

EAAFP MOP12 Reporting Template for Government Partners

Dear Partners,

To report on the progress of the implementation of the [EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028](#), a Reporting Template was developed at the 10th Meeting of Partners (MOP10) in Hainan, China which was subsequently used to gather progress from Partners for MOP11 held in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

The EAAFP Secretariat has amended the reporting template to account for the feedback gathered at MOP11 as well as the MOP11 decisions specifically Key Results Areas 1.2 and 1.6. To streamline the process and reduce the length of the reporting document, three separate templates have been created: for (1) Government Partners, (2) Non-Government Partners, and (3) Working Groups, Task Forces, and the Technical Sub-committee.

The “Reporting Questions” are linked to Key Result Areas to enable an assessment of progress with the implementation of each element of the Strategic Plan. Indicators have been provided to facilitate reporting and assess our achievements.

As this Reporting Template was developed in alignment with the Strategic Plan, some questions may appear to overlap. However, completing them all will provide comparability with the previous [Partner Reports](#) submitted for MOP11.

While the total number of questions for Government Partners is 50, the number of questions for each Partner Group, and each mechanism of the Partnership, is shown below:

Government	50 Questions
Non-Government	43 Questions
Working Groups, Task Forces & Technical Sub-committee	27 Questions

This Reporting Template has been sent to the Focal Point of each Partner, the Chair and Vice-Chair of each Working Group and Task Force, and the Chair of the Technical Sub-committee.

Thank you,

Jennifer George

Chief Executive, EAAFP Secretariat

The EAAFP Reporting Questions

General Information

Name of Reporting Partner	New Zealand (Department of Conservation; DOC)
Designated EAAFP Focal Point	Name : Cassie Mealey Position : Senior Technical Advisor, Fauna Department/Unit : Biodiversity Science Unit P.O. Box/Street : 10 Sewell Street Address : City, Postal Code : Hokitika, 7810 Country : New Zealand E-mail address : cmealey@doc.govt.nz Phone Number : +64 27 606 8930 Website : https://www.doc.govt.nz/
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Additional Designated EAAFP Focal Point (Optional)	Name : Position : Department/Unit : Street Address/ : P.O. Box : City, Postal Code : Country : E-mail address : Phone Number : Website :
Report Compiler	Name : (Same as the above) Position : Department/Unit : Street Address/ : P.O. Box : City, Postal Code : Country : E-mail address : Phone Number : Website :

Reporting on the implementation of the EAAFP Strategic Plan

Reporting Period: 2023 – 2025

OBJECTIVE 1 Develop the Flyway Network of sites of international importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, building on the achievements of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy, with the ultimate goal of establishing a sufficient and efficient network of sites with sustainable management. (FSN page: <https://www.eaaflyway.net/the-flyway/flyway-site-network/>)

- Supplementary information: [EAA Flyway Network Sites Overview Report 2013](#), [EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028](#)

KRA 1.1 A comprehensive and coherent Flyway Network of Sites is developed for migratory waterbirds, including sites that are not currently Protected Areas.

Indicator 1.1.1 The Flyway Site Network has expanded to include at least 40 additional strategic internationally important sites for migratory waterbird conservation, some of which may not currently be a national Protected Area.

1. Do you have a publicly accessible list of internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in your country? If yes, please provide the web link or the reference in the below box. If not, would you like assistance from other Partners to develop such a list?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information: Recent regional analysis completed for Northern South Island: R Schuckard & D. S. Melville 2022. SHOREBIRDS of FAREWELL SPIT, GOLDEN BAY AND TASMAN BAY assessment of sites of international and national importance. Report in review. Otherwise, the following websites contain information about shorebirds in NZ: New Zealand - Eaa-flyway (EAAFP page) Miranda's migratory birds: New Zealand sea and shore birds (govt page) Welcome to the Shorebird Centre - Pūkoro-koro Miranda Shorebird Centre (non-govt page) ebird (non-govt website where one can explore where certain bird species, including waterbirds, have been sighted)	
2. Have any additional internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds been identified in your country since MOP11 (March 2023)? (for background, see EAA Flyway Network Sites Overview Report 2013 , MOP11 Partner Report) If yes, please provide details on these sites.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information:	
3. Have high-priority sites been identified for potential nomination to join the Flyway Site Network? If yes, please provide details on these sites. If not, would you like assistance from other Partners?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information: Manukau Harbour is recognised as a priority for nomination. Work is being led by local leaders to get Local Government and iwi support registered. Parengarenga Harbour: Discussions between local Iwi and DOC leaders underway. Currently at an informal stage.	

4. Have any additional sites been designated or are currently going through the nomination process for the Flyway Site Network since MOP11 (March 2023)? If yes, please provide the names of these sites.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Additional information:	

5. How many designated Flyway Network Sites would you like to have by 2028?	1 site(s)
Additional information: We will seek to advance a nomination for Manukau Harbour.	

