

**Second Meeting of the Partners**  
Partnership for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway  
Beijing, China 13-14 November 2007

Paper 1.5

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS  
AND THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF THEIR HABITATS  
IN THE EAST ASIAN – AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY  
Bogor, Indonesia, 6 – 9 November 2006

**SUMMARY OF THE FIRST MEETING OF PARTNERS**

The Launch and First Meeting of the Partners in the Partnership for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway were held in Bogor, Indonesia on 6 – 9 November 2006. The meetings were kindly hosted by the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation from the Ministry of Forestry, Government of Indonesia.

The Partnership Launch and First Meeting of the Partners were attended by representatives from the Governments of Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Thailand and the United States, and representatives from the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, the Australasian Wader Studies Group, Birdlife International, International Crane Foundation, Japan Association for Wild Geese Protection, Wetlands International, Wild Bird Society of Japan and WWF. Apologies were received from the Governments of China and Cambodia, the IUCN and UNEP.

The Launch of the Partnership, on 6 November, was a highly successful and celebratory event. Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, United States, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Australasian Wader Studies Group, the International Crane Foundation, Wetlands International and the WWF endorsed the Partnership text, after agreeing to the editorial changes proposed by the Governments of Australia and the United States, and Wetlands International. The IUCN conveyed their written endorsement to the secretariat. Birdlife International provided endorsement of the Partnership at the close of the meeting.

At the first Meeting of Partners, Partners elected Australia as the Chair of the Partnership for the first two years and the Republic of Korea as the interim Vice Chair of the Partnership for the first year.

Partners agreed to hold Meetings of the Partners annually, at least for the first five years of the Partnership.

Partners adopted the arrangements for the nomination of sites to the Flyway Site Network, and for transition of sites from the site networks for cranes, shorebirds and Anatidae established under the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Strategy.

Partners had a fruitful discussion on the draft Implementation Strategy and adopted the Strategy. Partners outlined a broad range of activities which will be implemented in 2007 to progress the outcomes identified in the Implementation Strategy.

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Partners agreed that a Secretariat was essential to administer the Partnership and agreed the priority Terms of Reference for the Secretariat and the budget required.

Partners agreed that Australia would continue to serve as interim Secretariat until an ongoing Secretariat is appointed by the governments funding the administration of the Partnership. The Governments of Australia, the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States of America committed funds to support the operation of the Secretariat.

Partners agreed to the continuation of the Working Groups for Shorebirds, Anatidae and Cranes established under the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Strategy, with amended Terms of Reference aligned to the objectives of the Partnership. The Working Groups were asked to draft their revised Terms of Reference and provide them to the second Meeting of Partners for consideration.

Partners welcomed the Avian Influenza Working Group established under the Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee as a Working Group under the Partnership.

Partners established a task group to develop a Communications Plan for the Partnership by the end of 2007.

Following careful consideration, the Partnership agreed to include four families of seabirds in appendix III of the Partnership and agreed to consider a proposal for formation of a Seabird Working Group at its next meeting.

Partners formed a task group to develop a reporting template to assist Partners in the preparation of annual reports on progress in implementing the Partnership. The Partners emphasised that the reporting should be focussed on collecting information to demonstrate the achievements of the Partnership while not imposing unduly on the Partners.

The Partners agreed to meet again in late 2007. The Chair undertook to approach China and Singapore as potential hosts for the meeting.

The Chair thanked all the participants for their enthusiastic engagement in discussions during the meeting. The Chair conveyed his appreciation to the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation from the Ministry of Forestry, Government of Indonesia, for hosting the meeting, and to Wetlands International and the Wild Bird Society of Japan for their excellent support of the meeting. The Chair also thanks the Governments of Japan and Australia for their financial support of the meeting.

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**REPORT OF THE MEETING TO  
FINALISE THE PARTNERSHIP TEXT**

Bogor, Indonesia, 6 November 2006

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome speeches**

1. Mr Andrew McNee, from Australia, as Chair of the Partnership Working Group, opened the meeting and invited participants to introduce themselves.

**Agenda Item 2: Self Introductions by participants**

2. Each participant introduced themselves as the representative of their country or organisation.

**Agenda Item 3: Overview/ Scene Setting presentation**

3. Mr Jason Ferris, from Australia, on behalf of the Secretariat to the Working Group, presented an overview of the developments to date.

**Agenda Item 4: Agenda for the First Meeting of Partners**

4. The meeting agreed the agenda as drafted.

**Agenda Item 5: Partnership Text – presentation and agreement**

5. The Chair noted that editorial changes to the Partnership text were invited at the conclusion of the Canberra meeting of the Working Group. Proposals for amendments to the Partnership text were received from the United States, Australia and Wetlands International.

6. United States of America

Para 3.6 ‘Government Partners ~~are entitled to~~ may remove a site from the Flyway Site Network and by informing the Secretariat ~~in writing~~ of their decision’

Para 8.7 ‘Partners ~~may withdraw from this Partnership by giving three months notice in writing to the Secretariat~~ membership at any time and are encouraged to provide advance notice.’

7. Australia

Para 4.1 ‘The Partners ~~shall~~ will encourage communication, education and public awareness activities across the Flyway on migratory waterbirds, conservation and sustainable use of migratory waterbird sites.’

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Para 9.2 ‘The Partners ~~shall~~ will elect a Chair and Vice Chair for a term of 2 years.’

Para 9.3 ‘The Partners ~~shall~~ will establish a Secretariat to facilitate the effective communication and coordination of the Partnership and to coordinate activities across the Flyway. The Partners are encouraged to support and provide resources to the Secretariat.’

Para 9.4 ‘The Partners ~~shall~~ will consider the nature of the Secretariat and develop and adopt Terms of Reference.’

8. Wetlands International

Appendix IV, criterion b.

- i. A ~~migration~~-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.
- ii. A staging site should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 5,000 or more waterbirds at one time during ~~the migration-period~~.

9. These changes were accepted by the meeting.

***Proposal to include additional seabird families in the Partnership***

10. The representative of Birdlife International proposed that the Partnership be broadened to include seabirds. The representatives of Russia and the United States of America supported the proposal in principle, but sought clarification on which families of seabirds were proposed for inclusion.

11. The representative of Australia noted that there is a limited number of seabird species which migrate entirely within the Flyway and expressed concern that inclusion of seabirds may represent a broadening of the geographic scope of the Partnership.

12. The representative of Wetlands International noted that the Partnership has a strong focus on the conservation of important sites. The inclusion of seabirds would require modification to the criteria used to identify these sites. The representative of Birdlife International advised that the same set of criteria were used for waterbirds and seabirds in the Important Bird Areas programme. The representative of the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat expressed a view that site based activities may not adequately address the conservation needs of seabirds and that threat based approaches which addressed issues such as fisheries by-catch may need to be included in the Partnership. The representative of Birdlife International noted that there were already families (e.g. Gaviidae) included in the Partnership for which a site based approach was not the most effective conservation approach.

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13. With the agreement of the meeting, the Chair deferred further discussion of this proposal to the First Meeting of Partners. The representative of Birdlife International undertook to facilitate discussion on which families of seabirds should be included in the Partnership and any amendments to the Partnership text that may be required.

***Conflict resolution***

14. The Chair proposed that paragraph 8.5 of the Partnership text be amended to remove the onus on the Partnership meeting to act as a conflict resolution mechanism in the event of a disagreement regarding an application for membership of the Partnership. The proposed change was:

‘Partners will be advised of application for membership out of session. If no issues are raised within one month, the applicant will be added to the list of Partners. ~~If issues exist with the application, it will be referred to the next meeting of the partners for consideration.~~’

15. The representative of the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat noted that removal of this text leaves the process for resolving objections unclear. The representative of Wetlands International supported removal of the text, stating that the proposed approach encourages resolution of such issues outside the meeting and suggesting that if issues could not be satisfactorily resolved outside of a Meeting of Partners, they could be brought to a meeting.

16. The meeting agreed to delete the text.

***Agreement to proceed with launch of the Partnership***

17. The meeting agreed that the Partnership text incorporating the amendments described above should be launched for endorsement.

**Official Launch**

18. The Launch of the Partnership was a highly successful and celebratory event. Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, United States, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Australasian Wader Studies Group, the International Crane Foundation, Wetlands International and the WWF endorsed the Partnership text. The IUCN conveyed their written endorsement to the secretariat.

19. The representative of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) made a statement to the meeting which broadly reflected the conclusions of the CMS Standing Committee at its 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting (September 2006) - namely the acknowledgement that the Partnership could fulfill the conditions of a non-binding

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agreement under Article IV of the Convention on Migratory Species and could be recognized by the relevant CMS member States as such.

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**REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF PARTNERS**

Bogor, Indonesia, 7 – 9 November 2006

**Agenda Item 1.1: Welcome, Introductions, Apologies**

1. The Chair of the Partnership Working Group, Mr Andrew McNee, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Mr McNee expressed gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for their generous hospitality in hosting the inaugural Meeting of Partners. He congratulated the governments and organisations who had endorsed the Partnership at its launch the previous evening.
2. Partners that attended the meeting included representatives of the Governments of Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore and the United States, and representatives from the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, the Australasian Wader Studies Group, the International Crane Foundation, Wetlands International and WWF.
3. Apologies from the IUCN, UNEP, and the Government of Cambodia were recorded. During the meeting, apologies from the Government of China were received and recorded.
4. Observers from governments and organisations which had not yet endorsed the Partnership, including the Governments of India and Thailand, the Japanese Association for Wild Geese Protection, the Wild Bird Society of Japan and Birdlife International, were invited to participate in the meeting. Birdlife International provided endorsement of the Partnership at the close of the meeting.

**Agenda Item 1.2: Appointment of rapporteur**

5. The representative of Australia was invited to continue in the role of interim Secretariat and to take a record of the meeting. The representatives of the Australasian Wader Studies Group and WWF agreed to assist in recording the meeting.

**Agenda Item 2.1: Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

6. The meeting agreed that the Partnership should be chaired by a government partner, as recommended in Agenda Paper 2.1. The meeting noted the need for the Partnership to provide for new government Partners to fill the roles of Chair and Vice

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Chair and agreed that the position of Chair should be filled for a two year period, with the Vice Chair position filled on an interim basis for the first year.

7. Mr McNee invited Mr Douglas Hykle from the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat to conduct an election. Mr Hykle called for nominations to the position of Chair for a two-year term and interim Vice Chair for a one-year term. The meeting elected Mr McNee (Australia) as the inaugural Chair of the Partnership, following a nomination from Japan, seconded by the USA. The meeting elected Mr Hong Jeong-Kee (Republic of Korea) as the interim Vice Chair, following a nomination from Japan seconded by the USA. Both countries accepted the nominations.

