breeding population of 292 pairs. This compares with 200 pairs estimated in 1990 (Bocharnikov 1990) and 50 pairs in the late 1970s (Pukinskiy 2003).

•The artificial nest program continued in the Primorye. Since 2000 we have erected a total of 224 artificial nests along 15 rivers. The total number of ducklings hatched in artificial nests is 911 with a minimum of 76 ducklings hatched in 2014.

•Normally around a dozen of our nest boxes and tubes are occupied from about a hundred AN checked on regular basis (Figure 2) with birds preferring large boxes over tubes in recent years, perhaps because our new nest box design (large boxes since 2008 and boxes with escape hatches at the base since 2012) allow the birds to escape from mammalian predators.

•No artificial nests were occupied in 2014 in the newly established “incubator” on the Zhuravlevka River - 24 nest tubes and boxes were erected there in spring and autumn 2013. However, this is not unexpected since occupation in the first year is rare in Scaly-sided Mergansers.

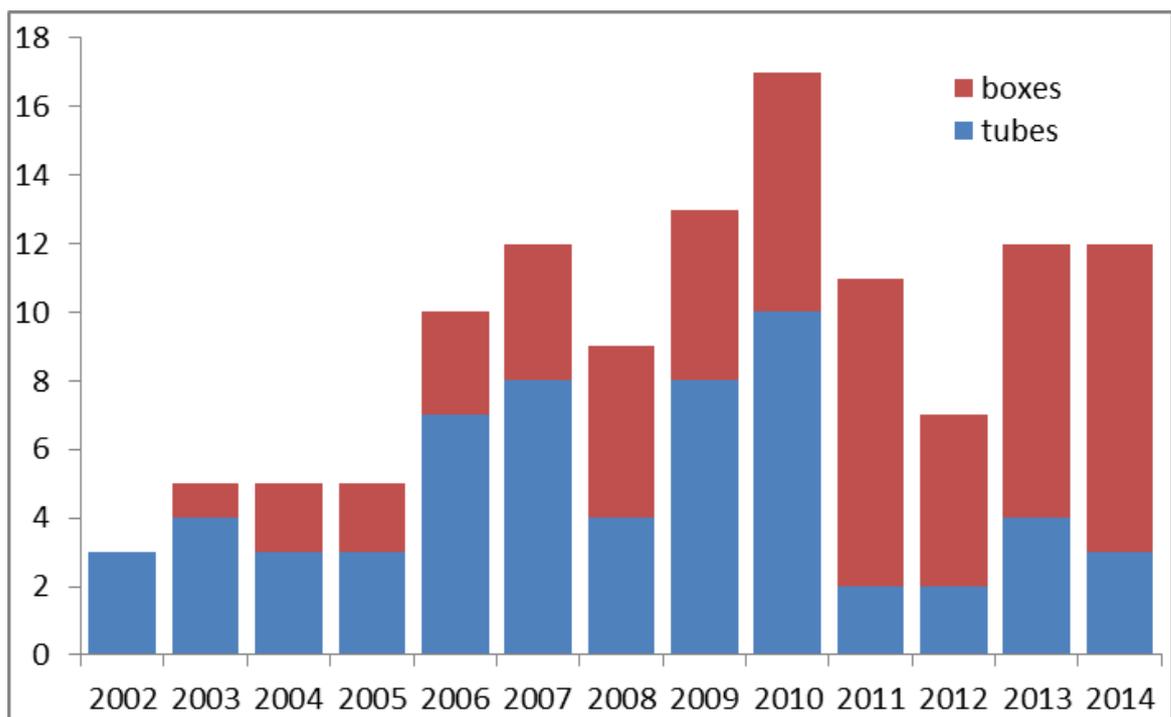


Figure 2. Number of artificial nests used by Scaly-sided Merganser by year and type, Primorye, Russia.

•Continued monitoring of factors affecting breeding success have shown that predation by Sable and Yellow-throated Martin can have a significant impact on nest success and adult female survival in artificial tubes and boxes (Table 1). In some years clutch predation was high (2010, 2013 and 2014). Analyses will be conducted to compare predation rate with predator abundance recorded by camera-traps during previous winters (in collaboration with the Amur Tiger Project, Principal Investigator Linda Kerly) to assess whether there is the potential to predict clutch depredation prior to reproduction.

Table 1. Nest fates (from nests with known fate) of Scaly-sided Mergansers nesting in artificial nest sites, Primorye, 2003-2014.

| Year | No. nests  |          |           |                     |             |
|------|------------|----------|-----------|---------------------|-------------|
|      | successful | predated | Abandoned | nest site destroyed | female dead |
| 2003 | 5          | 0        | 1         | 0                   | 0           |
| 2004 | 6          | 1        | 1         | 0                   | 0           |
| 2005 | 6          | 0        | 2         | 0                   | 0           |
| 2006 | 9          | 1        | 1         | 0                   | 1           |
| 2007 | 8          | 1        | 2         | 0                   | 1           |
| 2008 | 9          | 0        | 1         | 1                   | 1           |
| 2009 | 13         | 0        | 2         | 0                   | 0           |
| 2010 | 5          | 13       | 1         | 0                   | 0           |
| 2011 | 3          | 0        | 4         | 0                   | 1           |
| 2012 | 4          | 0        | 0         | 0                   | 0           |
| 2013 | 7          | 3        | 1         | 0                   | 1           |
| 2014 | 8          | 2        | 3         | 0                   | 0           |

|                  |      |      |      |     |     |
|------------------|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| Total<br>(n=129) | 83   | 21   | 19   | 1   | 5   |
| Percent          | 64.3 | 16.3 | 14.7 | 0.8 | 3.9 |

•Our ringing and demographic studies have shown that Scaly-sided Merganser female survive for a maximum of 7 years (2 cases). The species demonstrates typical r-strategy with high annual productivity, breeding at a young age in females and short lifespan.

•We continued distributing Scaly-sided Merganser leaflets among target groups (fishermen and hunters) in Russia. While conducting surveys and artificial nest checking we always discuss Scaly-sided Merganser conservation with local fisherman. About 50 leaflets were distributed in the Kievka River catchment in 2013-14. A further 65 leaflets were distributed by project volunteer and artificial nest watchman Sergey Dyachenko on Zhuravlevka R in 2013-14 and 100 leaflets were delivered to a local NGO on the Bikin River in spring 2014.

•A nest box program was initiated in the Bishui Nature Reserve in China in autumn 2013. No boxes were occupied there in spring 2014 and this is again not unexpected.

•A new nature reserve for Scaly-sided Merganser (and other endangered species) was established in Changbaishan, China, in 2013. Ten nest boxes will be erected here in autumn 2014.

•A winter survey was conducted in the Republic of Korea by Birds Korea in 2014. Survey on eight dates between January 5th and 22nd 2014 of 330km of potentially-suitable river and stream contained within 16 different river systems in the Republic of Korea (ROK) found a total of 149 Scaly-sided Merganser. Birds were recorded on a total of nine different rivers and streams with the vast majority (90) found along 30km of just one river.

•Heavy metals research was initiated in collaboration with Biodiversity Research Institute, USA, with funding from the Rufford Foundation. Since the Yangtze catchment in Central China has been recognised as a primary wintering area for the entire world population, concern was raised about possible heavy metal pollution of adult birds and their eggs. Initial results found no levels over lethal or critical threshold in blood (2 samples), feathers (4 samples) and eggs (16 samples). So far the samples have been analysed for Cadmium, Nickel, Silver, and Chromium. Zinc, Arsenic, Selenium, Lead and Mercury will be analysed from the same samples soon.

•Moulting habitats were identified using stable isotopes analysis: We gather information on habitats (fresh, brackish, or saltwater) used by males and females during wing moult (via isotope data) and general regions used by flightless females (via geolocator data). Six out of thirteen feathers (46.2%) from males and 35 of 39 feathers (89.7%) from females showed  $\delta^{13}C$  and  $\delta^{15}N$  ratios characteristic of being grown in freshwater environments (see Figure 2), the remainder suggested they were grown whilst the birds were feeding in brackish or marine conditions. We therefore conclude that whilst most Scaly-sided Mergansers of both sexes are likely to moult on freshwater, but some male, subadult and failed breeding females may undertake moult migration to brackish and marine waters.

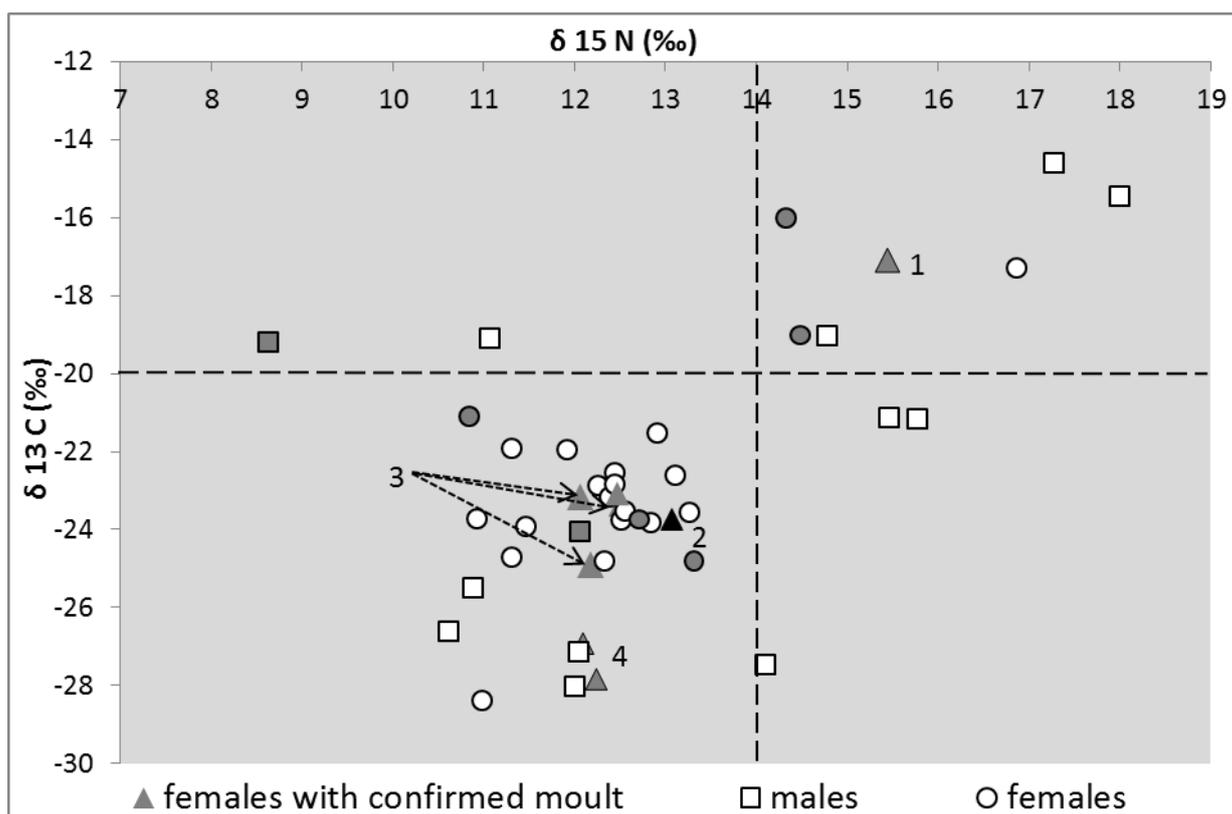


Figure 2. Plot of stable isotope ratios of under-wing secondary covert feathers of wild Scaly-sided Merganser from South Primorye, Russia. Filled circles indicate females in their second summer and filled squares males in their first remigial moult. The vertical dashed line indicates the  $-20\text{‰}$   $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  threshold used by Yeskes et al. 2008 as the cut-off between terrestrial and marine signatures in waterbird feathers.  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  threshold of  $14\text{‰}$  is shown as the horizontal dashed line.

#### Plans for 2015

- An artificial nest programme will be established in the newly established Changbaishan Nature Reserve in China.
- Funding permitting, we plan to hold a Task Force workshop on the Single Species International Action Plan in September 2015 in Vladivostok. The aims will be to (1) sign off the Single Species International Action Plan; (2) provide direction for national Action Plans; (3) coordinate surveys within key states; and (4) provide direction to conservation breeding and research in captivity. A field trip following the workshop will aim to (1) open the Visitor Centre of the Scaly-sided Merganser Field Station in Kishinevka village; and (2) train Chinese refuge staff in erecting artificial nests.
- We hope to conduct further winter surveys in the Republic of Korea in January 2015 (funding permitting).
- Complete the heavy metal research and publish the results.
- Increase protection of artificial nest sites from predators and increase productivity and female return rate to artificial nest sites.

For more information on Scaly-sided Merganser conservation see:  
<http://www.eaaflyway.net/scaly-sided-merganser.php>

#### 4.SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER

Activities since MoP7

Head starting

## 2013

- In June, 20 viable Spoon-billed Sandpiper eggs were collected for head starting from six pairs nesting in Meinypil'gyno, Chukotka. Nineteen eggs (95%) hatched and 18 chicks (90% of viable eggs) were raised and released. Each bird was uniquely marked on the right leg with a white leg-flag bearing an individual double alpha code.
- Four pairs were confirmed as re-laying after the first clutch was collected for head starting. The second clutch of one pair was predated while the other three pairs fledged young: one pair fledged three chicks and two pairs fledged single chicks.
- Sixteen birds (80% of viable eggs collected) were known to have migrated with five re-sightings from Thailand and one in China in November 2013. The bird bearing the flag white "AA" was observed in Thailand throughout the winter eventually settling at Pak Thale, Petchaburi province from 4 January until at least 14 March 2014. This bird was released on 25 July 2013 and last seen at Meinypil'gyno on 6 August, 12 days after release.

## 2014

- In April, the individual "lime 8" released in the 2012 head starting trial was observed in Taiwan on its way north to the breeding grounds in Chukotka.
- In June 2014, 31 Spoon-billed Sandpiper eggs were collected for headstarting from eight pairs nesting in Meinypil'gyno, Chukotka. Twenty nine eggs (94%) were viable, 27 (93%) hatched and 26 chicks (90% of viable eggs) were reared to release. Each bird was uniquely marked on the right leg with a white leg-flag bearing an individual alpha-numeric code.
- The nests of another two pairs were found but eggs were not collected as these were thought to be replacement clutches.
- One egg of a clutch of four hatching eggs was left in a nest at the time of finding as this pair would not have been able to re-lay if the entire clutch was collected.
- Three pairs were confirmed as re-laying after the first clutch was collected for head starting. The second clutch of one pair was predated and the other pairs fledged 1-3 chicks each.
- At least 24 birds (83% of viable eggs collected) were known to have migrated and three birds have since been seen on staging sites in Western Kamchatka, Russia; Rudong County, Jiangsu province, China; and Yuboo-Island, Seochon-Goon, Chungchongnam-Do, Korea.
- The 2012 head started female "lime 8" seen in Taiwan in April 2014, returned to breed in Meinypil'gyno in June 2014. She laid a clutch of three eggs and one chick was reared. This was the first F1 offspring of the project.

## Conservation Breeding

- In November 2014, we have 25 Spoon-billed Sandpipers in the conservation breeding project at Slimbridge. The flock comprised 16 males and 9 females (9 males and 2 females imported as juveniles in 2011; 7 male and 7 females hatched from eggs imported as eggs in 2012).
- By April 2014, breeding aviaries were constructed inside two 20m x 10m polytunnels. Aviaries measured 10m x 5m (for pairs and trios), 5m x 5m (for pairs and trios) and 10m x 15m (for 4 pairs). Aviaries were landscaped with low-growing turf and sedum on undulating ground with shallow pools.
- Breeding behaviour including singing and nest scraping was observed in males of two pairs and one trio, peaking in mid-May 2014 but no eggs were laid.

## Plans for 2015

### Head starting

- Head starting expeditions will be conducted in 2015 and 2016. To ensure the project's longevity through capacity building, greater emphasis will be placed on training the BirdsRussia staff in avicultural techniques.

#### Conservation Breeding

- In an attempt to induce breeding in 2015, pairs will be managed with improved artificial lighting, ventilation and visual separation.

## 5. CAMBODIAN LOWER MEKONG FLOODPLAIN WETLANDS PROJECT

### Activities since MoP7

- Participatory production of site management plans with local communities and government for the two Sarus Crane reserves designated by the Cambodian government that we are working on.
- First CEPF funded project ended in July 2013 (from Oct 2010).
- Secured funding for second phase of project at same sites (April 2014-March 2017) from CEPF and UK Government's Darwin Initiative. The projects outcomes are:
  - 6,800 households in the most wetland-dependent communities have more secure access to wetland resources which are managed in ways that sustain livelihoods and enhance wetland biodiversity.
  - Seasonally-inundated grasslands and other wetlands in Cambodia are sustainably co-managed by local people enhancing wetland biodiversity, supporting livelihoods and acting as a model for wetland management in the region.
  - Capacity of local communities to participate in sustainable protected area management increased; community representatives will share decision-making responsibilities with other stakeholders.
  - Seasonally-inundated grasslands and associated aquatic habitats/fauna at both sites will be less threatened by unsustainable/illegal activities.
  - Incidents of illegal conversion of wetlands to rice fields will have declined.
  - Sarus crane numbers are stable or increasing at both sites.
  - Recruited a new team including a national project manager, biodiversity & engagement advisor to deliver the project in-country.
  - Legal establishment of a community fishery at one of the sites.
  - Support and management of local conservation and patrol groups for both sites to raise awareness amongst local people of protected area regulations and the value and importance of the wetlands.

### Plans for 2015

- Recruit team of four Field Officers to be based in local communities.
- Establish sustainable livelihoods groups and demonstration farms including for community fisheries, sustainable farming and eco-tourism.
- Participatory production of water level management plans.
- Grazing and water level management trials at both sites.
- Non-native invasive species management aimed at protecting and enhancing last vestiges of seasonally-inundated grassland in the lower Mekong.
- Support and management of local conservation and patrol groups for both sites to raise awareness amongst local people of protected area regulations and the value and importance of the wetlands.
- Establishment of network of training and information centres in villages dependent on the wetlands for their livelihoods to be used for informal meeting and training events.

## 6. WETLAND LINK INTERNATIONAL

### Activities since MoP7

- Planning 5th WLI Asia meeting with EAAFP and the Ramsar Regional Centre East Asia, to be held in Hengshui Hu, China at the end of April / early May 2015.
- Held meeting in Russia to discuss the development of WLI Russia with about 20 people. Likely that Smolenzk Poozerie National Park will lead on the WLI Russia network.
- Regular monthly updates sent across the network, plus two 6-monthly bulletins.
- Plans with Korean partners at EAAFP to develop WLI South Korea.
- WLI partners at Hong Kong and Taiwan translating the manual on best practice at wetland centres into traditional and simplified Chinese versions, available shortly.

#### Plans for 2015

- Hold 5th WLI Asia meeting with EAAFP and the Ramsar Regional Centre East Asia in Hengshui Hu, China at the end of April / early May. To involve workshops from EAAFP and the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia as well as a possible workshop on Baer's Pochard.
- A peer-2-peer project will support exchange visits between 3 Russian wetland centres and 3 US centres during summer 2015, with a final conference in the USA in October 2015.
- The WLI manager continues to work with Ramsar Regional Centre East Asia who are planning to take a lead role on WLI Asia activities.

## 7. WORLD WETLAND NETWORK

#### Activities since MoP7

- Second round of the Wetland Globe awards ongoing, with a deadline of 2 February 2015.
- Survey of NGO/civil society conducted to find out how they perceive delivery of the Ramsar Convention at a country level. Deadline mid-December
- WWN represented through our Asia regional reps at the CBD COP, and supported civil society involvement during the event.

#### Plans for 2015

- Present Wetland Globe awards at the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, June 2015, in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

## 8. WWT CONSULTING PROJECTS IN EAAF COUNTRIES

#### Activities since MoP7

- Working with Wetlands International (China), WWT Consulting developed a masterplan for a 2000Ha national wetland park in Fujin, North East China. Completed in September 2013, opportunities included improving access and facilities to increase visitor numbers, wetland habitat creation and restoration for key species and the integration of a range of low impact wetland experiences such as bird watching, walking trails, high quality interpretation, a 360 panoramic tower hide and associated wetland management training for park staff. The park includes a range of freshwater habitats such as reedbed, open water, wetland meadow and a number of shallow islands supporting nearly 300 plant species and over 185 bird species. A number of the bird species are on the IUCN Red List such as the Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis* (Endangered) and White-naped Crane *Grus vipio* (Vulnerable).
- In September 2013 WWT Consulting assisted with the preparation and delivery of the 'best practice in design and operation of wetland education centres' workshop, presenting many case studies from WWT and WWT Consulting's extensive experience. This workshop, organised by the Environment Ecosystem Research Foundation (ERF)

of South Korea and supported by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, included participants from wetland centres around the world. WWT Consulting also assisted with the development of a Handbook on Best Practices for the Planning, Design and Operation of Wetland Education Centres. This publication presents lessons drawn from the real life experiences of people who run wetland centres around the world. It is hoped that the shared experiences will help establish new wetland centres and enable existing centres to grow and do even more to connect people to wetlands.

•In January 2014 WWT Consulting were appointed by Tongli Ancient Town to carry out a wetland assessment at Tongli National Wetland Park, west of Shanghai, China. WWT Consulting assessed the potential for wetland restoration and creation at the park as well as presenting opportunities for improving access, facilities and interpretation to increase visitation and community engagement. Following this WWT Consulting was appointed to further develop concept and detailed habitat designs for the park focusing on wetland restoration and creation, trails and hides and, in addition, develop a concept interpretation plan for the visitor centre and outdoor trails within the park.

•In July 2014 Incheon National University, South Korea, appointed WWT Consulting to provide recommendations on habitat restoration at Sorae Ecology Park and also advise on improvements to the existing visitor facilities, currently operated by the local city government. The park is located near Incheon, close to the capital of Seoul, and used to be the nation's largest facility to produce salt until the 1970s. The area of saltmarsh and mudflat on the estuary provides important habitat for wildlife as the ever increasing amount of development encroaches on natural habitats. It was designated as an eco-park in 2006, comprising approximately 160Ha of valuable wetland habitat that is regularly used by a number of waterbird species along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

## DOCUMENT 3.2.2.5

### 3.2.2.5 PMNT

*Report prepared by David Lawrie*

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

New Zealand currently has two sites in the FSN. The PMNT is actively encouraging the NZ Government to consider further qualifying sites.

Number of proposed new FNS

A report was completed as a contract for the Department of Conservation (DOC) by Keith Woodley, the manager of PMNT. This report is part of the support that the Trust is giving to the NZ Government partner. The report identifies eleven additional sites which meet FSN criteria.

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

Number of National Partnership meetings held

The Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust has regular discussions with officials from the DOC, the NZ Government Department responsible for managing the EAAFP. The two organisations are also negotiating a memorandum of understanding to ensure that the long term working relationship continues into the future, particularly with regard to Flyway issues where there is a common interest.

In April 2014 the two organisations undertook a joint trip to Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve, in China and to the DPRK to develop proposals for future exchanges of personnel and to prepare long term work programs with Reserve staff and Government officials in both countries.

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

A key aim of the PMNT is to advocate for migratory birds, and this forms the key message that is relayed at the Shorebird Centre, which the Trust owns and operates adjacent to the Firth of Thames FNS, which is also a Ramsar listed site.

PMNT held two open days at the Shorebird Centre, to mark the spring and autumn migration periods. This is an opportunity to widely advertise to the general public on some aspect of migration. The Trust also engages with visitors with both structured and unstructured presentations where the opportunities arise, both at the Centre and in outreach situations.

PMNT publishes a quarterly journal *Pukorokoro Miranda News* in which migratory shorebird issues regularly feature. The journal is available for free download six months after publication. The trust has significantly enhanced its facebook page, with the aim of increasing general knowledge about shorebirds including their migration.

The Trust has published a report on the ten years monitoring activities that it has been involved in with staff from the Yalu Jiang NNR in China. This report was launched during the trip to China in April 2014, and contains recommendations on future management, and CEPA opportunities to emphasis the plight of shorebirds throughout the Flyway.

2015 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PMNT. To mark the occasion we plan a number of public events under the banner 'Year of the Godwit.' This programme will include free public lectures by several of the world's most eminent shorebird research scientists, highlighting both current research directions and the increasing threats faced by shorebird populations in the EAAF

In early December Trust members met with local Chinese consulate officials to ensure they understood the work that we are doing, and its importance for both New Zealand and China.

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust has continued to prepare and deliver submissions to local governments (mainly Auckland City), to get greater recognition of the requirements of migratory shorebirds for significant harbours around New Zealand. PMNT is also contributing to the development of *SeaChange: a spatial plan for the Hauraki Gulf* (which includes the Firth of Thames FSN site), a joint project of local government, state agencies and community groups to develop an integrated management plan for the Hauraki Gulf.

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

A report published by the PMNT was launched this year entitled "*Yalu Jiang Estuary Shorebird Survey Report 1999-2010*" by Adrian Riegen, Gillian Vaughan & Ken Rogers. This report summarizes the shorebird counts that have been undertaken by Trust members in conjunction with staff from the YJNNR in China, and provides recommendations for future efforts. This report was presented to officials in China and New Zealand and it is hoped that it can form the basis for future decisions to protect the important Flyway sites that enable migratory shorebirds to continue their remarkable journeys.

The Trust is also active in banding activities that enable important information on the migration paths to be determined. The banding information also provides data on the survival rates of the populations

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

Members of Birds NZ (Ornithological Society of New Zealand) and PMNT continue to undertake a nationally coordinated shorebird count two times a year (in June and November), with some additional counts done in February. These counts include the

two Flyway Network Sites in New Zealand. The June and November 2013 counts covered about 50 estuaries, harbours and coastal lagoons.

Members of the PMNT are also very active in examining flocks of shorebirds to locate bands and flags from throughout the Flyway. This allows conclusions to be drawn on the routes that birds take to arrive and depart from New Zealand, which assists with identification of the most important stopover sites.

The shorebird banding team organized through the PMNT is the most active in New Zealand, and is available to assist with activities throughout NZ. These trips are also opportunities to train individuals in the care and handling of live birds to ensure that the minimum of stress is caused to the birds.

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

All band and flag sightings are gathered into a database managed by members of the PMNT. These are shared with the banding office under the management of the Department of Conservation, which is the controlling authority for banding and the capture of live birds in NZ. The information in the PMNT database is shared with the appropriate international contacts. The sharing of this data was a topic discussed with officials during the visit to China in April. It is important that the mechanism for the sharing of data is clearly understood to maximize the benefits that can be obtained

The role played by the Scientific Officer of the EAAFP in maintaining the records of the coloured flag combinations used in each country is important in ensuring that there is no confusion, as that would devalue the future sightings.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

The Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust organises and hosts a series of training courses including field ornithology and ecology, shorebird counting and shorebird identification. These courses include sessions on why it is important to regularly count shorebirds, and the value of long term datasets in monitoring shorebird populations.

Courses are also organised to train volunteers and local authority officers in the management of shorebird sites.

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

The Shorebird center run by the PMNT at Miranda has the capacity and the personnel to run training programs, as described above. In the work plans developed in April in both China and the DPRK, it is intended that training sessions will be held in conjunction with officials from those countries as part of the visit of the PMNT team in April and May 2015. Once the number of FNS in NZ is increased it will be necessary for training to be given to the managers of these new sites.

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust continues to value and invest in the Sister Site Relationship with the Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve. During April 2014 representatives of PMNT and NZ DOC visited Yalu Jiang and participated in the Dandong International Birdwatching Festival. As part of the festival the report: "Yalu Jiang Estuary Shorebird Survey Report 1999-2010" was launched as a joint project between PMNT and Yalu Jiang. New Zealand was represented by its Ambassador to Beijing and we were able to make contact with a number of officials in Dandong and Beijing to further relationships for migratory shorebird conservation.

PMNT and DOC representatives were also able to visit officials from the Nature Conservation Union for Korea (NCUK) at Pyongyang. An agreement to work together on shorebird habitat surveys in the DPRK over the next five years was signed between DPRK and PMNT.

In November 2014 the two organisations attended as observers the bilateral meetings on Migratory species, held in DuQing, China, then attended meetings at Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve aimed at ensuring the 2015 work is completed smoothly, and looking at the area of their reserve that has had its protection enhanced.

PMNT was represented by its Manager Keith Woodley at the International Wader Study Group Meeting in Estonia in October 2014. Keith made two presentations at the conference: The values and importance of the Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve, and Populations and conservation status of New Zealand Shorebirds.

Six senior members of PMNT attended the AWSG meeting in Darwin.

Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust participated with members of the AWSG in surveys of the Gulf of Carpentaria to gather data on the migration of red knots through that part of the Flyway.

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

The PMNT has one confirmed sister site agreement with the Yalu Jiang NNR in China, but also has two agreements with official from the NCUK, in DPRK.

Negotiations are also being held by the NZ and China Governments regarding a possible collaborative arrangement between the PMNT and the appropriate agency from the Bohai Bay in China, which is an extremely important site for Red Knot from NZ and Australia.

**DOCUMENT 3.2.2.6**

**3.2.2.6 Australasian Wader Studies Group – BirdLife Australia**

*Report prepared by Alison Russell-French*

Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites

1.1 Draft updates of the Site Information Sheets for existing sites

- Continuing to generate data of migratory waterbirds numbers but have not been requested by the Australian Government to contribute to any updates of the Site Information Sheets.

## 1.2 Prepare draft Site Information Sheets for potential nomination by National Governments

- A nomination for the Flyway Site Network for a section of the South East Gulf of Carpentaria (Queensland) is currently under consideration by Australia.

### Objective 2: CEPA

#### 2.1 Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

- Leadership needed from Australian Department of Environment. AWSG has encouraged the Australian Government to address this in its finalization of the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds.
- BirdLife Australia has been actively campaigning for a stronger 'Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds' that
  - Makes a commitment to no net loss of important habitat,
  - Include a mechanism to measure and respond to the cumulative impact of multiple threats,
  - Update population estimates (by early 2016) so that decision making is based on up-to-date information, and
  - Includes a specific objective to increase international cooperation to minimise threats.

#### 2.2 Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

##### Publications

- A quarterly newsletter of 20+ pages (Tattler: <http://www.awsg.org.au/tattler.php>) is produced by AWSG and circulated to AWSG members and 300 people in the Flyway is available globally via the website.
- A bi-annual journal 50 +pages (Stilt: <http://www.awsg.org.au/stilt.php>) is produced by AWSG circulated to AWSG members and 300 people in the Flyway and is available globally via the website.
- AWSG Website provides a portal for flag sightings, a source of publications and information about AWSG access and membership.

##### Meetings/Events

- AWSG/BirdLife Australia organisation of the 9<sup>th</sup> Australasian Shorebird Conference, Darwin, 20/21 September 2014. The Conference was attended by over 100 participants including from Australasia and South East Asia.
  - National Press release 'Shorebird Migration under threat'. <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/great-shorebird-migration-under-threat-20140926-10m1xt.html>
  - Letters from AWSG to Australian Government Minister and other members of Australian Parliament drawing attention to the decline in shorebird populations as evidenced by the Australasian Shorebird Conference
- Participation in the Youth Eco Summit, Sydney Olympic Park, Schools participation and video links with schools across Australia and with schools in the Flyway including China.
- Participation in the Australasian Bird Fair including: "Welcome to the Birds – the return of the world's greatest Olympians". Public presentation promoting migratory waterbird conservation awareness.
  - BirdLife Pacific Partners (Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island Nations): presentation and display booths included Flyway awareness

through Australasian Wader Studies Group, Broome Bird Observatory and EAAF Partnership displays.

