

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	United States of America	
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	Department/Unit	:US Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management
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	E-mail address	:
	Phone Number	:
	Website	:
Report Compiler	Name	:
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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?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Planned

Additional information:

National Audubon's Important Bird Areas (<https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas>)

Important shorebird breeding and nonbreeding areas in Alaska (<https://alaskashorebirdgroup.com/conservation-plans/#ASCP>)

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.

- ☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ 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?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No
☐ Planned

Additional information:

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: (1) <u>Cape Avinof Shoals</u> (Kikegtek, Pingurbek, Kwigluk Island) in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. These islands are also administered by Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and in 2019 hosted ~87,000 individuals of a total of ~101,000 of Bar-tailed Godwits (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>), and specifically the count at the shoals had ~70% of the <i>baueri</i> subspecies of Bar-tailed Godwits.	

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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information: We only have 2 network sites. Not much engagement is currently occurring on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge network site although there is more work happening at the Qupaluk network site, especially as they formed a sister site with Saga City, Japan.	

7. Please indicate the stakeholders involved in the national meetings.	<input type="checkbox"/> Universities/Research Institutes <input type="checkbox"/> NGOs <input type="checkbox"/> Site Managers <input type="checkbox"/> Researchers/Experts <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please indicate below)
Additional information: Not applicable	

8. Have the Site Managers reported to the national meeting on their work plans related to the EAAFP Strategic Objectives ?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
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Additional information:

Not applicable

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)

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Planned

Additional information:

10.

How many of your Flyway Network Sites have a Site Partnership (e.g. 3 out of 5 Sites)?

Site(s) 1

Additional information:

The Qupaluk network site developed a sister partnership with Saga City, Japan.

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:

Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge flyway network site has a Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The Qupaluk Flyway network site was part of the formal National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) that included a substantial review under the National Environmental Policy Act. The IAP sets forth the conditions under which the land should be managed.

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:

Information output about the two sites in Alaska regularly indicate that they are part of the EAAF Partnership’s Flyway Site Network.

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 Qupaluk site in the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) was part of a renewed Environmental Impact Statement completed in April 2022. There was extensive public review and comment associated with this process. However, with a new US administration, this area is now considered more strongly for oil and gas development and a new review process will begin soon.

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:

There are a number of proposed and on-going developments within Alaska that might affect migratory bird habitat. For example, there is a proposed road within the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge that is moving forward. Similarly, the Willow Oil and Gas Development Project in NPR-A is under development and may have some impacts to migratory waterbird nesting habitat. Other developments are being considered but are in the proposal stages.

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.

15.

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?

If yes, please provide details on the site/s and the use of natural resources.

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

Additional information:

Local communities depend upon the subsistence harvest and sport hunting within the two EAAFP network sites within Alaska. The subsistence harvest of birds is managed through the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council.

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>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Additional information:</p> <p>We anticipate that there will be an interest in developing oil and gas resources in the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area where the Qupaluk network site is located. There will be another environmental assessment undertaken by the Bureau of Land Management in which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide comments.</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>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information:</p> <p>At the moment, we are facing a shortage of staff and funds to pursue any new relationships or partnerships.</p>	

<p>18.</p> <p>Were there any collaborative activities for waterbird conservation between sites in your country and those in other countries during the reporting period (2023-2028)?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information:</p> <p>Biologists from the Wildlife Conservation Society worked at the Qupaluk site in 2024 and have interacted with biologists from the Saga City network site in Japan (a visit to Saga City is planned for this September). The primary shared resource is the dunlin shorebird species.</p>	

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.

