

EAAFP Shorebird Working Group Meeting Minutes

(Zoom meeting at GMT 6-9:45am, 31 August 2023)

Agenda item 1: Welcome Note

- The meeting started at GMT 6am (2pm for GMT+8 Zone). David Li, Chair of EAAFP SWG shared briefly about the history of the SWG, the output from the previous SWG meeting in March 2023, and the work progress the acting core team has achieved since then. David also shared the meeting Agenda for comments, no objection received on this.

Agenda item 2: Welcome Remarks by Ms. Jennifer George, Chief Executive of the EAAFP Secretariat

- Shared about how shorebirds linked broader biodiversity with people and how the EAAFP will be happy to provide support towards shorebird conservation.
- Mentioned how the telling of stories of shorebirds would be important for their conservation.

Agenda item 3: Sharing by Prof. Theunis Piersma : Evaluation of the Global Flyway Network efforts in the EAAF

- Shared about the history of the Global Flyway Network (GFN) and the challenges they are facing (e.g., lack of funding).
- Highlighted the need for creating stories about shorebirds to help with promoting their conservation, and these stories need to be based on some form of scientific proof.
- The annual production and citation of GFN's scientific publications has been steadily increasing over the years, and conservation management has been an increasingly included topic. This shows that scientific impact has been made from conservation work.
- Highlighted the need for continued data curation and development of new techniques, and to follow-up with writing and publishing papers to create these shorebird stories.

Agenda item 4: Introduction of participants

- Participants were given 30 seconds each to make a short introduction of themselves with names, organisation and experience in shorebird conservation. Those who missed their turns made a written introduction in chat box.

Agenda item 5: Endorse SWG Terms of Reference (Annex 1)

- David Li briefly explained the SWG TOR, the organisational structure of the SWG, and the activities which members and invited experts can contribute and participate in.
- Taej Mundkur brought up the importance of involving the Technical Sub-committee for good partnership with SWG, which will allow for the sub-committee to better plan their work and

report on it. David highlighted that some of the Technical Sub-committee members are also members of SWG, they will provide input to SWG and connect the two groups.

- The SWG TOR was endorsed by SWG members.

Agenda item 6: Endorse SWG core team members (Annex 2)

- David Li introduced the list of SWG core team members. The term of service for the core team will be 2 years which may be renewed at the discretion of the SWG members at meeting of members, as stated in the TOR.
- The SWG members welcomed the contribution of core team members, and the 11 core team members were endorsed by the SWG members.

Agenda item 7: Endorse SWG Work Plan 2023-2025 (Annex 3)

- Richard Lanctot went through the SWG Work Plan for endorsement and explained how they were carried over from previous work plans with new adjustments. The work plan also shows the priority and role of SWG for each item.
- Delip Dias suggested for the team place Flyway Conservation Strategy as high priority instead.
 - David Li explained that the priority scores were determined by the average rating given by core team members, and that the Flyway Conservation Strategy is a very resource intensive task, so it was given low priority due to limited resources available.
- Taej Mundkur suggested for the email of all core team members to be shared with SWG to allow for people who are interested to contribute to SWG to contact the core team.
 - Follow-up: SWG website to be updated with the emails of core team members, along with a short introduction. To seek assistance from EAAFP staff.
- Sunyoung Park asked if there was any national implementation plans in line to complement the work of the SWG as it would provide for meaningful synergy.
 - Follow-up: To email the endorsed SWG work plan to respective government agencies through the government nominated SWG members and to encourage cooperation with the governments along the flyway.
- Kelin Chen asked about how to encourage governments to be more involved and support the work of SWG, and the best way to for information to be shared between various stakeholders.
 - David Li explained that it will be important to get governments to nominate members who are actively involved in shorebird conservation so that they can coordinate with the respective government agencies and get their support for SWG activities.
- SWG Work Plan was endorsed by SWG members.

Agenda item 8: Endorse the proposal for set up a Nordmann's Greenshank Conservation sub-group (Annex 4)

- Katherine Leung shared on the proposal for the sub-group, which aims to bring together members of the shorebird community that are interested in contributing to the conservation of this species. This sub-group will be reporting to SWG periodically. David also expressed the need for developing a conservation plan for the Nordmann's Greenshank and to establish a databases on important sites for information sharing.

- David Melville raised the question on whether approval under the flyway partnership is required for sub-groups/working groups.
 - David Li answered that there should not be any regulation from EAAFP with SWG forming sub-groups as the sub-groups are just for the purpose of implementing the priority work plan items for the SWG, this can be for a particular conservation issue or a targeted species.
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- The proposal for setting-up the Nordmann's Greenshank sub-group was endorsed by SWG members.

Agenda item 9: Endorse the SWG Logo

- David Li presented the SWG Logo, which features the Bar-tailed Godwit, Nordmann's Greenshank and Dunlin, which are all significant to the work of SWG.
- Both logos will be used, depending on whether printing is in colour or black & white.
- Many members suggested the inclusion of other species in the logo, however as everyone has different preferences, it would not be feasible to include so many birds in the logo. Furthermore, the EAAFP has constraints with making further revisions to the logo, as it has already gone through many changes previously.
- Text on the logo would adhere to guidelines set by the EAAFP, currently still awaiting updates from EAAFP regarding this.
- Taej Mundkur suggested having a flyway-wide logo design competition to develop a new logo in the future.
- It was concluded that it was in the best interest to proceed with this logo, with the understanding that there will be a difference in opinions with regards to the design choices, so it would not be feasible to satisfy the preferences of all members. The logo can be updated in future when there is a better choice or solution.
- The SWG Logo was endorsed by SWG members.