#### Awareness-Raising Activities

- Raising awareness of involvement in the EAAF Partnership at the BirdLife Asia Regional Partnership Meeting, Bangkok, 5-7 November 2014.
- Shorebirds 2020 production of education materials  
<http://birdlife.org.au/projects/shorebirds-2020/educational-material>:
  - 34,000 shorebirds ID booklets printed; 28,000 distributed to date,
  - 2,300 shorebird posters distributed,
  - 26,000 shorebirds “wing thing” kids activity education booklets in circulation,
  - Badges/pins; Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot, Red Knot,
  - 22 “Where’s Ruddy” interactive banners.
- BirdLife Australia “Farewell Shorebirds” national event with over 4000 respondents (<http://birdlife.org.au/get-involved/whats-on/farewell-shorebirds>)
  - Farewell Shorebirds was developed in 2014 by the AWSG and BirdLife Australia as a community engagement event.
  - Its aims were to engage with a wider audience to inspire and connect with the story of Australia’s migratory birds and to establish over time, the migratory shorebirds departure from Australia as a national event of significance.
  - Farewell Shorebirds took place from 10 April – 10 May 2014. The event was predominantly an on-line campaign and took place as a 5 part web series.
  - The webcasts were supported by existing and new on-ground activities run by BirdLife Australia Networks, and supporting organisations.
  - With thanks to the Australasian Wader Studies Group we were even lucky enough to follow the migration of three Little Curlews through satellite tracking.
  - Audiences were invited to register online to follow up to date news of this year’s migration from Australia to the Yellow Sea, while at the same time finding out about the inspiring and often arduous journeys of the birds.
  - Farewell Shorebirds attracted over 3,100 registrations from right around Australia and overseas.
- Flyway Print Exchange supported by BirdLife Australia with Kate Gorrington-Smith reaching many members of the public through exhibition and print sales in the Flyway. (<http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/shorebirds-2020/flyway-print-exchange-sb>: <http://www.theflywayprintexchange.info/artists/item/15-kate-bio/15-kate-bio>)
- BirdLife Australia has undertaken a number of campaigns to protect important shorebird sites, particularly those threatened by development e.g. ‘Turtle Cove’ in the Great Sandy Strait (QLD - residential development), Caley Valley Wetlands (QLD - port expansion), Moolap Salt Works (VIC - residential development), Western Port (VIC - port expansion), Sapphire Coast (SA – residential development, recreation), Hunter Estuary (coal port expansion), Peel-Yalgorup system (WA - proposed marina), Powling St wetland (VIC – residential development).
  - Each campaign emphasized the importance of the site to migratory shorebirds in the context of pressures throughout the Flyway and the need for Australia to show international leadership in protecting important shorebird habitat.

- BirdLife Australia has been actively campaigning for a stronger 'Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds' that
  - Makes a commitment to no net loss of important habitat.
  - Include a mechanism to measure and respond to the cumulative impact of multiple threats.
  - Update population estimates (by early 2016) so that decision making is based on up-to-date information.
  - Includes a specific objective to increase international cooperation to minimise threats.

#### Capacity Building

- Shorebirds 2020 capacity building workshops and school visits education program (currently core funded by BirdLife Australia)
  - 38 standard public workshops held over 2012 – EOFY 2013/2014 involving more than 1,100 participants
  - ~25 community groups engaged over 2012 – EOFY 2013/2014
  - Visits at 36 classes at 20 different schools engaging 846 students
  - 5 university lectures to ~ 190 university students
  - 4 one week Indigenous Ranger Training Workshops delivered in remote northern Australia engaging over 40 Land and Sea Ranger participants
  - Indigenous Grant recipient workshops
- Training of volunteers in banding and flagging of waders in Australia (NW Australia, SE Australia, Victoria and Queensland)

#### 2.3 Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- Input into the Australian Government Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds.

#### Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange

##### 3.1 Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

- Maintaining the leg flag database providing invaluable information about shorebird migration strategies across the Flyway(<http://www.awsg.org.au/flagging.php>);
- Continued banding, flagging and geolocator tagging to determine migration routes of migratory shorebirds throughout the Flyway;
- Supporting the Global Flyway Network (core funded Birdlife-Netherlands and WWF-Netherlands) who have had a full-time professional field scientist based at Roebuck Bay, Broome, northwestern Australia since January 2006. This work also is conducted at the Luannan Coast, Bohai Bay, China for 2 months every year since 2010 with preliminary work done there in 2007 and 2009, in close collaboration with Chinese universities and WWF-China. Role includes liaison with other shorebird workers in the EAAF and around the world. Education in both Australia and China is also undertaken. The project also has a post-doctoral worker assigned to scientific analysis.
- On-going collaboration with the Fuller Lab at Queensland University which is working up data generated by AWSG and BLA. The University of Queensland (Richard Fuller lab) continues to analyse and publish data generated by AWSG and other NGOs in Australia. Their work on trends in shorebird populations and impacts of Yellow Sea region is critical data in formulating appropriate action plans for this region.

### 3.2 Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- Continued co-ordination of long-term (over 30 years) monitoring of more than 20 core sites under the Shorebirds 2020 Program.
- BirdLife Australia's Shorebirds 2020 Monitoring project of c 120 sites twice a year
  - 359 mapped shorebird areas nationwide; 148 counted in last 3 years; 136 in last 18 months
  - 2,511 count areas nationwide; 701 counted in last 3 years
  - 1,442 registered online database users, 282 active users in last 18 months
- Ongoing on-ground work to focus on working with, building capacity and maintaining support for:
  - Existing S2020 count volunteers and coordinators around the country;
  - Observers in Northern Australia, especially Indigenous Groups; as well as
  - Management and maintenance of the database and count data;
  - Preparation and delivery of relevant reporting and publications (i.e. stilt summaries, newsletters etc);
  - Recruiting observers in areas where we currently have the longest and best data series;
  - Identifying coverage gaps and continue to target workshop training to these areas; and
  - Undertaking of routine S2020 population monitoring around the country as per above.

### 3.3 Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- Shorebird count data is share with Wetlands International for inclusion in the with Asian Waterbird Census
- Leg-flag resightings
- Contact with Chinese and Russian researchers in relation to Little Curlew migration

### Objective 4: Capacity Building

#### 4.1 Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

- Conducted ten site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation
  - ~38 standard public workshops held over 2012 – EOFY 2013/2014 involving more than 1,100 participants
  - ~25 community groups engaged over 2012 – EOFY 2013/2014
  - Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger teams in Mapoon, Napranum, Borroloola, Prompuraaw, Cairns and Kakadu,
  - Exmouth Gulf
  - Gippsland Lakes
- Sites with local capacity building programs: (capacity building is done centrally responding to requests from site managers with workshop programs).

#### 4.2 Number of sites with local capacity building programs

- Two Chinese participants were sponsored to the NWA Shorebird and Tern Expedition in February 2014 where they gained experience in cannon netting, banding and flags, geolocators deployment and population monitoring.
- AWSG support in China as part of the China Coastal Waterbird Census through the participation of 3 people from Australia. They provided support and assistance in counts on the Jiangsu coast and at Shuangtaizihekou NNR.

#### 4.3 Other

- 3 representatives sponsored from China to participate in the Australasian Shorebird Conference, one of these under the banner of the Mark Barter Award. Opportunity also to participate in cannon netting/ banding program as well as radio tracking at sites near to Darwin, NT.
- Indigenous rangers sponsored by BirdLife Australia to participate in the Australasian Shorebird Conference in Darwin.

#### Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches

- Participation and ongoing input to the development of the WWF (HK) Priority Shorebird Conservation Plan.

#### 5.1 Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

- WWF Hong Kong Priority Shorebirds Workshop
- Contributed to the background documents on Far Eastern Curlew, Red Knot, Great Knot, Curlew Sandpiper for inclusion in the Appendices of the CMS
- Little Curlew Migration Project – satellite tracking 3 birds, EAAFP web site coverage
- Ruddy Turnstone – deployment and retrieval of geolocators providing information on migration tracks, breeding sites and incubation characteristics. For period 2009–2014 230 geolocators deployed on this species (almost 40% retrieved).
- Sanderling - deployment and retrieval of geolocators providing information on migration tracks, breeding sites and incubation characteristics. Paper in preparation.
- Great Knot – For period 2012-2014 64 geolocators deployed in Broome, NWA with retrieval of 25% to date. New information on migration strategy and breeding locations.
- Red Knot – a pilot program has been carried out in preparation for a more intensive program in 2015.
- Capacity building in China for the Coastal Waterbird Census and selected Flyway Network Site staff

#### 5.2 Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

- No sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions carried out since MoP7.

#### 5.3 Other

- Flyway population estimates - Recent initiatives have shown that published data on flyway population estimates and particularly non-breeding regional estimates are outdated. The apparent rate of population declines of a number of species is exacerbating this situation. The need for revision of these estimates is now critical to enable informed support for conservation

initiatives. The Report of the Shorebird Working Group has recommended this as a task for partners to include in the Partnership Annual Work Plan

- Nominations to the CMS – BirdLife Australia assisted with the successful nomination put forward by the Philippines for the listing of Great Knot on Appendix 1, and nominations for both Great Knot and Eastern Curlew to be considered Concerted Action species.

## DOCUMENT 3.2.2.7

### 3.2.2.7 WI

*Report prepared by Doug Watkins*

Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites

Objective 2: CEPA

2.1 Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

- Assigned as Member of Indonesian Steering Committee and Chair/Secretary of Secretariat of Partnership on Conservation of Migratory Birds and their Habitat, based on the Decree of the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation, 2012 (Indonesia Office)
- Facilitate regular meeting of the Indonesian National Secretariat (Indonesia Office)
- Support Government of Indonesia in the preparation for MoP 7, including development of annual country Report (Indonesia Office)
- Facilitate and actively participate on the development of national action plan on the implementation of EAAFP at country level (Indonesia Office)
- Participate and support Government of Indonesia in hosting Pre-CoP Asia regional Ramsar Meeting (Indonesia Office)

2.2 Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

- Wetland and Culture Conference at Dongying, China (23-25 October 2013); organized by China State Forestry Administration (China Office)
  - Wetlands International was invited to make an opening speech, co-chaired several sessions and made presentations
  - The event involved a field trip to Huang He National Nature Reserve (network site)
- Publication of China Wetland News: This newsletter is published 6 times a year with a circulation of 18,000 copies. It regularly includes articles on migratory waterbirds and their habitats (China Office)

2.3 Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- Active participation in CMS CoP11 (Netherlands Office) and development of the “Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023”

Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange

3.1 Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

- Relict Gull research program: this project is “assessing the impact of wetland change on habitat carrying capacity of relict gull breeding population in Ordos plateau, Inner Mongolia, China” (China Office)
- Yellow Sea activities, funded by China Ministry of Environmental Protection (China Office)

- Engaged in the establishment and operation of Indonesian Bird Banding Scheme (Indonesia Office)
- Engaged in various trainings organized by Indonesian Bird Banding Scheme (Indonesia Office)
- Participated in Indonesian initiatives to handle Avian Influenza issues (Indonesia Office)

### 3.2 Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- Wetlands International continues to co-ordinate the Asian Waterbird Census across the EAAF as part of the global International Waterbird Census Program (Netherlands Office). The Asian Waterbird Census would not be possible without the efforts of NGO's and Government agencies
- In July 2014, a AWC newsletter was circulated to counters and coordinators. The web site has also been updated: [www.wetlands.org/awc](http://www.wetlands.org/awc). (Netherlands Office)
- WI Indonesia and WI China coordinate the national data submission for their respective countries
- A separate update on this work is being submitted to the Partnership Meeting. (Netherlands Office)

### 3.3 Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- Wetlands International continues to co-chair the Avian Influenza Task Force with FAO to strengthen communication on avian influenza and waterbird issues. (Netherlands Office). A separate update on this work is being submitted to the Partnership Meeting.

## Objective 4: Capacity Building

### 4.1 Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

- The Indonesia and China Offices coordinate the national data submission to the Asian Waterbird Census for their respective countries and have been involved in promoting and supporting training courses of participants.
- Support Government of Indonesia on hosting and participate in the Manager Workshop in Indonesia, organized jointly with Ramsar Regional Center East Asia and Secretariat of EAAFP (Indonesia Office)
- Engaged in various training on migratory management targeted to Site Managers and Rangers, organized by Ministry of Forestry (Indonesia Office)

### 4.2 Number of sites with local capacity building programs

### 4.3 Other

- Working with Chongming Dongtan National Nature Reserve (Flyway Network Site) on development of a major sustainable tourism project ("Destination Flyways" <http://biodiv.unwto.org/content/flyways>) (China Office)
- Actively participate in the development and author of the Migratory Birds Monitoring Guide for Park Rangers (Indonesia Office)

## Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches

### 5.1 Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

- Participation in the WWF-Hong Kong "Priority Shorebird Workshop" in December 2013 (China Office)

- Yellow Sea activities supported by the China Ministry of Environment (China Office)

#### 5.2 Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

- Supporting the sister site activities of Miranda Naturalists Trust at Yalu Jiang Flyway Network Site (China Office)

#### 5.3 Other

- Meetings with multinational corporates and Government Officers in Perth, Brisbane and Canberra (Australia) to promote and further develop a Flyway Offsets model for reducing impacts on migratory waterbirds (Netherlands Office)

### DOCUMENT 3.2.2.8

#### 3.2.2.8 WWF

*Report prepared by WWF Offices from China, Hong Kong and Japan*

#### **Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites (FNS)**

Three projects completed through the Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund:

- Mongolian Ornithological Society; engaged with local government to upgrade Dashinchilen Tsagaan Wetlands in Mongolia to a "protected area" with stronger regulation imposed.
- Bird Conservation Society of Thailand; trained and engaged 40 volunteer bird surveyors on regular waterbird census at the Inner Gulf of Thailand.
- Hong Kong Bird Watching Society; capacity building for surveyors along China Coast to continue data collection of waterbird population and distribution.

#### **Objective 2: CEPA**

Activities organized at the Minjiang National Nature Reserve:

- World Wetlands Day and Love Bird Week activities
- Educators from local schools trained to conduct wetland-themed activities in their schools.

#### **Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange**

Continuation of a 5-year project to build the capacity of staff at the Mingjiang NNR. Includes the drafting of a site management plan, train managers in habitat management and monitoring, and the development of CEPA programmes.

#### **Objective 4: Capacity Building**

Organized eleven 8-day training courses and 5 study tours for State Forestry Administration staff from wetlands in China, over 120 participants attended.

#### **Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches**

#### **Migratory Shorebird Conservation Project**

- A Report on 'Prioritizing Migratory Shorebirds for Conservation on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway' produced. The report includes a regional Redlist for shorebirds (based on IUCN criteria), species accounts for 20 populations, and a critical area analysis.
- A Shorebird Stakeholder Workshop held in December 2013 in Hong Kong; attended by 23 key stakeholders.

- Development of an EAAFP Collaborative Work Programme for Shorebird Conservation - Yellow Sea Ecoregion 2015-2016. The Programme will be developed further at MoP8.

WWF-China is developing a 5-year flyway programme to be launched in 2015. It will focus on 4 Priority areas (in order of priority); Yellow Sea, Amur-heilong, Mid-Yangtze, SE China Coastline, and target Black-faced Spoonbill, White Oriental Stork, Siberian Crane, Chinese Merganser, Baer's Pochard, and key Shorebirds.

### **Yellow Sea Ecoregion Support Project (YSESP)**

- A Report of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion Support Project produced. The report includes ecosystem based management and community based management approaches to improve management effectiveness of high conservation value wetlands in the Yellow Sea. YSESP is supported by Panasonic Corporation.  
[http://www.wwf.or.jp/activities/upfiles/WWF\\_YSESP\\_brief2014.pdf](http://www.wwf.or.jp/activities/upfiles/WWF_YSESP_brief2014.pdf)  
[http://www.wwf.or.jp/activities/upfiles/WWF\\_YSESP\\_report2014.pdf](http://www.wwf.or.jp/activities/upfiles/WWF_YSESP_report2014.pdf)
- A Yellow Sea conservation side event held in October 2014 during CBD-CoP12 in Korea; attended by 70 key stakeholders.
- The project supported an International Workshop on Intertidal Wetland Conservation and Management in the Yellow Sea Provinces of China held in September 2014 in Beijing.
- Development of a Yellow Sea Ecoregion Collaborative Work Programme between WWF Japan and WWF China to promote sustainable fishery by engaging Japanese seafood supply chain and through consumers' awareness raising for the Yellow Sea's important habitat conservation.

## **DOCUMENT 3.2.2.9**

### **3.2.2.9 IUCN**

*Report prepared by Scott Perkin*

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

Number of proposed new FNS

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

*In collaboration with Helvetas, the IUCN Asia Regional Office developed a proposal for the Gulf of Mottama in Myanmar which includes a component on the designation and management of a new Ramsar Site and Flyway Network Site. This proposal has been approved and will be implemented from 2015 onwards. The development of the proposal included meetings with central government (MOECAAF) to discuss the Ramsar Convention and EAAFP.*

Number of National Partnership meetings held

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

#### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

*The IUCN Lao Country Office carried out bird surveys in two of the main wetlands of the Mekong corridor in Lao PDR, namely the Beung Kiat Ngong and Xe Champhone Ramsar Sites. The surveys highlighted the good potential of the sites for migratory birds but identified significant threats to bird populations which need to be addressed. The results of the survey were disseminated through provincial*

*workshops to identify improved way of managing the wetlands for birds (both resident and migratory). EAAFP was presented as one of the ways to support transboundary bird conservation in the Mekong basin*

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

*See above. The biodiversity survey report includes proposals for bird monitoring methodologies at the two sites*

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

*See above. The surveys have been disseminated to government counterparts at both national and local level and are available online.*

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

*See above. IUCN ARO developed a project on the Gulf of Mottama in Myanmar which includes support to conservation of bird populations, with a particular emphasis on the spoon-billed sandpiper.*

*IUCN ARO supported the drafting of a management plan for the Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary in Cambodia (Koh Kong Province). This site is potentially of high value for migratory shore birds; a portion of the site overlaps with the Kho Kapik Ramsar Site, which has been designated for its importance for migratory shore birds.*

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

*IUCN ARO supported various initiatives on Ramsar sites in the Mekong region, with a particular emphasis on developing and supporting the implementation of management plans for Ramsar Sites in Lao PDR. The Cambodian office also worked on strengthening the capacities of rangers in the Boeung Chmaar Ramsar Site.*

**DOCUMENT 3.2.2.10**

#### **3.2.2.10 WCS**

*Report prepared by WCS delegation*

**DOCUMENT 3.2.3**

#### **3.2.3 Brief report from each Inter-Governmental Organisation**

**DOCUMENT 3.2.3.1**

#### **3.2.3.1 Ramsar**

*Report prepared by Lew Young*

Report from the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands  
(June 2013 to December 2014)

1. Designation of Ramsar Sites in the EAAF

A large number of EAAFP Flyway Network Sites (FNS) are also designated as Wetlands of International Importance ('Ramsar Sites'). At times, a site that is first designated as a Ramsar Site may later be listed as a FNS and vice versa.

Under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, wetlands can be designated as Ramsar Sites if they meet at least one of nine criteria, with a number of these criteria relating to waterbirds. For example:

- Criteria 2: The site supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.
- Criteria 4: The site supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.
- Criteria 5: The site regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.
- Criteria 6: The site regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.

During the reporting period (June 2013 to December 2014), 11 new Ramsar Sites were designated by countries in the EAAF. The table below lists those wetlands, whether they met any of the criteria which are related to waterbirds, and whether the site has already been listed as a FNS.

| Country     | Site Name                                    | Flyway Network Site? | Criteria 2 | Criteria 4 | Criteria 5 | Criteria 6 |
|-------------|--|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| China       | Hubei Chen Lake Wetland Nature Reserve       | X                    | ✓          | ✓          | ✓          | ✓          |
| China       | Dongfanghong Wetland National Nature Reserve | X                    | ✓          | ✓          | ✓          | ✓          |
| China       | Hubei Dajiu Lake Wetland                     | X                    | ✓          |            |            |            |
| China       | Shandong Yellow River Delta Wetland          | ✓                    | ✓          | ✓          | ✓          | ✓          |
| China       | Jilin Momoge National Nature Reserve         | X                    | ✓          |            | ✓          | ✓          |
| Indonesia   | Tanjung Puting National Park                 | X                    | ✓          |            |            | ✓          |
| R. O. Korea | Songdo Tidal Flat                            | X                    | ✓          | ✓          |            | ✓          |
| Thailand    | Ko Kra Archipelago                           | X                    | ✓          | ✓          |            |            |
| Thailand    | Ko Ra-Ko Phra Thong Archipelago              | X                    | ✓          | ✓          |            |            |
| Viet Nam    | Mui Ca Mau National Park                     | X                    | ✓          |            |            | ✓          |
| Viet Nam    | Con Dao National Park                        | X                    | ✓          | ✓          |            |            |

A number of the Ramsar Sites listed above are potential FNS (Outcome 1, EAAFP Implementation Strategy 2012-2016).

## 2. Management effectiveness of Ramsar Sites

Voluntary guidelines for evaluating the management effectiveness of Ramsar Sites were developed at a workshop held in Bangkok in June 2014 that involved and was supported by a number of EAAFP Partners. These guidelines are based on the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) developed by The World Bank and WWF, and which are now used by projects at protected areas sponsored by The World

Bank, UNDP GEF, and WWF. METT is also being used by a number of countries in the EAAFP region. The voluntary guidelines will be presented to Ramsar COP12 in June 2015 [[link](#) to guidelines] and the EAAFP may be interested in developing similar guidelines for FNS (Outcome 2, EAAFP Implementation Strategy 2012-2016).

### 3. Experience sharing and capacity building for wetland site managers

The Ramsar Secretariat and EAAFP Partners organized a number of experience sharing and capacity building workshops for Ramsar Site/FNS managers along the flyway (see reports from CEPA Working Group). These workshops were held in Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam.

A workshop was also held in the RO Korea with the support of EAAFP Partners, to develop a handbook on best practices for the design and operation of wetland education centres. The handbook is available on the Ramsar website [[link](#)] and is available in English, Korean and French. It will soon be available in Chinese with the kind support of WWF Hong Kong and the Guan-du Nature Park. This handbook may be of interest for FNS managers who already have an education centre, or are thinking of setting one up.

These activities contribute to achieving Outcomes 2, 4 and 5 of the EAAFP Implementation Strategy 2012-2016.

### 4. Other activities conducted by the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

The Secretariat was involved in a number of activities during the reporting period, such as promoting:

- the designation of sites as Ramsar Sites or FNS, e.g. Gulf of Mottama, Indawgyi Lake (Myanmar);
- the conservation of intertidal habitats in NE and S E Asia at meetings in Beijing and Singapore;
- raising greater awareness of wetlands and migratory waterbirds in the EAAF through events such as World Wetland Day, and their inclusion into the NBSAP's of countries in the flyway.

**DOCUMENT 3.2.3.2**

#### **3.2.3.2 CMS**

*Report prepared by CMS delegation*

**DOCUMENT 3.2.3.3**

#### **3.2.3.3 CAFF**

*Report prepared by CAFF delegation*

**DOCUMENT 3.2.4**

### **3.2.4 Brief report from Special Partner**

#### **Incheon Government City**

*Report prepared by Incheon City Government delegation*

- 1) Fulfillment of Administrative and Financial support in compliance with the MOU

- 2) Designation of Songdo mudflat wetland preservation area, where BFS and Saunders's gull are populating, as a Ramsar site (Jul 2014)
- 3) Environmental Day event (e.g. Essay contest, Art contest, Golden bell, Environmental experience booth)
  - Around 3,000 participants including citizens, students, private organisations, business officials and etc. (14 Jun 2014)
- 4) Completion of making a map of urban ecological status (biotope) and development of GIS for improving urban biodiversity (2010 ~ Sep 2014)
- 5) Hosting World Wetland Day event
  - Period: 10 ~ 12 Jul 2014
  - Participants: About 500 people including Ministry of Environment of Korea, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, local governments, experts, NGOs, citizens and etc.
- 6) Hosting 2014 Urban Biodiversity and Design Conference (2014 URBIO KOREA)
  - Period: 9 ~ 12 Oct 2014
  - Participants: About 500 people including Ministry of Environment of Korea, The Korea Society of Environmental Restoration Technology, experts, citizens and etc.
- 7) Conducting BFS monitoring and holding a BFS photo exhibition to protect BFS coming to the Namdong reservoir
- 8) Conducting a technical research to establish a basic direction for the management of Songdo mudflat in accordance with the designation as a Ramsar site (Sep 2014 ~ 2015)

## DOCUMENT 3.3.1

### 3.3.1 Brief report from each Working Group

## DOCUMENT 3.3.1.1

### 3.3.1.1 Shorebird WG

*Report prepared by Ken Gosbell, Shorebird WG chair*

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

1.2 Prepare draft Site Information Sheets for potential nomination by National Governments

*Objective 2: CEPA*

2.2 Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

- *Publications relevant to shorebirds include:*
  - Spoon-billed Sandpiper Taskforce 10<sup>th</sup> year special Newsletter [http://www.eaaflyway.net/wordpress/documents/tf/Sbs+Bull+12%20Aug-2014\\_web%20version.pdf](http://www.eaaflyway.net/wordpress/documents/tf/Sbs+Bull+12%20Aug-2014_web%20version.pdf)
  - EAAFP Newsletters: <http://www.eaaflyway.net/our-activities/eaafp-newsletters/>

- AWSG publishes quarterly newsletter (Tattler) twice yearly journal (Stilt). <http://www.awsg.org.au/publications.php>
- *Conferences and Meetings*
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Australasian Shorebird Conference, Darwin, September 2014 resulted in National Press release 'Shorebird Migration under threat'. <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/great-shorebird-migration-under-threat-20140926-10m1xt.html>
  - The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group will meet in Wallops Island, Virginia, between the 13-16 September 2015.
- *Flyway Print Exchange supported by BirdLife Australia with Kate Gorringer-Smith.* The Flyway Print Exchange is an international environmental art project featuring 20 artists from 9 different countries, linked by the East-Asian Australasian Flyway. <http://www.theflywayprintexchange.info/>

### 2.3 Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- The Australian Government has issued a draft *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds* updating the 2006-2011 Plan.

### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

#### 3.1 Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

- Significant progress has been made in the understanding of migration strategies and breeding characteristics for a number of species using geolocators and satellite technologies.eg
  - Geocator studies in Australia (Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Great Knot, Eastern Curlew, Red Knot. Greater Sand Plover); NZ (Red Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit); Thailand (Lesser Sand Plover); Singapore ; US (Alaska) (Dunlin) ; Russia (Red Knot).
  - Satellite studies in Australia (Little Curlew, Great Knot); NZ (Bar-tailed Godwit); Thailand (Nordmann's Greenshank).
- Global Flyway Network has conducted valuable surveys on the Luannan Coast, Bohai Bay, China for 2 months every year since 2010 in close collaboration with Chinese universities and WWF-China. These surveys have demonstrated the critical importance of this small area for migrating Red Knot from Australia and New Zealand.
- Refer to Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust report for initiatives at Yalu Jiang and North Korea.
- The Fuller Lab at University of Queensland continues to produce information on shorebird population trends and changes in tidal habitats in the Yellow Sea region. <http://www.esajournals.org/doi/abs/10.1890/130260>
- David Melville, Chen Ying (Fudan University) conducted surveys of Yellow Sea coast in 2013 and 2014.
- Surveys by the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Taskforce have identified the Taizini Sandbanks area, Jiangsu Province, as of high importance for Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Nordman's Greenshank as well as other species. This is under critical threat with the approval of a major reclamation project. It is recommended that this issue be included in the meeting with the Yellow Sea Task Force.

### 3.2 Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- The China Coastal Waterbird Census is a long-term project initiated by a group of China birdwatchers in September 2005 with an aim of monitoring the distribution, numbers and seasonal movements of waterbirds through monthly surveys along the Chinese coast. This important survey was supported this year by volunteers from Australia and the UK. Opportunities for capacity building and information transfer. Publication of recent surveys in prep.
- In Australia monitoring of non breeding populations by BirdLife Australia's Shorebirds 2020 Monitoring project <http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/shorebirds-2020> supplemented by AWSG's summer and winter surveys (MYSMA) of the important areas of Northwest Australia.
- The Asian Waterbird Census remains a critically important tool in establishing flyway estimates.
- Recent initiatives have shown that published data on flyway population estimates and particularly non-breeding regional estimates are outdated. The apparent rate of increase in population declines of a number of species is exacerbating this situation. The need for revision of these estimates is now critical to enable informed support for conservation initiatives. It is recommended that Partners consider this task for inclusion in the Partnership Annual Work Plan.

### 3.3 Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- An email network has been established of members of the SWG together with individuals having specific expertise.
- The sharing of information and data needs to be reviewed to ensure availability when and as required and in an accessible format.eg Asian Waterbird Census, leg-flag sightings, geolocator results, satellite tracking information etc.

### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

- The CMS COP11 adopted the CMS global Programme of Work on Flyways .
  - The final resolution and two annexes are available at: [http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cop11\\_crp29\\_dr\\_migratory\\_birds\\_flyways.pdf](http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cop11_crp29_dr_migratory_birds_flyways.pdf)
  - The CMS Flyways Reviews (1, 2 and 3), generated during the last triennium, have been published as CMS Technical Review (A Review of Migratory Bird Flyways and Priorities for Management). This publication is available on the CMS website, <http://www.cms.int/en/publication/review-migratory-bird-flyways-and-priorities-management>
  - The Red Knot, Great Knot and Far Eastern Curlew are now listed as “concerted action species” and the Bar-tailed Godwit as a “co-operative action species” by CMS. The CMS CoP:
    - Encourages Parties and other stakeholders to identify and undertake activities aimed at implementing Concerted and Cooperative Actions to improve the conservation status of listed species, including the preparation of species action plans, during the 2015-2017 triennium;
    - Urges Parties to provide the in-kind and financial means required to support targeted conservation measures aimed at implementing Concerted and Cooperative Actions for the species listed in Annexes 1 and 2 to this Resolution;

- Encourages Parties to ensure that all initiatives to undertake Concerted or Cooperative Actions pursuant to this Resolution must include a specification of the conservation and institutional outcomes expected and the timeframes within which these outcomes should be achieved;
- The International Workshop on Intertidal wetland Conservation and Management in the Yellow Sea provinces of China held in Beijing in September. This national meeting with international participants raised awareness of coastal issues with the Declaration providing a basis for action. <http://www.cms.int/en/news/experts-get-together-beijing-discuss-conservation-key-sites-migratory-birds-yellow-sea>

#### 5.1 Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

- There has been wide participation of the SWG in the WWF(HK) initiative for conservation planning for priority shorebirds outlined at MoP7.
  - Workshop in December 2013 which identified priority species and developed guidelines for a consultation document on conservation actions.
  - Publication in August of Report 'Prioritizing shorebirds for conservation action on the EAAF.
  - Development of a draft Program of activities by Partners in coastal areas of the Yellow Sea for discussion at MoP8. This will address key issues for the shorebird species identified for Concerted and Cooperative Actions at CMS MoP11 and the conservation needs of a range of other migratory waterbirds using the coastal habitats of the Yellow Sea.

#### 5.2 Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

#### 5.3 Other

### DOCUMENT 3.3.1.2

#### 3.3.1.2 AI WG

*Report prepared by Taej Mundkur, AI WG chair*

##### Background

The Asia-Pacific Working Group on Migratory Waterbirds and Avian Influenza was established under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee in early 2006. Membership is open to representatives of the EAAF Partnership, Chairs of Partnership Working Groups and Task Forces, interested government agencies, international organisations and experts in the East Asian – Australasian and Central Asian Flyways. The priorities of the Working Group follow the Partnership Text Objectives 3 and 11 and Partnership Implementation Strategy 2012-2016 (Objective 3, Outcome 9).

The Working Group currently has 29 representatives from countries/states in the Asia-Pacific region (18), International NGOs (5), Convention secretariats and international organisations (3), independent experts (2), Task Forces (1), observers (1). Of these, 24 representatives are from the EAAF region. Secretariat support to the Working Group is provided by Wetlands International (Taej Mundkur) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (Scott Newman).

##### Brief update since Mo7

- The main aim is to ensure enhanced communication and rapid sharing of information amongst environment and wildlife agencies as well as researchers and other relevant partners. This has been achieved through sharing of information on

waterbirds and avian influenza within a dedicated e-group of the Working Group. The table below provides an overview of the messages being communicated within the group.

|      | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2014 | 24  | 16  | 15  | 5   | 4   | 7   |     |     | 6   | 2   | 14  |     |
| 2013 |     | 3   | 4   | 14  | 6   | 5   | 5   | 13  |     | 2   | 1   | 4   |

- In behalf of the Working Group, the Co-Chairs have worked closely with the UN Scientific Task on Avian Influenza and Migratory Birds to prepare a formal statement in January 2014 following the outbreaks of HPAI H5N8 in the Republic of Korea, that affected wild birds and poultry. This was posted on the EAAFP website <http://www.eaaflyway.net/avianflustatement/> in English, Chinese and Korean languages; translations having been organised by the Secretariat to reach out to a wider audience.
- Following migratory waterbirds being affected by H5N8 HPAI in Japan and the first outbreaks in poultry and a wild bird in western Europe during the first months of the 2014 northern winter, the Co-Chairs have worked with the Scientific Task Force to prepare an updated statement, scheduled for release in December 2014.
- Communication support to the Korean ministry to reach out to working group members and researchers along the flyway in undertaking satellite telemetry-based research on the migratory strategies of Baikal Teal and other waterbirds affected by the virus.
- The Partnership Working Group webpage has been updated with useful guidelines for improved management planning of wetlands of international importance for waterbirds, aimed at reducing the risk of disease and other information <http://www.eaaflyway.net/our-activities/working-groups/avian-influenza-working-group/>
- While surveillance activities of wild birds have been promoted, to date no international collaborative projects has been implemented to increase the understanding of avian influenza (and other relevant zoonotic diseases) and their impacts on migratory waterbirds through surveillance programmes at Flyway Network Sites and other important sites.
- Wetlands International was supported for this coordination work through a financial contribution for the period October 2013-March 2014 by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment (MOEJ); thereafter the work has continued from our core funds.