<p>19.</p> <p>Does your country have a CEPA Programme addressing migratory waterbirds and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
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If yes, please provide brief details of the programme.	
<p>Additional information (website links if any):</p> <p>The United States has a Steering Committee member that is participating in the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI), a circumpolar Arctic effort to conserve and manage arctic-breeding waterbirds. The AMBI Steering Committee has worked closely with many parties in the East Asian Flyway to develop a step-down conservation plan for arctic-breeding species that migrate along the EAAF.</p> <p>The US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies are active participants in meetings where issues on East Asian-Australasian waterbird species are discussed. National and international conferences include the Climate, Conservation, and Community in Alaska and Northwest Canada; the Alaska Bird Conference; the American Ornithological Society meeting; the Pacific Seabird Group Meeting; the World Seabird Union Conference; the International Wader Study Group Meeting; East Asian-Australasian Flyway Shorebird Science Meeting; and others.</p> <p>Migratory waterbird conservation issues are promoted through numerous outreach efforts, including many public events, media news releases, and outdoor activities to improve public knowledge of the value of migratory bird resources. Bird resources in remote areas of Alaska are co-managed between federal, state and tribal stakeholders via the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council (AMBCC). The AMBCC engages rural residents to participate in the regulatory process to help conserve bird resources while meeting the needs of native subsistence users living in remote Alaskan villages. Outreach efforts through this process include press releases, public meetings, and distribution of printed regulations to all households in rural Alaska throughout the year to enhance public awareness.</p>	
<p>20.</p> <p>Has your country made use of the EAAFP CEPA Action Plan 2023-2028 when planning and implementing the CEPA activities?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information (give examples of how the Action Plan was reflected e.g. in Flyway Network Sites, targeting the public, etc.):</p> <p>The US follows many of the guidelines identified in this plan. Since the last MOP, the Alaska Shorebird Group-Boreal Partners in Flight Outreach Group (ABOG), consisting of agency and NGO staff, has coordinated outreach efforts across Alaska. The mission of ABOG is to support efforts to “keep common birds common” and reverse the large declines experienced by many bird species over the past 50 years through impactful outreach and education. ABOG activities support CEPA action plan actions targeting “10. Citizens” and the associated “Preferred Status”.</p>	
<p>21.</p> <p>What CEPA activities have taken place at Flyway Network Sites?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Participation <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness
<p>Additional information (list of events and/or news/report links):</p> <p>Information about the Qupaluk network site was presented at the Utqiagvik Migratory Bird Festival in Utqiagvik, Alaska in June 2025. Additional presentations about the site were (or will soon) delivered at Qupaluk’s sister site in Saga City, Japan.</p>	
<p>22.</p> <p>Has your country developed, and/or been implementing awareness-raising programmes, particularly at Flyway Network Sites, with the following groups (check all that apply)?</p>	<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 type="checkbox"/> Schools/students <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local communities <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous communities

	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information (please provide a detailed description of the programme(s) including target groups, aims, and major achievements):</p> <p>We raise awareness of the importance of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge flyway network site through many channels, especially at the refuge headquarters. The process by which Qupaluk network site became a site and now a sister site was written up and put out on social media by both the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.</p>	

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information (list of events and any news/report links):</p> <p>We have people that celebrate World Migratory Bird Day and the virtual Arctic National Wildlife Refuge virtual bird festival each year.</p>	

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
<p>Additional information:</p> <p>The US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal and state agencies conduct surveys at sites important to EAAF migratory birds throughout Alaska. This includes annual aerial surveys of many waterfowl species, boat-based surveys of many marine birds, and ground-based surveys for shorebirds and landbirds. Species-specific studies are also conducted on Yellow-billed and Red-throated Loons, and Dunlin that rely on all or portions of the EAA flyway. These studies focus on migration patterns, demographic vital rates, and factors limiting population size.</p> <p>State and federal biologists within Alaska participate in several broad networks aimed at collecting long-term baseline data, including the Arctic Shorebird Demographics Network, the Program for Regional and</p>	

International Shorebird Monitoring, and the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey, and numerous waterfowl-specific surveys. Furthermore, efforts to develop digital archives of seabird data include the North Pacific Pelagic Seabird Database and the North Pacific Seabird Colony Register, as well as the North Pacific Seabird Diet Database.

Knowledge from these monitoring and archival efforts are published in peer-reviewed journals, available on-line, or available from project leaders.

