

EAAFP MOP12 Reporting Template for Working Groups, Task Forces, and the Technical Sub-committee

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 Working Groups, Task Forces, and the Technical Sub-committee is 27, 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

Reporting Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Working Group <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Task Force <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Sub-committee <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify:)
Name of Working Group or Task Force	Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force
Designated Chair	Name : Christoph Zöckler Position : Organisation : Manfred Hermsen Foundation/Birds Russia Street Address/ : 30 Eachard Road P.O. Box Postal Code/City : Cambridge, CB3 0HY Country : United Kingdom E-mail address : christoph.zoeckler@m-h-s.org Phone Number : Website :
Designated Vice Chair <i>(Optional)</i>	Name : Ms. Sun Lili Position : Founder and Board Member of Mangrove Foundation (MCF) Organisation : Mangrove Foundation (MCF) Street Address/ : P.O. Box Postal Code/City : Shenzhen Country : China E-mail address : sunlili@mcf.org.cn Phone Number :
Additional Designated Coordinator <i>(Optional)</i>	Name : Sayam U. Chowdhury Position : PhD Candidate Organisation : University of Cambridge Street Address/ : Selwyn College P.O. Box Postal Code/City : Cambridge Country : United Kingdom E-mail address : suc21@cam.ac.uk Phone Number : 07949031441
Report Compiler	Name : Sayam U. Chowdhury Position : Organisation : Street Address/ : P.O. Box Postal Code/City : Country : E-mail address : Phone Number :

Reporting on the implementation of the EAAFP Strategic Plan

Reporting Period: 2023 – 2025

Note: Questions specifically targeting Working Groups and Task Forces are highlighted. Questions without specifically mentioning Working Groups and Task Forces shall be answered by all Reporting Group members (WG/TF/TSc).

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.

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

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

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

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

KRA 1.6 The EAAFP Sister Site Programme has expanded.

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.

1. Is your Working Group or Task Force aware of the EAAFP CEPA Action Plan 2023-2028 ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Additional information:	

2.

Has your **Working Group** or **Task Force** incorporated elements of the CEPA Action Plan in your work plan? (e.g. encourage academic institutions to conduct monitoring activities at Flyway Network Sites, and identify and encourage experts to share their expertise in migratory waterbird conservation)

☒ Yes
☐ No

Additional information (examples of how the Action Plan was reflected, e.g. in Flyway Network Sites, targeting the public, etc.):

The EAAFP CEPA Action Plan 2023–2028 guideline has been used in the new Spoon-billed Sandpiper Action Plan.

3.

What kind of support would you like to receive from the CEPA Working Group to effectively implement the Action Plan successfully in your **Working Group** or **Task Force** work plan and associated activities?

Additional information:

- continue to support hosting the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force newsletter on the EAAFP website
- circulate contents posted on the SBS TF social media page: <https://www.facebook.com/sbstf>
- support will be required to develop a separate SBS TF website especially contents related to CEPA

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.

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.

4.

Please report briefly on data management of your **Working Group** or **Task Force** in relation to migratory waterbird population estimates, trends and distributions.

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

Your Response:

The SBS TF maintains its own database, not only on the Spoon-billed Sandpiper but also other shorebirds across the flyway sharing same habitat as the SBS. Most of our monitoring results are published in the SBS TF newsletter: <https://eaaflyway.net/spoon-billed-sandpiper-task-force/>

A new global population estimate paper was published last year. The estimated mean world population size at the end of the breeding season, averaged over the whole survey period, was 443 mature individuals and the trend of the population estimates over time suggested a decline at an average rate of 5% per year.

Reference:

Green, R. E., Leung, K. K. S., Clark, N. A., Anderson, G. Q. A., Brides, K., Chang, Q., Chowdhury, S. U., Clark, J. A., Foyals, M., Zöckler, C., Gerasimov, Y., Gale, G. A., Iakushev, N., Khamaye, J., Lappo, E., Melville, D. S., Tomkovich, P. S., Weston, E., Weston, J., & Yang, Z. (2024). New estimate of the trend in world population size of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper suggests continuing decline. *Wader Study*, 131(2).

<https://doi.org/10.18194/ws.00344>

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

5.

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:

We have reviewed CSR and provided feedback.

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.

6.

Please provide details on key research on climate change impacts on migratory waterbirds and wetlands in the EAAF relevant to your work in TSc, Working Group, or Task Force, published since MOP11 (March 2023).

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

Your Response:

Not directly related to climate change, but here are the publications since MOP11:

Sun, L., Yang, H., Lu, X., Fu, T., Guo, J., Ren, S., ... & Lei, G. (2025). Shallow water habitats provide high-quality foraging environments for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper at a critical staging site. *Avian Research*, 16(2), 100233.