**Agenda Item 2.2: Agree draft agenda**

8. The meeting agreed to add two items to the agenda:
  - 2.8 Transfer of issues from the 11th meeting of the Asia – Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee to the Partnership.
  - 3.6 Inclusion of Seabird Families in Appendix III to the Partnership.
9. The agenda was adopted without further amendment.

**Agenda Item 2.3: Decide on arrangements for Meetings of Partners**

10. The meeting agreed to a proposal from the representative of the United States to include an additional item in the Terms of Reference, viz: approve an annual budget for the Secretariat.
11. The meeting also agreed to remove the reference to countries from paragraph E in agenda paper 2.3 to allow for non-government organisations to host Partnership meetings.

**Agenda Item 2.4: Terms of Reference for the Secretariat**

12. The meeting discussed its expectations of the Partnership Secretariat and agreed a number of changes to the draft Terms of Reference for the Secretariat provided in agenda paper 2.4. The updated Terms of Reference are at Attachment A.
13. The representative of the International Crane Foundation proposed that the Secretariat provide ‘administrative’ rather than ‘logistic’ support for the meetings of the Partners. This change was supported by the meeting.
14. The representative of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat emphasised the important role of the Partnership Secretariat in promoting communication across flyway initiatives, which was supported by the meeting.

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15. The representative of the United States proposed an additional role for the Secretariat relating to preparation of an annual budget. He also proposed that representation of the Partnership in international fora be undertaken by the Chair of the Partnership rather than the Secretariat.

16. The representative of Australia suggested that the Secretariat Terms of Reference might be better presented in three themes - administration/coordination, promotion and Partnership activities. He also proposed that the reference to the Secretariat being staffed by one full time officer be removed from the preamble to the Terms of Reference. These suggestions were supported by the meeting.

**Agenda Item 2.5: Funding arrangements for Partnership activities and administration**

17. The Chair invited interested Partners to participate in a group charged with refining the Terms of Reference for the Secretariat and determining the budget required to deliver the services described in the first year of the Partnership. The representative of the United States undertook to facilitate this group. The representatives of Australia, Japan, Wetlands International, and WWF agreed to participate.

18. The group was asked to look at different options for the Secretariat depending on differing levels of resources, and make recommendations on a minimum budget required for core functions. The budget was limited to Secretariat functions only, and did not include other elements of the Partnership such as advisory committees or working groups.

19. Later in the meeting, the budget and Secretariat group reported its findings, and the Partnership agreed as follows:

The Secretariat is important to the success of the Partnership and the first priority for the Partnership should be to fund the basic tasks of the Secretariat (see below) at a cost of \$75,000 - \$100,000 US or approximately one full time person. The Partnership needs to take responsibility for the security of funding for the Secretariat. This funding will come from national government Partner voluntary contributions. Funding will be based on a calendar year (January through December) with the first budget year being 2007. In preparing the budget there needs to be recognition that funding is appropriated annually by governments in the Flyway on varying fiscal years so the capacity for funding to be delivered simultaneously is limited. In selecting the Secretariat there needs to be consideration of an organisations ability to receive funds and be accountable for their expenditure.

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Basic Tasks of the Secretariat

- Communication between Partners and across flyways (2p/m)
- Administrative support to Meetings of Partners (2p/m)
  - Preparation (where appropriate) and dissemination of meeting papers
  - Liaison with host country/organisation
- Encourage Partners to implement annual work plans of the strategic plan (1p/m)
- Manage the Partnership website (1p/m)
- Encourage and support Partners to nominate sites (1p/m)
- Maintain a list of sites (1p/m)
- Support the Chair and Vice Chair, including support to the Chair in promoting the Partnership (1p/m)
- Receive endorsements of the Partnership and maintain a list of endorsed Partners
- Support advisory bodies
- Prepare the annual Partnership budget and work plan
- Prepare annual and quarterly reports with an overview of the Partnership activities

20. The group advised the meeting that they had identified a number of other budget elements which should be considered secondary to the funding of the basic tasks of the Secretariat. They include:

- Web site construction and maintenance
- Meetings of Partners
- Operation of Working Groups
- Preparation of Partnership documents e.g. Communications plan
- Liaison work of the Chair

21. In the light of the Secretariat's anticipated workload in relation to operational matters, the Partnership agreed that it was not realistic to expect the Secretariat to have time to devote to fundraising.

22. The meeting identified a need to develop a priority setting framework for determining funding allocations to project activities. The meeting was advised of approaches used in other arrangements. For example in the Africa – Europe Waterbird Agreement, projects are listed with an estimate of costs. In the Convention on the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, projects can only be brought forward if they have a sponsor country. The meeting commented that only including projects which had been funded in the work plan would not be viable for the Partnership.

23. The Chair invited countries to indicate their contributions to the Secretariat budget.

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24. The representative of the United States voiced enthusiastic support for the Partnership. He advised that the United States had committed funding of \$100,000US for the Avian Influenza Working Group and associated projects, \$50,000 - 60,000US for projects on migratory shorebirds, and \$10,000US for the Secretariat.
25. The representative of Australia committed \$40,000US for the Secretariat and noted that Australia would also provide funding in 2007 for development of the Partnership website and other communications plan activities along with project funding.
26. The representative of Japan was not able to commit to a specific level of support as the fiscal year in Japan does not commence until April, and the budget was still being negotiated with the Finance Ministry. He provided an indicative level of support to the Secretariat of 1.5M Yen = \$12-\$13,000 US.
27. The representative of the Republic of Korea indicated that the Korean Government is considering contributions to the Partnership in the order of \$20,000US, but had not reached a decision on where the funding would be directed. He indicated that some of this funding may be available for the Secretariat.
28. The representative of Russia advised that further discussion was required with the Ministry about a potential contribution to the Secretariat. He foreshadowed difficulties with Russia contributing to the Secretariat, as the Partnership is not a legal agreement. He noted that other opportunities exist for project contributions.
29. The representative of Singapore advised that Singapore's contribution would be in-kind through hosting meetings and providing logistical support. A financial contribution to the Secretariat would require more discussion.
30. The representative of the Philippines indicated that they could contribute in-kind services and staff time to the Partnership.
31. The representative of the United States suggested that the Chair write to national government Partners seeking official confirmation of contributions. This suggestion was supported by the meeting, and the Chair asked that national governments, and the Australian government in particular, assist with administering the Partnership by contributing to the budget.
32. The meeting recommended that capacity to consider in-kind contributions be discussed further among the contributors to the budget.
33. The meeting agreed that the hosting arrangements for the Secretariat should be discussed between the contributing governments outside the meeting.

**Agenda Item 2.6: Establish Secretariat**

34. This item was deferred pending discussion between the Partners providing funding for the Secretariat.

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**Agenda Item 2.7: Determine arrangements for the Flyway Site Network**

35. The meeting discussed the approach to the nomination of Flyway Network Sites outlined in agenda paper 2.7.
36. In response to a question from the representative of Birdlife International, the representative of Wetlands International confirmed that the primary responsibility for approaching potential new sites and encouraging them to join the Network rests with the Partners, although the Secretariat may have a role if that was appropriate in a particular country.
37. In response to a question from the representative from Russia, the meeting agreed that sites could not be included in the Network unless they had endorsement of the national government of the country concerned.
38. The meeting agreed to develop activities that assist national government Partners to establish national Partnerships (recommendation 1 in agenda paper 2.7).
39. The meeting discussed the Technical Expert Panel which would assist with the documentation and review of site nomination documents, which was the topic of recommendation 2. The representative of Japan expressed concern that the Partnership Technical Advisory Group had not been established and that this group would have a role in determining the membership of the expert panel for the Site Network.
40. The representative of Wetlands International advised the meeting that the intention was for the Partnership to call on a range of individual experts that could interpret data for a particular site, and provide advice on the importance of sites. The panel was not considered to be a body that needed to meet. The members would work individually and would need a good geographic spread. With this clarification, the representative of Japan suggested that recommendation 2 be amended as follows:
- “Flyway Partners seek advice and/or establish an international panel of waterbird experts who are willing to assist with the documentation and review of sites to be nominated for the Flyway Site Network.”
41. The Chair invited views on the mechanism for identifying experts to participate in the panel. The representative of Russia advised that there are expert panels already in existence under organisations such as Wetlands International and Birdlife International and questioned the need for a new group. The representative of Birdlife International advised that the Important Bird Area criteria are almost identical to those of the Flyway Site Network and that the same people would be involved in assessing whether a site meets criteria.
42. Wetlands International offered to develop a list of experts who are prepared to assist with the Site Network. The Chair suggested that the list could then be maintained by the Secretariat.

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43. The representative of Russia asked about the future of the working groups established under the Action Plans for Cranes, Anatidae and Shorebirds. The Chair advised that this issue was to be discussed later in the agenda. The meeting agreed to defer further discussion of the expert panel until after the discussion on the working groups.
44. The meeting adopted the eight step process for nomination of a site described in agenda paper 2.7 (recommendation 3).
45. The meeting noted that the criteria for the Flyway Site Network are detailed in Appendix IV of the Partnership text (recommendation 4). The representative of the United States noted that Appendix IV to the Partnership text may have to be amended if seabirds are included in the Partnership.
46. The meeting discussed recommendation 5 relating to the site information sheets. The representative of Japan noted that under the Asia - Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy different site information sheets were used for each of the species group networks. The representative of Wetlands International agreed that there were some differences between sheets in the former site network and expressed a need to work up a standard sheet for all waterbirds for use in the Flyway Site Network.
47. The representative of Birdlife International expressed concern about the difficulty of compiling a detailed information sheet. It was suggested that a practical approach be taken to site documentation to make it less onerous for site managers to complete. The representative of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat noted that some elements of the information sheet could be optional. He suggested that the Flyway Site information sheet be based on the Ramsar Information Sheet, as many Flyway sites are Ramsar sites, and others may become Ramsar sites in the future.
48. The representative of Wetlands International outlined some of the limitations of basing the site information sheet on a Ramsar Information Sheet because it uses a free text based approach. The Partnership could try to categorise the fields in the sheet more to allow for aggregation of data and searching.
49. The representative of the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat noted that the same discussion was underway in the Central Asian Flyway. He suggested that the two flyways should seek to harmonise.
50. The meeting agreed an amended recommendation 5: “The Partnership endorses ~~the Site Information Sheet, developed by the MWCC~~ a standardised Site Information Sheet, based on a simplified version of the Ramsar Information Sheet as the documentation to be used for the nomination of new sites to the Flyway Site Network.”
51. The representative of the Wild Bird Society of Japan asked if existing site information sheets would need to be updated to the new format, noting that there were translation issues involved in undertaking an update. The representative of Wetlands

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International expressed a view that it would be good to update the sheets, and that government Partners would be best placed to decide on how that update was undertaken. The Chair invited the representative of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to comment on updating of Ramsar Information Sheets. The representative of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat advised that Ramsar Information Sheets are updated on a six-year cycle with the Secretariat providing parties with reminders of when updates are due. He noted that many of the Flyway Site Network sites are Ramsar sites and have up-to-date Ramsar Information Sheets which could be edited relatively easily now that the Partners had agreed to base the Flyway information sheet on the Ramsar example.