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:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff have implemented detailed data management to archive migratory bird survey data. Similarly, the U.S. Geological Survey and several other federal and state partners also conduct data management. The Asian Seabird Colony Register was launched in partnership with the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's International Program; this register will be added to the Global Seabird Colony Register (seabirds.net)

Lyons, J.E., S.C. Brown, S.T. Saalfeld, J.A. Johnson, B.A. Andres, K.M. Sowl, R.E. Gill, Jr., B.J. McCaffery, L.R. Kidd, M. McGarvey, B. Winn, H.R. Gates, D.A. Granfors, and R.B. Lanctot. 2024. Alaska's climate sensitive Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta supports seven million Arctic-breeding shorebirds, including the majority of six North American populations. *Ornithological Applications* 126: 1-14

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:

Members of the Seabird and Shorebird Working Group, as well as other residents living in Alaska, provided information on the status and distribution of species.

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:

There are a large number of climate change studies published or underway within Alaska by public and private entities. These studies relate to how habitat and the food of the birds is changing and how the birds are responding to these changes. However, the focus on climate change by especially federal agencies has been substantially downgraded as of January 2025. Two recent papers are listed below.

Chagnon-Lafortune, A., É. Duchesne, P. Legagneux, L. McKinnon, J. Reneerkens, N. Casajus, K.F. Abraham, É. Bolduc, G.S. Brown, H.R. Gates, O. Gilg, M-A. Giroux, K. Gurney, E. Kwon, R.B. Lancot, D.B. Lank, N. Lecomte, M. Leung, J.R. Liebezeit, R.I.G. Morrison, E. Nol, D.C. Payer, J. Rausch, D. Reid, D. Ruthrauff, S.T. Saalfeld, B.K. Sandercock, H. Schekkerman, P.A. Smith, N.M. Schmidt, I. Tulp, D.H. Ward, P.F. Woodard, T.T. Høye, D. Berteaux, and J. Bêty. 2024. Reduced risk of warming-induced trophic mismatch for breeding shorebirds? Positive, non-linear effect of temperature drives circumpolar arthropod availability. *Global Change Biology* DOI: 10.1111/gcb.17356.

Tavera, E.A., D.B. Lank, D.C. Douglas, B. Sandercock, R.B. Lancot, N.M. Schmidt, J. Reneerkens, D.H. Ward, J. Bêty, E. Kwon, N. Lecomte, C. Gratto-Trevor, P.A. Smith, W.B. English, S.T. Saalfeld, S.C. Brown, H.R. Gates, E. Nol, J.R. Liebezeit, R.L. McGuire, L. McKinnon, S. Kendall, M. Robards, M. Boldenow, D. Payer, J. Rausch, M. Soloviev, D.V. Solovyeva, S. Zack, J. Stalwick, and K.E.B. Gurney. 2024. Why do avian responses to change in Arctic green-up vary? *Global Change Biology* 2024;30:e17335. DOI:10.1111/gcb.17335.

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:

There is an extensive collaborative effort among biologists studying migratory birds throughout Alaska. The focus of these studies shifts through time but is shifting from a strong focus on climate change to better understanding of how development can be accomplished in the least harmful ways to birds. There continues to be a large effort to track migratory birds, especially smaller species where transmitters are only recently available.

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:

We are collating shorebird tracking data from researchers across North America and using this information to focus where and when to conduct on the ground conservation. This work is combined as part of the Shorebird Science and Conservation Collective ([here](#)); this approach could be a good model for the EAAF.

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:

We regularly share documents related to minimizing threats to shorebirds that reside in coastal areas via the EAAF shorebird listserv. Recent work has focused on minimizing impacts of people to beaches on the Atlantic coast of North America.

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:

We work with Indigenous communities via the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council, which determines what species are allowed to be harvested for food under a subsistence life style.

In addition, there was an effort to connect the Indigenous people from the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (our first flyway network site) who hunt Bar-tailed Godwits to connect with the Mauri people of New Zealand who no longer hunt the same species but revere them. These people met during a meeting in Beijing, China to discuss. Unfortunately, funding from the US Geological Survey was canceled so no work is occurring on the U.S. side.

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.