Agenda item 10: Update on SWG Webinars (Annex 5)

- David Li provided the update on the plan of SWG webinar series.
- The webinars will take place approximately every two months with 1-2 short talks totalling about 30 minutes to provide a brief summary of the topic to be discussed, followed with an open discussion (30-60 minutes) to engage and connect people with relevant skills and expertise to advance work on the topic. A facilitator is identified within SWG members to develop the details of the individual sessions, identify speaker, time of the webinar, facilitate discussion and follow up on the topic discussed. The first webinar on Shorebird Working Group and colour marking protocol in the EAAF will be held online on 22 September 2023.
- No endorsement required as the concept for webinars was agreed upon in the previous SWG meeting. David acknowledged core team member Micha's effort in coordinating the process, but she could not join the meeting to present herself.
- David Melville suggested to consult with AFCoW to ensure no clashing events when hosting these webinars. David accepted the recommendation and made follow-up immediately after the meeting.

Agenda item 11: Update on the Shorebird Colour Marking Protocol (Annex 6)

- Katherine Leung explained the need, plan, and timeline to review the protocol, as it had not been updated since 2017, and the objectives of updating the protocol. David Li explained

that the protocol has existed for a long time and is no longer able to cover all ringing sites and areas, and the core team felt the need to take the timely review for the important work in the flyway.

- Some members brought up the importance of coordinating with flyway governments and neighbouring countries, and for SWG to take the lead in this area and inform up to the national level on the colour marking protocol.
 - Coordination with other flyways was also pointed out as there is an overlap in species from African and Eurasian Flyways, which may share breeding areas.
 - Ward Hagemeyer and Delip Das also suggested involving the International Wader Study Group (ISWG) for such coordination efforts.
- Phillip Round raised the need for a comprehensive flyway-wide database for all flag sightings and movements. Katherine responded that such online databases named as BirdMark has been developed by Deakin University in Australia.
- Doug Watkins highlighted the need for the colour flagging protocol to have a stronger approval process that engages both government offices and researchers. Would be good to inform the EAAFP Secretariat and Science Unit for the updating of the protocol, and to keep the Technical Sub-Committee in the loop.
- David agreed on the approach, and he wrote to Chief of EAAFP (copied to Science Unit and Technical Sub-Committee) immediately after the SWG meeting and received support to review the shorebird colour flagging protocol.
- Katherine mentioned the upcoming webinar on 22 Sept will assist in brainstorming the updated protocol, and the draft of the new protocol will be sent to the EAAFP Secretariat to seek partners approval by end of December.

Agenda item 12: Update on Shorebird Science Meeting

- Rick Lanctot went through the updates to the next Science Meeting
- As there is no sponsor identified it decided the next meeting to be held online.
- No issues raised with the updates provided.

Agenda item 13: Next SWG Meeting

- David Li suggested the next SWG meeting can maintain online format as there are no costs involved, whilst still being able to make decisions and progress.
- Interval between meetings should not be too long as the points of contact might change during such a long period of time, or too short as it takes time to prepare for meetings and implement the plans that were previously set out.
- It was decided for the next meeting to be around one year from now, with the date to be determined closer to that period. Members will be informed of the next meeting at least three months ahead, and meeting documents will be sent out at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Agenda item 14: Any other matters.

- Nil.

Agenda item 15: Close of the Meeting.

- David Li made a thank you message to all who have participated in the meeting and provided valuable input for the meeting to be successful. The meeting ended at GMT 9:45am.

List of Participants:

Iwan Febrianto
Toshifumi Moriya
Ahmad Khusaini bin Mohd Kharip Shah
Noraisah binti Majri
Hwajung Kim
Yuri Gerasimov
David Li
Richard Lanctot
Nguyen Thi Van Anh
Yifei Jia
Xiaojing GAN
Chris Hassell
Danny Rogers
Ding Li Yong
Tom Li
Ward Hagemeyer
Minoru Kashiwagi
Wen Xianji
Jennifer George
Kyle Esperanza Zuleta
David Melville
Phil Straw
Ken Gosbell
Philip D. Round
Taej Mundkur
Theunis Piersma
Katherine Leong
Richard Fuller
Zhijun Ma
Pavel Tomkovich
Phil Battley
Jing Li
Yus Rusila Noor
Sunyoung Park
Kyungwon Kim
Pyaephyo Aung
Chen Kelin
Doug Watkins
Dali Lin
Alison Rusell-French

Dmitry Dorofev
Ginny Chan
Kim Jin-Han
Scott Pursner
Khwankhao Sinhaseni
Cipto Dwi Handono
Ramanibal Ravichandran
Yuki Kimura
Tohki Inoue
Kaoru Sakai
Qing Chen
Lin Zhang
Wu Wei
Nozomu Sato
Chairunas Adha Putra
Satoe Kasahara
Altangerei Tsogtnagai
Jodie Clements
Zhu Bingrun
Linda Wong
Lisha Lyu
Fa-Tu-Zo Khaleque Mila
Yong Lu Yong
Ragil Rihadini
Fadhli Ahmad
Jacelyn See
Thura
Shelby Wee
Delip Das
Anton Ivanov