52. The representative of Russia asked if the Partnership had a clear list of obligations on a site and national governments when joining the Network. The representative of Wetlands International advised that under the Action Plans for Cranes, Anatidae and Shorebirds there had not been firm regulations or commitments on sites. Instead the networks had encouraged sites to participate in conservation activities at flyway and national level. The representative of Russia noted that he needed to be able to convince government agencies at the local and national level about obligations attached to site nomination. Without a clear statement of obligations there is a risk of sites in Russia being withdrawn from the Network and limitations on the development of the Network. The representative of Wetlands International agreed that a concise statement of obligations would be helpful. The Chair asked Wetlands International to lead the drafting of this statement and to present the draft at the second Meeting of Partners.

53. The representative of the United States, expressed a view that at the minimum the Partnership should expect national governments to report on activities at sites. The representative of Birdlife International supported the suggestion. He noted that in the past there had been concern about reporting obligations deterring sites from joining the Network, but in the Partnership context a reporting mechanism was seen as a useful way of demonstrating commitment. The representative of Australia supported reporting on Network activities as a mechanism for improving communication across the Network and adding value. The Chair noted that there was a need to make the information usable and accessible, but deferred further discussion on reporting to agenda item 3.5.

54. The representative of Wetlands International expressed a view that it was important to develop an agreed population estimate for the waterbirds in Appendix III of the Partnership text on which to base assessment of site importance against the numerical criteria. The representative of Wetlands International proposed an additional recommendation be inserted following recommendation 5. The proposed text of the recommendation was “Partners are to develop an agreed list of Flyway species with their population estimates to support completion of the Site Information Sheets drawing on the *Waterbird Population Estimates*”. The representative of Bird Life International supported the recommendation and called for alignment between the Partnership process and that being undertaken for Important Bird Areas. Wetlands International agreed to develop the list and provide it to the second Meeting of Partners.

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55. The representative of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat noted that the Ramsar Information Sheets are updated on a six-year cycle, using updated versions of Waterbird Population Estimates. The Flyway Network Site information sheet update process could parallel this. The representative of Wetlands International noted that the Ramsar Convention updates its population estimates every nine years based on the Waterbird Population Estimates report prepared by Wetlands International.

***Flyway Network Site Certificates***

56. The meeting discussed the proposed approach to Site Network certificates. The representative of WWF noted that the proposal suggests A3 format, whereas Ramsar and existing sheets are A4. He asked if this was because of the need for additional room for local language. The representative of Birdlife International supported use of national language. The use of English gives a good international feeling, but is not meaningful to the local people. Therefore an A3 format may be required to provide for bilingual texts. The meeting agreed to recommendation 6 in agenda paper 2.7.

57. The representative of Wetlands International noted that the new certificates should identify species and populations for which the site was important. The list of Flyway Site species would therefore be required before new site certificates could be issued. As an interim step it was proposed that all existing sites should be issued with a certificate based on the species for which they were originally nominated in line with agreed transitional arrangements. The meeting agreed to a small team of Partners working with the Secretariat to develop the site certificate design, to enable the new certificates to be issued by the end of February 2007.

***Transitional Guidelines for the Flyway Site Network***

58. The representative of Russia questioned the responsibility for advising the national governments and existing network sites of the change to the site network from three species group networks to a single waterbirds network. The representative of Australia reminded the meeting that the Chair of the Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee wrote to all sites after the 10th meeting of the committee advising them of the changes and inviting them to participate in the Flyway Site Network, and to respond to the Partnership Secretariat accordingly.

59. In response to recommendation 1 in the transitional guidelines section of agenda paper 2.7, the Chair invited Partners to report on sites in their jurisdiction for which participation in the Flyway Site Network had been confirmed.

60. The representative of Japan indicated that all existing sites have confirmed their participation and that this is reflected in their letter of endorsement.

61. The representative of Russia noted that there are nine sites in Russia and that discussions with the Ministry regarding their involvement in the Network were continuing. The Ministry had asked for information on expected procedures. The

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representative of Birdlife International indicated that there are three sites in Russian Far East that are keen to join the Site Network.

62. The representative of the Republic of Korea indicated that they have six sites and would not be transferring one site (Tonggin). They are working on nominating two more sites.

63. The representative of Thailand informed the meeting their site would continue to be involved. Thailand is investigating nomination of more sites in the Gulf of Thailand, but this was a lengthy process.

64. The representative of Philippines advised that their two sites would continue to meet the criteria and would continue in the Network.

65. The representative of Indonesia informed the meeting that their one site would continue in new the Network.

66. The representative of Singapore advised they had approval to transfer Sungei Buloh to the Network.

67. The representative of Australia advised that the Australian Government has written to the government of each of the States and Territories, which have constitutional responsibility for management of most sites in Australia. At the date of the meeting there had been some replies all of which were positive and no issues were anticipated.

***Other network issues***

68. The representative of Wetlands International noted that the agenda documents relating to the Site Network do not cover prioritisation of new sites or post-nomination activities. The Chair asked Wetlands International to incorporate these issues into the document on obligations for sites and countries. The meeting suggested that this document should also include benefits of participation for a site and country, and benefits for the Partnership in having a site in the Network. The representative of Russia stated that a document which captures benefits and obligations would be useful for securing government endorsement and managing expectations. The representative of Wetlands International suggested that the document be framed as guidelines to reflect the non-legal status of the Partnership. Interested Partners were invited to discuss this paper further with Wetlands International out of session.

**Agenda Item 2.8: Transfer of issues from the 11th meeting of the Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee to the Partnership**

69. The meeting reviewed and accepted the recommendations from the 11th meeting of the Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee ([see Attachment B](#)).

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**Agenda Item 3.1: Agree on approach to developing/finalising the Partnership Implementation Strategy**

*Presentation of the Draft Implementation Strategy*

70. Mr Doug Watkins from Wetlands International provided an overview of the draft Implementation Strategy.

*Response from Partners to Draft Implementation Strategy*

71. The representative of Russia questioned whether the priority should be placed on the quantity of sites in the Network or on activities at sites, i.e. do we want a large number or a sustainable level of activities? The representative of Birdlife International agreed that this was an important point. In the former Crane network the highest priority was placed on active engagement in network activities. In developing the Flyway Site Network the Partners need to be aware of capacity for activities and ensure effective implementation in order to encourage participation. The representative of Wetlands International commented that the Site Network is a tool for promoting the international importance of sites and gaining recognition. It is good to have a strong program of activities, but recognition is the key. There is a need to include an outcome in the Implementation Strategy which expresses a target for active implementation.

72. The representative of the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat suggested that further work was required on developing indicators of performance.

73. The representative of the United States supported the Strategy in its current format. He suggested that section 5 and the two appendices be deleted as administrative arrangements are outside the scope of the strategic plan. The Chair agreed.

74. The representative of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat supported the Strategy, noting that it aligned with the Ramsar strategic plan.

75. The representative of Japan supported the Strategy while noting that Network Sites do need to have demonstrated benefit with site specific activity, and roles and responsibilities of national Partners are also important.

76. The representative of the International Crane Foundation stated that the technical framework has been well thought out and supported it. He supported deletion of section 5. He also expressed a view that it could be challenging for some governments to translate the Strategy into actions.

77. The representative of India supported the Strategy.

78. The representative of Birdlife International felt that the Strategy was generally good but expressed concern about the work plan and responsibility for implementation.

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79. The representative of the Australasian Wader Studies Group stated that it is an effective strategic document. He felt the difficulty would be in distilling it into an annual work plan and linking to funding.

80. The representative of The Philippines supported the Strategy.

81. The representative of the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat supported the proposal to remove Section 5, and noted the lack of profile of fund raising in the document, particularly for Partnership support. The representative of the United States supported this proposal.

82. The representative of Wetlands International advised that moving from the Strategy to the work plan would be difficult without prioritisation to guide funders.

83. The representative of WWF stated that the proof of the document will be in converting to fundable actions. There may be a need for work plans for the Partnership and for each Partner.

84. The representative of Singapore supported the Strategy, and called for links to funding and priorities.

85. The representative of Russia supported the Strategy and applauded its implementation focus. He stated that there was a need for some serious action in this part of the world, with the Flyway being under such great development pressure.

86. The representative of the Republic of Korea noted that there were issues in his country regarding development pressure and supported the Strategy's emphasis on the importance of protecting and conserving sites.

87. The representative of Australia supported the plan, noting that it had been tested against the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds which was the framework for shorebird conservation in Australia.

88. The Strategy was accepted with the amendments suggested above. The amended Strategy is at [Attachment C](#).

***Develop Work plan for 1st year***

89. Mr Doug Watkins from Wetlands International provided an introduction to the work plan template. The template was designed to assist Partners in connecting national activities with the Strategy, and identifying opportunities for collaboration.

90. Mr Carlo Custodio from The Philippines provided a presentation on template response from his country.

91. The meeting thanked Mr Custodio for the presentation. The representative of the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat called for each country to prepare a similar response to the template. He suggested that each partner look at the bullet points in the template and nominate activities which relate to the bullet points. This

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approach has been used in developing planning documents in Convention on Migratory Species Memoranda of Understanding. As a starting point he suggested that we look at the thirteen outcomes and identify what countries can do over the next year.

92. The Chair suggested that the templates be completed overnight and brought to the discussion on the second day of the meeting to identify common issues and potential areas for collaboration. He suggested that the bullet points be numbered to allow tracking.

93. The following morning the meeting undertook a detailed discussion on activities under the work plan. The outcomes of this discussion are in Attachment D.

94. A group was formed to discuss how to progress the work plan. The representatives of Wetlands International, the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat and the International Crane Foundation agreed to participate in the group.