33. Have you been involved in identifying/developing capacity building activities and materials related to the EAAFP? If yes, please provide some details.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information: Migratory bird management occurs throughout Alaska on the 1) US Fish and Wildlife Service's 16 National Wildlife Refuges (76.7 million acres); 2) National Park Service's 15 national parks, preserves, monuments and national historic parks (about 54 million acres); Bureau of Land Management units (about 72 million acres); and several forests managed by the U.S Forest Service (21.9 million acres). In addition, the State of Alaska has 31 state wildlife areas totally over 3 million acres. Federal and state personnel are involved in numerous training workshops/courses aimed at bettering conserving and managing areas and the waterbirds that depend on them. Each of the federal and the state agencies conduct some level of outreach to build local capacity. In addition, there are a number of non-governmental entities involved in migratory bird capacity building including Audubon Alaska, the Wildlife Society, the Wilderness Society, Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Alaska Geographic Association, and others. For example, people at Manomet Inc and National Audubon funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada developed a Shorebird Curriculum that is available in English, Spanish and French (https://whsrn.org/discover-shorebirds/).	

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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information: Each year many people are educated about migratory birds during festivals, studies, and conservation efforts	

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

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.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input 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.

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:	

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.

<p>37.</p> <p>Have you been able to participate in any meetings of EAAFP Partner Focal Points? (e.g. Science Symposium, AFN workshops, CMS COP, etc.)</p> <p>If yes, have any new collaborations with other EAAFP Partners been developed from these meeting(s)? Please provide details.</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>Dr. Lanctot participated in the EAAFP Science symposium in October 2024 where he participated in side meetings with people interested in conducting studies on Dunlin. People from Mainland China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan and Russia participated. In addition, there was a side meeting focused on new collaborations between Indigenous people in western Alaska and those in New Zealand focused on Bar-tailed Godwit conservation.</p>	

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.

<p>38.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>* Please provide weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.</p>	
<p>Your Response:</p> <p>We have engaged with companies conducting oil and gas development/extraction on the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. All proposed developments within Alaska go through a detailed review process that leads to interactions with corporations proposing the development and results in measures to avoid or minimize impacts to birds and habitat.</p>	

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.

<p>39.</p> <p>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.).</p> <p>* Please provide weblinks if available online or reference for relevant publications.</p>	
<p>Your Response:</p> <p>The U.S. is involved in many bi-lateral and multi-lateral efforts to conserve migratory birds that transcend our boundaries. Alaska alone has five flyways that emanate from its geography that reach through Asia, South America, and Europe. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Division regularly interacts with Japan, Russian Federation (prior to Ukrainian war), and other countries where our threatened migratory birds</p>	

travel. The U.S. leads or participates in the CAFF Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program-Terrestrial Group, CAFF Seabird Expert Working Group, and AMBI. Bilateral meetings between Japan and US occur every two years.

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:

We believe one on one connections between biologists in other countries is still the best way to focus our energies and galvanize activities that achieve conservation outcomes.

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:

Short-tailed albatross, Steller's and Spectacled eiders; there are other species but they don't migrate down the EAAF. There are many other species that are considered Birds of Conservation Concern that get additional attention but there are no official legislation that protects them.

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:

There are a number of federal and state agencies that have divisions focused entirely on reducing threats to migratory birds, especially when they are considered threatened or endangered. Other species have less protection now due to recent changes by the new administration in Washington.

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:

All species listed as threatened in the U.S. have action plans, and these plans involve many different public and

private organizations. For example, there are action plans for the Spectacled and Steller's eider. The Short-tailed Albatross Recovery Team remains active with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration working closely with Japanese colleagues.

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.

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Planned

Additional information:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service monitors threatened Steller's and Spectacled Eiders. In collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, bycatch of marine birds, and specifically Short-tailed albatross is closely monitored. Short-tailed albatross were reported breeding at Midway Island in the western portion of the Hawaiian Archipelago and the species is apparently increasing.

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:

There are regional action plans focused on landbirds, seabirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl species. U.S. have representatives on the overall steering committee and the Central and East Asian flyway subcommittee of AMBI. As representatives we have helped draft portions of their regional action plans.

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:

We have a very detailed regulatory process and active law enforcement program, although illegal take may still be occurring at low levels in remote locations.