KRA 1.2 National and Site Partnerships have been developed to coordinate the implementation of the EAAFP at national and local levels.

Indicator 1.2.2 At least 50% of Government Partners have an active [National Partnership](#) and [Site Partnerships](#) have been developed for at least 50% of the Flyway Network Sites.

6. Have you supported a national meeting of your existing and potential Flyway Network Site managers? If yes, please indicate the number of meetings you held since MOP11 below.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information: Yes, three since MOP11 – 3rd June 2024 (Nelson), March 3rd 2025 in association with Pūkorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre’s 50th anniversary (Auckland) and 1st June 2025 (Auckland).	

7. Please indicate the stakeholders involved in the national meetings.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Universities/Research Institutes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NGOs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Managers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Researchers/Experts <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please indicate below)
Additional information: Members involved in the 2025 national meeting included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pūkorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre board members Davie Lawrie, Gillian Vaughan, and Stuart Laurenson (Chair) • Pūkorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre Site Manager Keith Woodley • Shorebird researcher/expert Adrian Reigen • Massey University Associate Professor Phil Batley • Department of Conservation staff members Bruce McKinlay, Hilary Aikman, Cassie Mealey 	

8. Have the Site Managers reported to the national meeting on their work plans related to the EAAFP Strategic Objectives ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information: This has been done informally for the Pūkoro-koro Miranda Shorebird Centre during national meetings. It has not been done for other sites beyond a local level.	

9. Has a regional cooperation or network contributed to developing a National Partnership? e.g. North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental (NEASPEC), ASEAN Flyway Network (AFN), Indo-Burma Regional Ramsar Initiative (IBRRI), Regional Flyway Initiative (RFI)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information:	

10. How many of your Flyway Network Sites have a Site Partnership (e.g. 3 out of 5 Sites)?	1 Site(s)
Additional information: One Site(s) out of four. 1 out of 4 - Pūkoro-koro Miranda Shorebird Centre, NZ and Yalujiang Estuary Wetland, PRC	

KRA 1.3 Flyway Network Sites are valued by the community and sustainably managed.

Indicator 1.3.1 At least 50% of Flyway Network Sites have current management plans that address specific objectives for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats and that are being adequately implemented. Management plans have stakeholder participation and are approved by relevant agencies.

11. Which Flyway Network Sites in your country have a Management Plan and when was it last updated? * Please provide the weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.
Your Response: Avon-Heathcote Estuary / Ihutai has a 10-year estuary management plan “The Avon-Heathcote Estuary and lower reaches of the Ōtākaro (Avon) and Ōpāwaho (Heathcote) Rivers 2020-2030”. Pūkoro-koro Miranda Naturalists Trust have a Mangrove Management Plan (2016) to keep the shoreline habitat open for waterbirds. Additionally, the Department of Conservation implements Conservation Management Strategies at a regional scale which includes the Flyway Network Sites (FNS). These are statutory documents which set out a range of activities for a region including the FNS.

Indicator 1.3.2 At least 50% of Flyway Network Sites recognise the Flyway Site Network as a brand for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF.

12.

Please provide examples of how the “Flyway Site Network” brand is being recognised (e.g. installing signages).

* Please provide the web links if available online or reference for relevant publications.

Your Response:

Pūkoro Miramira Shorebird Centre have lots of information on display about the flyway, but do not appear to display the specific EAAF branding.

Specific flyway branding isn’t displayed for the other FNSs Farewell Spit, Awarua Bay New River Estuary, Avon-Heathcote Avon Heathcote Ihutai Trust.

Indicator 1.3.3 All Partners are using and complying with International standards ([International Finance Cooperation](#) or equivalent) for development within and adjacent to FNS and other internationally important waterbird sites.

13.

Please provide brief details on any sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds that may be adversely impacted by a proposed development and describe the assessment process that was used or is anticipated to be applied.

* Please provide the weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.

Your Response:

The Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor project is planning to develop infrastructure and facilities such as stop banks, pump stations, and cycle path near to the Avon-Heathcote Estuary. The assessment process is outlined here: [Assessment-Framework-Final.pdf](#) and is to consider these two ecological factors:

1. How does the project enhance peoples’ capacity to engage in mahinga kai (traditional food collection) practices?
2. How does the project contribute to, or enhance, the regeneration and reconstruction of the ecosystems as an interconnected mosaic in a way that represents the former delta?

An Assessment of Environmental Effects is a standard assessment that will be undertaken as part of obtaining consent under the Resource Management Act 1991 or the Fast Track Act 2024. The Act under which consent will be sought remains unspecified.

14.

Have any public consultation processes been implemented when a site of international importance for migratory waterbirds could be adversely impacted by a proposed development?

If yes, please provide brief details on the site/s and if the development was approved.