Green, R. E., Leung, K. K. S., Clark, N. A., Anderson, G. Q. A., Brides, K., Chang, Q., Chowdhury, S. U., Clark, J. A., Foyals, M., Zöckler, C., Gerasimov, Y., Gale, G. A., Iakushev, N., Khamaye, J., Lappo, E., Melville, D. S., Tomkovich, P. S., Weston, E., Weston, J., & Yang, Z. (2024). New estimate of the trend in world population size of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper suggests continuing decline. *Wader Study*, 131(2).
<https://doi.org/10.18194/ws.00344>

Loktionov, E. Y., Digby, R. A., Yakushev, N. N., Shepelev, I. A., Clements, J. P., Tomkovich, P. S., ... & Syroechkovskiy, E. E. (2023). Evaluating the Impact of Headstarting on the Critically Endangered Spoon-Billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea*. *Diversity*, 15(4), 584.

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 livelihoods benefits.

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

7.

Please provide brief information on areas of collaborative research programmes TSc or your Working Group or your Task Force has been 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:

The SBS TF has been collaborating with University of Cambridge in addresses critical knowledge gaps in migratory shorebird ecology, habitat availability and conservation prioritisation. In addition, the SBS TF is working closely with the newly established Nordmann's Greenshank and Shorebird Working group.

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

8.

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.

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

Your Response:

Research on Spoon-billed Sandpiper has led to better high tide roost management across the flyway especially in China.

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

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

9.

Please provide brief details on the development and application of national-level best practice guidelines for waterbird and habitat conservation, including the application of traditional knowledge, published/made available since MOP11 (March 2023).

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

Your Response:

NA

10.

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:

NA

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.

11. Have you been involved in <u>identifying/developing</u> capacity building activities and materials about migratory waterbird and habitat management? If yes, please provide some details.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information: The SBS TF has organised several workshops and trainings sessions on waterbird counting and tracking methods in China and Thailand.	

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

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

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

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.

14. Have you used the EAAFP online technical training materials for Flyway Site management? Please provide some additional information on the usefulness of materials.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information:	

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.

15. Have you been able to participate in any meetings of EAAFP Partner Focal Points? (e.g. Science Symposium, ASEAN Flyway Network workshops, CMS COP, etc.) If yes, have any new collaborations with other EAAFP Partners been developed from the meeting/s? Please provide details.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information:	

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.

16. Please provide details you, as Working Group or Task Force , 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 references for relevant publications.
Your Response: We have corporate engagements in Thailand and China.

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.

17. Please provide brief details the transboundary involvement of your Working Group or Task Force in international collaborative initiatives for threatened migratory waterbirds (e.g. North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation, ASEAN Flyway Network, Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative, bilateral agreements, Sister Sites etc.). *Please provide weblinks if available online or references for relevant publications.
Your Response: The new SBS TF Action Plan has identified many priority sites across the flyway and indicated where actions has been taken or actions need to be taken.

18.

What does your **Working Group** or **Task Force** consider to be the key innovative and/or improved approaches to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats since MOP11 (March 2023)?

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

Your Response:

- using satellite tracking to identify new breeding locations.

- integration of population trend and tracking data to clarify the influence of trends of reliance on inland and coastal stopover sites, particularly in rapidly developing coastal regions of Asia and Qinghai-Tibet plateau.

- the collaborative research with the University of Cambridge identified mudflat exposure periods for foraging shorebirds and its broader seascape management applications.

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.

19.

Please provide information on the development of a list of threatened migratory waterbird populations in the EAAF in which your **Working Group** or **Task Force** has been involved in.

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

Your Response:

All shorebirds across the flyway, particularly exchanging knowledge with the Nordmann's Greenshank Task Force.

20.

Has your **Working Group** or **Task Force** 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:

- hunting mitigation - setting up new protected areas - high-tide roost restoration - shared occurrence data on request to help avoid development in important sites

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

21.

Please outline the contribution your **Working Group** or **Task Force** 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 references for relevant publications.

Your Response:

We shared the new Spoon-billed Sandpiper Action Plan with the Nordmann's Greenshank Task Force and exchanged several ideas. The new Spoon-billed Sandpiper Action Plan is likely going to be a standard Action Plan of the EAAFP that other task forces and working groups could follow.

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

22.

Has your **Working Group** or **Task Force** been involved in any programme(s) to assess changes in the status of populations of threatened waterbirds?
If yes, please provide details.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Planned

Additional information:

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.

23.

What has been your **Working Group's** or **Task Force's** involvement in the development and implementation of Regional Action Plans (e.g. ASEAN Flyway Network, Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative, Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme)?

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

Your Response:

- Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative
- Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative
- Regional Flyway Initiative (RFI)

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.

24.

What work has your **Working Group** or **Task Force** done to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory waterbirds?

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

Your Response:

Addressing hunting along the migration route has been one of the key conservation successes of the SBS Task Force, particularly in Myanmar, Bangladesh, and China. In recent years, we have tackled recurring small-scale hunting in Myanmar, continued efforts in South China, and maintained our awareness campaign in Bangladesh.

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.

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.

25.

Please provide any suggestions your **Working Group** or **Task Force** has on strengthening existing multilateral regional and bilateral agreements, and other regional mechanisms to deliver better outcomes for migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

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

Your Response:

NA

Others

26.

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

Your Response:

It needs to be shorter and some questions may be repetitive.

27.

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

Your Response:

NA