

# EAAFP Small Grants Fund 2020 - Application

## PERSONAL DETAILS

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(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

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## Relevant Working Group or Task Force Chair/Coordinator - DETAILS

Please contact the EAAFP Programme Officer if additional guidance is needed in relation to this section (programme@eaaflyway.net)

Title: MR McKinlay Bruce  
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## PROJECT DETAILS

**Project Title:** Please provide a concise and informative title of your entire project (not just the component for which funds are sought)

SHOREBIRD SURVEY OF WEST COAST OF DPRK AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LOCAL ONGOING MONITORING

### Part A. Project Proposal

**Details of your entire project (not just the component for which funds are sought) (2.5 page maximum)**

Objectives:

To support shorebird conservation and management in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

This will be achieved by undertaking the following activities:

- Assess the distribution and numbers of shorebirds on the West coast of DPRK during northward migration.
- Assess the distribution and numbers of shorebirds on the West coast of DPRK during southward migration and identify important moulting sites, especially for species such as the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper
- Train DPRK researchers (e.g. Nature Conservation Union of Korea, National Academy of Sciences) in shorebird monitoring techniques and assist in the development of a long-term national monitoring programme.

- Develop a rapid assessment monitoring programme for benthic prey stocks for shorebirds on the West Coast of DPRK (in conjunction with e.g. Nature Conservation Union of Korea, National Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Fisheries).
- Coordinate PMNT's work in DPRK with other international NGOs working in DPRK, including WWF Hong Kong, Hong Kong Birdwatching Society and Hanns Seidel Foundation.
- Liaise with The Ramsar Convention Secretariat, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat and IUCN.
- Promote greater awareness, especially among local government officials, of coastal biodiversity values and coastal management.

**Funding is currently being requested to support surveys during northward migration in 2020** – these will include sites around the Han River estuary which have not been surveyed before, but which are thought to be of particular importance for shorebirds, including the Critically Endangered Spoonbilled Sandpiper (Green *et al.* 2018).

**Background:**

Since the 1990s the Yellow Sea coasts of China and Republic of Korea have been well surveyed for shorebirds and many important sites identified. However, little was known about shorebird sites in DPRK, especially along the west coast. In 2014 Pūkororo Miranda Naturalists' Trust (PMNT) signed an agreement with the Nature Conservation Union of Korea (NCUK) aimed at filling this significant knowledge gap. The agreement established a workplan for shorebird surveys of the West Sea (Yellow Sea) coast and publication of a joint report. From 2015 to 2019 PMNT members and NCUK colleagues surveyed many of the likely key shorebird sites and identified at least 10 sites of international importance according to Ramsar Criteria (Riegen *et al.* 2016, 2018a, 2018b, in press). Together, these support approximately a third of the world population of the Endangered Far Eastern Curlew. Additionally, there are a number of records of the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper and it is likely that the Han River Estuary is of particular importance for this species (Green *et al.* 2018).

**1. Project plan, timeline and methods:**

Year 1 – 2020:

- Complete the survey of all northward migration staging sites especially sites in the Han River estuary. Pilot sampling of benthos – investigate feasibility.
- Launch report on first five years of surveys

Year 2 - 2021:

- Initiate surveys during southward migration. The aim will be to visit up to 50% of sites.
- Develop rapid assessment sampling protocol for intertidal benthos; training DPRK researchers

Year 3 – 2022:

- Review of benthos sampling programme, modification as necessary in light of experience.
- Complete survey of southward migration sites

By 2023 we will have achieved the following:

- A basic understanding of shorebirds use of the West Sea coast of DPRK during both northward and southward migration.
- DPRK researchers will be sufficiently trained to continue shorebird surveys without external technical support and will have developed a long-term monitoring programme.
- DPRK researchers will have conducted a rapid assessment protocol for benthos sampling and established a long-term monitoring programme.
- As and when opportunities arise, PMNT will have facilitated and supported international technical exchanges.

**2. Likely benefit to conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitat / or key research outputs:**

The project will fill a significant knowledge gap in migratory shorebird use of the DPRK west coast during northward and southward migrations.