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Planned
- ☐ Not known

Additional information:

The Resource Management Act 1991 requires public consultation for most developments where they trigger certain provisions in local and regional planning documents. While the Fast Track Act 2024 does not require general public consultation, it requires expert panels to invite comments from affected or interested parties, such as the Department of Conservation, to support their decisions. For the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor

project - the project is in preliminary discussions with the Department of Conservation on how best to manage environmental risks. Discussions will be formally undertaken through consenting processes under the Resource Management Act 1991 or Fast Track Act 2024, and Wildlife Act 1953.

KRA 1.4 Where appropriate, Flyway Network Sites are being sustainably used to support subsistence livelihoods of the local community.

Indicator 1.4.1 Where local communities at Flyway Network Sites depend on the natural resources of the site to support subsistence livelihoods, this is occurring without adverse impacts on migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

<p>15.</p> <p>In your country, are there examples of local communities at Flyway Network Sites that are dependent on the Site's natural resources to support subsistence livelihoods?</p> <p>If yes, please provide details on the site/s and the use of natural resources.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Planned</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not known</p>
<p>Additional information:</p>	

KRA 1.5 Partners and local stakeholders are engaged in responding to activities which may threaten Flyway Network Sites.

Indicator 1.5.1 The level of engagement of EAAFP Partners and local communities in responding to threats to Flyway Network Sites is reflected in the number of meetings and events held and the participants attending.

<p>16.</p> <p>Are you aware of any Flyway Network Sites or other sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds that are under threat?</p> <p>If yes, please provide details about those threats and what response have you or your local stakeholders undertaken.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Additional information:</p> <p>Invasive Alien plants are a general threat to coastal habitats in New Zealand. The cordgrass <i>Spartina</i> and the native Mangrove are both potentially invasive and can displace roosting and foraging shorebirds. Control of Mangrove at Pūkoro Miramira Shorebird Centre is a planned activity. Surveillance of <i>Spartina</i> continues through NZ.</p>	

KRA 1.6 The EAAFP Sister Site Programme has expanded.

Indicator 1.6.1 At least five new EAAFP Sister Site relationships have been developed.

<p>17.</p> <p>Is your country interested in establishing relationships and/or formal Sister Site Partnerships with Flyway Network Sites in other countries? If applicable, what challenges are you facing in trying to connect with and/or establish a formal partnership with other Flyway Network Sites?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Planned</p>
<p>Additional information:</p> <p>One sister site partnership has been established between NFGA, China Yalujiang Estuary National Nature Reserve and Pūkoro Miramira Shorebird Centre, NZ. Research into where the Red Knot fly and stopover may provide insight into a potential future sister sites.</p>	

18. Were there any collaborative activities for waterbird conservation between sites in your country and those in other countries during the reporting period (2023-2028)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information: DOC (Bruce, former DOC, now EAAFP freelance extraordinaire) attend the 1st EAAFP Flyway Science Symposium in October 2024 in the People's Republic of China to advance network collaboration for shorebird conservation. DOC and NFGA held several online meetings to discuss matters pertaining to shorebird conservation, including on the 21st February 2025 and in September 2024. DOC and NFGA signed a MoA to promote the exchange of bird banding data for migratory shorebirds and seabirds during the visit of China's premier Li Qiang to NZ in June 2024. Pūkoro Mirānda Shorebird Centre 50th Anniversary celebration in March 2025 which attracted the EAAFP secretariate, local iwi Ngāti Pāoa, the NZ Governor-General, and officials from several countries including, the Ambassador for the People's Republic of China, the Consul-General to the Embassy of Japan, and the Ambassador to the Republic of Korea. Currently, NFGA and Pūkoro Mirānda Shorebird Centre are considering the best options for future collaboration which might include drafting a MoA for continued sister site collaboration. Currently, Bruce (former DOC, now EAAFP freelance extraordinaire) is collaborating with the Beijing Forestry University to develop a strategy for the Science Unit for the EAAFP. Continued communication with DPRK through PMNT representative.	

OBJECTIVE 2 Enhance communication, education, participation and public awareness (CEPA) of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

KRA 2.1 The achievement of the elements in the EAAFP CEPA Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2028).

Indicator 2.1.1 The CEPA Action Plan has been monitored, reviewed and updated as necessary to inform the EAAFP.

19. Does your country have a CEPA Programme addressing migratory waterbirds and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds? If yes, please provide brief details of the programme.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information (website links if any): CEPA work for migratory shorebirds is undertaken by site managers (e.g. Firth of Thames/Pūkoro Mirānda Naturalists Trust) as part of their wider site based activities.	