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:

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. 703–718)

This act established Federal responsibility for the protection of migratory birds and gave effect to treaties in Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia. The act is basic to protecting populations and habitats of migratory birds, managing their distribution, ecological diversity, introduction and restoration, and guiding research programs. Regulations in Volume 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations implement this act and other legislation pertaining to U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service responsibilities.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1956, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661–667[C])

This act provides a means for protecting fish and wildlife habitats. The act requires water resource agencies to consult with the Service regarding the effect of proposed Federal projects on fish and wildlife resources, and it requires that measures to mitigate losses be included in projects.

National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd–668jj) and National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–57)

The first constitutes an “organic act” for the National Wildlife Refuge System and, together with the second act, ensures that the National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) are managed as a national system of related lands, waters, and interests for the protection and conservation of our Nation’s national wildlife resources.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531–1544)

This act provides for the protection of plants and animals in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range and the conservation of ecosystems upon which they depend. The ESA implements the United States’ commitment to several international treaties and conventions including: the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere; and the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean. The Short-tailed albatross was listed as endangered under the ESA in 1970.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (94 STAT. 2371–2551, 16 U.S.C. 668dd)

This act established new wildlife refuges in Alaska and expanded some existing national wildlife refuges. It also defined the purpose of these refuges. Most refuges in the system were established to conserve high-quality habitat for migratory birds, including seabirds. All 16 refuges in Alaska were established, in part, to conserve migratory birds. Most were also established to provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses of some species.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980, as amended in 1988 (16 U.S.C. 2901– 2912) This act recognized the value of nongame migratory species and the need to plan for and manage nongame resources. It provided for financial assistance to States for developing nongame conservation plans and programs and instructed all federal agencies to conserve nongame fish and wildlife and their habitats. In November 1988, this act was amended to include among its purposes the monitoring of all nongame migratory bird populations and identification of effects of environmental changes and human activities on nongame migratory birds.

Driftnet Impact Monitoring, Assessment and Control Act of 1987 (P.L. 100–220, Title IV, Driftnet Act (16 U.S.C. 1822) This driftnet impact act stipulated that the United States would pursue agreements with Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan to establish an observer program to document the mortality of marine mammals, seabirds,

and other marine resources in high-seas squid driftnet fisheries. This was the first legislation expressing the United States' concern for mortality of birds in fishing gear, and the recognition that the mortality should be monitored.

Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948, amended numerous times until reorganized and expanded in 1972. This act implements and enforces other maritime contaminant issues.

Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act of 1996, originally passed as the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976.
This act regulates federal commercial and sport fisheries.

National Petroleum Reserves Production Act (1976):

Designate lands “containing any **significant** subsistence, recreational, fish and **wildlife**, or historical or scenic **value**,” and requires that in these lands, activities, “shall be conducted in a manner which will assure the **maximum protection of such surface values** to the extent consistent with the requirements of this Act,” for exploration and production activities.

NPR-A IAP (2013):

The purpose of the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area is expanded to include the protection of important caribou and **shorebird habitat** while continuing to protect **waterbird habitat**...

Presidential Executive Order 13186:

Responsibilities of Federal Agencies To Protect Migratory Birds (2000):

Section 3 (e) (13) - promote migratory bird conservation in international activities and with other countries and international partners

BLM-FWS Mig Bird Memorandum of Understanding: https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2022-04/IB2022-036_att1.pdf

Work collaboratively to identify and address issues that affect species of concern, such as migratory bird species listed in the Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and FWS’s Focal Species initiative. Potential activities could include monitoring abundance of birds and the creation, conservation, and protection of habitats important to these species.

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:

Migratory Bird Treaty Act: involves Mexico, United States, Canada, Japan, and Russia
Pacific, Central, Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway Councils

Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Bi-lateral agreements between USA and China

Country participant to the EAAF Partnership

Others

49.

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

Your Response:

50.

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

Your Response:

Alaska is a big place and there are many federal, state, and private organizations working on migratory bird management. Thus, it is difficult to accurately summarize all the activities within the state that occur on migratory birds that use the EAAF. I am sure I am missing items that are relevant simply because I am not connected to everyone that is working on migratory birds in the state.