Aspects of this project will contribute to all five of the Objectives of the Partnership:  
1 Develop the Flyway Network of sites of international importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, building on the achievements of the APMWCS networks.

	<p>2 Enhance communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.</p> <p>3 Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, build knowledge and promote exchange of information on waterbirds and their habitats.</p> <p>4 Build the habitat and waterbird management capacity of natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders.</p> <p>3 Develop, especially for priority species and habitats, flyway wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds.</p> <p>In particular the project will contribute to the following KRAs in the 2019-2028 Strategic Plan: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3.1, 3.3, 3.5, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.5,</p>
<b>3. Alignment with EAAFP priorities:</b>	<p>Shorebird Working Group Yellow Sea Task Force Far Eastern Curlew Task Force Spoon-billed Sandpiper Taskforce</p>
<b>4. Explain the part of your project for which you are seeking funds in this application:</b>	<p>We have a 3-year plan; we are seeking funding to support activities in April 2020.</p> <p>In 2020 we will survey sites on the West coast of DPRK, in particular sites in the Han River estuary which are believed to be important for Spoon-billed Sandpiper (Green <i>et al.</i> 2018), but which it was not possible to visit in 2019 (Riegen <i>et al.</i> in press). NCUK advise that, following further discussion with the relevant authorities, it should be possible to visit these sites in 2020. We will revisit Sindo the most important site found in DPRK, and a strong candidate for World Heritage listing.</p> <p>We will also launch the joint PMNT-NCUK report on survey outcomes to date at an event with relevant government agencies in Pyongyang.</p> <p>We have sourced some funds within New Zealand but still have a significant shortfall.</p>
<b>5. Scientific References cited in the application:</b>	<p>Green, R.; Clark, N.; Anderson, G.; Weston, E.; Hughes, B. 2018. Satellite tagging of spoon-billed Sandpipers reveals the importance of intertidal habitats in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for migration and post-breeding moult. <i>Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force News Bulletin</i> 19: 31-33.</p> <p>Riegen, A.C.; Vaughan, G.R.; Rogers, K.G. 2014. Yalu Jiang Estuary Shorebird Survey Report 1999-2010. Yalu Jiang Estuary wetland National Nature Reserve, China and Miranda Naturalists' Trust, New Zealand.</p> <p>Riegen, A., Melville, D.S., Woodley, K., Postill, B., Ju, S.I., Hong, YH.S., Kim, S.H. &amp; Pak, U. 2016. Coastal shorebird survey in the Provinces of North and South Pyongyang, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, April 2016. <i>Stilt</i> 69-70: 37-43.</p> <p>Riegen, A., Melville, D.S., Hare, W., Milius, N., Ko, H.C., Ju, S.I., Hong, H.S., Kim, S.H. &amp; Ri, C.S. 2018a. Coastal shorebird survey in the province of North Pyongan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, April 2017. <i>Stilt</i> 72: 15-20.</p> <p>Riegen, A., Melville, D.S., Woodley, K., Ri, S.I., Ju, S.I., Ri, C.J., Ji, H.K. &amp; Ri, C.S. 2018b. Coastal shorebird survey in the province of North Pyongan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, April 2018. <i>Stilt</i> 72: 21-26.</p> <p>Riegen, A., Melville, D.S., Woodley, K., Perry W., Kwak, I.C., Ri, S.I., Hong, H.S., Ju S.I., Kim, J.H. (in press) Coastal shorebird surveys in the Provinces of South Hwanghae and North Pyongan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, May 2019. <i>Stilt</i></p>

**Part B. FOR CONFERENCE APPLICANTS ONLY**

<b>Conference Title:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Presentation Abstract</b> (250 word maximum):		

**Part C. FOR ALL APPLICANTS**

**Experience Relevant to Project:**

PMNT members have extensive experience working with shorebirds throughout the Flyway, and have undertaken survey work around the Yellow Sea over the past two decades in China, DPRK and South Korea. The results of 10 years of surveys at Yalujiang NNR, China was published in 2014 (Riegen et al. 2014). PMNT members participated in the Saemangeum Shorebird Monitoring Survey in the ROK in 2016-2018.