20. Has your country made use of the EAAFP CEPA Action Plan 2023-2028 when planning and implementing the CEPA activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information (give examples of how the Action Plan was reflected e.g. in Flyway Network Sites, targeting the public, etc.): CEPA work for migratory shore birds is undertaken by site managers (e.g. Firth of Thames/Pūkoro Mirānda Naturalists Trust; Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust).	

21. What CEPA activities have taken place at Flyway Network Sites?	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness
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Additional information (list of events and/or news/report links):

CEPA work for migratory shore birds is undertaken by site managers, as part of local programmes. Incorporation of EAAFP and Flyway Network Sites is in an ad hoc manner. CEPA work has typically included: • A welcome and farewell to the birds in the Austral spring as godwits arrive and depart at Pūkoro Mirānda Naturalists Trust (PMNT) and Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai. • Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai host restoration days throughout the year. • PMNT host events including bird counting and restoration work throughout the year. Note: these are not run by the NZ government.

22. Has your country developed, and/or been implementing awareness-raising programmes, particularly at Flyway Network Sites, with the following groups (check all that apply)?	<input type="checkbox"/> National and local governments <input type="checkbox"/> Education Department/Ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Site Managers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools/students <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous communities <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
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Additional information (please provide a detailed description of the programme(s) including target groups, aims, and major achievements):

Site managers have done this work within their communities. This has not been led by the NZ government.

23. Has your country hosted events for World Migratory Bird Day, World Wetlands Day or other international awareness-raising events since MOP11 (March 2023)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
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Additional information (list of events and any news/report links):

DOC promoted an event (run external to DOC) for World Wetlands Day this year: World Wetlands Day: National events Otago Regional Council raised awareness for World Migratory Bird Day through social media. Twinkl hosts educational material for Aotearoa educators on World Migratory Bird Day. Overall, it appears World Migratory Bird Day is scarcely recognised and more could be done to promote the value of wetlands and estuaries with habitat for migratory waders.

24. Please add below, the success stories you would like to share (e.g. promoting bird friendly livelihoods, active involvement of Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), youth groups, citizen scientists, etc.). * Please provide the weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.
Your Response:

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

KRA 3.1 National monitoring systems to assess the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats are established, maintained and further enhanced.

Indicator 3.1.1 A standardised monitoring methodology for migratory waterbirds and their habitat is developed and used in nationally coordinated monitoring programmes.

25. Is there a programme in your country to monitor migratory waterbird numbers? If yes, please provide details on the programme, the role of volunteer counters and the monitoring efforts since MOP11 (March 2023).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information: Birds NZ/Ornithological Society for New Zealand (OSNZ) maintain the national wader count project. This is undertaken at all the major estuaries and harbours in New Zealand with a focus on two key sites Firth of Thames and Manukau Harbour in both summer (November) and winter (June), annually. Counts are largely undertaken by volunteers including members of Birds NZ and local birding groups. Activities Include: • Identifying and counting wader species at designated sites. • Recording data on flock sizes, species composition, and habitat conditions. • Reporting sightings of flagged or banded birds, which helps track individual movements across the East Asian–Australasian Flyway. This work is reported annually and summarized regularly in Notornis Details here: National Wader Count Scheme - Birds New Zealand While detailed results from the June 2023 and November 2023 counts may not yet be fully published, the programme has continued uninterrupted at key sites. Data collected contributes to: • National conservation planning. • International flyway monitoring, including updates to Ramsar site information and collaboration with partners like the Pūkoro Mirinda Naturalists' Trust. • Scientific research, such as studies on population declines linked to habitat loss in the Yellow Sea region. Associate Professor Phil Battley through Birds NZ is also running a campaign to undertake age ratio scans to estimate the proportion of juveniles to adults in godwit flocks during the non-breeding season in New Zealand. This helps to assess breeding success in Alaska and track juvenile dispersal along the East Asian Australasian Flyway. This is undertaken between October and November on an ad hoc basis at any wader site along the flyway by volunteer bird watchers. See more here: Age-ratio scans on bar-tailed godwits - Birds New Zealand	

KRA 3.2 Conservation status reviews for waterbird populations are produced and updated to set and adapt priorities for action.

Indicator 3.2.1 Data describing waterbird population estimates, trends and distributions are available to the Partnership.

26. Please report briefly on data management in relation to migratory waterbird population estimates, trends and distributions. * Please provide the weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.
Your Response: Data from annual national wader counts are published in reports on the Birds NZ website here: National Wader Count Scheme - Birds New Zealand Data from national counts is summarized in Notornis. The latest report summarising 2005 to 2019 is here: Riegen_Sagar_67_591-634.pdf [Riegen, A. C., & Sagar, P. M. (2020). Distribution and numbers of waders in New Zealand, 2005–2019. Notornis, 67(4), 591–634.]

Indicator 3.2.2 Two updates of waterbird population estimates have been produced and published.

27.

Please report on your planned contribution to the migratory waterbird Conservation Status Review II. Please see the [CSR I Report](#) for further reference.