95. Later in the meeting the group presented its recommendations to the meeting. The recommendations were designed to position the Partnership to consider these issues at the second meeting. The recommendations were:

- That the Secretariat be asked to edit and format the consolidated work plan document
- That it be circulated to Partners to check it is comprehensive
- That they be asked to respond by the end of January 2007
- That a volunteer coordinator be appointed for each of the Communication, Education and Public Awareness, Science, Capacity Building and Sustainable Development work plan themes.
- Volunteer coordinators are to consult widely on how to progress items and bring forward a proposal to the second Meeting of Partners. The proposal should identify the role for working groups in the delivery of the work plan.
- In the interim the coordinators should progress high priority and urgent activities with potential funding bodies to allow interim work to proceed.

96. In response to the recommendation for volunteer coordinators for work plan themes the following coordinators were appointed:

- Communication, Education and Public Awareness– WWF (Lew Young)
- Science – this theme would be largely addressed by the Species Working Groups, and the Avian Influenza Working Group (Taej Mundkur is contact point). Birdlife International will lead on species outside the existing species groups and form a collective position on science issues. The representative of Wetlands International stated that science is a key foundation of the

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Partnership's work and offered to cooperate with Birdlife International on this.

- Capacity Building/Sustainable Development – Wetlands International (Doug Watkins). The representative of Russia expressed interest in sustainable development issues, noting the range of different pressures across the Flyway in this area.

**Agenda Item 3.2: Establish Advisory Groups and Working Groups**

97. Chair introduced agenda paper 3.2.

98. The meeting agreed to the continuation of the Avian Influenza Working Group. The representative of the United States supported its continuation as it addresses a significant need to coordinate activities around the issue of highly pathogenic avian influenza. He noted that this issue would need to be managed in the long term. The representative of the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat asked for Terms of Reference for the group. The representative of Wetlands International advised that the priorities were outlined in the original proposal to the Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee at its tenth meeting in Krabi, Thailand. Wetlands International agreed to prepare a revised Terms of Reference and provide it to the Partners for review.

99. The representative of Australia reminded the group that the Canberra meeting of the Working Group charged with drafting the Partnership documents had not reached an agreement on the continuation of Species Working Groups. The representative of Birdlife International expressed an impression that there was support for continuation of the groups from the Canberra meeting.

100. The representative of Japan supported the recommendation that the Species Working Groups be invited to continue as an interim arrangement under the Partnership with amended Terms of Reference, and requested that future arrangements should be discussed at the next meeting.

101. The representative of the International Crane Foundation supported the continuation of the Crane Working Group as a permanent working group of the Partnership.

102. The representative of Wetlands International outlined an approach where three types of groups were possible – waterbird expert groups (cross representational or species based), thematic groups (strategic planning advice on cross cutting issues linked to the objectives of the Partnership), and activity based groups established to develop and implement activities.

103. The representative of the United States stated that the working groups had proven their value in the previous framework and have continuing value and

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importance to the Partnership. He endorsed the continuation of the working groups as a fixture of the Partnership.

104. The representative of WWF cautioned the meeting, noting that this was a critical juncture with the change in framework. The most important thing is to focus on the objectives of the Partnership to avoid the real risk of the Partnership being a morphing of old ideas and failing to reach its potential.

105. The representative of Russia indicated that the Ministry of Natural Resources is happy with the Crane and Anatidae Working Groups. He felt that they were a good thing and could continue as a good thing. It was also noted that effort and resources should be put into forming new groups. Time will show how successful new groups can be. The representative of Russia advised that they would not support cancelling existing groups.

106. The Chair reflected the views of the meeting that it was logical for there to be continuity between the Flyway initiatives and to recognise existing groups. The activities of existing groups should continue in the Partnership with a process implemented to guide groups in reshaping their arrangements to fit under the Partnership objectives. He invited the former working groups to review their Terms of Reference and provide them for consideration at the next meeting of the Partnership.

107. The representative of Birdlife International supported the Chair's summary. The representative of the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat also supported the Chair's summary and proposed an amendment to the recommendation in paper 3.2 that "the Shorebird, Crane and Anatidae Working Groups be invited to continue ~~as an interim arrangement~~ under the Partnership ~~with~~ and are asked to provide amended Terms of Reference to the second Meeting of Partners." This amendment was supported by the meeting.

108. The representative of WWF suggested that proposals for further working groups also be brought to the second Meeting of Partners.

109. The representative of Wetlands International suggested that the Partnership needs to establish new advisory groups for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (Objective 2), Science (Objective 3) and Capacity Building (Objective 4). He expressed a view that the Communication, Education and Public Awareness group was a particularly high priority. The representative of the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat supported further discussion of potential new groups, but suggested that the Partnership would need Terms of Reference for the groups in order to discuss them fully. He also saw value in allowing some time for further Partners to endorse before fixing the group structure. The representative of Australia supported the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat suggestion adding that the Partnership needs to be aware of resource implications at the time a group is proposed.

110. The Chair reflected that the Partnership needs to consider the Terms of Reference for any proposed groups to ensure that they are well integrated with the Partnership objectives. The Partnership also needs to consider the resources required

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to ensure that the group is sustainable. He acknowledged the thematic groups suggested by the meeting and invited Partners to consider these further and draft proposals for the next meeting.

111. The representative of Wetlands International suggested that teams of Partners could carry issues forward in the interim. This was supported by the meeting. The coordinators of work plan themes agreed to earlier in the meeting were invited to undertake this coordination role, pending the formation of groups.

112. The recommendation regarding formation of a Technical Advisory Group was held over for further discussion.

**Agenda Item 3.3: Communication Plan**

113. Mr Phil Straw advised the meeting on the development of the Asia-Pacific Shorebird Network and provided a description of the network. The network was initiated by the Australasian Wader Studies Group working with their colleagues in China and New Zealand. It is a communication network across the East Asian Australasian, Central Asian and Central Pacific Flyways, which aims to link people on the ground undertaking migratory shorebird conservation activities. Mr Straw advised that he expected to have a website for the network operating in December 2006.

114. The representative of Australia expressed interest in the shorebird network and called on Partners to consider how this and other communication activities can be utilised to contribute to the Partnership.

115. The Chair invited interested Partners to participate in a group which will develop a draft Communications Plan for consideration at the second Meeting of Partners. The meeting agreed that it is important to produce an effective communications plan early in the Partnership. The WWF volunteered to lead the group. Singapore, The Philippines and Wetlands International agreed to participate in the group.

**Agenda Item 3.4: Building the Partnership**

116. The meeting considered two logo options prepared by a professional graphic designer under contract to the interim Secretariat with funding from the Australia Government. The meeting expressed a strong preference for the first option, but did not note consensus, with some Partners expressing concern that option 1 did not include a representation of people as per option 2. The Secretariat undertook to have a revised version of the logo prepared which incorporated the representation of people from option 2 into option 1.

**Agenda Item 3.5: Reporting arrangements**

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117. The meeting considered agenda paper 3.5 regarding Partnership reporting arrangements. The meeting agreed to the proposal to develop a template for reporting, noting that the template needs to be clear about the purpose of the information being collected.

118. The representative of WWF raised the issue of dissemination of the reports and suggested that a website would be the best way to distribute the reports. She asked that the report format be kept concise.

119. The representative of Wetlands International suggested that the reporting approach should consider approaches which have been trialled under the Crane, Anatidae and Shorebird Action Plans.

120. The Chair asked interested Partners to participate in a group to progress development of the reporting template. The representatives of the Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat, Ramsar Convention Secretariat and Wetlands International offered to participate in the group. The Convention on Migratory Species offered to make available various existing CMS reporting templates that might serve as models to follow.

121. The representative of the International Crane Foundation asked about the process for reporting on activities of the Secretariat and the Partnership as a whole. The interim Secretariat advised that the reporting template is for Partners to complete which would be aggregated up to a Partnership report by the Secretariat. The representative of the United States suggested that the Secretariat should provide quarterly reports in addition to an annual report tabled at the Meeting of Partners.

**Agenda Item 3.6: Inclusion of Seabird Families in Appendix III to the Partnership**

122. The representative of Birdlife International provided a brief document with a proposal to include six families of seabirds in the Partnership. They were Shearwaters, Storm-Petrels, Skuas, Auks, Albatrosses and Giant Petrels.

123. The representative of Wetlands International expressed concern about the proposal undermining the flyway approach. He suggested that the Partnership confine its interest to those species which stay within the Flyway during their whole migration, and which can be effectively conserved by action by Partners in this Flyway. He suggested that the inclusion of seabirds would require a detailed analysis of species or populations which migrate within the Flyway. He advised that the Africa-Eurasia Waterbird Agreement had undertaken a similar analysis and had developed a criteria for inclusion where species must spend 75% of their annual life cycle in the Flyway in order to be included. They also undertook extensive planning to ensure that all the threats acting on the birds were adequately addressed. This process took three years and considerable resources.

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124. The representative of the United States argued against the range-wide approach saying that there are common populations within the Flyway, also common species which are the subject of conservation action by one or more Partners. He supported the inclusion of these species suggesting that there is value in the Partnership acting as a mechanism for sharing ideas.

125. The representative of Russia asked whether there was a more appropriate level for the taxonomic groups which would allow for a narrower focus on species within the Flyway.

126. The representative of WWF asked how adding seabirds would strengthen the Partnership.

127. The representative of Australia argued strongly for a range-wide approach, stating that the proponents of including seabirds in the Partnership had not provided an adequate supporting rationale.

128. The representatives of the Australasian Wader Studies Group voiced concerns about the viability of a site based approach to the conservation of the families concerned. Pelagic species would require a different approach to conservation. They also expressed concern noting that it was difficult to see how seabirds fitted into the framework at this late stage. He suggested that inclusion of seabirds would require extensive redrafting of the Partnership and might take some of the focus and resources away from the species already included.

129. The representative of Birdlife International countered by saying that there should not be a need to revisit the whole document. Seabirds should be included in Appendix III. He acknowledged that the families proposed included some far-ocean species. It is possible to work with local communities in site based approaches.

130. The representative of the United States noted that in the Western Hemisphere seabirds are included in waterbirds. He also directed the meetings attention to Appendix III which includes some families considered to be seabirds.

131. The representative of Russia noted that different countries use different approaches to defining seabirds. In the northern end of the Flyway, there are seabird nesting sites in important wetlands. Some of these sites support millions of seabirds. He supported an approach of excluding pelagic species while providing wetland and coastal species which are important to local communities.

132. The representative of Birdlife International stated that many species do not have a long migration and would fit within the Flyway. He argued against looking at the seabirds on a species by species basis, stating that some waterbirds in the families currently included do not breed or aggregate on wetlands. He expressed a view that the seabird families proposed would not compete for funding.