Action requested by Partners:

- Partners undertaking AI surveillance in wild waterbirds to provide information updates to the Working Group to be able to maintain an overview and provide this to the Partnership on an annual basis.
- In undertaking AI surveillance activities, partners are encouraged to focus on flyway network sites and other important wetland sites for migratory waterbirds in the flyway. Such surveillance work would benefit from being linked to identifying

migration routes through marking of birds (dialogue needed with Taxonomic Working Groups).

- Identify representatives to the Working Group from all Partner Governments and other Partners.
- Consider the report and define and decide any additional action arising.

#### ANNEX 3.3.1.2

##### **Annex. Doc 3.3.1.2\_Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds statement (19th December 2014)**

Please find the annex document above for details.

#### DOCUMENT 3.3.1.3

##### **3.3.1.3 Seabird WG**

*Report prepared by Paul O'Neil, Seabird WG chair*

The following two objectives were agreed at MoP7 as a work plan for the Seabird Working Group

1. *Objective 1:* Finalise the prioritisation project for EAAF migratory seabird species and make it available on the Partnership website prior to MoP8.  
The seabird prioritisation project was completed soon after MoP7. Output includes a background paper, a list of seabird species that occur in the EAAF prioritised according to their conservation status, and the rules adopted to complete the prioritisation process. These documents were posted on the EAAFP website in late 2013 and are available at <http://www.eaaflyway.net/our-activities/working-groups/seabirds-working-group/>.
2. *Objective 2:* Utilising the Global Seabird Breeding Colony Register managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to store breeding site information for the highest priority EAAF seabird species.  
Some work began on this objective for Christmas Island Frigatebird, but data entry issues could not be resolved for multiple-site breeding colonies. It is proposed to resolve these issues at MoP8 to prepare for data entry over the next twelve months.  
*Other work:* Monitoring Christmas Island Frigatebird populations in Indonesia. The work was completed by Fransisca Noni in Indonesia, with part funding from the Australian Government. Large numbers of Christmas Island Frigatebirds were observed in Indonesian waters, with some detrimental interaction with the local fishing industry.  
Noni's work included educating local fishermen about the conservation status of the species and the importance of minimising interactions with them. A report was submitted to the Australian Government, and a paper titled 'Threats to the Critically Endangered Christmas Island Frigatebird in Jakarta Bay, Indonesia and Implications for Reconsidering Conservation Priorities' has been submitted to *Marine Ornithology*.

##### **Draft Objectives for 2015/16**

1. *Objective 1: Record breeding colony data for the highest priority seabird species in the EAAF.*

- Communicate with species experts to acquire relevant information;
- Recompile the data and enter into the seabird Global Seabird Breeding Colony Register; and
- Promote cross-flyway collaboration on recording this information.

A report will be prepared for the Secretariat on the progress of the activities at regular intervals. Seabird data in the database will be available for Partners to use. At each MOP the Seabird WG will report on the database statistics and future development possibilities.

This activity contributes to Objective 1, 2, 3, 4 and particularly 5 of the EAAFP Implementation Strategy 2012-2016.

## 2. Objective 2: Nominate two important seabird sites to the EAAFP Flyway Site Network.

Some preliminary work has already been completed regarding nomination of two potential sites in Australia. It is planned to have at least these two seabird sites nominated before MoP9.

### DOCUMENT 3.3.1.4

#### **3.3.1.4 Crane WG**

*Report prepared by Crane WG coordinator*

Drafted by Simba Chan, Coordination of the Crane Working Group

The Crane Working Group usually do not convene meeting during the EAAFP MOPs because many WG members have other engagements, thus it would almost be certain that we do not have the minimum required number of members at the meeting.

The last Crane Working Group Meeting was during the International Workshop, "Crane Protection and Sustainable Agriculture," 3-7 December 2012, Beijing and Yueyang, China. A document on Crane and Agriculture will be published as an output of the workshop.

There were several international meetings on cranes between MOP7 and MOP8: at Izumi (Japan) and Suncheon (Korea); some of the Crane Working Group members have participated these meetings. There is a proposed meeting at the Dauria Region in Russia/Mongolia in summer of 2015. We are looking into the possibility of holding a Crane Working Group meeting attached to either this workshop or other workshops.

Crane WG members have also supported a NEASPEC Nature Conservation Project "Conservation and Rehabilitation of Habitats for Key Migratory Birds in North-East Asia". Hooded Cranes and White-naped Cranes were chosen as two of the three avian flagship species of this project, which covers the same six North East Asian countries as the Crane WG (Russia, Mongolia, China, DPR Korea, RO Korea and Japan). In September and October 2014, Mongolian crane researchers conducted a scoping survey for white-naped cranes at pre-migration congregation sites. Several important staging sites have been documented during this survey. A report of this survey should be available from NEASPEC office. At the end of January and early February, there will be another joint survey for White-nape Cranes and Red-crowned Cranes in DMZ area which is a part of the NEASPEC Migratory Bird Project.

Crane SG members are also involved in preparations to develop a Siberian Crane Conservation Plan using the Open Standards/*Miradi* process. Implementation of priority actions would occur in years following. This effort would contribute to species planning under the CMS Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane. 98% of the world population migrates along the EAAF. There has been a significant effort initiated in Mongolia to strengthen research, cooperation, and conservation of white-naped cranes in East Asia. The project is jointly implemented by Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia, International Crane Foundation, and Beijing Forestry University. Within this project a crane research camp has been established at Khurkh and Khuiten River Valley (KK Valley) in Mongolia, which is a Ramsar Site, IBA, and EAAFP Network Site. Over 60 white-naped cranes have been color banded using three color combination snap-on bands. Plus, migration of 12 individuals has been tracked via satellite in the last two years. So far all cranes marked at KK Valley went to Poyang Lake for winter. Several important stopover sites in Mongolia and China have been identified. The project is planning to capture and mark more cranes further northeast in Mongol Daguur Special Protected Area in Mongolia

and Daursky Nature Reserve in Russia in 2015. The Mongolian team is monitoring nesting success of the species in relation to disturbance by nomadic herders' livestock, agricultural development, wetland ecosystem change, and climate warming. Within this project two vegetation monitoring sites have been established to monitor crane habitats. Furthermore, Mongolian team is working with local herders, farmers, and administration to improve habitat protection, law enforcement, environmental education, and public awareness at local level. In June 2014, Mongolia organized its first ever Crane Festival in Binder county, Khentii Province. Internationally, exchange visits between Mongolian and Chinese crane experts have been organized between Poyang Lake NR and Mongolian team.

Establishing a new wintering site for Red-crowned Cranes at Anbyon, DPR Korea has developed a good management system at the rural area in Anbyon, This has been reported at a side-event of the Convention on Biological Diversity COP12 on 8 October 2014, in Pyeongchang, RO Korea,

The Crane Working Group is also supporting the work on more appropriate definition of migration under the EAAFP, so the Reed-crowned Crane in Hokkaido, Japan and the Black-neck Crane in south-western China will be officially covered under the species scope of the EAAFP, as they did under North East Asian Crane Site Network of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy.

#### DOCUMENT 3.3.1.5

##### **3.3.1.5 CEPA WG**

*Report prepared by Lew Young, CEPA WG chair*

(June 2013 to December 2014)

#### 5. Background

Since the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Partners to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (June 2013), the EAAFP Secretariat and the CEPA Working Group has been involved in a number of activities to promote the objectives of the EAAFP. These activities are listed below.

#### 6. Activities conducted by the EAAFP Secretariat

##### 6.1 Provide coordination and facilitate communication within/across the Partnership

- Organised partnership meeting at the CBD\_COP12 (6-17 October)
- Communicated among countries for the preparation of bilateral meeting (Australia, China, Japan, Korea)
- Encouraged Myanmar and Vietnam to join EAAFP and held national Partnership meetings
- Encouraged ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity to join EAAFP
- Presentations and meetings at SE Asia Symposium on Inter-tidal Areas
- Raise importance of Coastal Wetland Restoration at CBD Capacity Building workshop in Jeju, Korea.

##### 6.2 Raise profile of and promote the Flyway and the Partnership

- Attended CBD COP12 (Korea, 6-17 October) and participated in relevant meetings and arranged a press conference, a side event, a Partners meeting, a CEPA Fair session and kiosk, a weekend excursion, a Rio Pavilion event, and an exhibition booth together with Partners.

- Attended Ramsar Pre-COP (Cambodia, 3-7 November) and gave 2 presentations, one on CEPA and participated in the discussions for draft Resolutions.
  - Attended Convention on Migratory Species COP (Ecuador, 4-9 November) and organised a side event on EAAFP.
  - Attended the IUCN World Parks Congress (Sydney, 12-19 November) to give 2 presentations in streams.
  - Attended Japan's National Partnership meeting (1-2 March)
  - Participated in Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative in Feb (Canada) and Dec (Norway) to highlight crisis in EAAF and prioritize actions in EAAF in AMBI Plan
  - Emphasized conservation of migratory waterbirds and habitats in China in Coastal Blueprint project (through membership of Steering Committee)
- 6.3 Foster connection among site managers
- Co-organised 2 Site Manager's Workshops (August, Indonesia / October, Vietnam)
  - Updated the website and SNS with relevant materials.
- 6.4 Coordinate communication from Working Groups to share knowledge
- 6.5 Build partnerships that can assist in achieving flyway objectives
- Supported the Destination Flyways project by organising side events and excursion at CBD\_COP12 (6-17 October).
  - World Migratory Bird Day 2014
- 6.6 Support site managers by providing relevant technical and CEPA training
- 6.7 Communicate messages about the benefits of protecting flyway sites.
- 6.8 Educate and engage different groups including private sector, about the Flyway concept, the important sites and the birds and people using them.
- Organised World Migratory Birds Day 2014
  - Gave a lecture to young executives of POSCO (a major private company in South Korea) in an MBA course (August).
  - Co-organised and participated in the local events in Incheon (June, July, September, November).
  - Provided lectures to students in local schools in Incheon (1 May, 18 December).
  - Supported local students events held by local government office and University (July, August, September)
  - Supported student's capacity building activities (July, August, November).
- 6.9 Encourage participation as a tool for enhancing awareness and understanding of wetland values
- 6.10 Others
- Supported translation of IUCN Situation analysis in Chinese and launch event in China: also translation into Russian
  - Information sharing through regular update of website and SNS (news, updates from WG and TF)
  - Developed education/promotion materials (Post-it, SBS T-shirts, Postcards, Posters) and updated publications (Brochure, Species flyers)
  - Developing system for intern system and hired 12 interns, many working on CEPA issues, such as country websites in local languages.
7. Knowledge and experience sharing workshops

Members of the CEPA Working Group and EAAFP staff were involved in a number of experience sharing workshops during the reporting period. These workshops contributed towards a number of the Outcomes in the EAAFP Implementation Strategy 2012-2016, such as Outcomes 2, 4, 10 and 11.

**3.1 2013 September:** “Asian Regional Workshop on the Management of Wetlands and East Asian – Australasian Flyway Sites” (Partners included DENR-PAWB, SCPW, MOE-K, RRC-EA, EAAF-P and the Ramsar Secretariat)

- The workshop was attended by the manager of Ramsar Sites and Flyway Network Sites from 15 countries;
- Topic presented included:
  - Wetland Conservation in Asia
  - Nomination of Sites to the EAAFP Flyway Site Network
  - CEPA and community involvement:
  - Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-based Assessment (TESSA)
  - Management planning
  - Management plan implementation
  - Using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)

**3.2 2014 September:** “Information and Experience Sharing and Training Workshop for Wetland Managers in East and Southeast Asia” (Co-organized by RRC-EA, EAAFP, MOE-Korea, Ministry of Forestry-Indonesia).

- 42 Manager of Ramsar Site and Flyway Network Sites from 16 countries
- Topic presented included
  - Wetland Conservation in the region (Information and Experience Sharing)
  - Nomination of the Sites to the EAAFP Flyway Network Site
  - Monitoring of birds at Flyway Sites
  - Wetland Ecosystem Service and TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity)
  - Brief explanation on the Ramsar Convention, Ramsar STRP and Ramsar Site Designation Criteria and Process
  - R-METT (Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool)

**3.3 2014 October:** “RRC-EA and EAAFP Joint National Level Training Workshop for Flyway and Wetland Managers in Vietnam” (Partners included MOE-K, RRC-EA and the EAAFP)

- Some 47 participants from Vietnam attended this workshop including representatives from six Ramsar Sites, wetland protected areas, government ministries, NGOs and universities;
- Information & Experience Sharing on Wetland Management with presentations:
  - on Ramsar Sites in Vietnam;
  - on future Ramsar Sites and EAAFP Network Sites in Vietnam;
  - from local government authorities.
- Presentations from the EAAFP on topics such as the role of Flyway Site Manager, migratory waterbirds in Vietnam, nomination of Flyway Network Sites;
- Presentations from the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia on topics such management planning, evaluation of protected area management effectiveness, the Ramsar Convention and its processes, and the criteria for designation of Ramsar Sites.

## 8. Other meetings

4.1 *2013 November*: “Workshop on Best Practices for the Design and Operation of Wetland Education Centres” (Partners included Seosan City Government, ERF, MOE-K, RRC-EA, Ramsar Secretariat, EAAFP and others)

- The workshop aimed to develop a “Handbook on Best Practices for the Design and Operation of Wetland Education Centres” and participants included representatives from Ramsar/Flyway Network Sites, as well as from wetlands education centres in Asia, Americas and Europe;
- The Handbook is available on the Ramsar website [\[link\]](#) and will contribute to achieving Outcomes 4

4.2 *2014 June*: “Workshop on Developing Management Criteria and a Management Effectiveness Evaluation Process for Ramsar Sites” (Partners included ONEP, RRC-EA and the Ramsar Secretariat)

- The workshop aimed to develop a simple tool for evaluating the management effectiveness of Ramsar Sites but could equally be used by Flyway Network Sites. The tool produced is based on the Management Effecting Tracking Tool (METT) that was developed by the World Bank and WWF and will be presented as a Ramsar Draft Resolution to COP12 in June 2015 for approval;
- The Draft Resolution can be downloaded from the Ramsar website [\[link\]](#);
- The evaluation of the management effectiveness of Flyway Network Sites by using tools such as the Ramsar-METT, will contribute towards achieving Outcomes 2 and 10 in particular.

## 9. EAAFP Secretariat CEPA Workplan for 2015

The following activities are aimed to achieve Objective 2 of the EAAFP Implementation Strategy 2012-2016.

5.1 Maintain and update website, including different language pages, and social media networks

- Maintain and update website (English, Korean) and SNS
- Encourage and update Japanese page
- Develop country pages and site pages

5.2 Produce CEPA brochures, posters, video and related materials

- Update Information Brochure (on line/print)
- Plan and develop Shorebirds identification booklet of EAAF (on line/print)

5.3 Promote World Migratory Bird Day events and global campaigns in Flyway countries

- Develop WMBD posters (English and local languages, on line/print)
- Develop WMBD Trailer video (on line)
- Organise a local celebration event in collaboration with local NGOs and schools
- Encourage National Focal Point to help promote WMBD within each country
- Consider collaborating/linking to other effective initiatives (e.g. Farewell Shorebirds)

5.4 Participate in Ramsar COP12 and other international forums, through presentations, partner meetings, side-event and CEPA promotion

**3.3.1.6 Anatidae WG**

*Report prepared by Masayuki Kurechi, Anatidae WG chair*

*Objective 1: Develop the Flyway Site Network*

- invite two new sites which are hotspots of Anatidae in Japan; Notsuke Bay, biggest staging site for Brent geese and Whooper Swans, and Lake Izunuma & Uchinuma, one of the biggest wintering sites especially for GWfG and Whooper Swans.
- under discussion with WG member of China to invite more sites from China

*Objective 2: Enhance communication, education and public awareness*

- 4th Red Data Book was published in 2014 in Japan which works as a good tool for raising awareness on endangered Anatidae in the book.

*Objective 3: Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, knowledge and promote exchange of information*

- In Japan Monitoring Sites 1000 project regularly monitor 80 important Anatidae sites and Population Census Survey of Anatidae over a country is running in Japan and Korea. Voluntary Goose Count (mainly Greater White-fronted Geese) is organized in every two weeks in most of important goose sites in Japan.
- Satellite trackings works for Bikal teals in Korea and in Japan and for Brent geese in Japan and for Whooper Swans in Mongolia and Japan offer many new knowledge for their flyways.
- Intensive monitoring in winter shows there is around 100 Lesser WfG migrate to Japan to winter regularly.

*Objective 4: Build capacity to manage waterbirds and their habitats*

- The training activities for researcher of Anatidae were held under monitoring site 1000 project by the Biodiversity Center, MoEJ.

*Objective 5: Develop flyway-wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds*

- Many key persons joined 16<sup>th</sup> Goose Specialist Group Meeting in Beijing in November 2014 and share flyway-wide information of geese species and discussed to enhance the conservation status.
- Support to develop Winter flooding rice paddy project to coexist waterbirds and agriculture in Japan and Korea.
- Recovery/ restoring projects of Aleutian Cackling geese and Lesser Snow geese has been working well. Especially the population of ACG migrating to Japan from Kurile Islands has been increasing and reached 1000 birds last December.
- Action to stop a plan to build biggest Mega wind farm in Hachirogata-Kanatakuchi, most important staging EAAFP site in Japan.

Others;

After the discussion to make Anatidae Working Group more active during last MOP7 and 16<sup>th</sup> Goose Specialist Group Meeting in Beijing in November 2014, AWG is now preparing to modify present TOR of AWG.

**3.3.1.7 Black-faced Spoonbill WG**

*Report prepared by Kisup Lee, BFS WG chair and Yat-Tung Yu, BFS WG coordinator*

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

- None at the moment. As the EAAFP BFS Working Group was only formed in October 2013, members of WG could still be unfamiliarised to develop Flyway Network Sites.
- This WG will discuss this objective in the future meeting

Number of proposed new FNS: 0

*Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

- Many Black-faced Spoonbill's range countries are already partners of EAAFP, including Republic of Korea, China, Russia and Japan.

Number of National Partnership meetings held: 0

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

- Awareness activities need to be plan in our future meeting (during 2014-15).

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- Black-faced Spoonbill is a migratory species. Conservation plans of this species has been drafted and implemented in some countries, e.g. Japan, Republic of Korea and Hong Kong (China).

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

- Several studies and surveys of the Black-faced Spoonbills are being planned, coordinated and conducted, including breeding grounds survey, annual international census, coordinated colour-marking and satellite-tracking of fledgings.

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- None of this work has been carried out.

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- Information is regularly shared through emails within the WG and also many various researchers, site managers and government officers in this region.

- Idea of organizing an international workshop is under discussion.

*Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

- None in the period between MOP7 and MOP8.

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

- None in the period between MOP7 and MOP8.

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

- Several include: coordinated colour-marking and satellite-tracking of fledging BFS, annual international census, international workshop

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

- None has been discussed in the period between MOP7 and MOP8.

**DOCUMENT 3.3.2**

**3.3.2 Brief report from each Task Force**

**DOCUMENT 3.3.2.1**

**3.3.2.1 Monitoring of Waterbird Population and Sites TF**

*Report prepared by Doug Watkins, Monitoring TF Chair*

The Monitoring Task Force was established at MoP 4. Its initial tasks were: to prepare an overview of the status of Flyway Network sites and other internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds; to identify how monitoring could be enhanced; and, to evaluate options to improve access to waterbird count and distribution data – such as the adaption of the Critical Site Network Tool that has been developed for the Africa and

Eurasia. In November 2010 the Monitoring Task Force had a three day meeting at the Secretariat to address these tasks and develop recommendations for MoP5.

At MoP5 in December 2010, based on the recommendations, the Partners agreed the following actions:

- During 2011, conduct a baseline assessment of the status of all Flyway Network Sites
- Prepare an overview of the status of Flyway Network Sites and other internationally important sites on the basis of the 2011 data provided by Government Partners
- Further enhancement of waterbird monitoring and site assessment.

Following MoP 5 BirdLife International and Wetlands International collaborated to conduct a baseline assessment of the status of Flyway Network Sites (funded from the Secretariat). A preliminary report was presented to MoP 6 with a final report to MoP 7.

At MoP 6 Partners agreed to conduct a “Flyway Site Network Prioritisation Study”. The Monitoring Task Force supported the Secretariat in developing the Terms of Reference for this project and provided considerable support to the consultant in its implementing. This report was presented at MoP 7.

The Monitoring Task Force has also promoted the sharing of count data with the Asian Waterbird Census to provide a Flyway level data set that can be used by the Partnership. It has also promoted and supported the regional input into updates of the Global Waterbird Population Estimates (which provide the numerical thresholds for the Flyway site Network).

By MoP 7 the Monitoring Task Force recognised that the limited availability of funding precluded the adaption of the “Critical Site Network Tool” to the EAAF in the short term. Incremental steps were identified, and endorsed by Partners, in relation to the collation of spatial data sets on population distributions and important sites. This issue will be further discussed at MoP 8.

#### **ANNEX 3.3.2.1**

##### **Annex. Doc 3.3.2.1 Input of Asian Waterbird Census and Waterbird Population Estimates**

Please find the annex document above for details.

#### **DOCUMENT 3.3.2.2**

##### **3.3.2.2 Amur-Heilong Basin**

*Report prepared by Judit Szabo, EAAFP*

Amur-Heilong TF Background document

During the conference “Distribution, Migration and Other Movements of Wildlife” in 2014 November (attended by 104 people), a discussion was held about the forming of the AHTF.

Terms of reference prepared by Vladimir Bocharnikov:  
FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR EAAFP AHTF RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION  
WITHIN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

Task 1: Create a network-based critical areas established under the Asia-Pacific strategy for protecting migratory waterbirds (APMWCS), Network reserves of international importance for the conservation of migratory birds in the flyway

Task 2: Enhance communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

Task 3: To increase research and monitoring flyway, build knowledge and promote exchange of information on waterbirds and their habitats

Task 4: Provide capacity to manage the habitat and wetland birds for employees of natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders

Task 5: Develop, especially for priority species and habitats, the approaches to the problem of improving the protection of migratory birds across the Flyway.

As part of Task 1 is proposed:

Activity 1.1. Organize geographic database for registration of membership, research and international cooperation (Russian and foreign) expert roster of experts on the Amur river basin and adjacent territories.

Activity 1.2. On a scientific basis to critically examine existing opportunities and environmental necessity of the process of nomination of the Russian Federation of new sites from the existing ones to the south of the Russian Far East wetlands of international importance (from the official and "shadow" list) and submitted as a candidate for the EAAFP Flyway Site Network.

Activity 1.3. Conduct a situational analysis on the current state of officially nominated Russian core areas and their environmental role in the conservation of populations of migratory birds and their critical habitats (this work should be carried out through the use of GIS and meta-database of the Pacific Institute of Geography FEB RAS).

Under Task 2:

Activity 2.1. Organize scientific and information support, including placement on the site specific information on migratory birds, threatened populations and habitats of certain particularly endangered species and human activities (in Russian and English) in pursuit of the strategic partnership on "Flyway Site Network - to integrate biodiversity conservation of wetlands and sustainable development benefits to local communities. "

Activity 2.2. Ensuring the timely publication of the results for projects as a model academic research and public environmental initiative, including with the ability to quickly find and view information found in chart form, using existing meta-database and online GIS tools.

Activity 2.3. A range of measures to raise awareness of the Parties to the Partnership to studied populations of migratory birds, their habitats, ongoing projects and a variety of threats issued in the form of a special bibliographic and reference database comprising including and long-term results of studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, presented at the GIS server Pacific Institute of Geography FEB RAS.

Activity 2.4. The analysis of information resources needed for communication and awareness-raising on the Asian part of the Russian Federation regarding the status of wildlife as a basis for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. Developing a strategic plan for the provision of information, education and advocacy in Russian, which will complement the plans for CEPA developed for the Flyway. By agreement with other stakeholders in the conservation of nature Amur River basin, we plan to carry out scientific and informational activities to raise public awareness, and consistent with the plans for communication, education and advocacy EAAFP.

In Task 3 is proposed:

Activity 3.1. Implementation of the Far East regional monitoring program waterbirds on the existing Flyway sites (the estuary. Razdolnaya, Primorsky Krai, and White-naped Crane Khingansky reserves), interconnected with existing national and international research programs of birds and making it possible to compare the results in the long term. Offers an integrated and coherent program of monitoring and field survey of the most important habitats of waterbirds flyway for regions of the Russian Far East, in the areas of international importance. This will serve (for professionals and decision makers) to update the status of the Far Eastern habitat of waterbirds of international importance, primarily included in the Flyway Network, regularly prepare various kinds of

publications on the status of populations of migratory birds and the threatening factors within the annual cycle of their habitat.

Activity 3.2. To address gaps in information about the sites for migratory birds of international importance conduct a field survey and make the generalized data on sites of international importance available to all partners. Field studies conducted in areas where there are potentially important habitats, the level of knowledge which, according to the results of the gap analysis is now inadequate, it is proposed to consider such work as a priority, according to the annual list prepared by experts of the Register of planned field work.

Activity 3.3. To match the standard methods of conducting programs of field inventory and monitoring studies, including all work involving surveys of birds, organize and conduct on the basis of one of the reserves, university or academic institution in the south of the Russian Far East methodical seminars in the same period, subject to the support of the activities of the Fund and the necessary resources, which include the international component of the Partnership for the proper development of scientific research and environmental capacity, and to improve the skills of Russian protected areas staff.

Activity 3.4. For different species of migratory waterbirds carry out international projects on joint study of migration priority for study and conservation of species. Implement special measures to achieve a high level of coordination in collecting information on the return of the rings, ringed and tagged birds (including those equipped with transmitters). On the basis of international experts from the Register compile and widely distribute analytical reviews of data on migration of waterbirds, including the study of the potential role of migratory waterbirds in the spread of diseases, especially avian influenza. Includes projects and initiatives for the study of species of birds associated with the spread of diseases. This work will be carried out with extensive use of GIS and remote sensing data.

As part of the proposed Task 5:

Activity 5.1. Provide coordinated expert register, on the scale of the Russian part of the flyway for species conservation of waterbirds and their habitats in order to improve the study and conservation of priority species of migratory birds. Discuss and implement the agreed priority conservation projects of (endangered) species in a large part of their annual ranges. Priority is given to species conservation status of which is seen as threatened, and that have the potential to become a "flagship" species in the process of international cooperation and habitat management. This activity provides a large-scale management of field work, together with the use of modern technologies for spatial analysis and correction of data on priority species. To the south of the Russian Far East previous research in the following species (Scaly-sided Merganser, Baer's Pochard, Spoon-billed sandpiper, Lesser White-fronted Goose), as well as the preparation of review papers on the populations of shorebirds, cranes, Anatidae, Oriental White Stork.

In this connection, and for an adequate understanding of the importance of the Asian territory of Russia, it is important to focus on:

1. Ecological and geographical characteristics of Asiatic Russia as the most important breeding, molting, stopover areas, serving as habitat for migratory bird populations for EAAF. The result of this work provides a holistic view of the major geographic regions of Russia that have retained large tracts of wilderness.
2. A comprehensive summary of the status of biodiversity in critical ecoregions of Siberia and the Russian Far East. The result of this work will help to understand the importance of biodiversity conservation in whole Asia as result for specific activity at administrative regions of Russia and to assess the feasibility of potential international environmental activities within the Partnership.
3. Detailed situational assessment, based on GIS technologies, of the contemporary significance of the flyway for migratory birds. The result - based on updating and adding information to the international geographic database (in collaboration with the Birdlife

International and Wetlands International) - will be to develop updated maps of sites and habitats for migratory birds in the Far East and Siberia and Russia.

4. Mapping and editing of existing geographic location and a brief description of the main environmental protected areas of Asiatic Russia (World Heritage Sites, federal protected areas, Ramsar sites, IBAs) Implementation of the Far East regional monitoring program waterbirds on the existing and new sites of Flyway interconnected with existing national and international research programs of birds and making it possible to compare the results in the long term perspective.

5. Assessment and mapping of the value of ecosystem services, biosphere functions of the main habitats of migratory bird species within Asian Russia. Total funding of above mentioned activities implementing as part of activities under Task1, 2 and 3 for 2015 are \$10,000.

6. Field surveys of insufficiently known bird migrating sites and complex characteristics of the Russian part of the Amur river basin to determine the current role of this area in the conservation of migratory birds of EAAF.

6.1. Monitoring and research on the migration of waterbirds southwestern segment of Primorsky Krai (Rasdolnaya lowland) by Dr. Yu. Gluschenko and Dr. Dmitry Korobov. Funding required: 10,368 \$US.

6.2. First inventory approach to the one of least studied wetlands of Amur (Ogoron lake and Dep river, Middle Priamurye) makes by Dr. Alexei Antonov. Funding required: 1720 \$US.

6.3. Long-term monitoring, analysis of waterbird populations and status of key globally threatened species in Dauria (Russia and Mongolia) makes by Oleg Goroshko . Funding required: 11,118 \$US.

6.4. Ornithological analysis, review and publication of inventory and monitoring data for coastal and inland wetlands of Northern Sakhalin by Yuri Gluschenko, Dmitry Korobov and Ivan Tiunov. Funding required: 15,500 \$US.

6.5. Field research of main wetland habitats and IBA within Russian part of Amur River Basin for updating current state and threats for this area with publication of new information on website Partnership and on scientific edition. Funding required: 12,770 \$US.

7. Creating a bibliographic and geographic database on the distribution, abundance and status of migratory birds south of the Russian Far East (Primorsky and Khabarovsk Territory, Sakhalin and Amur regions) based on data from published studies in the Russian-language editions. Funding required: 5,770 \$US (with possible cofunding by Russian Academy of Sciences and WWF-Russia).

8. Technical and information support for working online GIS for publishing and editing of data on bird migration on the basis of monitoring results banding, satellite and GPS monitoring with use of GIS server of the Pacific Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences. Funding required: 5,000 \$US.

9. Preparation of the Russian version of all the major regions of Asian Russia important for migratory birds in its role for all countries of the Partnership. It is assumed 500 pp. of text and 300 illustrations (photos, maps, graphs). Funding required: 3,000 \$US.

10. Preparation and publication in well-known journals (like Nature, BI, Conservation Biology, Wildfowl at al.) of collective international scientific articles on state of migration and population status of migrating birds, their habitats and human threats to natural sites for the whole of territory of Asian Russia and neighboring countries.

### **DOCUMENT 3.3.2.3**

#### **3.3.2.3 Yellow Sea Ecoregion**

*Report prepared by Yellow Sea TF Chair*

### **DOCUMENT 3.3.2.4**

### **3.3.2.4 Scaly-sided Merganser**

*Report prepared by Scaly-sided Merganser coordinator*

### **DOCUMENT 3.3.2.5**

### **3.3.2.5 Spoon-billed Sandpiper**

*Report prepared by Spoon-billed Sandpiper Chair*

Main results and activities of SBS TF in 2014.

#### **Myanmar**

BANCA in cooperation with Ch. Zoeckler (SBS TF Coordinator) and Nigel Clark (BTO) with support of RSPB and Darwin Initiative work in Gulf of Mottama; Nan Thar island survey and guarding work by Ren with support of Lighthouse Foundation; and in cooperation with Ramsar Network Japan/Wild Bird Society of Japan with the support of Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund.

