EAAFP 10th Anniversary
2019 World Migratory Bird Day

Australian Embassy Seoul

The conservation of wetlands and migratory birds in Australia

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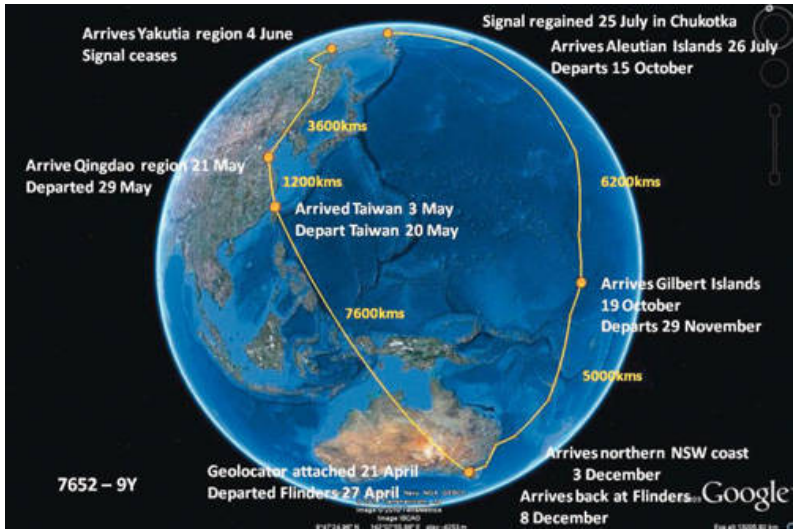
Deputy Head of Mission

Australian Embassy in Seoul



Source: Australian Geographic

The Ruddy Turnstone

Matters of National Environmental Significance

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper © Chris Purnell

Under Australian environmental law there are eight matters of national environmental significance:

- listed threatened species and ecological communities
- **migratory species listed under international agreements**
- Ramsar wetlands of international importance
- the Commonwealth marine environment
- World Heritage properties
- National Heritage places
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- Nuclear actions, and
- Water trigger

JAMBA, CAMBA and ROKAMBA

Migratory Bird Agreements

- Japan (since 1974, entered into force 1981).
- the People's Republic of China (since 1986, entered into force 1988).
- the Republic of Korea (since 2006, entered into force 2007).
- Each Agreement has an annex listing birds that migrate between each country.
- Largely seabirds, shorebirds and few terrestrial land birds.

Obligations

- Signatories commit 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.
- Allow for the governments to exchange research data and publications, to encourage formulation of joint research programs, and to encourage the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
- Meetings occur between all four countries every two years.

Great Frigatebird

Greater Crested Tern (©Georgina Steytler)

Red-footed Booby

Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds

Black-tailed Godwit © Graeme Chapman

- National plan for the protection, conservation and management of listed migratory shorebirds
- Effective from January 2016
- Covers 35 species
  - Eastern Curlew and Curlew Sandpiper listed threatened
- Outlines legal framework
- Threat prioritisation matrix
- Must be reviewed after 5 years

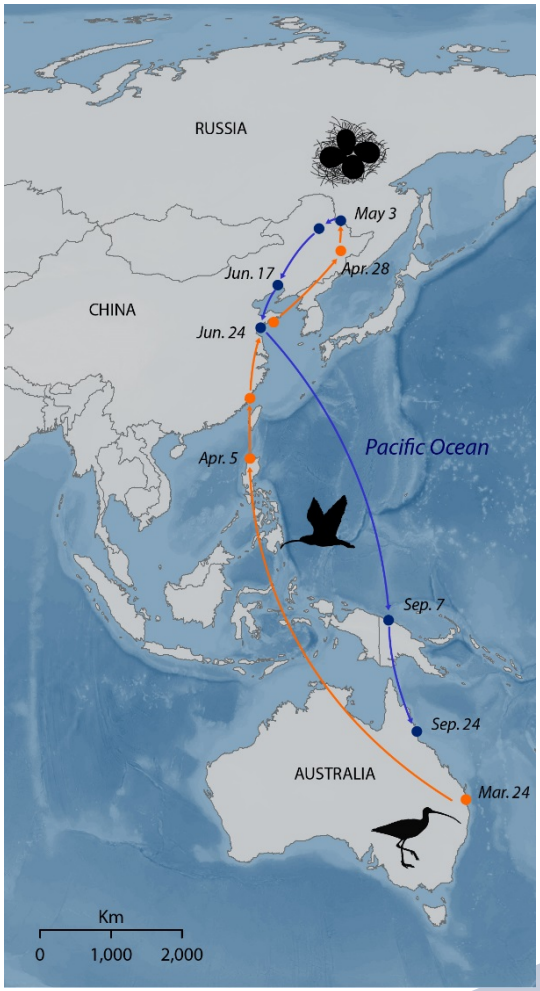
On-ground action – National Landcare Program

- The Australian Government's National Landcare Program invested **$1 billion** over four years from 2014-15 to help drive sustainable agriculture as well as supporting the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of Australia's natural environment
- National Landcare Program invested more than **$26 million** in migratory birds and their habitats
- A further **$1 billion** was announced in the 2017 Commonwealth Budget
- Delivery with States and local government, NGOs and others

Saving the Far Eastern Curlew

- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- Australia: Critically Endangered
- SSAP for Far Eastern Curlew adopted at EAAFP MOP9 in 2017 and CMS CoP12, October 2017

Critically endangered Far Eastern Curlew © Dan Weller



Migration of Far Eastern Curlew Driscoll and Ueta 2002 *Ibis*

Thank you for listening