Your Response:

NZ colleagues contributed data from the Notornis review to the CSR I. NZ will continue to contribute shorebird data to the CSR II.

KRA 3.3 Updated list of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds for conservation management and prioritisation.

KRA 3.4 A stronger understanding is developed on the anticipated impacts of climate change on waterbirds and their habitats and this is informing planning and site management.

Indicator 3.4.1 Improved knowledge about threats, including climate change impacts, on waterbirds and their habitats is shared and appropriate action taken where possible.

28.

Please provide details on key research your country is involved in on climate change impacts on migratory waterbirds and wetlands in the EAAF, published since MOP11 (March 2023). Please also share any recent similar research programmes, both regionally and globally, that you are aware of.

*Please provide weblinks if available online or references for relevant publications.

Your Response:

The Department of Conservation conducted Trait-based climate change vulnerability assessments of terrestrial taxa in Aotearoa New Zealand which included NZ's key migratory waders the godwit and red knot which were categorised as 'potential persisters'.

The data used for these assessments are here: See Supplementary Information.

Climate change risk assessments are the next step in the process before designing management actions for species. This is likely to occur over the next few years.

KRA 3.5 Collaborative research programmes are established to provide effective support for conservation and sustainable management efforts, particularly the sustainable use of resources for local livelihood benefits.

Indicator 3.5.1 Research programmes on improving conservation and sustainable management outcomes have increased.

29.

Please provide brief information on areas of collaborative research programmes your country is involved in since MOP11 (March 2023) about the improvement of conservation and sustainable management outcomes at internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds. Please also share any recent similar research programmes, both regionally and globally, that you are aware of.

*Please provide weblinks if available online or references for relevant publications.

Your Response:

Research into red knot movements along the East Asian coast led by Associate Professor Dr. Phil Battley (Massey University) involved collaboration with Chinese colleagues from Fudan University. While the field

work is complete, it is yet to be published. Read more here: [2021-BNZRF-Red-knot-satellite-tracking Summary-article-2311.pdf](#). The main finding in the use of easternmost West Papua as well as Cape York on migration from New Zealand. This work may inform important areas for protection and management.

Research tracking adult and juvenile godwits' journeys from New Zealand to Alaska is aimed at investigating how they cope with habitat loss, environmental degradation and collapsing food supply in Asia's Yellow Sea region. This project is a collaboration between Birds New Zealand, T/Gear Charitable Trust, Massey University

(Associate Professor Dr. Phil Battley), Birds Canada, The Global Flyway Network, Chinese agencies including Fudan University, volunteers, and the Max Planck Institute. Tracking godwits for insight into Yellow Sea region's

habitat for birds - Massey University. The data collection for this project is complete (2019-2024), however, data and write up are yet to be completed.

Two recent pieces of work through Massey University look at aspects of population change or habitat change overtime, rather than management outcomes. In 2023, a Master's thesis investigated trends in shorebird counts since the 1990s in New Zealand (yet to be published) which indicated arctic migrants showed declines over time. (Ref: Mowbray, L.P. 2023. Understanding the Population Trends of Shorebirds within New Zealand. MSc thesis in Ecology, Massey University) Currently, an Environmental Management Masters student (Massey University) is investigating habitat change at sites of importance to New Zealand godwits.

Migratory species research is currently being undertaken by the Department of Conservation and includes banded dotterel which traverse from New Zealand across the Tasman Ocean to Australia. This banded dotterel research is run in collaboration with the Max Planck Institute.

While not explicitly related to the EAAFP, DOC scientists and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research are currently working with Australian counterparts (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA; Victoria, Australia), CSIRO, Federation University, and Murray Wildlife (Australian consultant)) to publish a paper on the risk of windfarms to regional/domestic migratory species (including several waterbirds such as bitter, brolga, wrybill, terns, oystercatchers). Some results from this paper might be generally applicable to waders.

In 2024, research on avian influenza viruses in NZ shorebirds was published (Stanislawek et al. 2024 HPAI in NZ wild birds.pdf) which was a joint project between several NZ government bodies (Ministry of Primary Industries, NZ; Fish and Game NZ; Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research); University of Calgary, Canada; University of Auckland, NZ; Massey University, NZ; St Jude Children's Research Hospital, USA; and Pūkoro

Miranda Naturalists' Trust. This work was undertaken on migratory shorebirds in 2004–2009, other coastal species in 2009–2010, and resident waterfowl in 2004–2020. It largely assesses the likelihood of shorebirds acting as a pathway for the virus to enter NZ, rather than on shorebird management.

Indicator 3.5.2 Knowledge generated is being applied in at least 50% of internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds.

30.

Please give examples of how knowledge generated through research programmes on the improvement of conservation and sustainable management outcomes is being applied at internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds you are aware of regionally or globally.