Work on creation of Ramsar site at Gulf of Mottama as by BANCA and Ch. Zoeckler (SBS TF Coordinator) successful meetings with government. Workshop with Mon State planned in spring

At main wintering site of SBS - Bay of Mottama:

- ❖ Monitoring shorebirds population survey
- ❖ Monitoring of benthic animals survey
- ❖ Providing freshwater ponds
- ❖ CEPA awareness programme
- ❖ Patrolling (Local Community Groups (LCG), township authorities and forest department staff)
- ❖ Shorebird watching training
- ❖ Providing livelihood for LCGs members
- ❖ Welcome to the birds programme with schools

#### **Bangladesh:**

Main implementer: Bangladesh Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation Project - Md. Foysal - Senior Research Officer and colleagues)

- ❖ Monitoring of SBS and other waders at key site at Sonadia
- ❖ Work with former local hunters
- ❖ Awareness raising work against deep sea port development (with limited success so far)
- ❖ Awareness work against mangrove plantation
- ❖ Sonadia is proposed as marine Protected area and wildlife sanctuary

#### **Rudong Mudflats in Jiangxu, China:**

After extensive surveys in central east coast of China by a group of volunteer Shanghai birdwatchers revealed that many of the species were observed to use Rudong mudflats for moulting. International surveys focussed on SBS were carried out in southward migration period of 2013 and 2014.

Main implementer: Shanghai birdwatching society – Ms. LI Jing and friends

- ❖ In 2013, a total of 108 and in 2014, 177 SBS was recorded along coastal mudflats of 150 km.
- ❖ It means almost half of global population uses this area.

- ❖ Nordmann's Greenshank, another critically endangered species, recorded at the area were 1060 in 2013 and 617 in October 2014, which means the area is extremely important internationally to migratory waterbird species.
- ❖ Development project is ongoing esp. Tianzini area.
- ❖ Discussion with provincial environment officials was held. Officials are positive to promote conservation

#### **Artificial Breeding:**

To cope with a situation under natural condition, the fledglings per nest of 4 eggs is 0.6, the project has two elements: Conservation Breeding *ex situ* in Slimbridge, UK, in a prospect to release fledged chicks *in situ* at the breeding site; and Headstarting to release chicks hatched in incubator.

Main implementer: WWT,

- ❖ 25 Spoon-billed Sandpipers at Slimbridge (16 males, 9 females)
- ❖ 2014 breeding behaviour peaked mid-May 2014 but no eggs laid
- ❖ 2014 headstarted birds represent 40% of natural productivity
- ❖ 3 birds headstarted in 2014 were seen at staging sites in Russia, China, Korea
- ❖ A headstarted bird in 2012 reared 1 chick and seen on both migration

#### **Other counties/regions:**

There has been a lot of work in various countries/areas

- ❖ Thailand: *Issues*: salt pans becoming aquaculture; habitat changes. *Actions*: behavioural study, census; national action plan developed; new network sites nominated..
- ❖ Vietnam: *Issues*: biggest gap for conservation; land use change. *Actions*: surveys done by Viet Nature/BirdLife; gaps revealed; national action plan being developed.
- ❖ South China +Fujian: *Issues*: illegal bird trapping esp. in Leizhou Peninsula – less serious through media campaign etc.; Flourishing Spartina narrowing shorebird habitats. *Actions*: Surveys of Birdwatching Societies on eastern to southern coast; found new site in Guanxi; awareness programmes.
- ❖ Republic of Korea: *Issues*: decline of shorebird population; insufficient funding to implement conservation project of heavily damaged habitat. *Actions*: Continuous survey and awareness programme conducted by Birds Korea and others.
- ❖ Japan: *Issues*: Development projects depriving shorebird habitats; Very few people realise the seriousness of the species. *Actions*: Surveys kept on with national Monitoring 1000 Sites Project and others; data analysis of past 150 years ongoing; Survey of benthos and waterbirds in GOM in Myanmar completed; National support group of SBS/Shorebird being prepared.
- ❖ Russia: *Issues*: Decline of breeding habitats; most of the breeding/staging sites not protected; spring hunting; knowledge on southern region is limited. *Actions*: Surveys for 15 years revealed the status of the species and habitat; Survey in Sept. Ringing 3500 waders in Kamchatka. 7 SBS; Heritage Expedition; Awareness programme done in cooperation with local government.

**DOCUMENT 3.3.2.6**

#### **3.3.2.6 Baer's Pochard TF**

*Report prepared by WWT*

## 4.1 Objective 1: Develop the Flyway Site Network

### DOCUMENT 4.1.1

#### 4.1.1 Current Status of Flyway Site Network

*Background paper prepared by Judit Szabo, EAAFPS*

Current Status of Flyway Site Network background document

Acknowledging the importance of a site for migratory waterbirds is the first step in their protection. The Flyway Site Network draws attention to the interconnectedness of migratory waterbird sites through shared species throughout the Flyway. Nominating a site as part of the Flyway Site Network means that the site satisfied the following criteria for nomination,

A) Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) criteria for internationally important sites modified for migratory waterbirds:

- Criterion 2: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it supports Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered migratory waterbird species.

- Criterion 5: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 20,000 or more migratory waterbirds

- Criterion 6: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of a species or subspecies of migratory waterbird.

B) Staging criteria as applied under the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy:

- A staging site should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 0.25% of individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbirds on migration.

- A staging site should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 5,000 waterbirds at one time during migration.

C) Under exceptional circumstances a site can be nominated if it supports migratory waterbirds at a level or stage of their life cycle important to the maintenance of flyway populations.

The nomination process can be found at <http://www.eaflyway.net/the-flyway/flyway-site-network/become-a-site/>.

Protected areas do make a difference for species conservation, waterbirds have been shown to increase faster in Ramsar areas as opposed to in unprotected wetlands (Kleijn et al. 2014). However, by adequate management, it is also possible to conserve habitat without protection. And the pressure for protection and management often discourages governments from action. The Partnership encourages sustainable management to support long-term survival of migratory waterbirds as well as monitoring of birds and habitat conditions. Unlike Ramsar sites, to be a Flyway Network Site a site does not have to be protected. In this sense, Flyway Network Sites are similar to Important Bird Areas. Currently there are 122 Flyway Network Sites, and 64 of them are also Ramsar sites (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of Flyway Network Sites in the Flyway per country and the overlap with the Ramsar system and Important Bird Areas

| Country      | Number of FNS currently | Also Ramsar site | Also IBA | Potential FNS |
|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------|---------------|
| Australia    | 20                      | 17               | 15       | 125           |
| Alaska (USA) | 1                       | 0                | 1        | 6             |
| Bangladesh   | 5                       | 1                | 4        | 49            |
| DPR Korea    | 2                       | 0                | 2        | 10            |

|                    |    |    |    |     |
|--------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Indonesia          | 2  | 2  | 0  | 21  |
| Japan              | 32 | 18 | 31 | 150 |
| Malaysia           | 2  | 0  | 1  | 22  |
| Mongolia           | 6  | 4  | 4  | 9   |
| Myanmar            | 3  | 1  | 2  | 36  |
| New Zealand        | 2  | 2  | 0  | 13  |
| PR China           | 19 | 11 | 12 | 231 |
| Papua New Guinea   | 1  | 1  | 0  | 3   |
| Philippines        | 2  | 2  | 2  | 23  |
| RO Korea           | 12 | 2  | 10 | 109 |
| Russian Federation | 10 | 4  | 6  | 63  |
| Singapore          | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0   |
| Thailand           | 3  | 1  | 0  | 36  |

More than 950 wetlands have been identified as meeting one or more criteria (Figure 1). These sites have been prioritised by importance based on best available data and highest

count of a population at a site (Jaensch 2013). This report can be found online at [http://eaaflyway.net/documents/mop/project%20report\\_FSNetwork%20candidates%20&%20prioritisation,%20Apr2013\\_final.pdf](http://eaaflyway.net/documents/mop/project%20report_FSNetwork%20candidates%20&%20prioritisation,%20Apr2013_final.pdf). The high number of site that are candidates for nomination means that the Network could be ten times larger and the Partnership strongly encourages the nomination of the priority sites. Within the list, 179 waterbird populations are represented by at least one record; this includes 30 populations regarded by IUCN as threatened. The breakdown of populations by group is: 58 shorebirds; 55 Anatidae; 24 gulls and terns; 20 herons, ibises, spoonbills and storks; 12 cranes; 8 grebes, cormorants and pelicans; and 2 rails. Sixty-six of these populations have not been included in the designated

FSN sites to date and therefore provide an opportunity to substantially broaden the scope of the Network (Jaensch 2013). Some countries, such as Cambodia (15 potentials sites) and Vietnam (14 potential sites) have not nominated any yet.

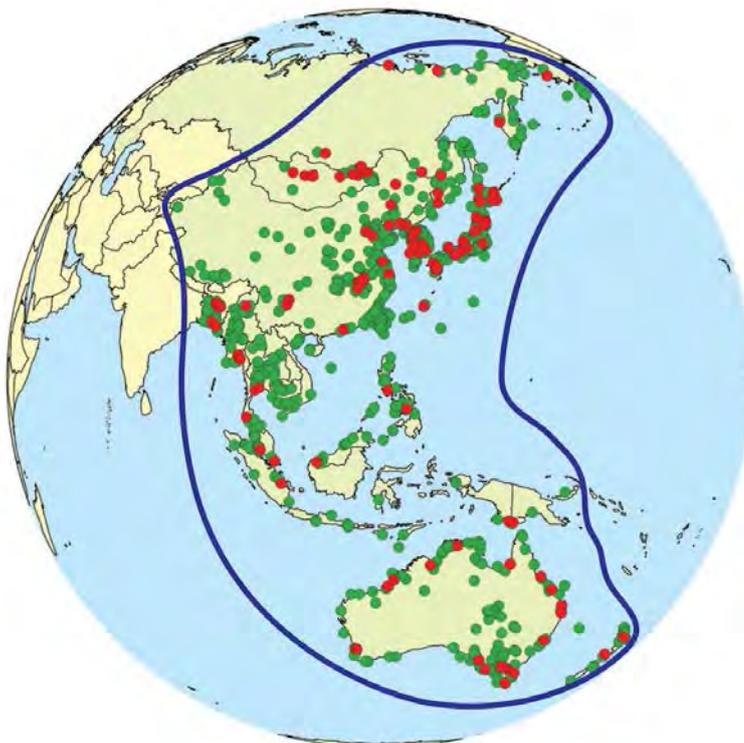


Figure 1. As of December 2014, 122 sites are part of the Flyway Site Network (red dots) and a further 700 would also qualify and are awaiting nomination (green dots)

Another initiative is the Sister sites: being a Network Site offers a better chance to be engaged with other sites in the Network, to conduct collaborative research on shared species and exchange information and experience, which can build the capacity of site managers.

Reference:

Kleijn, D., I. Cherkaoui, P. W. Goedhart, J. van der Hout, and D. Lammertsma. 2014. Waterbirds increase more rapidly in Ramsar-designated wetlands than in unprotected wetlands. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 51:289-298.

## DOCUMENT 4.1.2

### 4.1.2 Effective management of Flyway Site Network

*Background paper prepared by Lew Young, Ramsar*

#### Effective management of Flyway Network Sites

##### 1. Background

Of the more than 950 sites that have been identified as being important for migratory waterbirds along the EAAF, the EAAF-Partnership has been successful in having 123 of those sites designated as Flyway Network Sites (FNS).

To ensure the long-term management of these sites for migratory waterbird conservation and for sustainable development, the EAAF-P needs to develop clear and simple guidelines for the management of the FNS for the site managers and the country focal points to follow. This would include the regular updating of the Site Information Sheet for each FNS, say every six years. Presently, the EAAFP Secretariat has reported that they have received very few updated SIS and maps for existing FNS (Doc 2.2 Version 2, page 9, Activity 1.1.1);

In addition, there should be a mechanism for the country Partners to report on the status of their FNS.

At the moment, the EAAFP Secretariat, is receiving limited feedback from Partners on the status and threats to internationally important sites and to Flyway Network sites in particular (Doc 2.2 Version 2, page 15, Activity 6.3.2).

There should also be a means for the EAAFP Secretariat to receive reports and act on actual, or potential threats to FNS, and sites which have been identified as being eligible for designation as a FNS but which has not yet been designated.

##### 2. Proposal for discussion

###### Management of FNS and guidelines for management

- Country Partners are required to update the SIS for their FNS every 6 years (to coincide with every three MOP's, assuming MOPs are every two years);
- The CEPA WG is requested to:
  - Continue to work with relevant partners, e.g. EAAFP Partners, RRC-EA, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Ramsar Secretariat etc, to organize capacity building workshops for FNS managers;

- Collate good practices for the management of protected areas which may be useful for FNS manager and where possible, to publish these as short and simple booklets with case studies.

#### Reporting on the status of FNS

- Prior to each MOP, country Partners report on the status of their FNS using a template such as that attached in Appendix 1;
- At each future EAAFP MOP, there is a standing agenda item for the Secretariat to report on the status of FNS and for the Partners then to hold discussions on any Site highlighted if necessary.

Appendix 1 : Proposed reporting template on the status of Flyway Network Sites to MOP

Country: .....

List of indicator questions:

1. FNS are expected to update their Site Information Sheets (SIS) every six years. Does the site have an update SIS (Key Result Area 1.1)?
2. Does the Site have a site management committee that includes local community members and stakeholders?
3. Does the Site have a site management plan? If so, what is the starting date of the present Plan (Key Result Area 2.2)?
4. Have model projects been developed at the Site with the full involvement of related national and site partnerships, to address key threatening processes, social and economic needs. (Key Result Area 2.4)?
5. Has an assessment of the ecological, social and economic values of the Site been conducted (Outcome 3)?
6. Does the Site have an active CEPA programme (Key Result Area 4.1)?
7. Does the Site have a regular monitoring programme to assess the status of the site and its migratory waterbirds (Key Result Area 6.3)?
8. Have the results of the monitoring on trends of the status of the site and its migratory waterbirds been shared with the EAAFP Secretariat and Partners (Key Result Area 7.3)?
9. Are there any possible, actual or future threats to the Site and its migratory waterbirds (Key Result Area 6.4)?
10. If so, have these threats been reported to the EAAFP Secretariat (Key Result Area 6.4)?
11. Does Site staff have access to relevant capacity development and training programmes (Key Result Area 10.1)?

| FNS name | Indicator questions |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    | Additional information |  |
|----------|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|------------------------|--|
|          | 1                   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |                        |  |
|          |                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |                        |  |
|          |                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |                        |  |
|          |                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |                        |  |
|          |                     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |                        |  |

**4.2 Objective 2: Enhance communication, education and public awareness**

**DOCUMENT 4.2.1**

**4.2.1 EAAFP World Migratory Bird Day**

*Background paper prepared by Tomoko Ichikawa, EAAFPS*

Background:

The EAAFP Secretariat provides CEPA materials and conduct campaigns in collaboration with other international organisations. The World Migratory Birds Day (WMBD) is one such annual awareness-raising global campaign, held on the 2nd weekend of May, highlighting protection of migratory birds and their habitats. It was initiated in 2006 by African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) with WMBD Partners including EAAFP. In 2014, the theme was “Destination Flyways: Migratory Birds and Tourism,” the campaign highlighted the links between migratory birds conservation, local community development and wildlife watching tourism around the world, with the participation of the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

The EAAFP Secretariat supported the WMBD by producing a statement, a trailer message, flyers and posters in several languages local languages along EAAF to reach out to a broader set of stakeholders. Over 400 events of World Migratory Bird Day have been celebrated in 90 Countries in 2014, including Indonesia, South Korea, Japan, Bangladesh, Singapore and Australia in the EAAF region.

Issue: Participation in WMBD from the countries along EAAF is generally quite low and rather uneven.

Possible actions:

The Secretariat would like to encourage participation in the World Migratory Birds Day 2015,

1. Inviting Focal Points

- To deliver the concept and materials to FNS, relevant ministries, and relevant NGOs.
- To create a network of NGOs, both international and local, and related organizations including universities.
- To allocate funding to schools/key national NGOs for WMBD as a key awareness raising programme.

2. Inviting partners

- To help collaboration with other key event like the Earth Day and World Wetlands Day.
- To provide ideas that anyone can join WMBD anywhere without expensive equipment.

### 4.3 Objective 3: Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, knowledge and information exchange

#### DOCUMENT 4.3.1

#### 4.3.1 Waterbird monitoring

*Background paper collated by Simba Chan, BirdLife International*

Monitoring of waterbirds and wetland sites in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway:  
Standardization of monitoring at key sites to reveal trends of waterbird populations and local conservation needs

#### Background

The EAAFP Implementation Strategy 2012–2016 Outcome 6: requires that “Scientifically sound information is available on the flyway-wide status and trends of waterbird populations and their habitats”.

At present, there are important gaps in knowledge on the populations of many waterbird species in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, and on the locations of the key sites for the conservation of waterbirds.

It is therefore a high priority to develop a flyway-wide monitoring scheme, which will build upon the existing regional and national schemes, and promote new monitoring activities to fill important gaps in coverage, and to standardize consistent methods used so data would be comparable to show trends of populations and changes at important sites.

In addition to collecting waterbird count data, there is a need to monitor the state (or condition) of bird habitats including populations at key sites, the threats affecting these sites, and the conservation measures that are being taken.

In 2011 and 2012, BirdLife International co-organized two workshops with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan on standardization of waterbird monitoring methods. The idea was to select about 200 key sites along the EAAF (including but not limited to EAAF Flyway Network Sites) for a standardized waterbird monitoring to reveal the trends of waterbird populations along

the EAAF. Pilot studies were conducted at 13 wetland sites in China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand. Most of the sites regarded the monitoring method useful but about half of them suggested some training and technical support might be needed. The result was reported at MOP7 in Alaska, June 2013.

### On-going monitoring activities

The Asian Waterbird Census is a regional waterbird monitoring programme that organises annual counts in January at over 1,000 sites in East, Southeast and South Asia, and Australasia.

Many governments within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway conduct waterbird monitoring in protected areas and more widely, for example through the “Monitoring Site 1000 Project” of the Ministry of Environment Japan.

In some countries in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, NGOs and volunteers run waterbird monitoring initiatives, including the China Coastal Waterbird Census and the Korea Shorebird Network.

The Global Black-faced Spoonbill census is another good example that, if we have a monitoring scheme with clear targets and good feedback to participants, we can have a large team of volunteers from different countries successfully work together.

BirdLife International has developed a site monitoring form, to collect data on the condition of the habitats at key sites, the threats affecting these sites, and the conservation measures that are being taken. This form is based upon BirdLife’s Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas monitoring methodology being integrated with the Asian Waterbird Census form, and it has been trialled by BirdLife partners during the Asian Waterbird Census, and at EAAFP Flyway Network Sites. The people undertaking AWC found it easy enough to use whilst the government flyway site network managers, found the part on identification of threats uncomfortable to do. The results have been reported at MOP 7 in Alaska but no follow up has happened.

### Future development of waterbird and site monitoring in the EAAF

There is a need for a consistent flyway-wide monitoring scheme to collate and manage the waterbird and site data that is being collected by the existing regional and national schemes. The synthesis of this data would improve understanding of the flyway-wide status and trends of waterbird populations and the conservation status of their key sites and habitats, and could help guide the identification of new Flyway Network Sites. This would also identify important gaps in coverage by the existing waterbird counts, which could be filled by the development of new monitoring initiatives.

Issues relating to the development of this flyway-wide monitoring scheme include:

- The securing of sufficient resources for an organisation (preferably the EAAFP Secretariat) to collate and manage the waterbird and site monitoring data.
- The organisation of workshops and meetings to enable sharing of information and expertise about the existing monitoring schemes in the flyway, and to plan the future development of the flyway-wide monitoring scheme.
- The need to monitor waterbirds during the northward and southward migration periods, as well as in the non-breeding (northern winter) season.
- The value of the monitoring data could be increased if the timing and methodology of the waterbird counts were standardised between countries in the flyway.
- There is a need to map the boundaries of the wetland sites where waterbird counts are conducted, and to standardise the locations surveyed and durations of the counts at each site.
- Additional resources will be needed to provide training in waterbird counting and site monitoring techniques, and for the publication and dissemination of the count results and analyses of the monitoring data.

- Training and production of supporting material such as census manual and waterbird identification guides.

**4.3.2 Review of populations of waterbirds considered under EAAF**

*Background paper prepared by Kaori Tsujita, Japan*

**Summary**

Appendix II of EAAF Partnership Document provides that “ ‘Migratory waterbird’ means the East Asian – Australasian Flyway population of any species or lower taxon of waterbirds of the taxonomic groups identified in Appendix III, a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries”. Regarding this definition, there has not been a unified interpretation on what is exactly meant by ‘East Asian – Australasian Flyway population’. There may be two ways of thinking as follows;

- Whole EAAF population of the species with a significant proportion of members migrating across national boundaries, which may include resident or nationally-migrant population, or
- Migrant population out of whole EAAF population of the species, a significant proportion of whose members migrate across national boundaries, which does not include any resident or nationally-migrant population

We reviewed the related definition under the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (APMWCS), and examined which way of thinking is more beneficial for the conservation of waterbirds. As the result of consideration, we concluded that the former way of thinking (i.e. whole EAAF population) should be applied to EAAF.

At this agenda item, we will make a presentation about the above topic and propose the addition of following complementary note to the definition in Appendix II of the Partnership Document.

*Complementary note:*

“Migratory waterbird” may include following species and/or populations in East Asian-Australasian Flyway, in light of the continuity with APMWCS, and with due regard to partial lack of evidence of migration across one or more national jurisdictional boundaries for considerable species.

- ✓ A resident and/or nationally-migratory population of a species which has other population that cyclically and predictably crosses one or more national jurisdictional boundaries.
- ✓ A species which has not been proved to cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries but may have the potential.

**Annex.Doc 4.3.2\_Migratory status of waterbird/seabird species in the East-Asian Australian Flyway**

*Prepared by Simba Chan, Birdlife International*

| Family/group*              | No. species migratory across national boundaries (No. species, one or more whose population are resident or migratory within a national boundary) | No. species which has the potential to migrate across national boundaries | No. species migratory within a national boundary | No. species whose migratory status is Unknown | No. resident species | Total |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|---|----------------------|-------|
| Gaviidae: divers and loons | 4   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 0                    | 4     |

|   |     |    |    |    |    |     |
|---|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Podicipedidae:<br>grebes                        | 6   | 0  | 1  | 1  | 0  | 8   |
| Pelecanidae:<br>pelicans                        | 3   | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 4   |
| Phalacrocoraci<br>dae:<br>cormorants            | 4   | 4  | 0  | 5  | 8  | 21  |
| Ardeidae:<br>herons, egrets<br>and bitterns     | 19  | 6  | 2  | 5  | 0  | 32  |
| Ciconiidae:<br>storks                           | 4   | 5  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 10  |
| Threskiornithid<br>ae: ibises and<br>spoonbills | 5   | 2  | 3  | 1  | 0  | 11  |
| Anatidae:<br>swans, geese<br>and ducks          | 48  | 6  | 15 | 8  | 4  | 81  |
| Grus: cranes                                    | 7   | 0  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 9   |
| Rallidae: rails,<br>gallinules,<br>coots        | 15  | 5  | 2  | 19 | 17 | 58  |
| Heliornithidae:<br>Finfoots                     | 0   | 1  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1   |
| Shorebirds                                      | 63  | 3  | 9  | 16 | 11 | 102 |
| Laridae: gulls,<br>terns,<br>skimmers           | 35  | 4  | 6  | 0  | 2  | 47  |
| Total   | 213 | 37 | 40 | 56 | 42 | 388 |

Note:

\*No information on Procellariidae (Shearwaters), Oceanitidae (Storm Petrels), Stercorariidae (Skuas) and Alcidae (Auks)

#### DOCUMENT 4.3.3

#### 4.3.3 Review of the international policies for the conservation of migratory shorebirds: A way forward

*Background paper prepared by Eduardo Callo-Cajjiao, University of Queensland*

#### ANNEX 4.3.3

#### Annex. Doc 4.3.3\_ Review International Policy Framework EAAF

#### DOCUMENT 4.3.4

#### 4.3.4 Review of Shorebird hunting

*Background paper prepared by Eduardo Callo-Cajjiao, University of Queensland*

Hunting of migratory shorebirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway: A review of the evidence

Executive summary

Hunting has driven population declines of migratory shorebirds in different flyways. These birds have been declining in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) as a result of multiple factors, though they are probably unequally understood. In addition to habitat loss, hunting may also be involved in the population declines of particular species. However, our understanding of hunting as a threat in this flyway seems patchy both temporally and spatially. This is inadequate to inform policy, as effects of hunting can only be appraised when considered at a flyway scale. Moreover, given that hunting is relatively more reversible than habitat loss, addressing it has the potential to help population recovery efforts. Hence, we conducted a review and preliminary analysis of the current state of knowledge on the topic at a flyway scale, with the aims of: 1) characterising the evidence, 2) assessing spatial patterns of hunting and its magnitude, and 3) identifying its socioeconomic context. We searched for relevant references in the peer-reviewed and grey literature. 155 references were located, of which we obtained 125. When the different lines of evidence are considered, most references presented anecdotal evidence and expert opinion, whereas a fifth of them presented evidence based on case studies. Hunting of migratory shorebirds has been detected in 77% of the countries, of which five of them stand out with the highest number of species hunted. However, this figure must be considered carefully as there are no detailed data at species level on this activity from four additional countries where hunting has occurred recently. When all figures per species are pooled, at least 126,837 migratory shorebirds of 39 species were reported hunted in the last four decades, which corresponds to evidence scattered spatially and temporally. Amongst these, 12 species have had minimum hunting levels of over 1,000 individuals. This harvest has not been even, as there are differences in target species and magnitude of hunting between localities. Some of the species of migratory shorebirds that have been subject to hunting are of conservation concern; however the impact of hunting on them is unknown. Conversely, some others that have also been subject to hunting are not necessarily of conservation concern, but they may deserve further attention. Hunting has been practiced for sport, subsistence, and commercial purposes, with geographical variations. The trade of migratory shorebirds has taken place at various scales, from local to international wildlife trade hubs. This activity has been associated with poverty in some cases, although it is doubtful that poverty alleviation will necessarily reduce hunting pressure. Migratory shorebirds have been subject to hunting at some localities for extended periods of time, warranting further research at those localities with no recent data. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first attempt to analyse all the available evidence on hunting of migratory shorebirds in the EAAF, though not without caveats. We highlight that our knowledge of hunting across the EAAF is largely anecdotal, scattered, and consequently insufficient to estimate its magnitude for any given migratory shorebird species. Nevertheless, our review unveils general patterns, knowledge gaps, and the potential impact that hunting may have on shorebird populations. This report only makes recommendations on hunting research and not on policy.

#### DOCUMENT 4.3.5

#### 4.3.5 Propose a Task Force for Eastern Curlew

*Background paper prepared by Paul O'Neil, Australia*

International Action Plan for Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis*

The Australian Government recognizes that 37 species of migratory shorebird regularly and predictably visit its shores on an annual basis. These species are listed as migratory under Australia's national environmental law, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation*

Act 1999, and are therefore matters of national environmental significance. This affords them and their important habitats special protection within Australia.

Two of these migratory shorebird species, Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* and Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* are also currently being assessed in Australia for threatened species listing (possibly Critically Endangered and Endangered respectively). While this listing will only provide minor additional protection within Australia, it will highlight the urgent conservation situation facing these and many other migratory shorebird species in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

The Eastern Curlew is the largest migratory shorebird species in the world. It is an attractive bird, with a large down-curved bill and a beautiful call. It is also relatively easy to identify, and comfortably fits the label of a showcase shorebird species of this flyway.

Australia will soon require a national recovery plan for Eastern Curlew, as for all other species that are listed on the national threatened species list. Because Eastern Curlews are highly migratory, an Australian recovery plan for this species would be of limited value. Successful conservation of this species requires collaborative action across its full geographical range, including at breeding locations, at important migration stop-over points, and in its wintering areas.

Other migratory shorebird species would significantly benefit from international cooperation to protect Eastern Curlews and their important habitats. Such cooperative actions could range from field research, population monitoring and conservation projects, to the establishment of technical and institutional frameworks for action. International species action plans are an important instrument to promote and coordinate activities that seek to protect and restore habitat, and to mitigate obstacles to migration and other controlling factors that might endanger species.

At the EAAFP Eighth Meeting of Partners (MOP8) of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership in Japan, Australia will be seeking a commitment from Partners, including all relevant government Partners, to cooperatively develop an Eastern Curlew Action Plan. While the Australian Government is willing to coordinate development of the plan, it must be a collaborative project with shared national ownership. It is proposed to form a task force at MOP8 to draft the plan, with the aim of seeking its EAAFP endorsement at MOP9.

Timeline and key events:

November 2014 – Seek agreement between bilateral migratory bird agreement parties (Australia, Japan, China and Republic of Korea) at meetings in China to develop an Eastern Curlew Action Plan. Agreement was achieved at these meetings to proceed to MOP8 with a concept to cooperatively develop a plan involving all interested EAAFP Partners.

January 2015 – Establish an Eastern Curlew Action Plan Task Force at MOP9. Australia is willing to chair the task force. Identify relevant key contacts to proceed with the plan.

2015 – Draft the plan collaboratively (Australian lead), via email contact. Hold a workshop, if possible, to finalise draft plan.

2016 – Seek EAAFP endorsement of the draft Eastern Curlew Action Plan at MOP9.

Range States for Eastern Curlew (EAAFP Partners capitalized):

AUSTRALIA, BANGLADESH, Brunei, CHINA, Fiji, Guam (to USA), INDONESIA, JAPAN, MALAYSIA, Micronesia, MONGOLIA, MYANMAR, NEW ZEALAND, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Northern Mariana Islands (to USA), Palau, Papua New Guinea, PHILIPPINES, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, Timor-Leste, VIETNAM.

## Draft Table of Contents for an Eastern Curlew Action Plan

### Executive Summary

### Acknowledgement

1. Introduction
2. Biological Assessment
  - 2.1. Taxonomy
  - 2.2. Global distribution
  - 2.3. Population size and trend
  - 2.4. Important sites
3. Threats
4. Policies and Legislation Relevant for Management
  - 4.1. International conservation and legal status of the species
  - 4.2. International conventions and agreements ratified by the Range States
  - 4.3. National legislation relevant to the Eastern Curlew
5. Framework for Action
  - 5.1. Goal
  - 5.2. Objectives, Actions and Results
6. References

## **4.4 Objective 4: Build capacity to manage waterbirds and their habitats**

DOCUMENT 4.4.1

### **4.4.1 Proposal on the development of next EAAFP Implementation Strategy taking into account the opinions from FNS managers in Japan**

*Background paper prepared by Kaori Tsujita, Japan*

#### Abstract:

MOEJ conducted a questionnaire survey for Japanese FNS managers from Jan. to Feb. 2014 in order to know what kind of activities has been/will be done toward the achievement of current Implementation Strategy 2012-2016.

MOEJ held a National Networking Event for shorebird FNS managers from 30 Sep. to 1 Oct. 2014, and discussion about challenges at each FNS was made with reference to current Implementation Strategy 2012-2016.

At this agenda item, results of the questionnaire survey and the national networking event will be outlined, and following proposal will be made taking into account FNS managers' views.

#### Proposal:

- Develop next Implementation Strategy with similar composition of Work Plan 2015-2016 at MOP9, based on the feedbacks on the Work Plan from Partners and the Secretariat.
- With above recognition, develop and implement the Work Plan and report its achievement before MOP9.

## **4.5 Objective 5: Develop flyway-wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds**

DOCUMENT 4.5.1

### **4.5.1 UNWTO: Destination Flyways and EAAFP sites**

*Background paper prepared by Taej Mundkur, Wetlands International*

DOCUMENT 4.5.2

### **4.5.2 CMS: Global Programme of Work on Flyways and Migratory Birds 2014-2023**

*Background paper prepared by Taej Mundkur, Wetlands International and Chair, CMS Flyways Working Group*

A new global **Programme of Work on Flyways and Migratory Birds 2014-2023** (POW) has been developed recently, the overall purpose of which is to identify and promote implementation of activities at the international and national levels that will effectively contribute to an improvement in the status of migratory birds and their habitats worldwide. This should also achieve an improvement in migratory bird species throughout the world's flyways by: (a) Providing a framework for effective protection of migratory birds throughout their life-cycles; and (b) Enhancing synergies among relevant flyway-related instruments and programmes.