Our counterpart/host organisation, the Nature Conservation Union of Korea was founded in 1959 aimed to spread conservation knowledge among the people; it has been a member of IUCN since 1963. NCUK has participated in all coastal surveys since 2016 and undertaken all logistic arrangements for the surveys, liaising with national and local government agencies.

PMNT Team 2020 Profiles.

**David Melville** is an ecologist/ornithologist who worked in Asia for over 20 years before moving to New Zealand in late 1999.

He has worked in China, Hong Kong, Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, UK, Australia, New Zealand, and the USA.

He has experience in wetland management and planning, having established the Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve in Hong Kong and worked on wetland nature reserve plans in China, Singapore, Britain, New Zealand and Japan. For the past 10 years he has been working with Chinese scientists studying shorebird ecology along the coast of the Yellow Sea, and advising on wetland restoration and creation. He has published more than 200 scientific papers, many about waterbirds and wetlands.

He has participated in waterbird surveys in many countries over the past 50 years, including 5 in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

He is currently Vice Chair of the Technical Sub-Committee of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership.

**Keith Woodley** has been Centre manager at Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre since 1993. He has extensive experience in shorebird advocacy and monitoring in New Zealand, China, DPRK, ROK and Alaska. Has given many talks on migratory shorebirds and conservation issues to schools, tertiary students, and community groups. He is the author of *Godwits: Long-haul champions*. 2009. (Penguin Random House) and *Sharing the Margins: Shorebird of New Zealand*. 2012. (Penguin Random House).

**Adrian Riegen**, Member New Zealand Order of Merit

Based in Auckland, New Zealand as a builder since 1982.

Since 1986 co-leader of the New Zealand Wader Study Group (NZWSG) which is affiliated with Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust. Long and extensive involvement with catching and banding shorebirds – unravelling the migration story of species like Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot, Ruddy Turnstone and Pacific Golden Plover.

Active in advocating for shorebirds to the general public, giving many talks to community groups, he is also involved in shorebird research throughout NZ including the Chatham Islands and continues to work with community groups around Auckland who are protecting NZ Dotterels and other coastal breeding species.

The key driver of PMNT engagement with the EAAF, he helped establish the Trust's sister site relationship with Yalu Jiang in China and coordinated surveys of the Yalu Jiang reserve eight times between 2000 and 2014. Also participated in shorebird expeditions to North Western Australia in 1990, 1992 and 2020. At Kushiro Japan in 1994 he was the sole New Zealand representative at the workshop launching the concept of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Other shorebird monitoring work has taken him to The Gulf of Carpentaria in northern Queensland in 1999, 2012 and 2013, the Bohai Sea in China in 2002 and 2014, Republic of Korea in 2005 and the SSMP in 2006, 2007 and 2008, The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska in 2005 and 2007 to help with studies of Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot and other shorebirds and DPRK in 2009 with others members of Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust to survey shorebirds on the Mundok coast. Has returned to DPRK each year 2014-2019 surveying almost the entire west coast with a view to finding sites suitable for the EAAF site network and Ramsar listing.

He has published many reports and papers on shorebirds including a bilingual report on the surveys at Yalu Jiang NNR, China. Has also co-authored many other papers on shorebirds

Please **also** attach a maximum 2-page CV or list non-academic research experience and experience with migratory waterbirds/conservation e.g. work experience, volunteer experience, bird banding, birdwatching.

**PROJECT BUDGET** (please outline your entire project, not just the component for which funds are being sought)

Item (Please list)	\$ Budget (in USD)	Current support / Requested Support (source and amount)	Requested support from EAAFP (source and amount)
Equipment: (details)			
Consumable items (details)			
Travel and accommodation (details)	<p><b>DPRK Cost for Koreans US\$11,500</b> This includes Boat to Sindo and return 6 Koreans wages, Hotels and food Minibus hire and driver Train fares Prizes for school students</p> <p><b>PMNT Costs NZ\$ 9,100</b>  This includes 2 Flights Auckland – Beijing return \$3000 Taxi \$100 Train Beijing Dandong for two \$200 Hotel in Dandong for 3 \$300 Train to Sinuiju DPRK \$20 Train from Sinuiji to Pyongyang \$180 Hotel and food throughout DPRK for 3 people \$3000 Flight from Pyongyang to Beijing for 3 \$1500 DPRK Visas \$600</p> <p>Total Budget <b>Minimum in USD for PMNT an NCUK \$20,600</b></p>	<p>Living Water \$9900  AWSG application for \$3400</p>	<p>Small Grants Fund \$5000</p>
Computing & clerical (details)			
Other (details)			
<b>Total amount requested from Small Grants Fund:</b> (All amounts in USD)			5000.00