133. The representative of Japan suggested that the meeting determine some guiding principles such as most of the life cycle of certain species is undertaken in the

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Flyway. It was then up to Partners to decide if they wish to carry out activities for a particular species. He did not support detailed analysis of which species should be in the appendix.

134. The representative of Wetlands International suggested an alternative guiding principle relating to the return on investment, arguing that in a range-wide approach the Partnership needed to cover the range of the species to guarantee investment by Partners.

135. The Chair summarised that there were significant views for and against the inclusion of seabirds and that there was a need to capture the views of both sides and assess the options and costs. He invited a group of interested Partners to work through the proposal and report back to the meeting. Birdlife International undertook to coordinate this group.

136. Later in the meeting the representative of Birdlife International reported on outcomes of the Seabirds group. He advised that the group supported the proposed inclusion of the seabird families, noting that most of the species in the families were coastal species and did not have pelagic ranges. The group recommended no changes to the Partnership text, stating that the seabirds would fit under existing references to waterbirds included in the text. The group acknowledged the limited resources available for Partnership activities and stated that the support of the Partnership Secretariat would not be required for seabird activities. The group advised that there are other global initiatives addressing seabird by-catch and did not propose that this issue would be considered by the Partnership.

137. The representative of Russia, who had participated in the group, stated that the group had a full exchange of ideas of the benefits and potential problems. He suggested that fisheries and by-catch issues should be explicitly excluded in the Partnership text.

138. The representative of Wetlands International who also participated in the group stated that Birdlife International's report reflected the outcome of the group discussion accurately. He reinforced the point about the species of interest being the coastal species. He noted that fisheries issues could be a heavy draw on the resources of the Partnership, and cautioned that if the Partnership wants to address the full range of species conservation issues for the seabirds it would require a significant expansion of the fora that the Partnership must operate in.

139. After further discussion the meeting agreed to include four families of seabirds in Appendix III and to amend the title of Appendix III to "Taxonomic groups of waterbirds migrating within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway". The families added to the appendix were:

Procellariidae Shearwaters

Oceanitidae Storm-Petrels

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Stercorariidae Skuas

Alcidae Auks

140. The representative of Birdlife International offered to lead the development of the proposal for a Seabird Working Group to be tabled at the second Meeting of Partners.

**Other Business**

141. During the meeting, a fax was received from the Government of China outlining China's position on several issues relating to the Partnership. These issues were not discussed by the meeting. Apologies from China were recorded.

142. The representative of the Wild Bird Society of Japan distributed the 2007 Work Plan of the Anatidae Working Group. The representative of Birdlife International undertook to revise the Crane Working Group Terms of Reference. The Secretariat offered to assist in assuring some consistency across these documents.

143. The representative of Birdlife International provided Birdlife International's letter of endorsement of the Partnership which was warmly welcomed by the meeting.

**Closing remarks**

144. The Chair thanked all participants in the meeting for their contributions, noting that the meeting had provided a strong base for the future work of the Partnership. He expressed his gratitude for the participants attention given the somewhat dry nature of the meeting agenda.

145. Mr McNee left the meeting, and Mr Jason Ferris of Australia took the Chair. He thanked the Indonesian government for being such welcoming and generous hosts, providing the excellent meeting venue and logistical support. Mr Ferris also thanked the Wetlands International offices in Indonesia, Oceania and India, and the Wild Bird Society of Japan for their administrative support to the meeting. He acknowledged the funding provided by the Governments of Australia and Japan for the meeting and expressed gratitude to the participants that were able to meet their own travel costs. He reiterated Mr McNee's thanks to all the participants for their input into the meetings.

146. The representative of the United States thanked Australia for their support of the development of the Partnership. The representative of Wetlands International thanked Mr McNee for chairing the meeting.

**Next Meeting**

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147. The Partnership tasked the Secretariat with seeking a host for the second Meeting of Partners. China (Wetland Park in Hong Kong) and Singapore were identified as potential hosts.

148. The second Meeting of Partners is likely to be held in October 2007.

**Meeting Close**

**Attachments**

- A. Secretariat Terms of Reference
- B. Recommendations of the 11th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee to the 1st Meeting of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership
- C. Partnership Implementation Strategy
- D. Flyway Partnership Work Plan

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Attachment A

**Draft Terms of Reference for the Partnership Secretariat**

The Secretariat, comprising staff members of a Partner country or organisation, will support the Partnership through the provision of a central coordination unit for the collection and dissemination of information relevant to the Partnership. The Secretariat is supervised by the Chair of the Partnership.

The Secretariat will have an important role in communication, and will:

- Facilitate communication between Partners, between the Flyway Partnership and National Partnerships and with initiatives in other flyways.
- Support Partnership Advisory Bodies, Working Groups and other committees set up to serve the Partnership.
- Support the development and implementation of the Partnership Communication and Public Awareness Plan.
- Provide administrative support for meetings of the Partnership.
- Maintain an overview of the activities of the Partnership.
- Support Partners in progressing nominations of internationally important sites to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Site Network.
- Receive and disseminate relevant case studies and information to assist Partners in the management and conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitat.
- Maintain the Partnership website, relevant listservers and bulletin boards.

The Secretariat will also have a role in project development and funding, and will:

- Support Partners in the development of project proposals which balance conservation with the social and economic needs of local communities.
- Support the Chair and Vice Chair in representing the Partnership in international fora

The Secretariat will also:

- Prepare an annual work plan for the [Secretariat/Partnership]
- Prepare an annual budget for the Secretariat.

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Attachment B

**Recommendations of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee to the  
1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership**

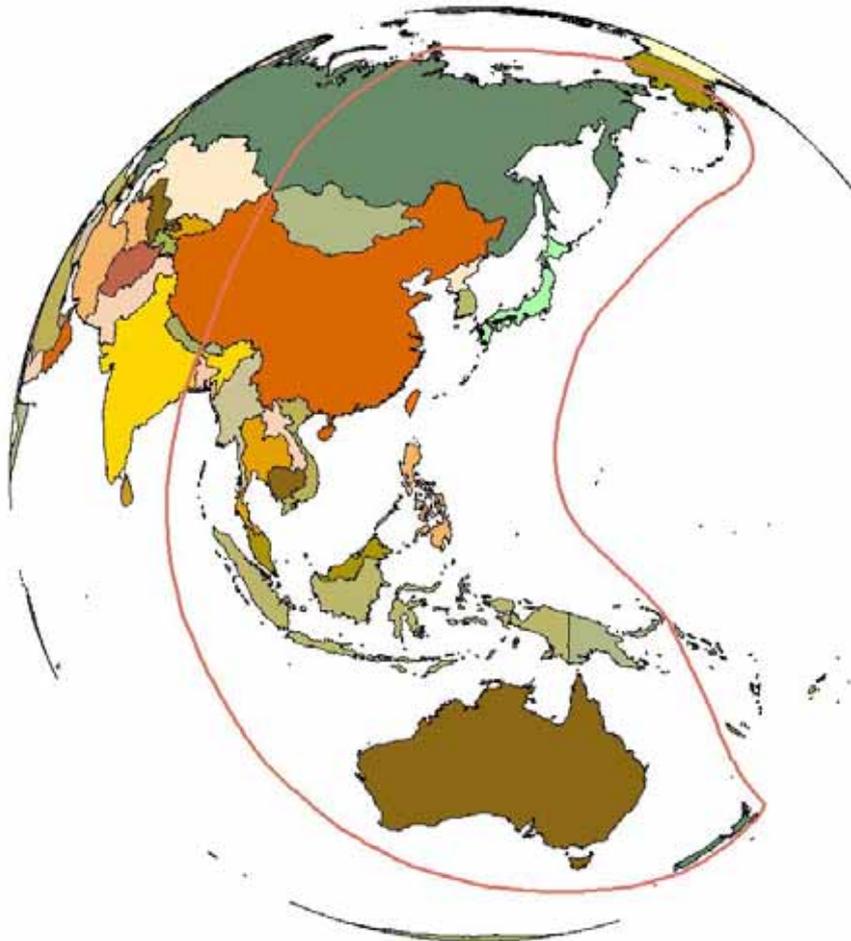
***Background***

The 11th Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee (MWCC) was held on 6 November 2006 in Bogor. The following recommendations from the meeting are of direct relevance to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) Partnership.

**Recommendations**

1. The MWCC commends the Asian Waterbird Census and its 2007-2015 Regional Strategy to the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership and the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan as a programme that can provide critical support for implementation of the conservation of migratory waterbirds and management and sustainable use of their habitats.
2. The MWCC calls on the EAAF Partnership and the CMS Secretariat to:
  - (a) establish linkages between the coordinating bodies of these initiatives to ensure continued inter-flyway cooperation.
  - (b) report in their Meeting of Partners on inter-flyway cooperation for shared populations and common conservation issues.
3. The MWCC encourages EAAF partner agencies and organisations to continue to promote opportunities for cross-flyway cooperation and interaction with adjacent flyways (in Africa-Eurasia and the Americas).
4. The *Asia-Pacific Working Group on Migratory Waterbirds and Avian Influenza (MWAI-WG)* established under the MWCC be accepted as a Working Group of the EAAF Partnership and CAF Action Plan.
5. MWCC member countries and organisations are encouraged to endorse the Partnership at its launch or as soon as possible thereafter.

**Implementation Strategy for the  
East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership: 2007 - 2011**



This document draws directly from the Partnership Text and provides the framework to guide implementation of the Partnership for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway.

It is developed from a draft prepared by the Partnership Working Group following discussion at the first Meeting of Partners in Bogor, Indonesia.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Each year over 50 million waterbirds migrate through the East Asian, South-east Asian and Australasian region. During migration, these waterbirds rely on a chain of highly productive wetlands to rest and feed, building up sufficient energy to fuel the next phase of their journey. International cooperation across their migratory range is therefore essential to conserve and protect migratory waterbirds and the habitats on which they depend.

The region in which these birds migrate is called the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (the Flyway). The Flyway encompasses 22 countries, stretching from the Russian Far East and Alaska, southwards through East Asia and South-east Asia, to Australia and New Zealand (Figure 1).

In 2002, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, the Governments of Japan and Australia, together with Wetlands International, proposed a Type II Partnership for the conservation and sustainable use of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds in East Asia, South East Asia and Australasia.

The Partnership builds on the achievements of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee, the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy and its Action Plans for Anatidae, Cranes and Shorebirds. During the period 1996 – 2006 the Strategy and Action Plans enhanced and guided international cooperation, coordination and activities to conserve and protect internationally important habitat for migratory waterbirds.