The POW focuses on the following themes:

- (A) Ensuring Migratory Bird Conservation through Flyway/ Ecological Networks and Critical Sites and Habitats and Addressing Key Threats
- (B) Flyway-specific Actions
- (C) Enhancing knowledge to support flyway conservation
- (D) Awareness raising
- (E) Monitoring and reporting
- (F) Resourcing implementation

The POW includes actions to identify and manage critical and other important sites/habitats waterbird monitoring to support this, develop and implement species action plans for threatened species, capacity building, awareness raising, mainstreaming of species into habitat conservation and supporting livelihoods of people dependent on the species and their habitats. This POW identifies the roles of all major stakeholders (government, conventions, NGOs, development sector, corporate sector, local people, technical experts and networks) that are best positioned to undertake the various actions. It recognises the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership as a major stakeholder for waterbirds in this flyway.

The POW is in line with the CBD Aichi Targets 2020 and the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2014-2023. It was formally endorsed under resolution 11.14 by all Parties of the Convention on Migratory Species at their 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties in Ecuador in Nov 2014. It is being forwarded for consideration by the Parties of the CBD and the Ramsar Convention, a process that should also foster greater cooperation across conventions.

The POW is Annexed and can be downloaded from the CMS

website [http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/Res\\_11\\_14\\_PoW\\_on\\_Migratory\\_Birds\\_Flyways\\_En.pdf](http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/Res_11_14_PoW_on_Migratory_Birds_Flyways_En.pdf)

Please find the following annex for more details.

**ANNEX 4.5.2**

**Annex. Doc 4.5.2\_CMS COP PROGRAMME OF WORK ON MIGRATORY BIRDS AND FLYWAYS (Annex 1 to Resolution 11.14)**

**DOCUMENT 4.5.3**

### **4.5.3 Report of the CMS Action plans on Chinese Crested Tern, Black-faced Spoonbill and Spoon-billed Sandpiper**

*Background paper prepared by Simba Chan, BirdLife International*

Implementation of the CMS Action Plans on the Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* will be presented by the SBS Task Force, and the Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor* by the BFS Working Group. Leaders of these two groups are also main compilers of the two action plans. Report here is thus focused on the work of the Critically Endangered Chinese Crested Tern *Thalasseus bernsteini*.

Since the launch of the CMS Chinese Crested Tern Action Plan on 23 February 2010, during EAAFP MOP4 (Inchon, RO Korea), outreach and awareness work was conducted in Fujian and Zhejiang provinces in China to reduce the biggest threat: egg poaching, with reasonable results in reduction of this illegal activity.

From 2013, BirdLife International, the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and the Chinese Crested Tern restoration team from China and the USA started restoration of a deserted breeding site on the Jiushan Islands, Zhejiang Province, China. Social attraction by decoys and playback system were applied: on the first year we had the good result of one Chinese Crested Tern and about 600 Greater Crested Tern chicks fledged, although they arrived at the site later than usual (mid-July 2013).

In the summer of 2014 we continued our work and the project island had been monitored during the breeding season (from May to August). At least 43 Chinese Crested Terns were attracted to the site and at least 20 breeding pairs formed. In July there were a minimum of 13 Chinese Crested Tern chicks fledged: the number is more than 20% of the known global population. There were also 3,000-4,000 Greater Crested Terns attached to the project island with more than 1,000 chicks fledged. This is an unprecedented success amongst similar conservation projects.

Video clip of the project in 2014, taken by two intern students who stayed on the project island in late June <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMU407gLXF0>

In 2015, we will continue the monitoring efforts to ensure the population is firmly recovered, and a good management system will be established for the conservation project. We will also start to band both species of crested terns. We anticipate after a few years we could track the migration of these two species and solve the mystery of their migratory route.

We plan to conduct studies in the most likely wintering area (waters around the islands of eastern Indonesia). We expect this would establish a conservation network for seabirds in the warmer parts of the western Pacific, and filling the gap of seabird conservation and research in the region.

## DOCUMENT 4.5.4

### 4.5.4 Overall goals and objectives of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative

*Background paper prepared by Pete Probasco, USA*

#### **ARCTIC MIGRATORY BIRDS INITIATIVE (AMBI)**

##### **WORKPLAN FOR THE 'East Asian-Australasian Flyway' 6 January 2015**

Authors of plan:

Evgeny Syroechkovskiy (Chair), Birds Russia and Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia  
Nicola Crockford, International Species Policy Officer, BirdLife International, United Kingdom  
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Spike Millington, Chief Executive, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, South Korea

The authors acknowledge the advice and suggestions of many entities in the development of this plan, including many federal, regional and local representatives from EAAF countries; non-governmental organizations; and private individuals. We welcome all interested parties to participate in the implementation and additions to this plan in the coming years.

#### **1. Introduction**

The Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) is a project undertaken by the Arctic Council, through its *Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna* working group. AMBI's work is guided by a steering committee, composed of representatives from Canada, Russia, Norway, United States and BirdLife International.

The overall objective of AMBI is to improve the status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic-breeding migratory bird populations. The Arctic Council recognizes that much of the conservation action needed to meet this objective will occur outside of the Arctic. Therefore AMBI is organized around flyways that arctic migratory birds traverse throughout their life cycles. These flyways include the Circumpolar, African-Eurasian, Americas and East Asian-Australasian.

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway is a migratory corridor that stretches from the Russian Far East and Alaska, southwards through East Asia and south-east Asia, to Australia and New Zealand, encompassing 22 countries (Figure 1) and supporting over 50 million migratory birds from over 250 populations, including 33 globally threatened and 30 near-threatened species.

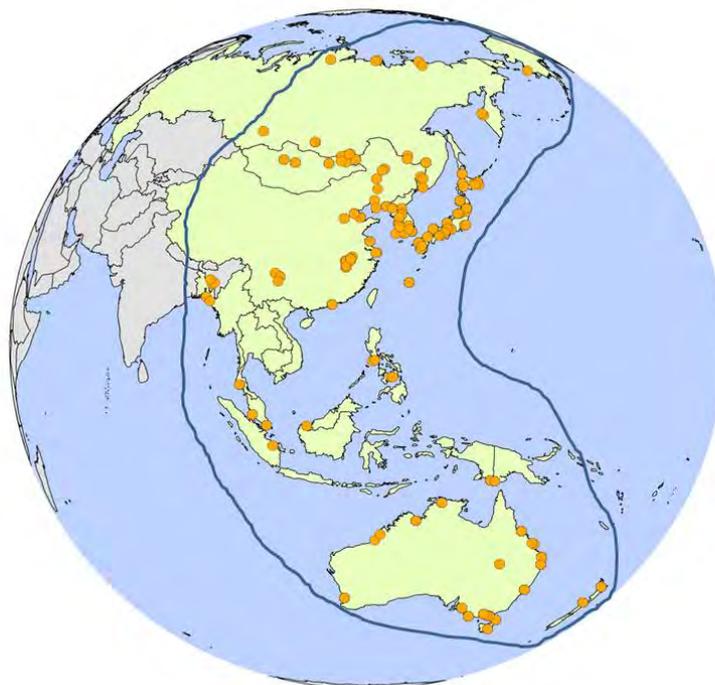


Figure 1. Geographic extent of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, including relevant countries and current Network Sites within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership shown in orange.

This plan documents objectives and actions to ensure the conservation of priority migratory bird species within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, as identified at a global AMBI expert workshop in Montreal, Canada, in February 2014 ([http://www.caff.is/publications/view\\_categories/index.php](http://www.caff.is/publications/view_categories/index.php)), and refined later in 2014 at meetings in Beijing, China in September and in Trondheim, Norway, in December.

Besides the actions listed here, AMBI may take advantage of additional opportunities that arise to undertake strategic conservation actions within the EAAF on arctic-breeding migratory birds of conservation concern or in areas not currently included in this work plan. Future phases of AMBI may have different focal species, depending on the success of the current plan and the urgency with which other species need to be considered in the future.

## 2. Priority Species, Areas and Issues

The underlying objective of all conservation activities related to Arctic-migratory birds that use the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) is to ensure their survival and recovery in perpetuity. These activities will require extensive collaboration and cooperation among EAAF partners, including Russia and the United States providing a leading role, but also involvement of other

Arctic countries (e.g. Norway and Denmark), EAAF observer countries to the Arctic Council (China, Korea, Japan, Singapore and India) and other Arctic Council observer countries (e.g. countries bordering the Wadden Sea).

AMBI EAAF subcommittee representatives initially identified the following five priority Arctic shorebird species for conservation: Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Great Knot, Red Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit and Dunlin, plus Lesser White-fronted Goose (more information in Annex A). Numerous co-occurring species will also benefit from the conservation actions proposed for the flagship species mentioned above. This includes both resident and migratory birds.

Representatives also identified three priority issues:

1. To identify and protect key breeding and staging areas within arctic Russia and the United States.
2. To protect and sustainably manage intertidal habitats, especially at migration staging sites in the Yellow and East China seas of China and South Korea, and wintering areas of south-east Asian countries.
3. To prevent the illegal killing and regulate the unsustainable legal harvest of migratory birds along the flyway.

### **3. Issues and Actions**

Migratory bird issues transcend habitats, countries, and cultures, as do conservation solutions. AMBI recognizes that concerted action between countries, communities, and individual stakeholders is key to success of the initiative.

#### **Objective 3.1. Secure important breeding and staging habitats of key AMBI-EAAF migratory bird species in arctic Russia and Alaska, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit and Dunlin.**

Although the Russian and Alaskan arctic is relatively pristine compared to most regions of the EAAF, a number of areas of particular importance for breeding or staging of key priority species need to be effectively protected. Efforts are needed to identify and protect these important sites through international, national, or regional frameworks. To assist in this, there is a need for sharing of experiences, between Russia (especially in the Beringia breeding areas) and United States and with other CAFF countries, on methodologies for surveying bird distribution, monitoring population size and trends, conducting demographic studies and managing habitats of migratory birds.

#### **Russia**

##### ***Action 3.1.1. Improve conservation work on Spoon-billed Sandpiper in the breeding grounds.***

- a. Identify and protect known Spoon-billed Sandpiper breeding habitat including creation of a network of protected areas in Southern Chukotka at key breeding locations;
- b. Survey potential but previously unsurveyed breeding sites in Chukotka and revisit sites not monitored for more than ten years to update the status of the species at locations and develop local conservation plans.
- c. Ensure priority conservation measures in the Arctic are taken including continuous support of Spoon-billed Sandpiper head-start program in Meinypilgyno as the most efficient tool to increase breeding productivity.
- d. Improve knowledge on breeding distribution, population productivity and local threats to Bar-tailed Godwit and Dunlin, as well as Red and Great Knots in the Eastern Russian Arctic to provide necessary information for improvement of conservation measures.

**Action 3.1.2. Document existence of important staging areas in coastal areas of Russia for priority species, and where possible encourage and assist their nomination as EAAF Partnership Network Sites with followup conservation actions.**

### **United States**

**Action 3.1.3. Encourage and assist in the nomination of important breeding and staging areas used by priority species in Alaska as part of the EAAF Partnership Flyway Site Network.**

### **Russia/United States**

**Action 3.1.4. Share experience and methodologies for surveying shorebird distribution, monitoring population size and trends, conducting demographic studies, and managing habitats of priority species and other migratory birds.**

- a. Share experiences associated with monitoring and conserving breeding shorebirds in the Beringia area via cooperation projects and exchange visits between Russian and United States specialists, with an initial focus on existing field stations studying Spoon-billed Sandpipers in Chukotka and Dunlin at Barrow.
- b. With the assistance of Russian experts on Spoon-billed Sandpipers, survey potential breeding areas for this species in western Alaska.
- c. Prepare manuals and conduct training courses and exchange visits related to the monitoring of geese populations (e.g., developing aerial survey methods using experience of United States Fish and Wildlife Service) and managing of habitats on the breeding and non-breeding grounds within Russia.

### **Objective 3.2. Securing intertidal and associated habitat for Arctic waders at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF**

The loss and degradation of habitat along the flyway is the focal conservation issue for this work plan, especially at the critical staging sites for most priority species provided by the intertidal areas of the Yellow Sea. These threats are numerous and include coastal development; declining river flows and high levels of pollution leading to reduced benthic productivity and declining food supplies for shorebirds, sea level rise, and impairment of key sites through human-induced disturbance.

Indeed, reclamation of coastal wetlands of the Yellow Sea is occurring at a rate unprecedented elsewhere in the world. As well as compromising the continued provision of valuable ecosystem services, it is driving one of the two major extinction crises facing the world's migratory birds. This is because many arctic-breeding migratory waterbirds, including the five AMBI EAAF priority shorebird species, depend on these habitats for refuelling on their long migrations between breeding and wintering areas.

### **Russia**

**Action 3.2.1. Ensure protection of northwest Sakhalin and West Kamchatka coast, notably intertidal areas.**

- a. Undertake surveys of intertidal areas and develop habitat maps particularly in the areas of ongoing and planned mineral resource development.
- b. Undertake surveys of key shorebird concentrations during passage seasons and develop conservation plans for key areas.
- c. Raise awareness of the conservation importance of key sites and mobilize local conservation activities to protect habitat.
- d. Initiate cooperation of administrations of coastal regions within the Far East of Russian Federation (Chukotskiy Autonomous District, Sakhalin Oblast', Kamchatskiy and Khabrovskiy Kray) on conservation of migratory birds and environmental education.

## **United States**

***Action 3.2.2. Gather better information on spring and fall staging sites and requirements of Dunlin and Bar-tailed Godwits along western Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, coastal Bristol Bay, and northern side of Alaska Peninsula.***

## **China**

***Action 3.2.3. Ensure protection of Jiangsu Coast ecosystem, especially Rudong and Dongtai area, for Spoon-billed Sandpiper and other Arctic shorebirds .***

- a. Ensure the protection of all sites important for Spoon-billed Sandpiper, including designating and effectively protecting and managing national nature reserves or similar level protected areas over a sufficient extent of key staging habitat to sustain populations of Spoon-billed Sandpiper and other Arctic waterbirds.
- b. Ensure the enforcement of existing regulations in national nature or reserves designed to protect critical habitats and the associated migratory birds. Ensure, through work with National and Provincial governments, the stopping or modification of intertidal reclamation plans in Jiangsu province that are likely to damage populations of Arctic-breeding waterbirds, in particular ensuring the revision of development plans for the Tiaozini Reclamation project to exclude Spoon-billed Sandpiper habitat.
- c. Undertake public awareness raising and ecotourism activities to develop local and national pride in migratory stopover and wintering sites including support for an annual SBS Festival organised by "SBS in China".
- d. Support the conservation of intertidal flats and bird species by 1) developing business partnership agreements with local entrepreneurs to promote ecotourism that supports protected area establishment and management; such ecotourism might include attractive information centres that are tourism attractions in their own right and provide environmental education, 2) promoting ecological certification of the shellfish industry.
- e. Explore the feasibility of restoring intertidal flats and associated habitats , including through *Spartina* control, to sustain migratory bird populations and restore ecosystem services.

***Action 3.2.4. Ensure protection of Luannan Coast especially Nanbao, Tanshan for Red Knot and other Arctic shorebirds***

- a. Secure protected area status and effective management of remaining intertidal habitat and associated wetland ecosystems and demonstrate optimised management for arctic shorebirds of a complex of intertidal, fish/shrimp ponds and salt works in line with the principles of eco-civilisation.
- b. Start work toward establishing a Hemispheric Coastal Environment Observatory for Migration Studies at Nanbao linked to the Field Studies Centre being developed by Wetlands International further inland and with Broome Bird Observatory in Australia.
- c. Develop ecotourism and public awareness raising activities to promote local and national pride in the global importance of Nanbao.

***Action 3.2.5. Ensure protection at Yalu Jiang, Liaoning for Bar-tailed Godwit, Dunlin, Great Knot and other Arctic shorebirds***

- a. At Yalu Jiang NNR support development and implementation of a management plan to halt further loss of intertidal area and conserve and restore habitat for feeding and roosting.
- a. Support public awareness raising activities to highlight the global importance of the site and develop local and national pride and ownership.
- b. Share positive experiences between festival organizers at Yalu Jiang and other important areas, such as Alaska and New Zealand as a way of building support for conservation at these sites.

## **South Korea**

All of South Korea's remaining intertidal areas are under threat from rapid urban and infrastructure development. Actions are needed to promote the role and importance of intertidal areas as a globally shared natural heritage supporting migratory waterbirds and local communities.

Community-based awareness and citizen science initiatives have been developed at one or two intertidal areas in South Korea (e.g., through the WWF Yellow Sea Ecoregion project). Further, a second phase of the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project is about to start and AMBI could complement efforts under this project to promote sustainable shellfish production and conservation of intertidal habitats, as well as community-based awareness and involvement programs.

***Action 3.2.6. Improve conservation of the Geum Estuary, including restoration of Saemangeum, for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Great Knot, and Dunlin.***

- a. Implement best practice on coastal restoration, including technical cooperation and scientific exchange with United States and Wadden Sea countries, to restore Saemangeum.
- b. Support the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands, including showing global leadership in building a "Caring for Coasts" Initiative under the CBD and Ramsar Convention.
- c. Develop an intertidal conservation program at the National Institute of Ecology.
- d. Support nomination of Geum Estuary mudflats as a World Heritage Site, along with the Shinan County intertidal zone, by sharing experiences with the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat.
- e. Promote the importance of conserving Korea's remaining intertidal zones for balanced development and conservation of Arctic-breeding and other migratory waterbirds, including development and promotion of types of tourism which supports protected areas.

**All Countries**

***Action 3.2.7: To coordination implementation of actions related to the conservation of intertidal habitats in the EAAF, raise funds to hire a new full-time staff position affiliated with the EAAFP Secretariat based in Korea. Details of this position will be discussed with the CAFF Secretariat in Iceland.***

**Objective 3.3. Prevent illegal harvest and regulate unsustainable legal harvest of Arctic migratory birds, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Bar-tailed Godwit, and other priority species.**

A major threat to arctic breeding species in the EAAF is presented by the wide-scale, illegal harvest and sale of migratory birds at markets in many Asian countries. There is also a problem of poorly documented or managed harvests in Russia and the United States. Of particular concern is the harvest of the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper and vulnerable Lesser White-fronted Geese, especially at key non-breeding sites along the coast of China and South-East Asia and breeding areas along the Russian coasts of Kamchatka, Sea of Okhotsk and Sakhalin. Presently, few if any national and regional strategies and action plans have been developed for monitoring and regulating the level of illegal and legal harvest occurring throughout the flyway.

**Russia**

***Action 3.3.1. Support development and implementation of national and regional strategies and action plans for elimination of illegal harvest of birds in Russia.***

- a. Conduct surveys at key shorebird stopover sites in Eastern Siberia and the Far East to identify key concentrations of shorebirds and Lesser White-fronted Geese during north and southbound migration, and work with local/regional governments to develop protected areas and prepare conservation plans for such sites. Plans should include information on raising

awareness of impacts of illegal harvest and methods to reduce and eventually eliminate it, especially in Sakhalin and West Kamchatka.

- b. Work with federal and regional legislators to reduce/close sport hunting of all migratory shorebirds and geese of unfavorable conservation status in Eastern Siberia and the Russian Far East.
- c. Improve knowledge of migratory routes and key areas of different shorebird and lesser white-fronted goose populations through satellite tracking and color marking to assist identifying management units for decision making on population management.
- d. Update Russian National Red Data book with key declining Arctic migratory species of EAAF to be included in the new edition and initiate development and implementation of regional plans for their conservation.

### **United States**

#### ***Action 3.3.2. Conduct outreach, assess the magnitude and impacts of legal subsistence harvest on priority birds in Alaska, with a focus on Bar-tailed Godwits.***

- a. Develop outreach materials on priority species that are harvested in the spring and summer subsistence harvest; materials should be in English and relevant native languages.
- b. Work with Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Information Technicians to begin a dialogue with rural Alaskans to discuss the status of priority species, and the role they play in regulating these populations.
- c. Assess the importance of priority species in the diet of rural Alaskans. This step should, where possible, assess the level of harvest occurring.
- d. Once reasonable estimates of harvest is documented, conduct population modeling to assess whether this level of take is impacting population sizes of priority species.
- e. Should levels of harvest be found to have a measureable impact on the priority species, work with (1) Refuge Information Technicians to develop outreach programs to reduce level of harvest, (2) the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council to prevent the legal harvest of relevant species, and (3) school administrators and teachers to develop class programs to educate students about impact of harvest;
- f. Share best experience with the Russian part of Beringia to assist in developing dialogue with local communities on sustainable hunting of shorebirds and improvement of management practices.

### **China**

#### ***Action 3.3.3. Support development and implementation of national and regional strategies and action plans for elimination of illegal harvest of birds in China.***

- a. Work with the Chinese government to ensure the highest level of national protection for the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper.
- b. Inventory levels of legal and illegal killing of waterbirds at all key coastal sites used by Spoon-billed Sandpiper, and work with local/regional governments to raise awareness of impacts of illegal harvest and develop methods to eliminate it, as part of overall conservation actions for the sites.
- c. Use satellite tracking and other means to identify key stopovers of Lesser White-fronted Goose and other Arctic geese, and work with national/regional governments and research institutions to develop monitoring techniques and implement conservation plans for such sites; plans should include actions to eliminate illegal harvest.
- d. Improve survey and monitoring efforts to increase the knowledge and distribution of priority species including Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwits, and Great and Red Knots at stopover and wintering grounds to assess the level and mitigate illegal killing.

- e. Better understand and address the drivers behind the system of illegal trapping and marketing of wild birds.
- f. Support the development of regular monitoring and enforcement actions at key markets and restaurants focused on illegal wild birds in cooperation with SFA, regional governments, law enforcement organizations and Food Control Inspectors.
- g. Support the organization of national and regional workshops in China to address illegal hunting issues and follow up actions on implementation, especially to end all illegal hunting and poisoning, including mass deaths of shorebirds, at Tiaozini Sandflats.

### **Singapore/Southeast Asia**

#### ***Action 3.3.4. Support Singapore in its development of a program to mitigate, reduce or eliminate illegal killing of Arctic-migratory shorebirds in Southeast Asian countries.***

- a. Prepare and publish an overview of the problem in the region.
- b. Support the preparation of case studies aimed at highlighting illegal killing at demonstration sites, including raising awareness of the issue, conservation planning and alternative livelihood programs.

#### ***Action 3.3.5. Cooperate with Singapore on the development of wide-scale international dialog focused on the conservation of Arctic migratory birds in South-East Asia.***

- a. Explore the opportunity of organizing in Singapore in 2016-17 an international conference/workshop on Arctic bird conservation and conservation planning with a focus on illegal harvest and sustainable use of coastal wetlands in Southeast Asia.
- b. Encourage development of diplomatic dialog within ASEAN region to promote cooperation on the conservation of Arctic migratory birds and addressing of unsustainable use of their resources and their wetland habitats.

### **Japan**

#### ***Action 3.3.6. Initiate a dialog to promote cooperation on the conservation of Arctic migratory birds on the EAAF with focus on selected priority actions identified within this Action plan and building on existing bilateral migratory bird agreements.***

### **India**

#### ***Action 3.3.7. Initiate a dialog with India as Arctic Council observer with an aim to plan and implement actions to mitigate, reduce or eliminate illegal harvest of Arctic-migratory birds in India.***

### **All Countries**

#### ***Action 3.3.8. To ensure implementation of actions on illegal killing and unsustainable harvest, raise funds to hire a full-time coordinator in the Singapore office of BirdLife-Asia whose responsibilities will be to:***

- a. Coordinate with EAAF partners, NGOs and other federal and provincial leaders to raise funds through proposal writing and other means to address the illegal killing and unsustainable harvest issue.
- b. Ensure the preparation and publication of a comprehensive overview of the illegal killing and unsustainable harvest problems identified in the region.
- c. Support the preparation of case studies aimed at highlighting solutions to illegal harvest at demonstration sites, including raising awareness of the issue, conservation planning and alternative livelihood programs.

- d. Liaise with the Secretariat of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (see AMBI African-Eurasian work plan for further details) on coordinating the work on Lesser White-fronted Goose.

## **Annex A. Species of special Conservation Concern**

### **Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*)**

This is one of the most threatened shorebird species in the world and a key flagship bird for conservation of coastal birds in East Asia. During the past 30 years, the originally small population of this species has declined ca. 90% to ca. 100 breeding pairs, with on-going declines occurring. It is recognized by IUCN as Critically Endangered and the Zoological Society of London listed it as one of the 100 most threatened living creatures on the Planet during the last World Conservation Congress in Korea in 2012.

No subspecies or separate geographic populations are recognized in this species; however some geographical segregation both on breeding and wintering grounds likely exists. All birds breed in Chukotka, Russia but those from the northern part winter in Bangladesh and Myanmar and those from the south winter in Thailand, Myanmar and probably China, Vietnam, Cambodia and Malaysia.

Spoon-billed Sandpipers migrate along the East Asian coastline stopping in small numbers in the Russian Far East, Japan, Korea and China. The most important known staging areas for the species during northbound and southbound migration are the one hundred kilometers of coast line in Rudong and Dongtai areas (including Tiaozini sandflats) in Jiangsu, China. This portion of the East Asian coast is also the only area where adult Spoon-billed Sandpipers are known to undergo a primary wing molt, making this area critically important for the survival of the species.

The main problem for the species includes the reclamation of intertidal habitats in China and SE Asia as well as hunting on the wintering grounds and during migrations in China.

### **Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)**

Two subspecies of Red Knot (*piersmai* and *rogersi*) migrate along the EAAF and both breed in Russia; *piersmai* breeds in the New Siberian Islands and *rogersi* in Chukotka. On the non-breeding grounds, birds of these subspecies mix, but *rogersi* is likely most prevalent in New Zealand and Eastern Australia, while *piersmai* predominates in Western Australia.

Both subspecies are highly dependent on the Chinese part of the Yellow Sea, staging there on both northbound and southbound migrations. Two other important staging areas for *rogersi* during southbound migration are the western coast of the Sea of Okhotsk in Russia and the Gulf of Carpentaria in Australia. Presumably the same is true for *piersmai* as well.

The species has been declining at a rate of ca. 2% per year in recent decades. Nothing has changed significantly on the breeding and non-breeding grounds, while large scale changes (reclamation, pollution, and human disturbance) are present and increasing at the main staging area in the Yellow Sea.

### **Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*)**

Separate geographic populations are not known in this species. Between their alpine breeding grounds in Eastern Siberia and the main non-breeding grounds on the coasts of Australia, Great Knots migrate in long non-stop flights along the East Asian-Australasian flyway using one or two staging areas on the way for refueling. Smaller numbers of Great Knots also overwinter in India and the Persian Gulf which they likely access after traveling around southeastern Asia. The Korean and Chinese coasts of the Yellow Sea host the most important staging area for migrant Great Knots.

The population decline is estimated at ca. 2–2.5% per year in recent decades. IUCN considers the Great Knot as a Vulnerable species. Reclamation of tidal areas both in Korea and China are considered the main reason for the decline.

### **Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)**

Three Bar-tailed Godwit subspecies (*baueri*, *menzbieri* and *anadyrensis*) migrate through the EAAF. The *baueri* subspecies breeds in Alaska and migrates non-stop across the Pacific Ocean to winter in New Zealand. This subspecies uses distinct stopover sites in the Yellow Sea only on northbound migration, where virtually 100% of the birds stop to refuel. In contrast, the *menzbieri* subspecies breeds in Russia and stops in distinct locations in the Yellow Sea during both north and southbound migration to reach wintering areas in Australia. Very little is known about the very small population of the *anadyrensis* subspecies, which breeds in east-central Chukotka, Russia, and migrates to New Zealand staging in the Yellow Sea on the way.

This total dependence on the Yellow Sea as a refueling site makes all three subspecies particularly vulnerable to degradation of intertidal habitats. In addition the *menzbieri* subspecies experiences some level of illegal hunting in China and legal harvest in Russia, whereas the *baueri* subspecies experiences illegal hunting in parts of China and legal subsistence harvest in Alaska. The *baueri* and *menzbieri* subspecies are declining at an approximate rate of 2.9% and 7.3% per year. The breeding range of *anadyrensis* is shrinking in size although no exact figures available.

### **Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)**

Four Dunlin subspecies (*actites*, *arcticola*, *sakhalina*, and *kistchinski*) migrate through and winter in the EAAF. All breed in Russia except for the *arcticola* subspecies of northern Alaska, and all four migrate along the EAAF. Twenty-three staging sites of international importance have been identified to date (>1% of population), ten being important during both northbound and southbound migrations. Most sites are located in the Yellow Sea and most birds are thought to winter in China, with much smaller numbers in Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and even smaller numbers in other Pacific Rim countries.

The major threats to Dunlin include loss or degradation of intertidal habitat due to reclamation and dam construction, illegal killing, pollution, and human disturbance on the staging areas in the Yellow Sea and the non-breeding regions in southern China, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan. It is a legal species to harvest in Alaska, and is a traditional subsistence harvest animal for indigenous people of Far Eastern Russia. The level of legal harvest in Alaska is likely low but might be quite substantial in parts of Russia.

The lack of easily identifiable morphological characters means that for all practical purposes the subspecies must be managed as one unit on the nonbreeding grounds despite the fact that the *actites* subspecies numbers less than 1000 and the remainder number over 500,000 each. The *arcticola* and *sakhalina* subspecies are thought to be declining but little other information on trends is available for the other subspecies. In Japan, spring time counts of Dunlin, which may include several of the subspecies, have declined 4.8% per year over the last decade.

Please find the following annex document for details.

**ANNEX 4.5.4**

**Annex. Doc 4.5.4\_ CAFF Strategy Series Report No. 5, May 2014\_ Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI)**

**DOCUMENT 4.5.5**

**4.5.5 Proposal for a collaborative academic program to investigate the costs and feasibility of restoring/reconstructing tidal mudflat habitat for migratory shorebirds**

*Background paper prepared by Richard Fuller, University of Queensland*

### **International collaborative program to investigate feasibility of incorporating retention/reconstruction of tidal flats within coastal development precincts.**

It is now generally understood that many migratory waterbirds in the EAAF are undergoing significant population declines. For example, two migratory shorebird species, Curlew Sandpiper and Eastern Curlew, are currently nominated for listing as critically endangered and endangered respectively under Australia's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. These declines are in many cases attributed to diminishing tidal mudflat habitat throughout their migration routes.

There has been a concerted effort for more than a decade to halt this habitat loss, with discussions at the biennial JAMBA, CAMBA and ROKAMBA meetings, and the establishment of the multilateral East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership in part to address this issue. While these efforts and many others have successfully elevated awareness of the problem, little or no progress has been made in reducing the rate or dimension of intertidal habitat loss to development. Within Australia, little consideration has been given to the impact of cumulative loss of important migratory waterbird habitat within the precincts of large port developments.

This lack of success in influencing intertidal habitat loss may partly result from a failure to identify viable solutions. Attempts to address the issue have mostly involved calls for stopping coastal development altogether. This is clearly not likely to succeed. The retention and/or reconstruction of shorebird habitat within major coastal development precincts is potentially far more attractive, and could be marketed as a 'win – win' solution. However, the viability of reconstructing shorebird habitat has not been fully explored, even though some small scale successes are known within Australia and elsewhere around the world.

The concept of a major research program to investigate the feasibility of retention and/or reconstruction of tidal mudflat habitat within coastal development precincts needs to be approached on a collaborative basis. It would ideally include collaboration with governments around the flyway together with academic institutions and non-governmental organisations. It would need collaboration among various experts including coastal engineers, oceanographers and marine biologists, as well as the corporate sector involved in coastal development projects. An ideal start-up project would involve investigation and reporting of previous work in this area; a number of demonstration projects would need to quickly follow.

The CBD COP12 Decision on Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration included reference to the formation of a global Caring for Coasts Initiative, and this is being actively promoted by BirdLife, Ramsar and Wetlands International. This provides an opportunity for work in the EAAF to form part of a broader global initiative.

If retaining and/or reconstructing shorebird habitat within coastal development areas can be proven viable, a natural progression would be to gain acceptance for its adoption within national development assessment and approval processes. This could result in provision of enough tidal mudflat to stem or at least slow the declines of some migratory waterbirds. At present, there seems to be no alternative, practical strategy available or proposed to begin moving this issue in a positive direction.

#### **Timeline and key events:**

**January 2015 (EAAFP MoP8)** – Seek endorsement and support from Partners in the EAAFP to participate in a collaborative research program to investigate the viability of retaining and reconstructing tidal flat habitat within major coastal developments. Consider forming a technical working group or task force. Decide on the best way to link with the Caring for Coast Initiative.