**Budget justification:** Please provide brief description and justification of all major budgetary items requested, indicating any that are essential to the project and/or conference for which you are applying (250 word maximum):

The primary cost of Shorebird Surveys in DPRK are travel and accommodation (international and in country) for NZ participants, and for our NCUK colleagues. As an NGO we are extremely cost conscious, and all previous visits to DPRK have followed the most minimal budget possible. For the 2020 visit we have secured substantial funding within New Zealand but still have a budget shortfall, to cover some of which we are seeking EAAFP support.

## DECLARATION

I have discussed the contents of this application with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of relevant Working Group and/or Task Forces and I certify that to the best of my knowledge all documentation and information submitted or made available by me is true, accurate and complete.

By ticking the following box you are agreeing to the above statement:

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

All relevant sections of this application have been completed.	Yes ✓	No
Full payment details have been provided on the final page.	Yes ✓	No
Application is being submitted electronically as one single document.	Yes ✓	No
Application is being submitted in MS Word format.	Yes ✓	No
Application has been discussed with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of relevant working Group and/or Task Forces and these have been carbon copied (cc) to this application submission as evidence they have seen and approved this application.	Yes ✓	No

Applications that do not comply with these guidelines will be returned to the applicant.

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Please email your application as a single document to:  
[secretariat@eaaflyway.net](mailto:secretariat@eaaflyway.net)

EAAFP will acknowledge the receipt of your application.

**Applications close at 5pm (Seoul Time) on 3 February 2020**  
**Results will be announced on 3 March 2020**

### OFFICE USE ONLY:

Decision: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorised: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Lead Investigator Advised: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE PAYMENT DETAILS ON FINAL PAGE**

## PAYMENT DETAILS

To ensure prompt payment of successful applications please complete the following details and submit with your application.

### PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD

Electronic funds transfer (EFT)

### GRANT CONDITIONS

**In accordance with the application criteria, the following conditions must be met:**

- Funds are to be strictly exempt from organisational administration charges.
- You are required to submit one copy by email of the final report within 3 months of the completion of the project.
- You are required to acknowledge the EAAFP and the Small Grant Fund in any presentations, publications, reports or promotional material arising from this work. Please email [secretariat@eaaflyway.net](mailto:secretariat@eaaflyway.net) in order to obtain an electronic copy of EAAFP logo for use on any display material you will be preparing.
- You may be requested to write a brief article for the EAAFP newsletter.
- You are required to provide EAAFP with an electronic copy of your final report at the completion of your project, as well as a copy of any publications that result from your grant.

## NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

1. Applications should be targeted towards EAAFP key species or habitats, regions, or emerging threats or other specified Partnership objectives. All applications should demonstrate how the project will contribute to the implementation of the [EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028](#).
2. The maximum amount annually provided by the Small Grants Fund to an applicant or for a specific project is \$5,000 (USD). If the project budget exceeds this amount, then the supporting funds and funders need to be identified in the Application.
3. Funds are limited and not all applications may be funded.
4. Applications with in-kind contributions and other matching financial are preferred.
5. Grants are awarded on the strict understanding that funds will be exempt from institutional administration charges, unless Partner government law so requires.
6. Conference attendance will be supported to a maximum of \$1,000 (USD) and is only for Task Force or Working Group members delivering their own work as a presentation, paper or poster.
7. Applications must be reviewed by the relevant EAAFP Working Group or Task Force Chair or Coordinator, who will provide a statement of the relative merit of the application against the assessment criteria, prior to submission.
8. EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces are eligible for funding to go towards meetings, research, monitoring, site management, training and CEPA events and materials.
9. Students, with the support of the relevant Working Group or Task Force, are only eligible for funding toward studies being undertaken at a research institution or travel to a conference to present original research.
10. Lead investigators are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from government authorities, indigenous communities, ethics committees etc., to undertake approved research or monitoring studies.
11. Project completion is required within 18 months of the close of the Application period.
12. Successful applicants will be required to provide a short write up of their project outcomes for the EAAFP newsletter and website and to report to the relevant Working Group or Task Force. They are also strongly encouraged to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals.