* Please provide the weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.

Your Response:

It is too early to implement results from the recent banded dotterel, godwit, and red knot research that is currently underway.

Ongoing research into godwits are providing information on how flexible their migration strategies are regarding habitat degradation, habitat loss, changing climatic factors. This will help inform protection measures at important sites.

Work is being undertaken to identify red knot stop over sites which will help to inform management for this species.

KRA 3.6 Best practice guidelines for waterbird and habitat conservation programs, including the incorporation of traditional knowledge, are developed and made available.

Indicator 3.6.1 Best practice guidelines are available on the EAAFP website.

31.

Please provide brief details on the development and application of national-level best practice guidelines your country is involved in for waterbird and habitat conservation, including the application of traditional knowledge, published/made available since MOP11 (March 2023). Please also share any recent similar research programmes, both regionally and globally, that you are aware of.

*Please provide weblinks if available online or references for relevant publications.

Your Response:

New guidance on estuary health indicators and thresholds using a suite of environmental indicators - Stevens LM, Roberts KL, Forrest BM, Morrissey D, Zeldis JR, Dudley BD, Mangan S, Lam-Gordillo O, Lundquist C, Lohrer AM, Plew DR. 2024. Advice on Indicators, Thresholds and Bands for Estuaries in Aotearoa New Zealand. Salt Ecology Report 141, prepared for Ministry for the Environment, June 2024. 182p – see: Advice on Indicators, Thresholds and Bands for Estuaries in Aotearoa New Zealand. This is a comprehensive technical report prepared by Salt Ecology and NIWA for the Ministry for the Environment (MfE).

32.

In what ways have you considered, or already included traditional knowledge, Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), or citizen science in your work?

Additional information:

Traditional knowledge, indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), and citizen science are considered and implemented at a site manager level.

I have looked into the CMS 7th Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC7; September 2024) notes on Incorporating Indigenous and Local Knowledge To Support Effective Migratory Species Conservation and the Terms of Reference For The CMS Scientific Council Working Group On Multiple Systems Of Knowledge, Including Traditional And Indigenous Knowledge. I would like to consider these more in future and look to apply these in NZ for shorebirds.

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

KRA 4.1 EAAFP promotes the use of the range of available training tools and provides assistance to address challenges at Flyway Network Sites.

Indicator 4.1.1 All Partners and Secretariat have mechanisms for capacity building in place to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, tools and experience.

<p>33. Have you been involved in identifying/developing capacity building activities and materials related to the EAAFP? If yes, please provide some details.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information: Bruce (former DOC, now EAAFP freelance extraordinaire) is collaborating with the Beijing Forestry University to develop a strategy for the Science Unit for the EAAFP. We have promoted the EAAFP Small grants scheme with Site Managers.</p>	

<p>34. Have you implemented capacity building activities and materials for migratory waterbirds and the management of their habitats? If yes, please provide feedback on their values.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information:</p>	

Indicator 4.1.2 Partners and the Secretariat include capacity building assessment in project proposals.

<p>35. Have you included a training needs assessment or survey in projects you have developed, funded, and/or implemented since MOP11 (March 2023) related to EAAFP? If yes, please provide some additional information.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information:</p>	

Indicator 4.1.3 The EAAFP online technical training manual for Flyway Site management is supported and used by at least 50% of Flyway Site Managers.

36. Have you used the EAAFP online technical training materials for Flyway Site management? Please provide some additional information on the usefulness of materials.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information: Having just had a look, I found the training page of the website difficult to navigate (not intuitive). Some of the materials appear quite dense for but could be paced out over time and used a reference guide.	

KRA 4.2 Capacity of Partner Focal Points and site managers to pursue the EAAFP objectives has increased.

Indicator 4.2.2 At least one meeting of Partner Focal Points, including Site managers, is held per annum.

37. Have you been able to participate in any meetings of EAAFP Partner Focal Points? (e.g. Science Symposium, AFN workshops, CMS COP, etc.) If yes, have any new collaborations with other EAAFP Partners been developed from these meeting(s)? Please provide details.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information: DOC (Bruce, former DOC, now EAAFP freelance extraordinaire) attend the 1st EAAFP Flyway Science Symposium in October 2024 in the People's Republic of China to advance network collaboration for shorebird conservation.	

KRA 4.3 Corporates with operations impacting on migratory waterbirds are engaged in delivering better outcomes for the conservation of waterbirds and their habitats.

Indicator 4.3.1 An increased number of internationally important sites and programmes, in which Corporates are contributing to positive outcomes for migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

38. Please provide details you have on corporate engagement at internationally important sites and in programmes to develop positive outcomes for migratory waterbirds and their habitats. * Please provide weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.	
Your Response: This is undertaken by Site Managers.	

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

KRA 5.1 Partners are actively collaborating to develop approaches to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF across national boundaries.