**2015/16** – Investigate previous work on topic; establish contacts and settings for trial applications.

**2017-19** – Run trials; establish and monitor success of trials.

#### **DOCUMENT 4.5.6**

### **4.5.6 Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds using the Mitigation Hierarchy (including Biodiversity Offsets) in Development Projects**

*Background paper prepared by Ward Hagemeijer, Wetlands International*

The Mitigation Hierarchy, including Biodiversity Offsets, as a leading mechanism in planning and implementing development projects.

Wetlands International sees the application of the Mitigation Hierarchy in the planning and implementation of development projects as an important opportunity to create value and impact for both the company and stakeholders concerned with biodiversity and ecosystems. Therefore, would like to promote more engagement of 'flyway practitioners' in such development projects that happen in (or with an impact on) a wetland environment. Wetlands International can help EAAF Partners and other companies and governments with wetland specific expertise in implementation of the mitigation hierarchy, starting with avoiding of main sensitivities all the way through to implementation of offsets.

Below, we explain about an innovative approach to offsetting (Mudbank) that we are developing to deliver optimal biodiversity return from an offset, where it relates to (compensating impacts on) migratory waterbirds. This is fully in line with the Flyway approach, which is an important way of working of Wetlands International and many governments around the world.

Mudbank: Responsible business supporting biodiversity and flyway conservation

Mudbank is an innovative approach for business to support the conservation of wetlands and migratory waterbirds around the globe. To offset the impact of development projects, Mudbank invests on behalf of companies in the permanent protection of important coastal habitat along migratory flyways. It is designed to be an option in the Mitigation Hierarchy—and not just an “in lieu of” solution.

In a growing market for biodiversity offsets, Mudbank (is a specialized product that) maximises the positive impact on biodiversity conservation by offering a portfolio of critical sites where investment can effectively enhance the survival of waterbird populations. This international approach has both local and global benefits for waterbird conservation. Mudbank provides the expertise to ensure the long term sustainability of offsets; administering the acquisition, management and monitoring of waterbird habitat and - populations, working with (supported by) companies, governments, (conservation and International Flyway Agreements) NGOs and local stakeholders.

For regulators and other government entities Mudbank is a powerful means of mobilizing much needed resources, generated by development, into complying with their – often international – commitments for safeguarding their biodiversity resources. Especially in the field of conservation of migratory waterbirds and their international flyways availability of adequate resources has for long lagged behind.

The need for effective biodiversity offsets

Coastal areas and wetlands are some of the most productive and biologically diverse on the planet.

Human activity along the world's coastlines is fast increasing, driven by growing populations and rapid economic development. The rate of loss and deterioration of wetlands is accelerating in all regions of the world. The pressure on wetlands, especially along coasts, is likely to intensify in the coming decades due to increased global demand for land and water, impounded by effects of climate change.

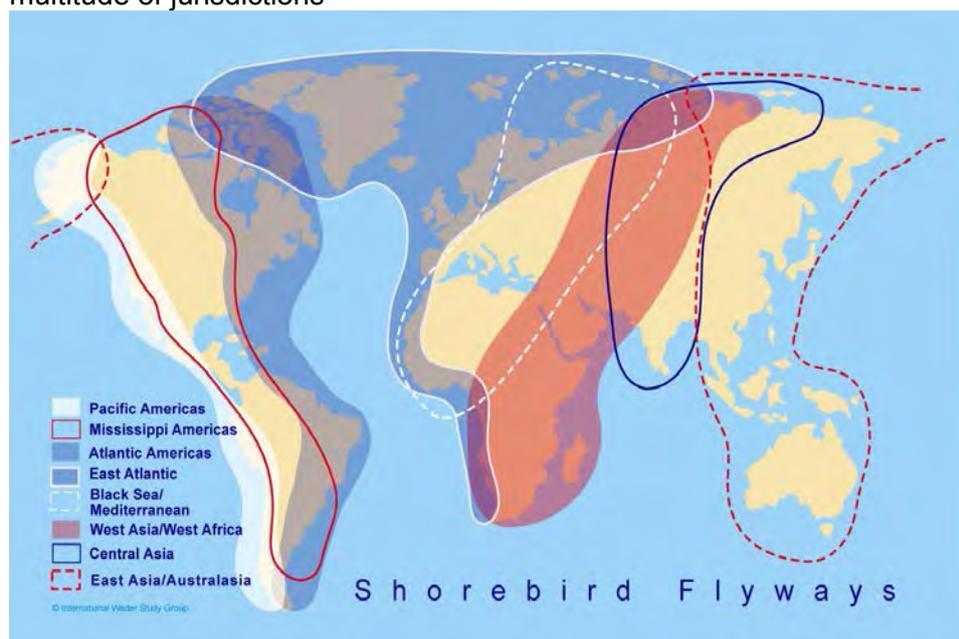
In order to secure economic growth while protecting nature, regulators are increasingly requiring offsets to compensate for unavoidable adverse impacts arising from development. Well-designed offsets are a solution for business to demonstrate a commitment to sustainable development and preferably a net positive impact by leaving biodiversity better off.

Mudbank is a strategic approach to comply with environmental and social policies and processes, seeking to deliver maximum biodiversity benefits, efficiently and cost effectively. This affords companies an opportunity to ensure a continued license to operate while establishing a conservation track record with regulators and stakeholders.

Why waterbirds and flyways?

Waterbirds are a charismatic and diverse group of nearly 900 wetland dependent bird species and one of the most remarkable examples of global biodiversity. Many species complete arduous annual migrations of several thousands of kilometres between their breeding and non-breeding

areas. These migration routes that span across continents are called flyways, covering a multitude of jurisdictions



Wetlands and shorelines are critical to migratory waterbirds. Within a flyway, birds need 'stepping stones' of high quality habitat where they can stop, rest and refuel. Different species of waterbirds congregate to rest and feed in large numbers of wetland stopover sites within the different countries of a flyway at different times of year.

Safeguarding the future of waterbird populations requires coordinated international action throughout the length of a flyway and the permanent availability of the most important stopover sites. Yet many critical sites currently have little or no protection and are under increasing threats. Local success of waterbird conservation can only be ensured and enjoyed when the flyway populations are safeguarded, otherwise the birds will just not return. This needs action at the weakest link of the chain.

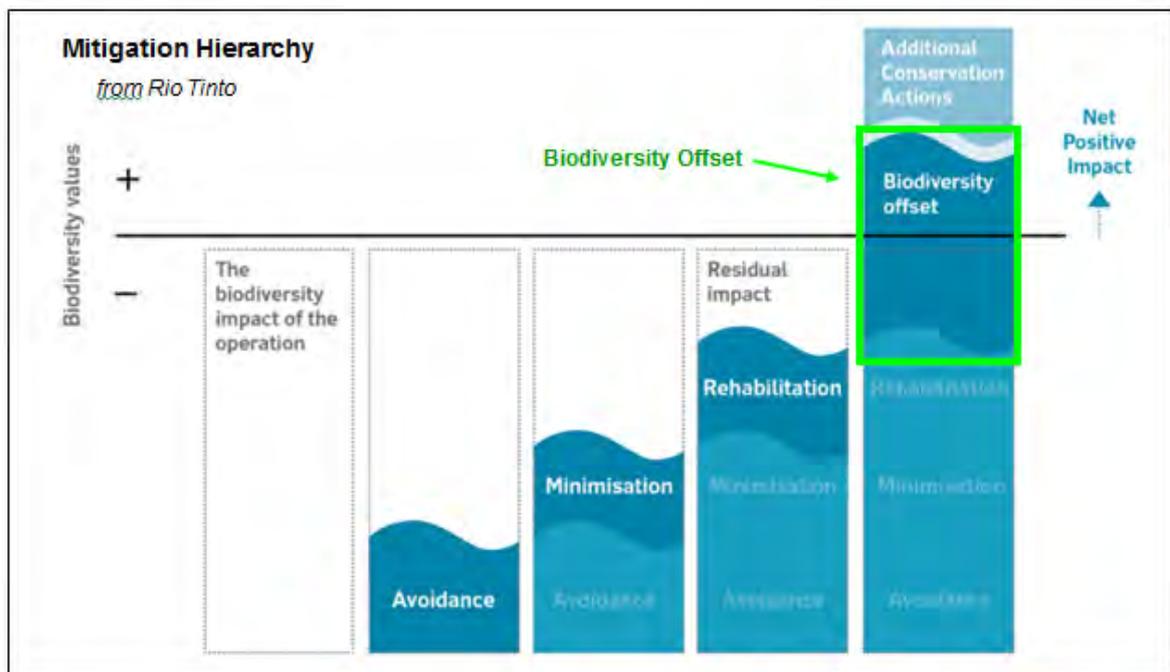
#### Mudbank can secure better conservation outcomes

Similarly, on return on offset investments, local offsets for waterbirds will be ineffective if large geographic areas of their international range are left unprotected. Mudbank can secure better conservation outcomes for waterbirds both locally and along the flyway through offsets that protect large blocks of critical unprotected habitat. While Mudbank takes into account the need to return benefits to the local project site, its unique approach is to target habitat outside the project's borders, protecting waterbird biodiversity at the broader flyway scale.

Mudbank offsets provide immediate gains for biodiversity by conserving critical threatened habitat along a flyway based on expert science. By identifying and pooling large blocks of habitat, Mudbank has the capacity to address key threats along a flyway and quickly offset multiple projects that provide a measurable lasting benefit for waterbird biodiversity. Mudbank will work with governments, stakeholders and intergovernmental flyway initiatives in the region to broker deals in a transparent and accountable manner, subject to monitoring and independent audits.

#### Mudbank and the Mitigation Hierarchy

Mudbank follows the accepted Mitigation Hierarchy of avoiding, minimising and mitigating project impacts. Offsetting with Mudbank compensates for residual, unavoidable harm, and aims to achieve a net positive impact for biodiversity. Mudbank is not an appropriate mechanism for offsetting damages in areas of high biodiversity or where development should not occur in the first place.



Other work that Wetlands International is doing in the context of the Mitigation Hierarchy is on the identification of Critical Habitat in the Arctic. We have also developed a tool for ecosystem based baseline surveys and identification of main sensitivities. Furthermore we are working on a concept – Allowable Envelope – to help define what ‘wise use’ means in terms of the management of specific parameters.

#### Example: The Yellow Sea bottleneck

The East Asian – Australasian Flyway connects virtually every country in the Asia-Pacific region. The overwhelming pace of coastal land reclamation in the Yellow Sea region of East Asia is resulting in the tremendous loss of valuable waterbird habitat. The loss of these important waterbird food and rest stops is a ‘bottleneck’ that is leading to alarming declines in the many waterbird populations along the flyway. Simply conserving more habitat in Australia for instance, is not enough to halt the decline since many of the Australian populations must pass through this Yellow Sea bottleneck. More Yellow Sea habitat must be protected to better ensure the long term survival of waterbird populations along the flyway.



An example of a flyway: the East Asian – Australasian Flyway

Wetlands International invites EAAF partners and other stakeholders, both governments and companies to actively join the development of Mudbank. Together, we can deliver offsets that are more effective and efficient than a business as usual approach. Flyways connect wetlands and also often connect operations of companies. The migratory birds as connectors around the world provide a wonderful communication opportunity. We would like to further explore opportunities to develop flyway work, flyway offsetting and associated communication opportunities as part of the work program of the EAAF partnership.

For more information on how Mudbank works with businesses and governments to achieve better biodiversity outcomes for waterbirds, please contact:

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DOCUMENT 5.1.1

### 5.1.1 Participatory Workshop: Shorebird WG and Yellow Sea TF

*Agenda provided by Ken Gosbell and Doug Watkins*

#### **EAAFP Collaborative Work Programme for Shorebird Conservation - Yellow Sea Ecoregion 2015-2016**

Draft Agenda

1. Opening remarks from the Chairs
2. Introduction of participants (name and affiliation)
3. Adaption of the draft Agenda
4. Renewing the mandate for the Yellow Sea Taskforce
  - Update of the Terms of Reference
  - Election on a new Chair for the Taskforce
5. Developing a EAA Flyway Partnership Work Program for the Yellow Sea Ecoregion
  - 4.1 Prioritizing migratory shorebirds for conservation in the EAA Flyway (<http://www.eaaflyway.net/wwf-hong-kong-has-just-released-a-report-entitled-prioritizing-migratory-shorebirds-for-conservation-action-on-the-east-asian-australasian-flyway>) – Bena Smith, WWF Hong Kong
  - 4.2 Yellow Sea Draft Work Program (see meeting paper), Doug Watkins (consultant to WWF Hong Kong)

## Reference Sites

- 4.2.1 Geum Estuary (Chungcheongnam-do/Jeollabuk-do, RoKorea), BirdLife International
- 4.2.2 Coastal surveys in DPR Korea – Miranda Naturalists Trust
- 4.2.3 Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve (Liaoning, China), Miranda Naturalists Trust
- 4.2.4 Luannan coast (Hebei, China), Global Flyways Network
- 4.2.5 Jiangsu coast (Jiangsu, China)
- 4.2.6 Additional sites that Partners will be working at?

## 4.3 Complementary and linked initiatives

- 4.4 Coastal Blueprint (China)
- 4.5 Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative for the EAAF

## 4.6 Proposed collaboration themes derived from the EAAFP Implementation Strategy

## 4.7 Collaboration mechanisms

## 6. Report back to MoP 8

### **EAAFP Collaborative Work Programme for Shorebird Conservation - Yellow Sea Ecoregion 2015-2016**

*Drafted by Doug Watkins (funded by WWF-Hong Kong)*

#### Summary

For more than a decade, international environmental Conventions and forums have been calling for greater action to conserve the global biodiversity values of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion. To date, while a number of East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) Partners have been actively conducting activities around the Yellow Sea, collaboration between Partners in this work has been limited. While the need for a collaborative Flyway Partnership Program has been recognised since MoP 3, this has yet to be successfully developed.

During 2013 and 2014 WWF-Hong Kong lead a project to assess the status of migratory shorebirds and to develop a plan to respond to the threatened status of the 20 populations. This work again emphasised the critical importance of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion and the need for a program of work in this ecoregion. The primary threats to the priority shorebird populations are habitat loss and degradation. The response needed is one that addresses the management of the coastal habitats of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion.

The EAA Flyway Partnership has a strong mandate to develop and implement a work program for the Yellow Sea Ecoregion. This is recognised in the Partnership Implementation Strategy and in Resolutions from Ramsar Convention Conferences of Parties and the 2012 IUCN Congress.

This document outlines a draft work plan for the Yellow Sea Ecoregion. The program is focused on developing a set of coastal “reference sites”, some of which have had Partner engagement in activities for over 5 years. It is proposed that each “reference site” have a lead EAAF Partner and a lead local partner. To-date, five geographic areas of work have been identified:

- Guem Estuary (South Korea)
- coastal areas in North Korea
- Yalu Jiang (Liaoning, China)
- Luannan Coast (Hebei, China), and the
- Jiangsu coast (China).

The development of a “National Partnership” framework, as recommended in the Flyway Partnership text, in each Yellow Sea Ecoregion countries, would be a valuable mechanism to facilitate an EAAFP Work Program for the Yellow Sea Ecoregion.

Potential collaborative actions across the “reference sites”, which directly link to the EAAFP Implementation Strategy, are listed under the following headings: capacity development, community education participation and awareness, site management, monitoring waterbirds and habitats, knowledge of migration, data sharing and analysis. Potential themes for collaboration to support the work outside of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion are grouped under the following headings: community education participation and awareness, monitoring waterbirds and habitats, knowledge of migration, data sharing and analysis.

During MoP8 further discussion with Partners will enable agreement on collaboration elements for the “reference sites” and supporting elements in other parts of the Flyway. On the morning of Day 4 there will be a joint meeting of the Shorebird Working Group and the Yellow Sea Task Force to bring together an EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Work Program for 2015-16.

In addition, updated Terms of Reference for the Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force will be discussed and a new Chair proposed. These matters will be reported back for a plenary session for consideration and decisions.

Following MoP 8 the agreed Yellow Sea Ecoregion Work Program will be documented by Doug Watkins (under contract by WWF-Hong Kong) and made available on the EAAFP web site.

## 1. Introduction

Collaborations between Government agencies, professional researchers and non-government organisations over the past 30 years has greatly increased knowledge of waterbird migration in the EAA Flyway. Ground counts and studies of marked waterbirds have documenting the need for a “chain” of wetlands across the Flyway to support the migration of each population of migratory waterbird. With this increased knowledge has also come heightened concern about the declining status of a number of waterbird populations. Migratory waterbirds in the EAA Flyway have been found to have the least favourable status of any flyway in the world with 62% of known populations decreasing or extinct and only 10% increasing (Wetlands International 2010). In particular, the status of migratory shorebirds has been highlighted.

In response to the declining status of migratory shorebirds in the EAA Flyway, WWF-Hong Kong led a project to prioritize migratory shorebirds for conservation action and to develop a collaborative conservation plan. In late 2013 WWF-Hong Kong conducted a workshop of key Partnership members and other experts to develop a collaborative program of action for priority migratory shorebirds. The workshop was informed by the draft report on “Prioritizing Migratory Shorebirds for Conservation Action in the EAA Flyway”. Participants were challenged to engage in a collaborative strategic program that would address the most critical threats to these shorebird populations.

This paper outlines a collaborative program proposed to the EAA Flyway Partnership for implementation at coastal wetlands around the Yellow Sea. Importantly it gives particular attention to “how” the collaboration can be developed.

## 2. Priority Migratory Shorebirds

During the period 2013 – 2014, WWF-Hong Kong conducted a project to update knowledge on the status of migratory shorebirds of the EAA Flyway (Conklin et al. 2014; <http://www.eaaflyway.net/wwf-hong-kong-has-just-released-a-report-entitled-prioritizing-migratory-shorebirds-for-conservation-action-on-the-east-asian-australasian-flyway>). This process drew on the experience of tens of shorebird experts in the EAA Flyway.

The assessment, covering 63 populations of 52 migratory shorebird species, found:

- migratory shorebirds make up 25% of the Threatened and Near Threatened species of waterbirds in the EAA Flyway,

- 20 populations (of 17 species) were found to be likely to reach extinction in the near future if no measures are taken (based on population data) (Table 1),
- 354 sites of international importance for the priority species were identified across the EAA Flyway,
- the Yellow Sea Ecoregion coasts of South Korea and China have 65 areas recorded as supporting priority shorebirds in internationally important numbers. Seven of these areas support internationally important numbers of >15 priority shorebird populations and an additional three support 11-14 priority shorebird populations in internationally important numbers. These concentrations show the critical importance of this region for shorebirds during migration.
- the common major threat to all priority shorebird populations is the loss and degradation of coastal habitat in north Asia, and in particular the Yellow Sea.

Table 1 Status and critical data for priority populations (Conklin et al. 2014).

| English Name           | Species                          | Subspecies           | Population Endemic to EAAF | IUCN Red List Status (Global) | Regional Red List Criteria |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Spoon-billed Sandpiper | <i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i>    |                      | Yes                        | CR                            | CR                         |
| Spotted Greenshank     | <i>Tringa guttifer</i>           |                      | Yes                        | EN                            | EN                         |
| Lesser Sand Plover     | <i>Charadrius mongolus</i>       | <i>mongolus</i>      | Yes                        | LC                            | EN                         |
| Lesser Sand Plover     | <i>Charadrius mongolus</i>       | <i>stegmanni</i>     | Yes                        | LC                            | EN                         |
| Great Knot             | <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>     |                      | Yes                        | VU                            | VU                         |
| Bar-tailed Godwit      | <i>Limosa lapponica</i>          | <i>menzbieri</i>     | Yes                        | LC                            | VU                         |
| Bar-tailed Godwit      | <i>Limosa lapponica</i>          | <i>baueri</i>        | Yes                        | LC                            | VU                         |
| Red Knot               | <i>Calidris canutus</i>          | <i>rogersi</i>       | Yes                        | LC                            | VU                         |
| Red Knot               | <i>Calidris canutus</i>          | <i>piersmai</i>      | Yes                        | LC                            | VU                         |
| Dunlin                 | <i>Calidris alpina</i>           | <i>actites</i>       | Yes                        | LC                            | VU                         |
| Curlew Sandpiper       | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>       |                      |                            | LC                            | VU                         |
| Greater Sand Plover    | <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>  | <i>leschenaultii</i> |                            | LC                            | VU                         |
| Far Eastern Curlew     | <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> |                      | Yes                        | VU                            | VU                         |
| Black-tailed Godwit    | <i>Limosa limosa</i>             | <i>melanuroides</i>  | Yes                        | NT                            | NT                         |
| Asian Dowitcher        | <i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>  |                      | Yes                        | NT                            | NT                         |
| Whimbrel               | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>         | <i>variegatus</i>    | Yes                        | LC                            | NT                         |
| Grey-tailed Tattler    | <i>Heteroscelus brevipes</i>     |                      | Yes                        | LC                            | NT                         |
| Ruddy Turnstone        | <i>Arenaria interpres</i>        | <i>interpres</i>     |                            | LC                            | NT                         |
| Eurasian Oystercatcher | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>     | <i>osculans</i>      | Yes                        | LC                            | NT                         |
| Grey Plover            | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>      | <i>squatarola</i>    |                            | LC                            | NT                         |

The tidal flats of North Asia are considered to be the critical bottleneck for migratory shorebirds in the EAA Flyway (Barter 2002, 2003, Bamford et al. 2008, Cao et al. 2009, Rogers et al. 2009, Yang et al. 2011). At the instigation of several international NGOs, IUCN commissioned a study on the status of tidal flats of South East and East Asia in the lead up to the 2012 World Conservation Congress in the Republic of Korea (MacKinnon et al. 2012). This resulted in the adoption of a resolution on the “Conservation of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway and its threatened waterbirds, with particular reference to the Yellow Sea“ (WCC-2012-Res-028).

The EAAF priority shorebird assessment (Conklin et al. 2014) highlights, that with population declines, there is a need to reassess the numbers of shorebirds at most of the internationally important sites and to update the population estimates. Much of the existing data is now over 15 years old. In all cases where historic maximum counts were checked, the maximum counts in the past 10 years are considerably lower.

Figure 1. Key sites for priority shorebird populations (data from Conklin et al. 2014).



### 3. The East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership

Maintaining migratory bird populations requires both direct threats (eg. hunting) and indirect threats (eg. habitat loss) to be addressed. Migratory birds require concerted actions because the birds are moving across a number of countries each year. A lack of action to maintain biodiversity in one part of a flyway can compromise the biodiversity conservation efforts in another part of a flyway.

The need for an international framework for migratory waterbird conservation in the EAA Flyway has been recognised since the early 1990's. The first Flyway framework developed was the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee with its Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy, Action Plans and Site Network. This evolved into the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership (<http://www.eaaflyway.net>). The Partnership is an informal and voluntary initiative that aims to “protect migratory waterbirds, their habitat and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them”. The Flyway Partnership is also recognised a “Regional Initiative” under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

The EAAFP Partners agree on the following goal and five objectives for the Partnership:

Goal: Migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway are recognised and conserved for the benefit of people and biodiversity.

Objectives:

- Develop the Flyway Network of sites of international importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, building on the achievements of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy networks.
- Enhance communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
- Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, build knowledge and promote exchange of information on waterbirds and their habitats.
- Build the habitat and waterbird management capacity of natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders.
- Develop, especially for priority species and habitats, flyway wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds.

The Partnership has a range of Working Groups and Task Forces to promote collaboration between Partners. Of particular relevance to the issues of conserving migratory shorebirds are:

- EAAFP Shorebird Working Group
- EAAFP Yellow Sea Task Force
- EAAFP Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force
- EAAFP Monitoring Task Force

In 2012 the Partnership adopted its second Implementation Strategy covering the period 2012-2016 (<http://www.eaaflyway.net/the-partnership/strategies/implementation-strategy>). This Strategy identifies 11 outcomes across 32 key result areas. It provides an existing agreed framework in which Partners can respond to the challenges of addressing the decline in shorebird populations.

The Partnership has also endorsed the International Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of one of the priority shorebird species, the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, which was developed under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals ([http://www.cms.int/publications/TechSeries/ts23\\_spoon\\_billed\\_sandpiper.pdf](http://www.cms.int/publications/TechSeries/ts23_spoon_billed_sandpiper.pdf)). Implementation of this Plan is overseen by the EAAFP Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force.

The 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress has specifically encouraged Governments to: use the “EAAF Partnership, a Ramsar Regional Initiative, as a mechanism for implementing a clear strategy to guide investments, programmes and activities for strengthening habitat and species protection along the EAAF”: Conservation of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway and its threatened waterbirds, with particular reference to the Yellow Sea. (WCC-2012-Res-028).

In November 2014, the Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), adopted the listing of Great Knot, Far Eastern Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit for concerted and collaborative action. The CMS CoP encouraged “Parties and other stakeholders to identify and undertake activities aimed at implementing Concerted and Cooperative Actions to improve the conservation status of listed species”. ([http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cop11\\_crp22\\_dr\\_concerted\\_cooperative\\_actions.pdf](http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cop11_crp22_dr_concerted_cooperative_actions.pdf)).

While there is a range of formal multilateral instruments (eg. Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Convention of Biological Diversity, and Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals Convention on Convention on Wetlands) and bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements, it is the Partnership that enables the widest range of key stakeholders the opportunity for international collaboration.

The Flyway Partnership is considered to offer the most suitable primary implementation framework for Partners to improve the status of priority populations of migratory shorebirds in the EAA Flyway.

#### 4. Developing a Strategic Approach for Priority Shorebirds

## 4.1 Guidance

Discussions on strategic planning, and a stakeholder workshop, were initiated by WWF-Hong Kong at the 7th EAA Flyway Partnership Meeting in June 2013. This enabled all Partners to be informed about the priority shorebird conservation program and the workshop.

The workshop conducted in December 2013 was guided by the following principles:

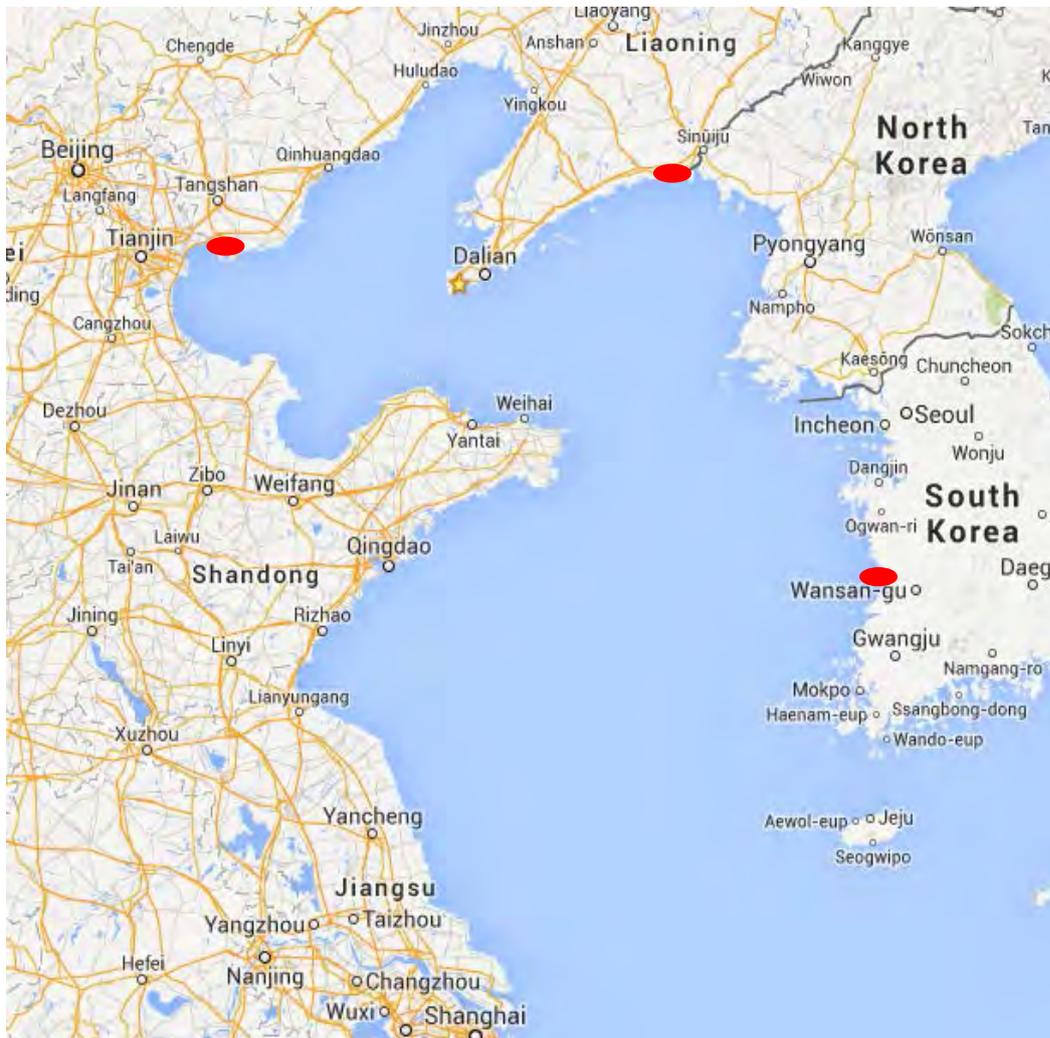
- The target group for the workshop would be national government agencies, international NGOs with an active interest in migratory waterbird conservation, relevant national NGOs from key countries and technical experts.
- The workshop would focus on the most pertinent and pressing threats to the 20 priority populations.
- The Plan would need to identify actions to reduce threats to the priority populations and how these could be implemented.

The workshop engaged two Government agencies, eight NGOs with international programs for the conservation of migratory shorebirds, the EAAF Partnership Secretariat, two key networks of national waterbird counters in China and the Republic of Korea, and researchers from two Universities and one international research network. Also participating was the Chair of Shorebird Working Group and Chair of the Yellow Sea Taskforce and the Monitoring Taskforce of the Partnership.

The workshop identified the following elements for the development of the Plan;

- It focus on making the most strategic contributions to reducing the decline of the 20 priority shorebird populations.
- It was agreed that the Yellow Sea is the strategic priority geographic region to focus collaborative actions for the priority shorebird populations.
- Actions would build on existing shorebird conservation and coastal management activities.
- Collaborative actions by international NGO Partners would initially focus at four reference sites around the Yellow Sea.
- The activities at reference sites would be developed with the view of their replication in other local government and coastal Provincial/Prefectural areas around the Yellow Sea.
- Key international and national organisations be engaged identifying collaboration activities at the reference sites.
- The Plan also identify a broader range of key activities across the EAA Flyway to complement the work within the Yellow Sea.

Figure 2. Proposed Reference Sites



#### 4.2 Developing reference coastal management projects for migratory waterbirds around the Yellow Sea coast

4.2.1 Geum Estuary (Seocheon County / Gunsan City)  
 EAAFP Lead Partner: BirdLife International  
 Local Partner: Seocheon County

4.2.2 North Korea west coast  
 EAAFP Lead Partner: Miranda Naturalists Trust  
 Local Partner: Nature Conservation Union of Korea

Background: In May 2014 Miranda Naturalists Trust and the Nature Conservation Union of Korea signed an “Agreement on Exchange and Cooperation”. Under this Agreement the parties will: make a multi-year program to jointly survey migratory waterbirds on the west coast of DPR Korea during northward migration; conduct capacity building activities for migratory bird surveys, migration research and protected area management; and, raise public awareness among schools and youth groups during the joint surveys.

4.2.3 Yalu Jiang (Donggang County, Dandong, Liaoning)

EAAFP Lead Partner: Miranda Naturalists Trust  
 Local Partner: Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve  
 National Support EAAFP Partner: Wetlands International (China)

Background: Miranda Naturalists Trust and Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve have been actively involved in a Sister Site Partnership for 10 years. In that time activities have included exchange visits, capacity building for site staff, an extensive shorebird migration monitoring program and a range of awareness raising activities. Wetlands International facilitates the communication between the two partners.

#### 4.2.4 Luannan Coast (Luannan County, Tanghai, Hebei)

Lead Group: Global Flyway Network  
Local Partners: Beijing Normal University  
National Support EAAFP Partner: to be finalised

Background: Australian based researchers from the Global Flyway Network have been conducting detailed research into shorebird migration in collaboration with researchers from Beijing Normal University. Most of the research has focused on the tidal flats documenting the critical importance of this site for Red Knot on migration from Australia and New Zealand. A range of awareness raising activities have been conducted in collaboration by WWF (China). Wetlands International, with support from Rio Tinto, has also promoted the establishment of a Wetland Centre to showcase the importance of this site.