**Call for proposal opens on 3 January. Applications close at 5pm (Seoul Time) on 3 February annually. Announcements of funding will be made by 3 March.**

**A follow-up application process may be available 6 months later should funds remain.**

## Guidance to Applicants

### 1. Eligibility of Projects

- |  |          |    |
|--|----------|----|
| 1.1 The focus of the project is migratory waterbirds and their habitats.   | Yes<br>✓ | No |
| 1.2 The project will improve the understanding of factors important for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF. | Yes<br>✓ | No |
| 1.3 The applicant agrees to provide a final report within 3 months of the completion of the project.   | Yes<br>✓ | No |

- |     |   |                 |    |
|-----|---|-----------------|----|
| 1.4 | The applicant agrees to submit 1-2-page article and photographs for inclusion on EAAFP's website and/or write a brief article for the EAAFP's newsletter. Photographers will be acknowledged. | <b>Yes</b><br>✓ | No |
| 1.5 | The applicant will acknowledge the support of the EAAFP in any publications, presentations and reports arising from this work.  | <b>Yes</b><br>✓ | No |

## 2. Project Assessment Criteria

- 2.1 The contribution the project is anticipated to make to the Key Result Areas listed in the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028.
- 2.2 The alignment of the project with priority Single Species Action Plans or overall Working Group and Task Force objectives. Applications are encouraged to contact the relevant Working Group and Task Force Chair or Coordinator to brief them on the Project Proposal. Please contact the EAAFP Programme Officer if additional information is needed (programme@eaaflyway.net).
- 2.3 The justification for the grant funds requested relative to the overall budget of the project.
- 2.4 Leveraging of in-kind contributions and other matching financial.
- 2.5 The track record of the lead investigator and the likelihood of the project achieving its objectives.

## 3. Project Assessment Process (for information)

- 3.1 Following initial Secretariat and WG/TF screening and review, the Technical Sub-Committee (TsC) will select at least 1 reviewer per 5 applications (e.g. 4 reviewers for 20 applications). Reviewers should be TsC members or other persons with appropriate expertise and a flyway-wide perspective. Considerations for reviewer selection will include geographic and technical expertise diversity. A lead reviewer will be identified to coordinate the process for each application.
- 3.2 Reviews should ensure calibration on the ranking definitions and scoring criteria prior to beginning reviews.
- 3.3 Ensure that each application is reviewed by a minimum of 2 reviewers, with an offset system so pairs of reviewers are rotated in different combinations (for example, with 20 applications, Reviewer A gets applications 1-10, B gets 6-15, C gets 11-20, D gets 16-5). Reviews are encouraged to review as many additional projects as possible.
- 3.4 Reviewers are to recuse themselves from reviewing any application where there is a conflict of interest. These applications will be assigned to another reviewer.
- 3.5 Conduct independent reviews, including reading the application, scoring, ranking, and notes. Submit reviews to lead reviewer for compilation in a table. Note that all applications should be read prior to scoring to increase perspective. Submit to the lead reviewer, who will share tallied results back with the other reviewers.
- 3.6 Discuss the merits of all applications as a group.
- 3.7 Provide for an opportunity to reach out to applicants with questions, recommendation, or requests for more information. Communicate with the WG/TF Chairs/Coordinators if necessary.
- 3.8 Strive for consensus on overall applications ranking and recommendations on funding.
- 3.9 If there are numerous projects that are scored/ranked closely near the "funding line", then all reviewers should review those projects prior to a final recommendation.
- 3.10 The lead reviewer will compile and deliver the final recommendations for funding to the Secretariat.
- 3.11 Review Team and the Secretariat should examine the process and recommend changes for the next cycle.