Indicator 5.1.1 At least 50% of Partners are collaborating across national boundaries initiatives for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, particularly for threatened migratory waterbirds.

39.

Please provide brief details on your transboundary involvement in international collaborative initiatives for threatened migratory waterbirds (e.g. NEASPEC, AFN, bilateral agreements, AMBI, Sister Sites etc.).

* Please provide weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.

Your Response:

DOC (New Zealand) continue to work cooperatively under a bilateral arrangement with NFGA (China) (signed in 2019). There have been discussions around research into red knots, the potential to develop a single species action plan on red knots, and exploring opportunities for cooperation at other sites in the PRC such as Chongming Dongtan (Shanghai Municipality) and Yellow River Delta NNR (Dongying City, Shandong Province). There has also been discussions around weed (spartina) control in important shorebird habitat.

DOC and NFGA signed a MoA to promote the exchange of bird banding data for migratory shorebirds and seabirds during the visit of China's premier Li Qiang to NZ in June 2024. This includes exchanging information on banded threatened migratory shore birds such as the eastern bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica baueri*; At Risk – Declining (NZ 2021)) and red knot (*Calidris canutus rogersi*; At Risk – Declining (NZ 2021); Near Threatened (IUCN Red List 2024)).

Currently NFGA and Pūkorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre are in discussions around renewing a MoA for continued sister site collaboration. This may include supporting research on threatened migratory shore birds such as the eastern bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica baueri*; At Risk – Declining (NZ 2021)) and red knot (*Calidris canutus rogersi*; At Risk – Declining (NZ 2021); Near Threatened (IUCN Red List 2024)).

40.

What do you consider to be the key innovative and/or improved approaches to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats particularly across national boundaries since MOP11 (March 2023)?

* Please provide weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.

Your Response:

Being able to connect online with other partners through video conferencing.

New and improved data management tools such as the NZ bird banding database which is a single, accessible repository, called FALCON (File Upload, Accessibility, Locality (mapping), Certification, Open Source and Notification (communication)).

KRA 5.2 Threatened migratory waterbirds are protected from threats and populations are stable or increasing.

Indicator 5.2.1 The Partnership, with leadership from IUCN, BirdLife International & Wetlands International, is updating and maintaining a list of threatened migratory waterbird populations and encouraging Government Partners to protect these threatened populations under national legislation.

41.

Which populations of threatened migratory waterbirds are protected under legislation in your country?

* Please provide weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.

Your Response:

All native birds are protected in NZ under the Wildlife Act 1953. This includes the eastern bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica baueri*; At Risk – Declining (NZ 2021)), red knot (*Calidris canutus rogersi*; At Risk – Declining (NZ 2021); Near Threatened (IUCN Red List 2024)), double banded plover/banded dotterel (*Charadrius b. bicinctus*; At Risk – Declining (NZ 2021); Near Threatened (IUCN Red List 2024)), and all other members of the family Scolopacidae (sandpipers, curlews, snipes, woodcocks) and Charadriidae (plovers, dotterels, lapwings) are protected under the Wildlife Act 1953 (NZ).

42.

Has your country been involved in taking actions to reduce threats to migratory waterbirds?

If yes, please provide some examples of measures taken (e.g. addressing negative impacts of renewable energy, habitat restoration, etc.)

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Planned

Additional information:

Protecting land from adverse developments through consultation (as required by legislation or voluntary) and seeking strong protection and management conditions. Managing wetlands and estuaries for waterbird conservation, e.g. mangrove control at Pūkoro Mirinda Shorebird Centre, DOC administered Conservation Management Strategies. Currently research is being undertaken on the domestic and trans-Tasman flyways of migratory waterbirds (such as banded dotterel, black fronted terns, wrybill, and South Island pied oystercatchers) which will allow for the protection of flyways from developments such as windfarms. Similar work is being done in tandem with Australian researchers around the specific risks to regionally/domestically migratory waterbirds from windfarms. An Industry lead Cooperative has established an ad hoc group of technical experts to produce a high-level ecological risk assessment, based on life-history and behavioural attributes of New Zealand sea- and shorebird taxa, to identify which of those taxa are at risk from negative interactions with offshore windfarms in New Zealand. This work will be completed by December 2025. Assoc Professor Phil Battley and Bruce McKinlay are engaged in this work from a shorebird perspective.

Indicator 5.2.2 Single Species Action Plans are developed and implemented for threatened migratory waterbird species in the EAAF.

43.

Please outline the contribution your country has made to the development and implementation of Threatened Species Action Plans since MOP11 (March 2023) (e.g. Far Eastern Curlew, Masked Finfoot, Black-faced Spoonbill, Spoon-billed Sandpiper).

* Please provide weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.

Your Response:

No involvement

Indicator 5.2.3 Populations of threatened migratory waterbirds are either stable or increasing.