#### 4.2.5 Jiangsu Coast (including mouth of the Yangtze)

To be further developed. Potential partners and programs include the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Taskforce, China Waterbird Census Program and WWF (China)

### 4.3 Potential collaborative activities at reference sites in the Yellow Sea Ecoregion

The following list of potential collaborative activities is derived directly from the Key Result Areas (KRA) identified in the EAA Flyway Partnership Implementation Strategy (Appendix 1).

#### Capacity Development

- Conduct capacity building and training programs at reference site to address identified needs (KRA 10.1).
- Collaborate on the update/development of site management plans at reference sites (where this is invited by the site manager) (KRA 2.2).
- Work with National Partnerships to support capacity building programmes that facilitate the ongoing management of migratory waterbirds and their habitats (KRA 10.2).

#### Community Education Participation and Awareness

- Work with site managers to support local and provincial awareness activities on the importance of the reference sites (KRA 4.1).
- Develop an on-line profile of the reference sites around the Yellow Sea (KRA 7.1).

#### Site Management

- Document the ecosystem services provided at the reference sites (KRA 3.1).
- Work with site managers to identify potential land use and land management changes in the vicinity of the reference sites and their potential impacts on migratory waterbirds (KRA 3.1).
- Incorporate appropriate activities identified in International Single Species Action Plans at the reference sites (KRA 11.2).

#### Monitoring Waterbirds and Habitats

- Identify opportunities to support Government staff and local birdwatchers to monitor waterbirds around the Yellow Sea (KRA 6.1).
- In consultation with site managers and local bird watching groups, develop spatial polygons to inform waterbird counts at important sites around the Yellow Sea (KRA 6.1).
- Include the recording of colour marked birds in the waterbird monitoring activities at reference sites (KRA 8.3).

- Expand waterbird monitoring out from reference sites to develop an understanding of the context of the site within its administrative area (KRA 7.2).
- Contribute to the update of migratory shorebird population estimates through providing new data from waterbird monitoring around the Yellow Sea (KRA 6.1).
- Assess the status of migratory waterbird habitat at the reference sites (KRA 6.2).

#### Data Sharing and Analysis

- Promote the sharing of waterbird count data with Flyway level monitoring frameworks (eg. Asian Waterbird Census) (KRA 7.3).
- Keep reference site managers informed of international developments in relation to avian influenza in wild birds (KRA 9.2).
- Prepare an overview of the status and threats to migratory waterbird habitats at the reference sites (KRA 6.3).
- Develop opportunities for the detailed analysis of population trends of migratory shorebirds (KRA 6.1).
- Collect and analyse updated information to develop a list of the sites necessary to support the life cycles of the selected priority shorebird populations (KRA 1.1).

#### Partnership Promotion

- Promote the development of a “National Partnership” for migratory waterbirds in South Korea and China (KRA 5.2).
- Promote the EAA Flyway Partnership to Government Officials in North Korea (KRA 5.1).

### 4.3 Potential activities for priority shorebirds outside the Yellow Sea Ecoregion

While several Partners have committed to undertaking project activities in the Yellow Sea there is also a range of activities outside this area that can valuably contribute to the conservation of the priority shorebird populations. The following list of potential activities to be undertaken is derived directly from the Key Result Areas (KRA) identified in the EAA Flyway Partnership Implementation Strategy.

#### Community Education Participation and Awareness

- Conduct awareness activities in countries across the flyway on the importance of the Yellow Sea for migratory waterbirds (KRA 4.1).
- Promote activities identified in the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Action Plan (KRA 11.2).

#### Monitoring Waterbirds and Habitats

- Enhance waterbird monitoring programs to provide better coverage of important sites for priority populations (KRA 6.1).
- Promote the recording of colour marked birds during waterbird monitoring activities (KRA 8.3).
- Contribute to the update of migratory shorebird population estimates through providing new data from waterbird monitoring around the Yellow Sea (KRA 6.1).
- Assess the status of migratory waterbird habitat at the reference sites (KRA 6.2).

#### Knowledge of Migration

- Implement research projects on priority shorebird populations to increase knowledge of their migration strategies (KRA 8.1).

#### Data Sharing and Analysis

- Promote the sharing of waterbird count data with Flyway level monitoring frameworks (eg. Asian Waterbird Census) (KRA 7.3).
- Keep reference site managers informed of international developments in relation to avian influenza in wild birds (KRA 9.2).
- Prepare an overview of the status and threats at the reference sites (KRA 6.3).
- Collect and analyse updated information to develop a list of the sites necessary to support the life cycles of the selected priority shorebird populations (KRA 8.1)
- Develop opportunities for the detailed analysis of population trends of migratory waterbirds (KRA 6.1).

- Collect and analyse updated information to develop a list of the sites necessary to support the life cycles of the selected priority shorebird populations (KRA 1.1).

## 5. The 2015 -2016 Work Program

To be further developed at EAAFP MoP 8.

## 6. Reporting and Review Mechanisms

For discussion at EAAFP MoP 8.

- Mechanisms for activities at reference sites
- Role of the National Government Partner and national mechanisms
- EAAFP Taskforces / Working Groups
- EAAFP Meetings of Partners

## References

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## DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Goal: To foster and report on the implementation of collaborative activities by EAAFP Partners around the coastal wetlands of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion to reduce the decline of migratory waterbird populations.

### 2. Role

The role of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force will be to:

1. Catalyse and coordinate the development of a Collaborative Work Program of Partners around the Yellow Sea Ecoregion for migratory waterbirds;

2. Maintain an overview of the implementation of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Work Program;
3. Promote the development of coordination mechanisms at the national level (e.g. National Partnership as called for in the Partnership Text) in each of the three countries of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion;
4. Assist Partners to develop in-country collaborations;
5. Monitor and report on the implementation and the effectiveness of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Work Program.

### 3. Term

The EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force will operate until the end of the 2012-2016 EAAFP Implementation Strategy and at this time its function and Terms of Reference will be reviewed.

### 4. Membership

Membership of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force will be open to:

1. EAAFP Government Partners from the countries around the Yellow Sea Ecoregion
2. Designated representatives of other EAAFP Partners
3. Representatives of the key EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces (especially the Shorebird Working Group, Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force and Monitoring Taskforce)
4. Representatives of national experts and conservation organisations from China, North Korea and South Korea, and
5. Other experts as required.

### 5. Officers

A Chairperson of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force will be elected amongst its members. This position should ideally be filled by an EAAFP Governmental Partner.

### 6. Meetings

The EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force should aim to hold face-to-face meetings at least once a year. Other face-to-face meetings may be arranged as circumstances allow (e.g., at EAAFP MOPs). Between meetings, business will be conducted electronically such as via an appropriate Task Force website and list server.

### 7. Implementation Arrangements for the EAAFP Collaborative Yellow Sea Ecoregion Work Program

Non-national EAAFP Partners are to have in place a suitable arrangement with a national entity, and this national entity should have the appropriate approval for the collaborative activities to be implemented.

The EAAFP Secretariat will provide assistance with communication mechanisms for the Task Force.

### 8. Reporting

A report on the implementation of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Work Program will be produced for each EAAFP MoP. A draft of this report will initially be shared with the National Government Partners of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion. It will be based on the contributions from Partners and other contributors to the activities.

At each EAAFP MoP, the Task Force Chairperson and Coordinator should give an overview report on the development and implementation, summarizing progress, lessons learned, challenges and any adjustments needed. Other reports will be produced by Task Forces as required by the EAAFP Secretariat or relevant EAAFP Working Group.

### 9. Financing

The operations of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force are to be financed primarily by its members and the organizations they represent. Efforts will also be made to fund-raise from appropriate sources.

## Side Events Session A

DOCUMENT 5.1.2

### 5.1.2 Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative meeting

*Agenda provided by Pete Probasco, USA*

Draft Agenda

1. Opening remarks from AMBI - EAAF subcommittee members (Rick Lanctot, Nicola Crockford, Evgeny Syroechkovskiy)
2. Introduction of participants (name and affiliation, potential interest in AMBI – EAAF)
3. Adaption of the draft Agenda
4. Review of Objectives/Action items for AMBI-EAAF and discussion of implementation of action items
  - 4.1 Review of Priority Species
  - 4.2 Major Issues and Actions
    - 4.2.1 Secure important breeding and staging habitats of key migratory bird species in arctic Russian and Alaska, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, and Dunlin
    - 4.2.2 Securing intertidal and associated habitat for Arctic waders at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF
    - 4.2.3 Prevent illegal harvest and regulate unsustainable legal harvest of Arctic migratory birds, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Bar-tailed Godwit, and other priority species.
  - 4.3 Complementary and linked initiatives
    - 4.3.1 Yellow Sea Task Force
    - 4.3.2 Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force
    - 4.3.3 Coastal Blueprint (China)
  - 4.4 Proposed collaboration themes derived from the EAAFP Implementation Strategy
  - 4.5 Collaboration mechanisms
5. Report back to MoP 8

DOCUMENT 5.1.3

### 5.1.3 Black-faced Spoonbill WG meeting

*Agenda provided by Kisup Lee, BFS WG Chair and Yat-tung Yu, BFS WG coordinator*

EAAFP Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group Meeting

Day 2: 17 January 2015 (Saturday), 19:00 – 21:00

This will be a dinner meeting. Participants share the cost of the dinner. Meeting place will be announced later. Should you have any inquiry, please contact Yu Yat-tung (bfspoonbill@hkbws.org.hk)

Draft Agenda

1. Opening remarks from Dr. Lee Ki-sup (Chair) and Mr. Yu Yat-tung (Coordinator) of EAAFP Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group.
2. Introduction of participants (name and affiliation, potential interest in EAAFP BFS WG).
3. Adaption of the draft agenda.
4. Discussion of BFS conservation activities:
  - a) activities in breeding grounds, including marking and tracking of fledging BFS;
  - b) activities in staging grounds;
  - c) activities in wintering grounds;
  - d) education and other conservation activities;
  - e) Brief report of NEASPEC project;
  - f) how to promote international collaborations of BFS conservation.
5. Report back to MoP 8.

**DOCUMENT 5.1.4**

#### **5.1.4 Baer's Pochard TF meeting**

*Agenda provided by WWT*

**DOCUMENT 5.1.5**

#### **5.1.5 Avian Influenza WG meeting**

*Agenda provided by Taej Mundkur, AI Chair*

MoP 8 Draft Agenda Avian Influenza Working Group  
 (Day 4, Mon 19 Jan, 15:10 - 16:00)  
 (Anticipated to be updated on Days 1-3)

1. Opening remarks from the Co-Chair (5min)
2. Introduction of participants (name and affiliation) (5min)
3. Adaption of the draft Agenda
4. Development of a 2015-16 Work Plan (points for discussion) (25min)
  - A. Strengthening communication within group and linking more strongly with national agencies/institutions: (1) undertaking surveillance of wild birds, (2) laboratory testing of samples that are sharing, and (3) making influenza control and management decisions
  - B. Preparation of a summary of wild birds and AI strains reported within the flyway
  - C. Technical advice/support to research projects on tracking of migratory waterbirds and disease study: (1) prepare a list of current collaborations, (2) identify and respond to technical advice needs
  - D. Development of AI surveillance activities with a focus on network sites and other important sites (dialogue needed with Taxonomic Working Groups)
  - E. Others
5. Reviewing the mandate & working of the AI Working Group (15min)
  - A. Review of Terms of Reference
  - B. Membership
  - C. Chairing
  - D. Partnership website
  - E. Resourcing

## 6. Report back to MoP 8 (5min)

Reference documents:

#3.3.1.2. AI Working Group Report

#3.3.1.2. Annex – AI Scientific Task Force Statement (19 Dec 2014)

#3.3.1.2. FAO EMPRES I Bulletin (2014) Assessing H7N9 risk: Combining factual field knowledge and scientific expertise p20; H7N9 surveillance in South and Southeast Asia p27; and Highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N8: from Asia to Europe – the highway or the flyway? p32  
Download from <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4257e.pdf>

**ANNEX 5.1.5**

**Annex. Doc 5.1.5 \_FAO EMPRES animal health 360 No.44(2)/2014**

**DOCUMENT 5.2.1**

### **5.2.1 A Participatory Workshop for Flyway implementers: Communicating the Partnership**

*Background paper provided by Sandra Hails, CEPA WG*

Participants play different roles in implementing the Partnership. This interactive workshop will require participants to respond to a series of simple questions assessing their views on the level of communication and information sharing, and the transfer of knowledge and management skills across the EAAFP from international, to national, site and local community level. This will contribute to identifying strengths and weaknesses and help identify solutions for the future to improve the effectiveness of the flyway partnership.

### **Side Events Session B**

**DOCUMENT 5.2.2**

### **5.2.2 Management Committee meeting (MC members only)**

*Agenda provided by Management Committee*

**DOCUMENT 5.2.3**

### **5.2.3 Monitoring TF meeting**

*Agenda provided by Doug Watkins, Monitoring TF Chair*

Draft agenda

1. Opening remarks from the Chair
2. Introduction of participants (name and affiliation)
3. Adaption of the draft Agenda
4. Developing spatial data sets to support migration waterbird conservation
  - Developing a project document
  - Role of the Secretariat
  - Provision of spatial information
5. Update of Waterbird Population Estimates for the EAAF (Wetlands International)
6. Enhancing waterbird monitoring activities
  - BirdLife

- Monitoring Flyway Network Sites
7. Renewing the mandate for the Monitoring Task Force
    - Developing a Terms of Reference
    - Election on a Chair
  8. Report back to MoP 8

## DOCUMENT 5.2.4

### 5.2.4 Seabird WG meeting

*Agenda provided by Seabird WG Chair*

#### DRAFT AGENDA

Chair: Mr Paul O'Neill (Australia)  
 Co-Chair: Mr Yat-tung YU (Hong Kong Bird Watching Society)

1. Introduction (5 mins)
  - Welcome and brief background to the Seabird Working Group
  - Introduction of participants (name and affiliation)
2. Adoption of the Draft Agenda (5 mins)
3. Actions taken since MOP7 (10 mins)
  - Refer to the Seabird Working Group Report
4. Discussion of 2015-16 Seabird Working Group Work Plan (35 mins)
  - Review of the seabird prioritisation process. Update if necessary.
  - EAAFP input into 'Seabird Breeding Colony Registry'.
  - Coordinating effort to detect Aleutian Terns along the EAAF.
  - Preparation and adoption of 'Action Plans' for agreed high priority seabird species. Aim would be to endorse at MOP9.
  - Nominate additional Flyway Network Sites for seabirds before MOP9.

Action: That the Seabird Working Group agree to a work plan for 2015-16.
5. First Report of Avian Cholera in Alaska (Robb Kaler, USA) (10 mins)
6. Other Business
7. Meeting close

## DOCUMENT 5.2.5

### 5.2.5 Spoon-billed Sandpiper TF meeting

*Agenda provided by Spoon-billed Sandpiper TF Chair*

## DOCUMENT 5.2.6

### 5.2.6 Anatidae WG meeting

*Agenda provided by Masayuki Kurechi, Anatidae Chair*

## DOCUMENT 6.1.1

### 6.1.1 Secretariat's Work Plan and Budget for 2015-2016

*Draft workplan provided by Spike Millington, the Chief Executive of the EAAFP Secretariat*

EAAFP Secretariat Workplan Jan - Dec 2015

| Action No. | Five Objectives                              | Description of activity required   | Timing (Quarter) |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Budget USD |       |
|------------|--|--|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|-------|
|            |  |  | J                | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |            |       |
| 1          | Objective 1:<br>Develop Flyway Network Sites | Activity 1.1<br>Provide advice and technical support to Flyway Network Site nomination and completion of SIS forms                                 |                  |   | x |   |   | x |   |   |   | x |   |   | x          | 1000  |
| 2          |  | Activity 1.2<br>Encourage and support development of actions and projects at FNS (e.g. for the development and implementation of management plans) |                  | x |   |   |   | x |   |   | x |   |   | x |            |       |
| 3          |  | Activity 1.3<br>Promote new and existing sister sites  |                  | x | x |   |   | x | x |   |   | x | x | x |            | 2000  |
| 4          |  | Activity 1.4<br>Develop a long-term strategy for strengthening the Flyway Site Network   |                  |   | x | x | x |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |       |
| 5          | Objective 2:<br>CEPA                         | Activity 2.1<br>Maintain and update website, including different language pages, and social media networks   | x                | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x          | 5000  |
| 6          |  | Activity 2.2<br>Produce CEPA brochures, posters, video and related materials   | x                |   | x |   |   | x |   | x |   | x |   | x |            | 10000 |
| 7          |  | Activity 2.3<br>Promote World Migratory Bird Day events and global campaigns in Flyway countries   |                  | x | x | x | x | x | x |   |   |   |   |   |            | 7000  |

|    |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |       |
|----|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| 8  |  | Activity 2.4 Participate in Ramsar COP12 and other international forums, through presentations, partner meetings, side-event and CEPA promotion  |   |   | x |   | x | x |   |   | x |   |   | x | 15000 |
| 11 | Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange | Activity 3.1 Develop technical briefs for site managers and other stakeholders, e.g, linking migratory birds to habitat conservation and restoration, ecosystem services, climate change |   |   | x |   |   |   |   | x |   |   |   | x | 2000  |
| 12 |  | Activity 3.2 Update and disseminate scientific information through website   | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |   |       |
| 13 |  | Activity 3.3 Create webpages for individual species and sites and upload information from partners and TFs/WGs   | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |   |   |       |
| 14 |  | Activity 3.4 Develop technical training manual   |   | x | x | x |   |   |   |   | x |   |   |   | 5000  |
| 15 |  | Activity 3.5 Support targeted surveys of key species and sites   |   | x |   |   |   | x | x |   |   | x | x |   | 6000  |
| 16 |  | Activity 3.6 Catalyze support for TFs/WGs  | x |   | x |   | x |   | x |   | x |   | x |   | 15000 |
| 17 |  | Activity 3.7 Share information and provide advice to research and monitoring projects  |   |   |   | x |   |   |   |   | x |   |   | x |       |



|    |                                |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   |        |
|----|--------------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|--------|
| 26 |                                | Activity 5.3<br>Provide support and technical input to EAAF component of plan of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative                                       |  |   | x |  |   |   |  | x |   |   |   | x |  |  |   | 5000   |
| 27 |                                | Activity 5.4<br>Promote Caring for Coasts Initiative, with CBD, Birdlife and other partners   |  |   | x |  |   |   |  | x |   |   |   | x |  |  |   | 5000   |
| 28 |                                | Activity 5.5<br>Continue to provide direction and input to China's Blueprint for Coastal Wetlands   |  |   | x |  | x |   |  | x |   |   |   |   |  |  |   | 2000   |
| 29 |                                | Activity 5.6<br>Support Korea Yellow Sea Workshop, including coordination with YSLME project and Incheon-Gyeonggi Task Force                                |  |   |   |  | x | x |  | x |   |   |   | x |  |  |   | 10000  |
| 30 |                                | Activity 5.7<br>Encourage international partners (e.g. Ramsar, CMS, CBD) to include migratory waterbirds and habitat conservation in training and workshops |  |   |   |  |   |   |  | x | x | x |   |   |  |  |   |        |
| 31 |                                | Activity 5.8 Follow up with other international projects, e.g. NEASPEC, YSLME, Destination Flyways, BLI/RT Geum Estuary                                     |  | x |   |  |   | x |  |   |   |   | x |   |  |  | x |        |
|    | Total                          |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   | 207000 |
|    | Secured budget until June 2015 |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   | 170000 |
|    | Additional budget required     |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |   | 37000  |

**6.1.2 Partners' Work Plan and Budget for 2015-2016**

*Draft workplan provided by each Partner*

**DOCUMENT 6.1.2.1****6.1.2.1 Australia**

*Report prepared by Paul O'Neil and Mark Carey*

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites (FNS)*

- 1.1 Nominate new FNS with Site Information Sheets
  - Nominate two new FNS in Australia specifically for migratory seabirds before MOP9.
- 1.2 Complete and update Site Information Sheets for existing FNS
  - Complete all updates to Site Information Sheets for existing FNS before MOP9.
- 1.3 Promote increased protection status and develop Management Plans for FNS
- 1.4 Develop actions and projects at FNS
  - Support relevant projects identified in the Australian Government's *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds* at Flyway Network Sites in Australia.
- 1.5 Promote Sister Site partnerships

*Objective 2: CEPA*

- 2.1 Undertake activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness
  - Support the promotion of migratory bird conservation through global events such as World Wetlands Day, World Migratory Bird Day and World Wildlife Day.
  - Promote awareness of threatened species through Australia's Threatened Species Day – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015.
- 2.2 Hold World Migratory Bird Day celebrations
  - Support CMS and the promotion of World Migratory Bird Day activities.
- 2.3 Undertake CEPA activities at FNS
- 2.4 Promote EAAFP in relevant national forums and events
  - Participate in biannual meetings with the Ramsar Implementation Committee. The committee comprises all state and territory government agencies responsible for implementing Ramsar obligations in their jurisdictions.
  - Participate in quarterly meetings of the National Avian Influenza Wild Bird Steering Group. The group is responsible for the development and implementation of a yearly operating plan and coordination of surveillance activities for avian influenza in wild birds in Australian states and territories.

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

- 3.1 Increase knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, e.g. through special surveys
  - Support actions identified in the Australian Government's *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds* to increase information on migratory shorebirds and their important habitats.
  - Support research on threatened migratory waterbirds as identified in their conservation advice or other related conservation plans.
- 3.2 Undertake regular monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats.
  - Support activities that contribute the monitoring of migratory waterbird populations at important habitat areas.
- 3.3 Share and disseminate information on migratory waterbirds through improved networking
  - Participate in national conferences and workshops to improve information sharing and networking (e.g Australasian Ornithological Conference).
- 3.4 Identify information and research gaps and needs and promote relevant research programs
  - Promote and support a relevant research program through the National Environmental Science Program focusing on migratory shorebird species.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

- 4.1 Undertake National Partnership meetings to share information and participation related to EAAFP goals and activities
  - Participate in biannual meetings with the Ramsar Implementation Committee. The committee comprises all state and territory government agencies responsible for implementing Ramsar obligations in their jurisdictions.
  - Participate in quarterly meetings of the National Avian Influenza Wild Bird Steering Group. The group is responsible for the development and implementation of a yearly operating plan and coordination of surveillance activities for avian influenza in wild birds in Australian states and territories.
- 4.2 Undertake training of site managers and other key stakeholders in migratory waterbird and site conservation
- 4.3 Integrate migratory waterbird and habitat conservation in national plans and policies (e.g. NBSAP, EIA, land use plans and policies)
  - Finalise and implement the Australian Government's *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds*.
  - Finalise threatened species listing nominations for migratory birds and implement approved conservation advice and other related plans within Australian jurisdiction.
  - Finalise major amendments to Australia's three migratory bird agreements and update the migratory species list under the Australian Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

- 5.1 Develop or participate in national and international projects for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation at key sites
  - Promote and support a major research program through the National Environmental Science Program focusing on migratory shorebird species.
  - Support relevant actions identified in the *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds* and approved conservation advice.
  - Support the development, adoption and implementation of an Action Plan for Far Eastern Curlew in the EAAF.
- 5.2 Participate in international forums to promote EAAFP goals and actions
  - Participate in relevant migratory waterbird meetings and workshops organized by Ramsar, CMS and CBD.
  - Participate in biennial migratory bird consultative meetings with Japan, China and the Republic of Korea in 2016.

**DOCUMENT 6.1.2.2**

#### **6.1.2.2 Japan**

*Report prepared by Kaori Tsujita*

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites (FNS)*

- 1.1 Nominate new FNS with Site Information Sheets  
Promote further nomination of new FNS in consultation with local governments.
- 1.2 Complete and update Site Information Sheets for existing FNS  
Sort out and update Site Information Sheets for old FNS (from APMWCS).
- 1.3 Promote increased protection status and develop Management Plans for FNS  
More than half of FNS are designated as protected area under national laws. As for undesignated FNS, seek to increase protection status taking into account their respective condition.
- 1.4 Identify challenges and develop conservation actions and projects at FNS  
Promote information sharing with FNS and communication between FNS through holding networking events for FNS managers and improving domestic ML and website, in order to contribute to develop conservation actions and projects at FNS.
- 1.5 Promote Sister Site partnerships especially among habitats of same species group  
Provide assistance, if necessary, to local governments which have interest in conclusion of Sister Site partnerships.

## *Objective 2: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

- 2.1 Undertake regular monitoring of migratory waterbirds and their habitats  
Continuously conduct monitoring (spot census) on Anatidae at about 80 fixed sites as a part of Monitoring Sites 1000 project by MOE-J.  
Continuously conduct monitoring (spot census) on shorebirds (including White Spoonbill, the Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders's Gull and Common Shelduck that are considered as indicators in tidal flats) at about 100 fixed sites as a part of Monitoring Sites 1000 project by MOE-J.
- 2.2 Increase knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, e.g. for species of rapid decline through special surveys  
Continuously conduct banding of Anatidae and shorebirds.  
Conduct joint researches on migratory waterbirds such as Saunders' Gull and Short-tailed Albatross under bilateral conventions and/or agreements for the protection of migratory birds.  
Continuously conduct satellite tracking of Anatidae, as a part of surveillance of HPAI.
- 2.3 Share and disseminate information on migratory waterbirds and their habitats through improved networking  
Compile monitoring results and make them publicly available.  
Hold networking events for FNS managers, publish and disseminate newsletters on Anatidae, shorebirds and cranes respectively, and improve domestic ML and website.
- 2.4 Identify information and research gaps and needs and promote relevant research programs  
Identify information and research gaps through discussion at national liaison meetings and other forums.  
Provide possible support for research programs with high need.

## *Objective 3: CEPA and Capacity Building*

- 3.1 Undertake CEPA activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation  
Further develop Japanese website under EAAFP website.  
Seek the possibility to develop a separate national website for sharing information such as good practices of waterbird conservation.
- 3.2 Hold World Migratory Bird Day celebrations  
Raise awareness of World Migratory Bird Day in order to encourage to hold celebration events.
- 3.3 Promote EAAFP in relevant national forums and events  
Seek to enhance synergy between EAAFP and relevant national forums.
- 3.4 Hold National Partnership meetings to share information and ensure participation from related groups in the conservation activities  
Hold a national liaison meeting consisted of representatives of related groups around twice a year.
- 3.5 Integrate migratory waterbird and habitat conservation in national plans and policies (e.g. NBSAP, EIA, land use plans and policies)  
"The National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020" describes measures to be taken for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
- 3.6 Undertake training of site managers and other key stakeholders for migratory waterbird and site conservation  
Hold networking events for FNS managers and other key stakeholders.  
Seek to post existent relevant guidance and other documents for the conservation of waterbirds and their habitats on the website.

## *Objective 4: Flyway-wide approaches*

- 4.1 Develop or participate in national and international projects for the conservation of migratory waterbird and their habitats among key sites  
Conduct joint researches on migratory waterbirds such as Saunders' Gull and Short-tailed Albatross under bilateral conventions and/or agreements for the protection of migratory birds.
- 4.2 Participate in international forums to promote waterbird conservation  
Japan has concluded bilateral conventions and/or agreements for the protection of migratory birds with the United States, China, Australia and Russia. Furthermore, work toward the ratification of new Korea-Japan agreement for the protection of migratory birds.

**6.1.2.3 USA**

*Report prepared by Pete Probasco*

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites (FNS)*

1.1 Nominate new FNS with Site Information Sheets

The United States is exploring nominating a second FNS called the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area located in northern Alaska. Current efforts are to identify key areas within the TLSP to be nominated and to inform local community members about these efforts. We are also working to identify other key FNS in western Alaska that may be nominated in the future.

1.2 Complete and update Site Information Sheets for existing FNS

This task is being done for the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area in preparation for its nomination.

1.3 Promote increased protection status and develop Management Plans for FNS

1.4 Develop actions and projects at FNS

The United States is proposing to develop an outreach program focused on sustainable harvest of Emperor Geese and Bar-tailed Godwits within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge FNS.

1.5 Promote Sister Site partnerships

*Objective 2: CEPA*

2.1 Undertake activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

Migratory waterbird conservation issues are promoted through numerous outreach efforts, including many public events, media news releases, and outdoor activities to improve public knowledge of the value of migratory bird resources. Bird resources in remote areas of Alaska are co-managed between federal, state and native groups via the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council (AMBCC). The AMBCC engages rural residents to participate in the regulatory process to help conserve bird resources while meeting the needs of native subsistence users living in remote Alaskan villages. Outreach efforts through this process include press releases, public meetings, and distribution of printed regulations to all households in rural Alaska throughout the year to enhance public awareness.

2.2 Hold World Migratory Bird Day celebrations

2.3 Undertake CEPA activities at FNS

2.4 Promote EAAFP in relevant national forums and events

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies are active participants in meetings where issues on EAAF waterbird species are discussed.

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

3.1 Increase knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, e.g. through special surveys

State and federal biologists within Alaska participate in a number of broad networks aimed at collecting long-term baseline data, including the Arctic Shorebird Demographics Network, the Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring, and the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey, and numerous waterfowl-specific surveys.

Furthermore, efforts to develop digital archives of seabird data include the North Pacific Pelagic Seabird Database and the North Pacific Seabird Colony Register, as well as the North Pacific Seabird Diet Database.

Species-specific studies are also conducted on Yellow-billed and Red-throated Loons, and Dunlin that rely on all or portions of the EAAF. These studies focus on migration patterns, demographic vital rates, and factors limiting population size.

3.2 Undertake regular monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

The US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal and state agencies conduct surveys at sites important to EAAF migratory birds throughout Alaska. This includes annual aerial surveys of many waterfowl species, boat-based surveys of many marine birds, and ground-based surveys for shorebirds and landbirds.

In spring 2015, a number of entities, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, will begin conducting ground-based surveys for waterbirds on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge to determine the distribution and relative abundance of waterbirds. This geographically-broad, land-based survey is the first to be conducted on the refuge, and information collected will be used to update the Site Information Sheet for this EAAF network site.

- 3.3 Share and disseminate information on migratory waterbirds through improved networking. Knowledge from monitoring and research efforts are published in peer-reviewed journals, available on-line, or available from project leaders.
- 3.4 Identify information and research gaps and needs and promote relevant research programs. Federal and state entities within the United States are regularly going through extensive planning efforts to identify and prioritize research gaps and needs, and to promote relevant research programs.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

- 4.1 Undertake National Partnership meetings to share information and participation related to EAAFP goals and activities.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies are active participants in meetings where issues on East Asian-Australasian waterbird species are discussed. National and international conferences include the Climate, Conservation, and Community in Alaska and Northwest Canada; the Alaska Bird Conference, the American Ornithologist's Union meeting, the Pacific Seabird Group Meeting, and the International Wader Study Group Meeting.

- 4.2 Undertake training of site managers and other key stakeholders in migratory waterbird and site conservation. Federal and state biologists routinely take training related to migratory waterbird and site conservation for federal and state wildlife refuges, federal and state parks, and other conservation areas.
- 4.3 Integrate migratory waterbird and habitat conservation in national plans and policies (e.g. NBSAP, EIA, land use plans and policies). The integration of migratory waterbird and habitat conservation is an essential component of all environmental assessments prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

- 5.1 Develop or participate in national and international projects for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation at key sites

The United States has an active Steering Committee member that is helping to develop and implement the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative's East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) step-down plan that works to conserve arctic migratory birds that use the EAAF during migration. In addition, federal biologists are involved in a number of international projects related to migratory waterbird and habitat conservation in the EAAF, including the Arctic Shorebird Demographics Network, and the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative. Federal biologists are also active within international professional societies, including the Circumpolar Seabird Working Group, the Pacific Seabird Group, and the World Seabird Union. These projects and organizations vary from focused on-the-ground conservation studies to formal groups that focus on communicating and sharing information and developing collaborative and integrated approaches to conservation.

- 5.2 Participate in international forums to promote EAAFP goals and actions. The United States is set to take on the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2015, and the chairmanship of the Circumpolar Arctic Flora and Fauna in 2017. As chair, the United States will promote conservation of migratory birds that use the Arctic and migrate through the EAAF.

**6.1.2.4 New Zealand***Report prepared by Bruce McKinlay***Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites (FNS)****1.1 Nominate new FNS with Site Information Sheets**

New Zealand will work to nominate a further three sites as candidates for addition to the Flyway Site Network.