Achievements under the Strategy and Actions Plans included the identification of more than 700 sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds in the Flyway and the development of Site Networks for Anatidae, Cranes and Shorebirds. Outcome from activities implemented included; increased knowledge of migratory waterbirds, raised awareness of the importance of these birds and enhanced capacity of managers to maintain sites important for migratory waterbirds across the Flyway. These activities have resulted in improvements in the management of Network sites.

Despite these efforts, waterbirds and their coastal and inland habitats are under increasing pressure from rapid population growth and economic development, particularly in East and South-east Asia. These pressures impact on the waterbirds that spend the non-breeding season in these countries as well as those waterbirds that utilize the central parts of the Flyway during migration. This Partnership recognises the importance of economic development for communities that share important sites with migratory waterbirds, whilst ensuring the availability and quality of habitats required to maintain populations of migratory waterbirds.

The Partnership recognises that building and promoting a Flyway Site Network for migratory waterbirds, its associated capacity building at a local level to ensure sustainable delivery of ecosystem services, will enhance the conservation status of the migratory waterbirds. The Partnership also recognises that a flyway wide approach to the conservation of migratory waterbirds is the most effective way to enhance their conservation status.

The work of the Partnership addresses all populations of migratory waterbirds of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway (Table 1).

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**Figure 1 Map of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway**



**Table 1 Taxonomic groups of migratory waterbirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.**

<b>Taxonomic Group</b>	<b>English Name</b>
Gaviidae	Divers/Loons
Podicipedidae	Grebes
Phalacrocoracidae	Cormorants
Procellariidae	Shearwaters
Oceanitidae	Storm Petrels
Pelecanidae	Pelicans
Ardeidae	Herons, Egrets and Bitterns
Ciconiidae	Storks
Threskiornithidae	Ibises and Spoonbills
Anatidae	Swans, Geese and Ducks
Gruidae	Cranes
Rallidae	Rails, Gallinules and Coots
Heliornithidae	Finfoots
Jacaniidae	Jacanas
Haematopodidae	Oystercatcher
Recurvirostridae	Stilts and Avocet
Glareolidae	Pratincoles
Charadriidae	Plovers
Scolopacidae	Sandpipers
Laridae	Gulls, Terns and Skimmers
Stercorariidae	Auks
Alcidae	Skuas

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## **2. STRATEGIC OUTCOMES**

### **2.1 Goal and Objectives**

The initiating Partners have agreed 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**

1. Develop the Flyway Network of sites of international importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, building on the achievements of the APMWCS networks.
2. Enhance communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
3. Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, build knowledge and promote exchange of information on waterbirds and their habitats.
4. Build the habitat and waterbird management capacity of natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders.
5. Develop, especially for priority species and habitats, flyway wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds.

The Partnership Working Group, established at the first meeting of potential partners, identified 13 major outcomes to be achieved through the Partnership by the end of 2011 (see below).

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### **3. PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **3.1 Membership of the Partnership**

The Partnership aims to have a broad range of membership that includes National Governments, international non-government organisations, Inter-Governmental organisations and the international business sector. The Partners encourage all national Governments and other organisations involved at the Flyway level in the conservation of migratory waterbirds and the sustainable use of their habitat to join the Partnership.

The Partnership is a collaborative arrangement and is not a legal entity. Partners join the Partnership through signing a copy of the Partnership Text.

#### **3.2 Financing the Partnership**

The Partners are encouraged to provide resources to support the work program and administrative tasks of the Partnership. Meetings of Partners will assess the needs and options for generating financial resources for:

- a) assisting Partners to carry out activities under this Partnership; and
- b) the expenses required for the operation of the Secretariat and advisory groups established under the Partnership.

As the Partnership is not a legal entity funding will need to be directed through Partners.

#### **3.3 Work Planning**

The development of activities to address the outcomes identified in this Strategy will require a high level of collaboration between Partners. An annual work program will be prepared at each meeting of the Partners and will consist of the activities planned by Partners.

#### **3.4 Guidance for the Development of Project Activities**

The Partnership has developed the following guidance to assist Partners in developing strategic projects to address the 2011 outcomes identified in this document.

**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.***

**Outcome 1: The Flyway Site Network has developed to include at least 200 sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds.**

- 1.1 The Partnership is promoted to all countries in the Flyway that have internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds.
- 1.2 In seeking nominations for the Flyway Site Network, priority is given to countries which have a national Government Partner and have yet to nominate a site, or have a low percentage (<10%) of their internationally important sites included in the Flyway Site Network.
- 1.3 The relative number of internationally important sites within a country is used to guide priority setting at the Flyway level.
- 1.4 National Partnerships set priorities for nominations within their country.

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**Outcome 2:** [The Flyway Site Network comprises at least X sites where the management activities are resulting in a halt of loss of biodiversity or an increase in conservation status of species concerned] [broaden to include problems generally] [this paragraph has been agreed but the detail still needs to be worked through]

**Outcome 3:** The Flyway Site Network is demonstrating sound integration of wetland biodiversity conservation and sustainable development that benefits local communities.

- 3.1 Development and implementation of management plans at network sites, with participation local and key national stakeholders, that recognise the ecological needs of migratory waterbirds and the economic and social requirements of dependent communities.
- 3.2 Site Managers, national partnerships and local communities are encouraged to be involved in decision making on economic and social development processes affecting Network sites.
- 3.3 Collaboration is developed with other international projects relating to the management of migratory waterbird habitat.
- 3.4 Model projects are developed with the full involvement of the relevant National and Site Partnerships.
- 3.5 Model projects at Network Sites address key threatening processes, social and economic needs, and contribute to sound integration of wetland biodiversity conservation and sustainable development that benefits local communities.
- 3.6 Site management guidelines are developed by Flyway Partners for Flyway Network Sites that build on existing guidelines (e.g. Ramsar Guidelines for Wetland Management).

**Outcome 4:** The ecological, social and economic values of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds are recognized in development and impact assessment processes.

- 4.1 Increased knowledge of the importance of including ecological, social and economic values of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds are recognised in development and impact assessment processes (such as through increased application of Ramsar and CBD EIA guidelines).
- 4.2 Case studies of development and impact assessment processes that impact network sites and their catchments are available.
- 4.3 National Partnerships determine priorities for projects activities within their countries.

**Objective 2:** *Enhance communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.*

**Outcome 5:** There is a high level of awareness and recognition of the ecological, social and economic values of migratory waterbirds and Network sites.

- 5.1 A Flyway -wide Community Awareness and Education program is developed and provides ongoing guidance to the awareness and communication activities of the Flyway Partnership.
- 5.2 A review of communication and awareness resources is conducted.
- 5.3 National Partnerships are encouraged to develop CEPA Plans that complement the Flyway partnership-wide CEPA Plan.

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- 5.4 A range of awareness and communication activities are implemented which are consistent with the Communication and Public Awareness Plan.

**Outcome 6: There is a broad level of recognition of the activities and achievements of the Flyway Partnership.**

- 6.1 Activities promoting the Partnership are implemented which are consistent with the Communication and Public Awareness Plan.

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

**Outcome 7: Scientifically sound information is available on the Flyway wide status and trends of waterbird populations and their habitats.**

- 7.1 Flyway Waterbird Monitoring Programs that are linked to existing national and international programs are established.
- 7.2 Flyway waterbird habitat monitoring programs, which are linked to existing national and international programs, are established at internationally important sites and regions.
- 7.3 Updated information is available on the status and threats to internationally important sites and to network sites in particular.
- 7.4 Partners collaborate on the integration of current waterbird monitoring activities (include biological factors) and enhance activities to enable the collection of scientifically sound data and analysis of the status and trends of waterbird populations.
- 7.5 Monitoring activities incorporate appropriate capacity development components to increase waterbird monitoring skills.

**Outcome 8: Information is available on the internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in all countries of the Flyway.**

- 8.1 A review of information on the internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in the Flyway is prepared and published.
- 8.2 Knowledge gaps on internationally important sites are addressed by survey activities.
- 8.3 Data on internationally important sites are available and shared between partners.
- 8.4 Priority is given to implementation of surveys in areas where an assessment of knowledge gaps has shown limited survey data but significant potential habitat.
- 8.5 Survey activities incorporate appropriate capacity development components to increase waterbird survey skills.

**Outcome 9: Threats to internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds have been assessed and recommendations for appropriate management actions developed.**

- 9.1 Guidelines on conducting threat and impact assessments are developed.
- 9.2 Reviews of threats and management needs at Network Sites and other internationally important wetlands are conducted.
- 9.3 Mitigation techniques and guidelines for mitigating impacts are developed.

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- 9.4 Activities incorporate appropriate capacity development components to increase skills in threat assessment and response planning.
- 9.5 Involvement of local expertise, specialists.

**Outcome 10: Knowledge of the ecology and migratory strategies of waterbirds is enhanced to support conservation action.**

- 10.1 International collaborative migration projects are implemented for priority species.
- 10.2 Migratory Waterbird Marking Protocols are developed for most migratory waterbirds.
- 10.3 There is a high level of coordination between bird banding/ ringing/ schemes on migratory waterbird marking projects.
- 10.4 There is a high level of coordination on band return and flag re-sighting reports.
- 10.5 Analyses of waterbird migration data are completed and widely communicated.
- 10.6 Activities incorporate appropriate capacity development components.

**Outcome 11: Knowledge of the potential role of migratory waterbirds in disease transmission, especially Avian Influenza, is enhanced.**

- 11.1 The Asia Pacific Avian Influenza Working Group is [established and] supported.
- 11.2 Projects are implemented to increase the understanding of the potential role of migratory waterbirds in disease transmission.
- 11.3 Priority is given to projects involving species which have been implicated in the transmission of disease.

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

**Outcome 12: Improved understanding of capacity needs for stakeholders for management of internationally important waterbird sites.**

- 12.1 Capacity needs assessments are conducted for management and monitoring of Flyway Network Sites.
- 12.2 Training needs assessments are implemented for key stakeholders for management and monitoring of Flyway Network Sites.
- 12.3 Priority is given to developing countries.

**Outcome 13: Natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders at internationally important sites have the skills and support to enable sustainable management of waterbird habitats.**

- 13.1 Capacity development and training programmes address needs in the areas of waterbirds, habitat management, sustainable development and communication, education and public awareness.
- 13.2 National capacity building networks are established to facilitate the ongoing management of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

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- 13.3 Priority is given to developing countries, which have national Government Partners, giving consideration to;
- (a) the number of internationally important sites in each country
  - (b) completion of a training needs assessment for wetland managers and decision makers.