44. Has your country been involved in any programme(s) to assess changes in the status of populations of threatened waterbirds? If yes, please provide details.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information: The threat status of NZ birds are assessed every 5 years by DOC to the New Zealand Threat Classification System. The latest report was published in 2021 and is available here: https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/science-and-technical/nztcs36entire.pdf , with the webtool here: NZTCS. This includes identifying the change in threat status since the last update. In 2021, the red knot threat status was better and the eastern bar-tailed godwit had not changed. This is due to be updated in 2026.	

KRA 5.3 Regional Action Plans are developed and implemented for priority geographic regions of the EAAF.

Indicator 5.3.1 Development and implementation of Regional Action Plans for geographical regions with common critical threats in the EAAF.

45. What has been your involvement in the development and implementation of Regional Action Plans (e.g. SPREP, AFN, AMBI)? * Please provide weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.
Your Response: No involvement

KRA 5.4 Measures to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate, illegal hunting, take and trade of migratory waterbirds are developed and implemented.

Indicator 5.4.1 All Government Partners have mechanisms in place to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate, illegal hunting, take and trade of migratory waterbirds.

46. What mechanisms are in place to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate, illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory waterbirds? * Please provide weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.
Your Response: Migratory waterbird species are protected from illegal hunting and taking in New Zealand under the Wildlife Act 1953. Important NZ shorebirds are not listed under CITES.

KRA 5.5 The conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats is mainstreamed into national legislation and/or policy instruments including adaptation to the impacts of climate changes.

Indicator 5.5.1 All Government Partners have relevant national legislation and/or policy instruments including provisions on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

47.

In your country, what are the current key national legislation and policy instruments that have provisions that cover the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats?

* Please provide weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.

Your Response:

New Zealand's key legislation for shorebird conservation include:

- Conservation Act 1987 – which provides overarching administrative policy for New Zealand's Department of Conservation, including legislation to establish protected areas.
- Wildlife Act 1953 – which provides specific protection of native wildlife, including migratory waterbirds.
- Reserves Act 1977 and the National Parks Act 1980 – requires the establishment and management of protected areas.

New Zealand's key national policy for shorebird conservation include:

- Resource Management Act 1991 - promotes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources such as land, air and water (including wildlife habitat) and requires local authorities to consider the effects of activities on the environment (including wildlife habitat).
- New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 – which guides Councils in their day-to-day management of the coastal environment (including wildlife habitat).
- National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) - provides direction to councils to protect, maintain and restore indigenous biodiversity requiring at least no further reduction nationally, including for migratory species.
- National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) - provides local authorities with updated direction on how they should manage freshwater under the Resource Management Act 1991 (including wildlife habitat).
- National Environmental Standards for Freshwater - regulate activities that pose risks to the health of freshwater and freshwater ecosystems (including wildlife and their habitat).
- Te Mana O Te Taiao Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 - outlines how DOC will protect, restore and sustainably use biodiversity in New Zealand between 2020 and 2050. It provides a roadmap driving conservation action happening at a national, regional and local level.
- Conservation General Policy – which provides guidance for managing natural resources and under conservation legislation, such as through integrated conservation management plans and strategies.
- General Policy for National Parks – which provides guidance for managing national parks under conservation legislation, such as through management plans and strategies.

KRA 5.6 The conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats is integrated into relevant multilateral and bilateral agreements and other regional mechanisms.

Indicator 5.6.1 Relevant environmental agreements recognise the EAAFP as an effective regional framework to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

48.

In your country, what are the current multilateral regional and bilateral agreements and other regional mechanisms that include provisions on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats?

* Please provide weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.

Your Response:

- Ramsar
- CMS
- EAAFP
- Memorandum of Arrangement between NZ DOC and NFGA PRC in relation to cooperation to promote the protection of migratory shorebirds and their habitat, signed 2019
- Memorandum of Arrangement between NZ DOC and NFGA PRC in relation to cooperation to promote the exchange of bird banding data for migratory shorebirds and seabirds, signed 2024

Membership with IUCN and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Others

49.

Please provide any feedback you have on this Partner Reporting Template.

Your Response:

I like how each question is clearly tied to an objective, KRA, and indicator. This would allow for excellent reporting.

I wonder if this document is a little overwhelming for members where English is a second language. If this is the case, a suggestion might be to place the KRA and indicator explanations in a separate document that could be referred to (by looking up the KRA/indicator number). This might help make the reporting template look cleaner with questions only.

Another suggestion might be to break the questions down into several smaller questions. Some questions appeared wordy and took me a few goes at reading before understanding. Breaking up questions into several questions or shorter sentences would perhaps aid understanding.

Otherwise, I found the form was logically organised and flowed well.

50.

Please add any additional information you would like to share with us.

Your Response:

None.