**1.2 Complete and update Site Information Sheets for existing FNS****1.3 Promote increased protection status and develop Management Plans for FNS**

New Zealand will work to establish suitable domestic regulatory protection to key shorebird habitats to support nominations to the FNS.

**1.4 Develop actions and projects at FNS****1.5 Promote Sister Site partnerships**

New Zealand will promote appropriate sister site relationships to support FSN linkages and priority species conservation.

**Objective 2: CEPA****2.1 Undertake activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness**

New Zealand will seek opportunities to promote flyway issues throughout East Asia

**2.2 Hold World Migratory Bird Day celebrations****2.3 Undertake CEPA activities at FNS****2.4 Promote EAAFP in relevant national forums and events****Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange****3.1 Increase knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, e.g. through special surveys****3.2 Undertake regular monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats****3.3 Share and disseminate information on migratory waterbirds through improved networking****3.4 Identify information and research gaps and needs and promote relevant research programs**

New Zealand will investigate the priority for adding Ruddy Turnstone to our list of priority species for research and conservation advocacy.

**Objective 4: Capacity Building****4.1 Undertake National Partnership meetings to share information and participation related to EAAFP goals and activities**

New Zealand will be holding a RAMSAR Workshop March 2015 which will include opportunities for discussion and awareness raising of Flyway Management.

**4.2 Undertake training of site managers and other key stakeholders in migratory waterbird and site conservation****4.3 Integrate migratory waterbird and habitat conservation in national plans and policies (e.g. NBSAP, EIA, land use plans and policies)****Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches****5.1 Develop or participate in national and international projects for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation at key sites.**

New Zealand will continue to engage with counterparts to support conservation of populations and habitats for bar-tailed godwits and red knots with particular emphasis on protecting habitats in the Yellow Sea.

**5.2 Participate in international forums to promote EAAFP goals and actions****6.1.2.5 Mongolia***Report prepared by Gombobaatar Sundev*

| N  | Actions  | Date          | Responsible organization   | Budget | Notes   |
|--|--|---------------|--|--------|---|
| <i>Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites (FNS)</i> |  |               |  |        |   |
|  | Complete and update Site Information Sheets for existing five FNS: Buir, Ugii, Mongol Daguur, Khurkh-Khuiten, and Dashinchilen Wetland     | 2015. II.15   | MEGDT, governmental institution, other NGO   |        | MOS will send an intern   |
|  | Promote increased protection status and develop Management Plans for FNS: Dashinchilen Wetland and Khurkh Khuiten Valley                   | 2015.YI.15    | MEGDT, governmental institution, other NGO   |        |   |
|  | Develop actions and projects at FNS: Dashinchilen Wetland  | 2015.YI-YIII. | MEGDT, governmental institution, National University of Mongolia, Mongolian Ornithological Society, and other NGO        |        | Discussion on this matter with EAAFP.                                 |
|  | Develop and promote Sister site partnerships with Korean and Chinese sites   | 2015.YIII.25  | EAAFP, MEGDT, NUM, MOS and other NGOs  |        | Discuss on this issue with Korean, Chinese and Japanese site managers |
|  | New site nomination (3 more new sites will be nominated)   | 2015.I-XII    | EAAFP, MEGDT and other NGOs  |        |   |
| <i>Objective 2: CEPA:</i>                              |  |               |  |        |   |
|  | Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness during the 60 years anniversary of ornithological development in Mongolia | 2015.IX.20    | EAAFP, MEGDT, governmental institution, and other NGO  |        |   |
|  | Hold World Migratory Bird Day celebrations: MOS and MEGDT plans  | 2015.Y.12-13  | EAAFP, MEGDT, governmental institution, National University of Mongolia, Mongolian Ornithological Society, and other NGO |        |   |
|  | Undertake CEPA activities at FNS: Free talk and posters for locals near Dashinchilen Wetland   | 2015.YI-IX    | EAAFP, MEGDT, governmental institution, National University of Mongolia, Mongolian Ornithological Society, and other NGO |        |   |
|  | Promote EAAFP in relevant national forums and events: National Bird Watchers Day and International Bird Conservation Day 2015              | 2015.YI.-IX   | EAAFP, MEGDT, governmental institution, National University of Mongolia, Mongolian Ornithological                        |        | <i>Financial support required</i>                                     |

|  |   |               |  |  |   |
|--|---|---------------|--|--|---|
|  |   |               | Society, and other NGO   |  |   |
| <i>Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange:</i> |   |               |  |  |   |
|  | Increase knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, e.g. through special surveys; and Share and disseminate information on migratory waterbirds through improved networking: Migratory water bird and migration route database development | 2015.I-XII    | EAAFP, MEGDT, governmental institution, National University of Mongolia, Mongolian Ornithological Society, and other NGO |  |   |
|  | Undertake regular monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats: migratory shore bird at Dashinchilen Wetland and wintering water birds in Mongolia   | 2015. YII-XII | EAAFP, MEGDT, governmental institution, and other NGO  |  |   |
|  | Autumn migration of shore birds in eastern Mongolia   | 2015.I-XII    | EAAFP, MEGDT, governmental institution, National University of Mongolia, Mongolian Ornithological Society, and other NGO |  | <i>Financial support and collaboration required</i> |
| <i>Objective 4: Capacity Building</i>  |   |               |  |  |   |
|  | Undertake National Partnership meetings to share information and participation related to EAAFP goals and activities: Develop the international workshop on shore bird banding for students and site managers in Mongolia   | 2015.YIII-IX  | EAAFP, MEGDT, governmental institution, National University of Mongolia, Mongolian Ornithological Society, and other NGO |  |   |
|  | Integrate migratory waterbird and habitat conservation in national plans and policies (e.g. NBSAP, EIA, land use plans and policies): Migratory water bird conservation actions in the New Mongolia NBSAP   | 2015.I-YI     | EAAFP, MEGDT, governmental institutions, and NGOs  |  |   |
| <i>Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches</i>                                   |   |               |  |  |   |
|  | Develop or participate in national and international projects for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation at key sites: Draft a proposal to CMS in collaboration with MEGDT  | 2015.I-XII    | EAAFP, MEGDT, governmental institutions, and NGOs  |  |   |

|  |   |            |   |  |  |
|--|---|------------|---|--|--|
|  | Participate in international forums to promote EAAFP goals and actions: international conference and meeting in Mongolia and overseas | 2015.I-XII | EAAFP, MEGDT, governmental institutions, and NGOs |  |  |
|--|---|------------|---|--|--|

**DOCUMENT 6.1.2.6**

**6.1.2.6 Thailand**

*Report prepared by Nirawan Pipitsombat*

**EAAF work plan – Thailand 2015-2016**

| Objective   | Activities   | 2015 |     |     |     | 2016 |     |     |     | Organization   | Remarks                          |
|---|--|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|--|----------------------------------|
|   |  | Q 1  | Q 2 | Q 3 | Q 4 | Q 1  | Q 2 | Q 3 | Q 4 |  |                                  |
| Develop Flyway Network Site                             | Surveying the bird species and its population in the Inner Gulf of Thailand                | /    | /   | /   | /   | /    | /   | /   | /   | Thai Wetlands Foundation<br>- Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)   |                                  |
| CEPA  | Migratory shore bird festival (Samutsakorn and Phetburi Province)                          | /    |     |     |     | /    |     |     |     | - Khok Kham Conservation Group, Samutsakorn Prov.<br>- Thai Wetlands Foundation<br>- Pak-Tale and Khok kham Tambon Administrative Organization, Phetburi Prov.<br>- Bird Conservation Society Thailand (BCST)<br>- WWF<br>- Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) |                                  |
|   | National Workshop on Flyway Partnership  | /    |     |     |     | /    |     |     |     | - Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)   |                                  |
|   | Mangrove Investigator and Protection Wetland Project                                       |      | /   | /   |     |      | /   | /   |     | Thai Wetlands Foundation   |                                  |
|   | Promotion and raising awareness for migratory bird conservation in the conservation forest | /    | /   | /   | /   | /    | /   | /   | /   | Dept. of National park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation  |                                  |
| Research, Monitoring, Knowledge generation and Exchange | Restoration of Aquatic Resources Project (Crab Bank-Economic Marine Resource Habitats)     |      |     |     | /   | /    | /   | /   | /   | Thai Wetlands Foundation   | On process to find out the donor |
|   | Conserving Wetland ecosystem around the Inner Gulf of Thailand                             | /    | /   | /   | /   | /    | /   | /   | /   | Thai Wetlands Foundation   |                                  |
|   | Surveying the migratory bird populations in 67 wetland sites                               |      | /   | /   | /   |      | /   | /   | /   | - Dept. of National park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation<br>- Bird Conservation Society Thailand (BCST)<br>- bird watching volunteers   |                                  |

|                   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |                                  |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------------------|
|                   | Examination of Bird flu disease in Nature birds   | / | / | / | / | / | / | / | / | Dept. of National park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation |                                  |
|                   | Conserving habitats and protection of the endanger shorebird species                    |   |   | / | / | / | / |   |   | Thai Wetlands Foundation                                | On process to find out the donor |
|                   | Monitoring of the habitat for migratory birds by monitoring tools (leg-bands labelling) | / | / |   | / | / | / |   | / | Dept. of National park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation |                                  |
|                   | International workshop for shore bird   |   |   |   | / |   |   |   | / | - Bird Conservation Society Thailand (BCST)             |                                  |
| Capacity Building | Smart Patrol  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Dept. of National park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation |                                  |
|                   | Training workshop on shore bird classification and survey techniques                    | / |   |   |   | / |   |   |   | - Bird Conservation Society Thailand (BCST)             |                                  |

## DOCUMENT 6.1.2.7

### 6.1.2.7 PMNT

*Report prepared by David Lawrie*

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites (FNS)*

##### 1.1 Nominate new FNS with Site Information Sheets

The nomination of new sites is a Government responsibility but the PMNT will provide support where possible to assist in the nomination of new sites.

##### 1.2 Complete and update Site Information Sheets for existing FNS

Our shorebird centre is located adjacent to a FNS and will provide support to DOC to update the SIS.

##### 1.3 Promote increased protection status and develop Management Plans for FNS

PMNT will provide technical expertise and data to enable Management Plans to be developed.

##### 1.4 Develop actions and projects at FNS

PMNT is running a series of events during the 2015 year to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trust, which will be used to attract people to the site and provide educational opportunities.

##### 1.5 Promote Sister Site partnerships

In April a team from PMNT will be visiting the Yalu Jiang NNR to further activities based on the existing sister site agreement.

In early May a team will visit DPRK to undertake the first year of the work plan, to explore the coastline of that country, developed as part of the agreement signed in 2014.

The PMNT will further discuss with the NZ Government the opportunity to establish a sister site arrangement with appropriate officials on the Bohai Sea coastline to ensure that the stopover site for Red Knot is protected.

In Nov-2015, members of the YJNNR may have the opportunity to visit the Shorebird Centre in NZ, as part of the adopted work plan developed in 2014.

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

##### 2.1 Undertake activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

During 2015 the Trust will be celebrating 40 years since it was established. The year has been designated as “The Year of the Godwit”, and events have been planned around that theme.

March 15<sup>th</sup> Autumn Migration Day, speaker Pavel Tomkovich – Waders of Siberia

Pavel will also be speaking at a public event in Auckland on the 18<sup>th</sup> March

October 4<sup>th</sup> Spring migration day, speaker Scott Weidensaul – American writer of books on Bird Migration

November 22<sup>nd</sup> speaker Theunis Piersma – Dutch Wader Biologist

Throughout the year the PMNT website and facebook pages will contain news snippets, and the PMNT twitter account will contain a different fact about Godwits every day.

A poster and writing competition for school children is being organized as part of the Year of the Godwit event. A photography competition is also planned.

#### 2.2 Hold World Migratory Bird Day celebrations

The PMNT annual meeting takes place about the same time as Migratory Bird day and the event is well publicized.

#### 2.3 Undertake CEPA activities at FNS

See above activities that are undertaken adjacent to one of the two FNS in New Zealand. In addition the PMNT will run three training courses for members of the public who are interested in shorebird conservation.

#### 2.4 Promote EAAFP in relevant national forums and events

The Trust gives regular talks at the Shorebird centre which always promote the EAAFP. There are approximately 10,000 visitors who pass through the building each year. From time to time Trust members will also give talks at other venues around the country.

### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

#### 3.1 Increase knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, e.g. through special surveys

PMNT undertake banding and tagging of migratory waterbirds to better understand their migratory routes, and stopover sites. As above, surveys will be conducted in China and the DPRK. The DPRK survey in particular is expected to provide new information on migratory shorebird use of that part of the Yellow Sea Coastline.

#### 3.2 Undertake regular monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

In June and November the PMNT in conjunction with Birds NZ undertake a census of wading birds throughout NZ. This data is used to develop trends of the populations of wading birds visiting NZ.

#### 3.3 Share and disseminate information on migratory waterbirds through improved networking

The PMNT publishes a journal 4 times per year which is used to disseminate information about migratory birds and the threats to their habitats.

#### 3.4 Identify information and research gaps and needs and promote relevant research programs

The Trust Shorebird center is located on the shores of the Firth of Thames FNS, and actively encourages research by scientists and by regional authorities. The PMNT is represented on the panel which is developing a spatial plan for the Hauraki Gulf of which the FNS forms a part.

As part of its work programme, PMNT will aim, where appropriate, to promote and facilitate research into migratory waterbirds in the DPRK.

### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

#### 4.1 Undertake National Partnership meetings to share information and participation related to EAAFP goals and activities

The PMNT and DOC meet regularly to discuss areas of mutual interest in relation to migratory waterbirds. The two organisations are developing a memorandum of understanding which should be signed this year to ensure that the long term working relationship is retained.

#### 4.2 Undertake training of site managers and other key stakeholders in migratory waterbird and site conservation

PMNT will undertake several training courses through the year. These will be used to develop skills in managing sites and breeding activities of non migratory species. Courses will be

run in wading bird identification and shorebird counting, these courses usually involve on site accommodation which further enhances the opportunity for interaction with other participants. PMNT is expecting to be involved in a training course held by YJNRR staff in late April 2014 in China.

- 4.3 Integrate migratory waterbird and habitat conservation in national plans and policies (e.g. NBSAP, EIA, land use plans and policies)

PMNT will provide support and data to the DOC to enhance plans at a national level. Members of PMNT also are active in advocating on local and national plans, and this will continue this year.

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

- 5.1 Develop or participate in national and international projects for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation at key sites

PMNT will be assisting with shorebird surveys in China in April, and will be leading a shorebird count of part of the coastline in DPRK in May. Members of the Trust will participate in international and national forums where appropriate.

- 5.2 Participate in international forums to promote EAAFP goals and actions

Wherever possible the Trust promote the goals and aims of the EAAFP, as they coincide with core activities of the Trust.

**DOCUMENT 6.1.2.8**

**6.1.2.8 BirdLife International**

*Report prepared by Cristi Nozawa*

Partner Work Plan – BirdLife International

This form submitted by BirdLife International, including inputs from:

- a) BirdLife International Secretariat – Asia Division (Singapore and Tokyo offices, Seabird Working Group)
- b) Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (Hong Kong)
- c) Burung Indonesia (Indonesia)
- d) Haribon Foundation (Philippines)
- e) Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (Thailand)

*Note that the Malaysian Nature Society (the BirdLife International Partner in Malaysia) has submitted their inputs through their national reporting process. BirdLife Australia is reporting via the Australasian Wader Studies Group, also a Partner of EAAFP and so reporting directly.*

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites (FNS)*

- 1.1 ~~Nominate new FNS with Site Information Sheets~~  
Not relevant
- 1.2 ~~Complete and update Site Information Sheets for existing FNS~~  
Not relevant
- 1.3 Promote increased protection status and develop Management Plans for FNS
  - BirdLife Secretariat: BirdLife will continue to work at Geum Estuary (a FNS) to promote different methods of conservation, including listing as a World Heritage Area, and expanding the protected area. We are also working with the local authorities to develop and implement management plans for the conservation of waterbirds in the estuary.
  - Thailand: Preparation of Action Plan for the Inner Gulf of Thailand
- 1.4 Develop actions and projects at FNS
  - BirdLife Secretariat: BirdLife is the implementing body for the UNWTO Destination Flyways project at Geum Estuary.

- 1.5 Promote Sister Site partnerships
- Indonesia: National Secretariat (Government of Indonesia) has been exploring a potential collaboration with South Korea government to develop Sister Site partnership in Indonesia

*Objective 2: CEPA*

- 2.1 Undertake activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness
- Hong Kong: HKBWS regularly organize workshops and outings for members to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness. It will continue in 2015.
  - Indonesia: Promotion through various communication media at local and national level
  - Philippines: Awareness raising and lectures about migratory birds will be given to schools and universities within and outside Metro Manila
- 2.2 Hold World Migratory Bird Day celebrations
- BirdLife Secretariat: Will continue to coordinate, promote and encourage participation in the flyway-wide awareness festival called Welcome to the Birds.
  - Philippines: "Welcome to the Birds" will be held in October 2015
  - Thailand: Hold World Wetlands Day and Welcome to the Birds celebrations at Khok Kham in the Inner Gulf of Thailand.
- 2.3 Undertake CEPA activities at FNS
- BirdLife Secretariat: BirdLife will continue to work at Geum Estuary including plans for various CEPA activities.
  - Philippines: Conduct birdwatching activities
  - Philippines: Develop citizen scientists from among Haribon members to assist in monitoring
  - Philippines: Prepare IEC materials on migratory species and habitats
  - Thailand: Environmental education programme development in Petchaburi, Inner Gulf of Thailand.
  - Thailand: Development of education centre at Pak Thale, Inner Gulf of Thailand.
- 2.4 Promote EAAFP in relevant national forums and events
- Indonesia: Participate in any relevant forums and events.
  - Philippines: Participate on poster and oral presentations

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

- 3.1 Increase knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, e.g. through special surveys
- BirdLife Secretariat: BirdLife will continue to support surveys across the flyway, including the new Spoon-billed Sandpiper simultaneous survey, and the China Coastal Waterbird Census, amongst others.
  - Hong Kong: Black-faced Spoonbill will continue to be studied and monitored by HKBWS staffs and members in future
  - Philippines: Search for the Chinese Crested Tern, Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Black-faced Spoonbill will be conducted for the next 5 years
  - Thailand: Numerous surveys at sites and for specific species: AWC 2015 and Spoon-billed sandpiper survey Jan 2015; AWC 2015 15-30 Jan. 2015; Spoon-billed sandpiper survey 19-25 Jan. 2015; Doi Inthanon Bird Census 7-8 Feb. 2015; Khao Yai Bird Census: 21-22 Feb. 2015; Gurney's pitta survey (dependent upon funding) April 2015.
  -
- 3.2 Undertake regular monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- Hong Kong: HKBWS is already working in regular monitoring programme at Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site (i.e. already a Flyway Site no: EAAF 003). Reports and awareness materials will also be made.
  - Philippines: Regular monitoring in 4 (Candaba, LPPCHEA, Naujan Lake, Olango Island) sites will be conducted in the first quarter and will resume in again in August to December.
  - Philippines: Exploration for other possible sites will be conducted (specifically for CCT) in Polillio Islands and in the north and north-eastern coast of Luzon for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper.
  - Philippines: set up coordinating mechanism with other partners in FNS for monitoring eg MSU-IIT in Mindanao.
  - Thailand: Will undertake a CEPF-IUCN IBA monitoring project in 2015 including Planning; Regional workshops; Updating WBDB and data analysis; Preparation and publication of IBA report and outputs; Reporting to CEPF
  -
- 3.3 Share and disseminate information on migratory waterbirds through improved networking
- Indonesia: Develop collaboration with wider institutions especially in Wallacea region
  - Philippines: Opportunistic information and education about migratory birds will be regularly conducted in Haribon activities.
- 3.4 Identify information and research gaps and needs and promote relevant research programs
- Indonesia: Develop joint monitoring program with other BirdLife Partners (i.e. Taiwan, Hong Kong) for Chinese Crested Tern in wintering sites in Indonesia

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

- 4.1 ~~Undertake National Partnership meetings to share information and participation related to EAAFP goals and activities~~  
Not relevant
- 4.2 Undertake training of site managers and other key stakeholders in in migratory waterbird and site conservation
- Hong Kong: Regular training workshop for waterbird monitoring activities are arranged by HKBWS.
- 4.3 Promote integration of migratory waterbird and habitat conservation in national plans and policies (e.g. NBSAP, EIA, land use plans and policies)
- Indonesia: Advocate priority migratory species and important birds and biodiversity areas to be included in the national strategic plan (NBSAP) as well as the national policies

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

- 5.1 Develop or participate in national and international projects for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation at key sites
- Hong Kong: HKBWS is interested to organize an international workshop on conservation of BFS, if we can secure financial supports.
  - Indonesia: Develop a regional project for Chinese Crested Tern with other BirdLife Partners in Taiwan and Hong Kong
  - Philippines: Develop proposals for migratory birds conservation and research
- 5.2 Participate in international forums to promote EAAFP goals and actions
- Indonesia: Participate in any forums to promote EAAFP based on National Secretariat plan
  - Philippines: Attend in the next EAAF congress

**6.1.2.9 Bangladesh**

*Report prepared by Md. Masumur Rahman*

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites (FNS)*

- 1.1 Nominate new FNS with Site Information Sheets:  
Two (Char Kukrimukri, Char Shahjalal and Domar Char) Information sheet will be provide letter
- 1.2 Complete and update Site Information Sheets for existing FNS:  
(Attached five site's Information 'sheets) It's a continuous and ongoing process by the concern department and organization
- 1.3 Promote increased protection status and develop Management Plans for FNS:  
Government has already endorsed Sonadia Island management plan and Moef and IUCN jointly developing a management plan for Tanguar haor. BFD is developing Nijhum dip national park management plan
- 1.4 Develop actions and projects at FNS: Different projects are initiated by government, INGO, NGO and others in the FNS
- 1.5 Promote Sister Site partnerships: It is also on going.

*Objective 2: CEPA*

- 2.1 Undertake activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness  
Hunting band program implemented by government  
Monitoring program improvement by conducting mobile court  
Project based vigilance developing for migratory waterbirds  
Protected area development by Moef- Sanctuaries, safe zone, Hot spot, national park declaration etc. for habitat preservation and social aforestration for habitat improvement  
Number of training workshops and courses are conducted for site manager by Moef, BFD, IUCN, CREL, Bangladesh Bird Club, Public Universities etc
- 2.2 Hold World Migratory Bird Day celebrations:  
Nationally and Locally celebrate world migratory bird day with colorful manure
- 2.3 Undertake CEPA activities at FNS:  
CEPA (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) acitivities is ongoing at all FNS.
- 2.4 Promote EAAFP in relevant national forums and events:  
As a member of EAAFP Bangladesh promote it's activities and events and follow it's conventions.

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

- 3.1 Increase knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, e.g. through special surveys:  
Every year Bangladesh Bird Club-IUCN jointly conducted waterbirds census program
- 3.2 Undertake regular monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats: Regular monitoring and management work are conducted by the BFD, MOEF, NACOM (Nature Conservation Movement), CNRS (Center for Natural Resource Studies) and SRCWP( Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection).
- 3.3 Share and disseminate information on migratory waterbirds through improved networking
- 3.4 Identify information and research gaps and needs and promote relevant research programs: Inter-departmental coordination gaps, Need capacity building program for the relevant departments or organizations

*Objective 4: Capacity Building*

- 4.1 Undertake National Partnership meetings to share information and participation related to EAAFP goals and activities:  
Number of National Partnership meeting has been conducted on regular basis as needed.

- 4.2 Undertake training of site managers and other key stakeholders in migratory water bird and site conservation:  
Number of training workshops and courses are conducted for site manager by MOEF, BFD, IUCN, CREL, Bangladesh Bird Club, Public Universities etc
- 4.3 Integrate migratory water bird and habitat conservation in national plans and policies (e.g. NBSAP, EIA, land use plans and policies)  
Department of Environment had developed NBSAP (National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan) through IUCN. BFD has taken an initiative for land use mapping by remote sensing technique.

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

- 5.1 Develop or participate in national and international projects for migratory water bird and habitat conservation at key sites:  
More than 10 projects are ongoing on waterbirds  
Wildbirds monitoring  
and bird ringing program  
Shorebirds conservation program  
Habitat management plan and conservation action for the critically endangered Spoon-billed sandpiper conservation project at its wintering ground at Sonadia island Bangladesh  
Spoon-billed sandpiper conservation project  
Globally threatened birds conservation project in coastal area  
Wetland birds conservation program
- 5.2 Participate in international forums to promote EAAFP goals and actions  
Government is working with different international forum like COP, CBD (Conservation of Biological Diversity), CMS (Convention on Migratory Species) etc. to promote EAAFP goals and actions.

**DOCUMENT 6.1.2.10**

**6.1.2.10 IUCN**

*Report prepared by Scott Perkin*

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites (FNS)*

- 1.1 Nominate new FNS with Site Information Sheets
- *The IUCN Asia Regional Office (ARO) will implement a project on the sustainable management of the Gulf of Mottama in Myanmar. The project will support the designation of part of the Gulf as a Ramsar site and as a Flyway Network Site. Meetings and consultations will be supported by the project in 2015 to assess the feasibility of both designations with a focus on the conservation of spoon-billed sandpiper.*
- 1.2 Complete and update Site Information Sheets for existing FNS
- 1.3 Promote increased protection status and develop Management Plans for FNS
- 1.4 Develop actions and projects at FNS
- 1.5 Promote Sister Site partnerships

*Objective 2: CEPA*

- 2.1 Undertake activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness
- 2.2 Hold World Migratory Bird Day celebrations
- 2.3 Undertake CEPA activities at FNS
- 2.4 Promote EAAFP in relevant national forums and events

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

- 3.1 Increase knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, e.g. through special surveys

- *IUCN Cambodia will provide support to enhance the management of the Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary/Kho Kapik Ramsar Site. This will include strengthening existing regulations and zoning (including protection of critical areas for shore birds) as well as supporting biodiversity surveys (including shore birds) and the development of species conservation plans for target species;*
- 3.2 Undertake regular monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats
  - *See above for the Kho Kapik Ramsar site*
- 3.3 Share and disseminate information on migratory waterbirds through improved networking
  - *See above for the Kho Kapik Ramsar site*
- 3.4 Identify information and research gaps and needs and promote relevant research programs
  - *See above for the Kho Kapik Ramsar site*

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

- 4.1 Undertake National Partnership meetings to share information and participation related to EAAFP goals and activities
  - *See 1.1 in the Gulf Of Mottama in Myanmar.*
- 4.2 Undertake training of site managers and other key stakeholders in in migratory waterbird and site conservation
  - *See 1.1 in the Gulf Of Mottama in Myanmar.*
- 4.3 Integrate migratory waterbird and habitat conservation in national plans and policies (e.g. NBSAP, EIA, land use plans and policies)
  - *IUCN will be assisting the Government of Myanmar to revise its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and will seek to ensure that the needs of migratory waterbirds are incorporated into the new NBSAP.*

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

- 5.1 Develop or participate in national and international projects for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation at key sites
  - *See 1.1 in the Gulf Of Mottama in Myanmar.*
  - *The IUCN Asia Regional Office is hoping to receive funding support from the Republic of Korea for the implementation of activities related to two World Conservation Congress resolutions: "Conservation of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and its threatened waterbirds, with particular reference to the Yellow Sea /Improving conservation and sustainability of the Yellow Sea"*
- 5.2 Participate in international forums to promote EAAFP goals and actions
  - *The IUCN Asia Regional Office will participate in the Ramsar COP in Uruguay to highlight the profile of regional wetlands (including but not limited to their value in terms of bird conservation).*

**DOCUMENT 6.1.2.11**

#### **6.1.2.11 Rio Tinto**

*Report prepared by Steve Rusbridge*

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites (FNS)*

- 1.1 Nominate new FNS with Site Information Sheets
- 1.2 Complete and update Site Information Sheets for existing FNS
- 1.3 Promote increased protection status and develop Management Plans for FNS
- 1.4 Develop actions and projects at FNS
- 1.5 Promote Sister Site partnerships

### *Objective 2: CEPA*

- 2.1 Undertake activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness  
RT operations conduct awareness activities to promote waterbird conservation awareness where it is applicable to the operational setting. For example Dampier Salt operations conduct awareness campaigns with employees prior to commencement of arrival of migratory birds.
- 2.2 Hold World Migratory Bird Day celebrations  
MBD events (eg community birdwatch days) are held by a number of Rio Tinto operations within the flyway, in conjunction with Birdlife partners. These sites include Dampier Salt and Rio Tinto Iron Ore operations (other sites in Australia as well as India, Africa and USA). These events are attended by employees as well as members of the local communities in which we operate.
- 2.3 Undertake CEPA activities at FNS
- 2.4 Promote EAAFP in relevant national forums and events  
Rio Tinto commits to promoting the EAAFP and its objectives in relevant forums and events that it attends as appropriate.

### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

- 3.1 Increase knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, e.g. through special surveys  
Rio Tinto undertakes studies and monitoring to increase knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in areas where this is applicable. For example Rio Tinto has conducted specialist research and surveys of salt operations in the north-west of Australia to improve understanding of the use of solar salt ponds by migratory birds. This has led to an improved understanding of the value of the salt ponds to migratory birds in the region.
- 3.2 Undertake regular monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats  
Regular monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats is conducted at Rio Tinto operations as relevant – for example annual monitoring of migratory birds is conducted at Rio Tinto's Dampier Salt operations in Port Hedland and Dampier. This monitoring is conducted using skilled observers from Birdlife Western Australia. Data from these monitoring events are made available.
- 3.3 Share and disseminate information on migratory waterbirds through improved networking  
Rio Tinto supports the dissemination and sharing of information on migratory waterbirds both through Rio Tinto internal and external communication channels (Print and electronic publications) and also via supporting attendance of researchers/employees to present papers at relevant conferences and forums.
- 3.4 Identify information and research gaps and needs and promote relevant research programs  
Rio Tinto has a commitment to biodiversity conservation and aims to minimize the impacts of our business on biodiversity and contribute to achieving positive biodiversity outcomes in regions in which we operate. A significant component of this work involves understanding the potential impacts on biodiversity features and where applicable, determining ways in which these can be avoided, minimized or rehabilitated. This process includes the identification of any information or research gaps and then conducting these works to address.

### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

- 4.1 Undertake National Partnership meetings to share information and participation related to EAAFP goals and activities
- 4.2 Undertake training of site managers and other key stakeholders in migratory waterbird and site conservation  
As an output of migratory bird research, Rio Tinto aim to develop a guide to shorebird friendly salt pond management. This will be aimed at improving the understanding of how migratory birds use salt ponds and what factors are important to bird usage. This will allow for these factors to be considered during operation and closure of salt ponds.
- 4.3 Integrate migratory waterbird and habitat conservation in national plans management plans and policies (e.g. NBSAP, EIA, land use plans and policies)

Biodiversity issues (inclusive of fauna and habitat conservation) are integrated throughout a number of Rio Tinto policies, procedures, environmental standards and management plans. Rio Tinto takes a risk based approach to management of biodiversity and these issues are identified and addressed as applicable throughout the life of a project.

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

- 5.1 Develop or participate in national and international projects for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation at key sites
  
- 5.2 Participate in international forums to promote EAAFP goals and actions  
Rio Tinto commits to promoting the EAAFP and its objectives in relevant forums and events that it attends as appropriate.

**DOCUMENT 6.1.2.12**

**6.1.2.12 China**

*Report prepared by Lei Guangchun*

China's Work Plan for 2015 till next MOP

*FNS development*

- 1.1 Completion of all FNS information sheet
- 1.2 Designate 5 new sites based on the priority assessment

*CEPA activities*

Promote EAAF through the following activities:

World Wetlands Day  
Migratory Water Birds Day  
Environment Day  
Waterbird Festival

*Research, Monitoring and Sharing of Information*

Organizing second China Forum for Nature  
Organizing World Ecosystem Management Forum (jointly with IUCN, under preparation)  
Blueprint Project  
National Survey on migratory water birds  
Monitoring of wetland habitats  
Satellite tracking of key species  
Bird Banding  
Website development for information sharing

*Capacity Building*

Continue international training programs  
National partners training  
Volunteering training  
Site managers training

*Flyway Network*

Promote bi-lateral sister sites  
Develop and continue the existing bi-lateral mechanisms

**9. Meeting Closed**