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

**Outcome 14: Collaborative Flyway-wide actions for waterbird species and habitats have improved the conservation status of priority species.**

- 14.1 Coordinated projects are developed for priority species across their ranges.
- 14.2 Priority is given to species with an unfavorable conservation status or with potential as flagship species for international collaboration and habitat management.
- 14.3 Priority is given to projects that involve a number of countries and address major threats to a range of migratory waterbirds.

## **2007 Work Plan**

**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.**

**Outcome 1: The Flyway Site Network has developed to include at least 200 sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds.**

- 1.1. The Partnership is promoted to all countries in the Flyway that have internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds.
- \* Australia will continue to promote the partnership to countries who have not endorsed.
  - \* CMS will continue to undertake activity
  - \* Ramsar will continue to promote this regional initiative and promote with countries. Link with CEPA work of Ramsar.
  - \* WI will develop network site support programme.
  - \* BLI use its network in Asia to increase involvement of countries in the Partnership
  - \* WWF will continue to promote the partnership through wetland management training programs involving people from mainland China
  - \* Japan will continue to promote the partnership to countries who have not endorsed through other international fora.
- 1.2 In seeking nominations for the Flyway Site Network, priority is given to countries which have a national Government Partner and have yet to nominate a site, or have a low percentage (<10%) of their internationally important sites included in the Flyway Site Network.
- \* Australia will support the nomination of sites in countries which are not currently represented
  - \* WI will support nomination of sites across the flyway particularly in those countries where WI has offices.
  - \* US will initiate nomination of sites in Alaska
  - \* Japan encourage additional sites to join especially Ramsar sites and potential Ramsar sites.
  - \* Indonesia will nominate two sites and review status of more sites and their waterbird populations. Will also designate three Ramsar sites.
  - \* ICF will be working with Russia and China to nominate sites.
  - \* BLI use its network in Asia and the IBA program in particular to increase involvement of countries in the Partnership in the Network
  - \* Korea will add two new network sites in 2007

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- 1.3 The relative number of internationally important sites within a country is used to guide priority setting at the Flyway level.
- \* Requires Partnership discussion to progress
- 1.4 National Partnerships set priorities for nominations within their country.
- \* [Not progressed as national partnerships are being formed]

**[New Outcome The Flyway Site Network comprises at least X sites where the management activities are resulting in a halt of loss of biodiversity or an increase in conservation status of species concerned [broaden to include problems generally]]**

- X.1 [to be developed]
- [to be developed]

**Outcome 2 The Flyway Site Network is demonstrating sound integration of wetland biodiversity conservation and sustainable development that benefits local communities.**

- 2.1 Development and implementation of management plans at network sites, with participation local and key national stakeholders, that recognise the ecological needs of migratory waterbirds and the economic and social requirements of dependent communities.
- \* WWF HK, with funding from HSBC, will implement projects in southern China, and at Mai Po looking at livelihoods of local communities
  - \* WWF Aust will support community based management planning process at Roebuck Bay
  - \* Indonesia will continue restoration of mangroves impacted by tsunami
  - \* ICF will under the Siberian Crane Wetlands Projects, support development of management plans for [see site names on ICF spreadsheet] in China and Russia.
- 2.2 Site Managers, national partnerships and local communities are encouraged to be involved in decision making on economic and social development processes affecting Network sites.
- \* WI will include this in projects mentioned above
- 2.3 Collaboration is developed with other international projects relating to the management of migratory waterbird habitat.
- \* WI will include this in projects mentioned above
  - \* ICF will include this in projects mentioned above
  - \* Partnership should identify the international projects which the partnership can form relationships with
  - \* BLI will undertake a range of activities to support this outcome including a programme with DPRK to manage sites for wintering cranes.
  - \* CMS suggested UNEP GEF wetland project as an example of multi-country projects.

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- WI supported involvement of UNDP, UNEP as they lead many large projects relevant to the partnership. For example, UNEP East Asian Seas programme, tsunami recovery programme, Yellow Sea Biodiversity programme.
  - \* WWF will explore involvement of its offices in the flyway in Partnership activities.
- 2.4 Model projects are developed with the full involvement of the relevant National and Site Partnerships.
- \* Not progressed as national partnerships are being formed
  - \* ICF work on the GEF project embraces this outcome. For example, Black necked crane project in China. This work is supported by BLI.
- 2.5 Model projects at Network Sites address key threatening processes, social and economic needs, and contribute to sound integration of wetland biodiversity conservation and sustainable development that benefits local communities.
- \* Japan has a model project at rice paddies to achieve co-existence of agriculture and waterbirds. Suggest that this is a good model for sustainable development.
- 2.6 Site management guidelines are developed by Flyway Partners for Flyway Network Sites that build on existing guidelines (e.g. Ramsar Guidelines for Wetland Management).
- \* WI will develop network site support programme.
  - \* Need Partnership discussion on elaboration on existing materials. Need feedback from countries on existing materials
  - \* ICF will under the Siberian Crane Wetlands project, Russia has developed guidelines for wetland areas. They will be tested in 2007.
  - \* Ramsar working with WWF will distribute a field guide for wetland managers.

Overarching comments against this outcome:

- \* WI will
  - continue ongoing work at Krabi Thailand with local communities
  - Habitat creation in Sydney, Aust linked to a port development
  - Significant management planning project at Roebuck Bay, Aust.
  - Site management project in the Russian Far East
  - Work with WWF to contribute to Yellow Sea Biodiversity Project

**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 Increased knowledge of the importance of including ecological, social and economic values of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds are recognised in development and impact assessment processes (such as through increased application of Ramsar and CBD EIA guidelines).

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- \* Noting that a number of countries already have a comprehensive framework for recognition of these values.
  - \* CMS suggested that experiences in impact assessment relating to migratory waterbirds should be compiled.
- 3.2 Case studies of development and impact assessment processes that impact network sites and their catchments are available.
- \* Australia will develop regional profiles for several sites in Australia and will provide these to partners once completed.
  - \* ICF will share outputs from Chinese work on impact assessments of oil fields and power lines.
- 3.3 National Partnerships determine priorities for projects activities within their countries.
- \* Not progressed as national partnerships are being formed
  - \* Australia will use the Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds to guide priority setting
  - \* US will use its Alaska waterbird and shorebird conservation plans to guide its priority setting.

**Objective 2: Enhance communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.**

**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 A Flyway -wide Community Awareness and Education program is developed and provides ongoing guidance to the awareness and communication activities of the Flyway Partnership.
- \* Requires further discussion by Partnership
  - \* Wetland Link International Asia Network has been formed and has high potential to support this outcome. WWF HK is hosting a meeting in HK in Jan 2007.
- 4.2 A review of communication and awareness resources is conducted.
- \* Review is required at Flyway scale
  - \* Partially completed in Philippines as part of national workshop held this year.
  - \* Countries could be asked to provide compilations
  - \* AWSG are working to initiate an Asia-Pacific Shorebird Network.
- 4.3 National Partnerships are encouraged to develop CEPA Plans that complement the Flyway partnership-wide CEPA Plan.
- \* Not progressed as national partnerships are being formed
  - \* US will complete a migratory bird communications strategic plan for Alaska
  - \* WWF Aust has prepared and is implementing four regional shorebird communication plans

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- \* Indonesia will disseminate information on the partnership to local governments and managers of important sites.
  - \* Philippines has identified this plan as a priority
- 4.4 A range of awareness and communication activities are implemented which are consistent with the Communication and Public Awareness Plan.
- \* Not progressed as the plan is not available are being formed
  - \* Thailand will complete delivery of a waterbird education programme for schools in the Inner Gulf of Thailand.

Overarching comments in relation to this outcome

- \* ICF – websites, newsletters (China Crane News), Flyway education linking schools.
- \* WI noted that all partners have websites and information products.
- \* Singapore is looking at sister wetlands programme for school students. Invited approaches from schools at sites elsewhere in the flyway.

**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 which are consistent with the Communication and Public Awareness Plan.
- \* Not progressed as the plan is not available are being formed

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

[suggestion from US that references to sites be replaced with habitat. WI expressed a need for a geographic location for activities]

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

- 6.1 Flyway Waterbird Monitoring Programs that are linked to existing national and international programs are established.
- \* AWSG will continue to develop an improved population monitoring programme as a high priority. This programme will be capable of transfer to other places in the flyway.
  - \* WWF Aust in collaboration with AWSG and BA is developing a proposal and will be seeking funding in 2007
  - \* US will continue its seabird, shorebird and waterfowl monitoring programmes in Alaska. US will also continue its involvement in the circumpolar seabird monitoring program.
  - \* WI will continue to work with local and national partners to build on the Asian Waterbird Census. Next year is the 20th year of the AWC.
  - \* Japan will continue annual survey of Anatidae, shorebirds and cranes. Develop electronic submission of AWC data
  - \* Indonesia will continue monitoring

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- \* Philippines will continue monitoring and increase frequency of monitoring.
  - \* Republic of Korea will continue to monitoring waterfowl, cranes and shorebirds.
  - \* ICF developing a GIS database to support MOU. Developing migratory waterbirds monitoring regime in China.
- 6.2 Flyway waterbird habitat monitoring programs, which are linked to existing national and international programmes, are established at internationally important sites and regions.
- \* [limit discussions to new programmes]
  - \* BLI will initiate monitoring of IBAs in Asia. Workshop in Malaysia to train monitoring staff. Relevant to points below also. Monitoring of IBAs in China.
  - \* Russia will continue monitoring of selected breeding sites.
  - \* Republic of Korea have project starting in 2007 looking a flora and fauna and threats at internationally important waterbird habitat.
  - \* ICF will through the GEF project be undertaking monitoring as part of site management
- 6.3 Updated information is available on the status and threats to internationally important sites and to network sites in particular.
- \* WWF is supporting provision of information on status and threats
  - \* WI will publish AWC information from 2002-2004
  - \* BLI will launch website with information on important sites for cranes. Compiling a revised edition on IBAs in China.
  - \* Russia will start a project updating status and threats for important bird areas in eastern and far eastern Russia in cooperation with BLI-A.
  - \* Philippines has identified a need for site managers to have skills to identify threats.
- 6.4 Partners collaborate on the integration of current waterbird monitoring activities (include biological factors) and enhance activities to enable the collection of scientifically sound data and analysis of the status and trends of waterbird populations.
- \* WI, BLI, ICF will collaborate to link their programs. Example of linking Australian monitoring to international work.
  - \* Requires further discussion among partners
- 6.5 Monitoring activities incorporate appropriate capacity development components to increase waterbird monitoring skills.
- \* Key component in activities listed above.
  - \* Japan will under its national monitoring survey, conduct training workshops for people involved in the surveys
  - \* ICF GEF has been conducting specific training in China and providing equipment for waterbird monitoring.

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- \* BLI has sponsored two waterbird monitoring training programmes in 2006. Working to provide more training in China in coastal areas.

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

- 7.1 A review of information on the internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in the Flyway is prepared and published.
- \* WI will publish a report on shorebirds across the flyway and AWC report
  - \* US will complete a waterbird conservation plan for Alaska which addresses this outcome.
  - \* US will assist in coordinating the birds of EAAF conservation concern project.
  - \* Russia plans to publish an atlas of shorebird breeding ranges in Russia arctic.
- 7.2 Knowledge gaps on internationally important sites are addressed by survey activities.
- \* Russia will progress inventory of breeding and stopover grounds in Russian Far East.
  - \* WI will involved in a number of surveys to identify important sites.
  - \* WI and the BLI partner in Malaysia have been doing a comprehensive survey of Malaysian coast. Will be published next year.
  - \* ICF baseline surveys and migration sites. Habitat survey work [transfer details from ICF template]
  - \* US will expand its waterbird survey programme in the Bering Sea region
- 7.3 Data on internationally important sites are available and shared between partners.
- \* Further discussion required on nature of information and mechanisms for sharing
  - \* WWF Aus will provide its Shorebird Conservation Toolkit, including information on internationally important sites in Australia.
- 7.4 Priority is given to implementation of surveys in areas where an assessment of knowledge gaps has shown limited survey data but significant potential habitat.
- \* Requires collective discussion
  - \* US is working with partners to support activities for Dunlin
- 7.5 Survey activities incorporate appropriate capacity development components to increase waterbird survey skills.
- \* Included in activities
  - \* WI is proposing to conduct national training workshops.

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**Outcome 8: Threats to internationally important [habitats and ]sites for migratory waterbirds have been assessed and recommendations for appropriate management actions developed.**

- 8.1 Guidelines on conducting threat and impact assessments are developed.
- \* Australia will circulate updated guidelines for significant impacts on matters of national environmental significance including migratory species and important wetlands
  - \* Requires further discussion
- 8.2 Reviews of threats and management needs at Network Sites and other internationally important wetlands are conducted.
- \* WI is keen to progress this but is limited by resources
  - \* WWF Aust is facilitating review of threats and management needs in four regions of Australia.
  - \* ICF is progressing site level work
  - \* Russia is going to review threats and management needs at selected important wetlands.
  - \* Discuss flyway scale approach
- 8.3 Mitigation techniques and guidelines for mitigating impacts are developed.
- \* US has developed mitigation guidelines for wind turbines, towers and powerlines at sea
- 8.4 Activities incorporate appropriate capacity development components to increase skills in threat assessment and response planning.
- \* Philippines has identified this as a priority
  - \* WWF Aus will, as part of its review, assist site managers in conducting threat assessments
  - \* Discuss flyway scale approach
- 8.5 Involvement of local expertise, specialists.
- \* BLI has as a key component of its IBA programme a site support group.

**Outcome 9: Knowledge of the ecology and migratory strategies of waterbirds is enhanced to support conservation action.**

- 9.1 International collaborative migration projects are implemented for priority species.
- \* Russia is participating in Spoon-billed Sandpiper Recovery Team which operated as an independent group of experts supported by WI and BLI. Workshop in late 2006 organised by the Recovery Team and BLI.
  - \* BLI is also compiling international conservation plan on behalf of CMS, SBS, Chinese Crested Tern, Black-faced Spoonbill. Cranes
  - \* ICF will be sat tracking cranes in 2007
  - \* Japan will continue collaborative work on Saunder's Gull with China

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- \* AWSG will continue to conduct and support colour flagging of shorebirds, particularly with individual recognition projects for selected species.
  - \* US will continue its Bar-tailed Godwit and Dunlin projects and will initiate a new Aleutian Tern project.
  - \* Russia will participate in collaborative work with US and Japan under bilateral migratory bird agreements.
- 9.2 Migratory Waterbird Marking Protocols are developed for most migratory waterbirds.
- \* WI under the AP WG on HPAI a priority would be to develop protocols for species groups not currently covered
  - \* Cranes have a protocol, which BLI will strengthen.
  - \* BFSB have a protocol, and will consult banding schemes in range of species on implementation.
  - \* WI noted flyway wide protocol for shorebirds, which is due for review.
- 9.3 There is a high level of coordination between bird banding/ ringing/ schemes on migratory waterbird marking projects.
- \* AWSG has been leading banding and flagging for shorebirds, but there is opportunity to broaden work. Increased level of reporting for colour flagged shorebirds which has been very successful. AWSG's approach is transferable to other countries and other species.
  - \* Indonesia will establish a national scheme for ringing and colour marking migratory waterbirds.
  - \* Russia has active collaboration with banding schemes which will be continued.
- 9.4 There is a high level of coordination on band return and flag re-sighting reports.
- \* WI reinforced that colour marking must be coordinated across the range of the species.
  - \* AI WG will enhance coordination of banding return and flag resighting.
  - \* Requires further development
- 9.5 Analyses of waterbird migration data are completed and widely communicated.
- \* AWSG holds considerable data, but will published a summary of these data in The Stilt
  - \* US is supporting development of Dunlin banding and resighting report and database
  - \* Russia is planning to analyse and publish results of migration data on selected shorebird species as a collaborative project with NZ and Aust experts
- 9.6 Activities incorporate appropriate capacity development components.
- \* AWSG will provide opportunity for participation by people from across the flyway in expeditions eg to North-west Australia

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- \* Russia will hold expeditions in Russian Arctic involve international participation. Planning three expeditions in coming year.

**Outcome 10: Knowledge of the potential role of migratory waterbirds in disease transmission, especially Avian Influenza, is enhanced, and coordinated on a flyway scale.**

- 10.1 The Asia Pacific Avian Influenza Working Group is established and supported.
- \* US will host the first meeting of the WG in Alaska early in 2007
  - \* WI has been contracted to support the WG and will be involved in facilitation and support WG meeting and establish website.
- 10.2 Projects are implemented to increase the understanding of the potential role of migratory waterbirds in disease transmission.
- \* Indonesia will be carrying out surveillance of wild birds including waterbirds
  - \* Russia plans to continue the collaborative work in this area
  - \* CMS through its scientific taskforce on AI is disseminating information on the role of migratory waterbirds and has established a website for that purpose (aiweb.info)
  - \* US will continue implementing its surveillance and sampling programme in Alaska
  - \* Philippines is implementing its surveillance and sampling programme at a limited scale
  - \* Japan is continuing surveillance and sat tracking on priority species
  - \* ROK projects continue next year.
  - \* Myanmar is also doing survey work for AI.
  - \* Australia is conducting monitoring and sampling.
  - \* USGS has been working with partners in Mongolia to track swan goose and whooper swan using satellite tracking
  - \* WI has assisted countries in organising national meetings on AI and the role of waterbirds
  - \* US is supporting AI surveillance in the Russian Far East.
- 10.3 Priority is given to projects involving species which have been implicated in the transmission of disease.
- \* Australia is implementing a project on grey teal in northern Australia

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

**Outcome 11: Improved understanding of capacity needs for stakeholders for management of internationally important waterbird sites.**

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- 11.1 Capacity needs assessments are conducted for management and monitoring of Flyway Network Sites.
- \* WWF Aust is conducting an assessment at five regions in Australia
  - \* Philippines has identified this activity as a high priority
  - \* Further discussion at flyway scale
- 11.2 Training needs assessments are implemented for key stakeholders for management and monitoring of Flyway Network Sites.
- \* ICF will conduct training under GEF project in China and Russia
  - \* WWF Aust will implement activities as a result of assessment
  - \* WI is working with other Australian organisations to provide assessments and training in Australia
- 11.3 Priority is given to developing countries.
- \* ICF has set up a SE universities to provide training.
  - \* Australia will provide support for activities in developing countries
  - \* Crane WG has assessed needs of training and given priority to activities in developing countries.

**Outcome 12: Natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders at internationally important sites have the skills and support to enable sustainable management of waterbird habitats.**

- 12.1 Capacity development and training programmes address needs in the areas of waterbirds, habitat management, sustainable development and communication, education and public awareness.
- \* WWF HK HSBC wetland management training programme is continuing. Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund, uses funding from Cathay Pacific to promote greater awareness of waterbirds and their conservation needs
  - \* Indonesia with WI support will continue to conduct training on survey skills
  - \* Singapore is willing to host a workshop on capacity building for the flyway
  - \* ICF will organise a regional training work shop on management planning for sites in NE asia
  - \* BLI will conduct training course in late Nov and a second workshop in China next year. Anticipate other training courses in China.
  - \* [Anatidae Working Group items should be included in this document]
- 12.2 National capacity building networks are established to facilitate the ongoing management of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
- \* WWF Aust is involved with WI, HWC, WCA in a national wetland management capacity building project
  - \* Crane and Stork network in Japan have held their annual meeting

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- 12.3 Priority is given to developing countries, which have national Government Partners, giving consideration to;
- (a) the number of internationally important sites in each country
  - (b) completion of a training needs assessment for wetland managers and decision makers.
- \* Further discussion required

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

**Outcome 13: Collaborative Flyway-wide actions for waterbird species and habitats have improved the conservation status of priority species.**

- 13.1 Coordinated projects are developed for priority species across their ranges.
- \* US noted that there is significant overlaps between outcome statements
  - \* WI explained the need to maintain focus on priority species and habitats
  - \* CMS this outcome should trigger session for prioritisation of species and habitats.
  - \* Existing range wide projects for
    - Spoon-billed Sandpiper
    - Black-faced Spoonbill
    - Saunders Gull
    - Dunlin
    - Lesser White-fronted Goose
    - Swan Goose
    - Baikal Teal
  - \* US partnership will be implementing birds of conservation concern project
- 13.2 Priority is given to species with an unfavourable conservation status or with potential as flagship species for international collaboration and habitat management.
- \* WBSJ made a new wintering ground for hooded crane and white-naped crane in collaboration with Korea.
  - \* WI is working with WWF in GEF project on tidal flats of the Yellow Sea.
  - \* US is hoping that the partnership will consider the Aleutian Tern as a flagship species.
- 13.3 Priority is given to projects that involve a number of countries and address major threats to a range of migratory waterbirds.
- \* [include existing projects already mentioned above]