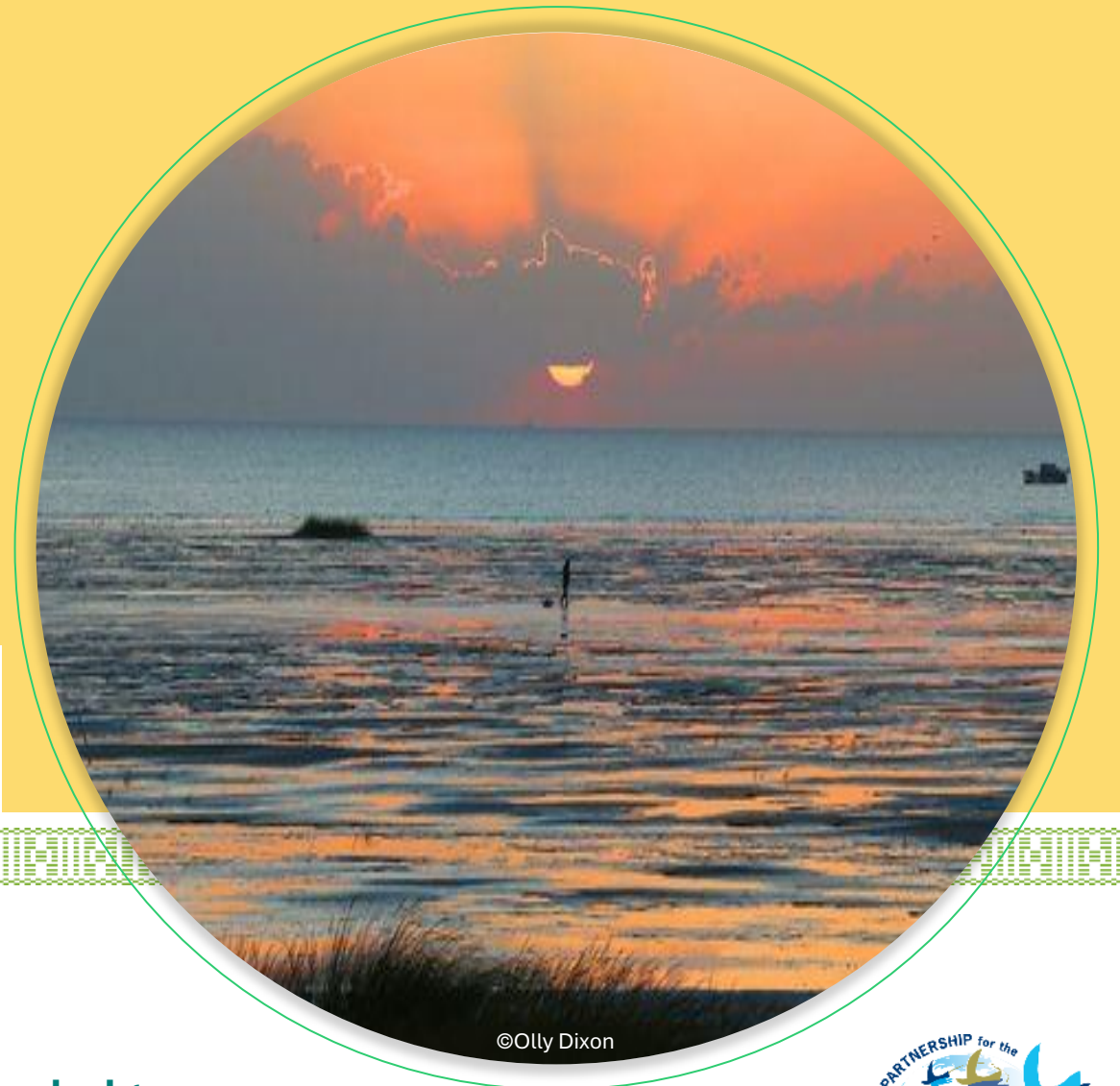


DD.17 The EAAFP Initiative on Tidal Flats & Ecologically-associated Working Coastal Wetlands ("EAAFP Tidal Flats Initiative – TFI")

Nicola Crockford

BirdLife International/RSPB



©Olly Dixon



WEAVING CONNECTIONS:
Celebrating Migration, Traditional Knowledge,
and Innovation across our Flyway

12th Meeting of Partners of the
East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership



MCF
红树林
基金会



Tidal Flats & Working Coastal Wetlands (WCW)

eg shellfisheries, aquaculture, saltpans



Shorebird roost, aquaculture pond, Yalu Jiang 2014 by Peng He



Khok Kham Saltpans, Thailand by Pete Short, 2017

Tidal Flats & WCW

- most important coastal ecosystem for **migratory waterbirds**
- **most productive ecosystem**
- **rarest category of wetland** apart from salt marsh & kelp forest
- **widest distribution** globally
- **most connected** ecosystem: interface between land, vegetated coast & sea
- high **carbon sequestration** capacity, similar to vegetated coast
- important **carbon storage reservoirs**
- important role in **climate & sea level rise adaptation** eg disaster risk reduction
- provide critical **ecosystem services** to coastal communities

- area of tidal flats in EAAF has halved in past 50 years
- globally most threatened coastal ecosystem



Port development



Petrochemicals, oil & gas



Inappropriate planting of mangroves etc



Invasive alien species





- 2017 Convention on Migratory Species Resolution 12.25 Promoting conservation of critical intertidal and other coastal habitats for migratory species
- 2018 Convention on Wetlands Resolution XIII.20: Promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands & ecologically-associated habitats;
- 2025 IUCN Motion 036 Facilitating synergistic delivery of multilateral commitments on conserving coastal ecosystems



Why an EAAF Tidal Flat Initiative?

5 of the 8 top countries covering half of world's total area of tidal flats, are in the EAAF:

Indonesia, China, Australia, United States, ~~Canada, India, Brazil,~~ Myanmar

2018 *Nature*, The global distribution and trajectory of tidal flats

Nicholas J. Murray et al



The 2023 IUCN Situation Analysis on Ecosystems of the Yellow Sea with Particular Reference to Intertidal and Associated Coastal Habitats



The 2023 IUCN Situation Analysis on Ecosystems of the Yellow Sea with Particular Reference to Intertidal and Associated Coastal Habitats



Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries

Restoration, creation and management of salt marshes and tidal flats

A collation of evidence-based guidance



Edited by: Vanessa Cutts¹, Paul L.A. Erftemeijer², Lorenzo Gaffi³, Ward Hagemeijer³, Rebecca K. Smith¹, Nigel G. Taylor¹ and William J. Sutherland¹

April 2024

Page Break



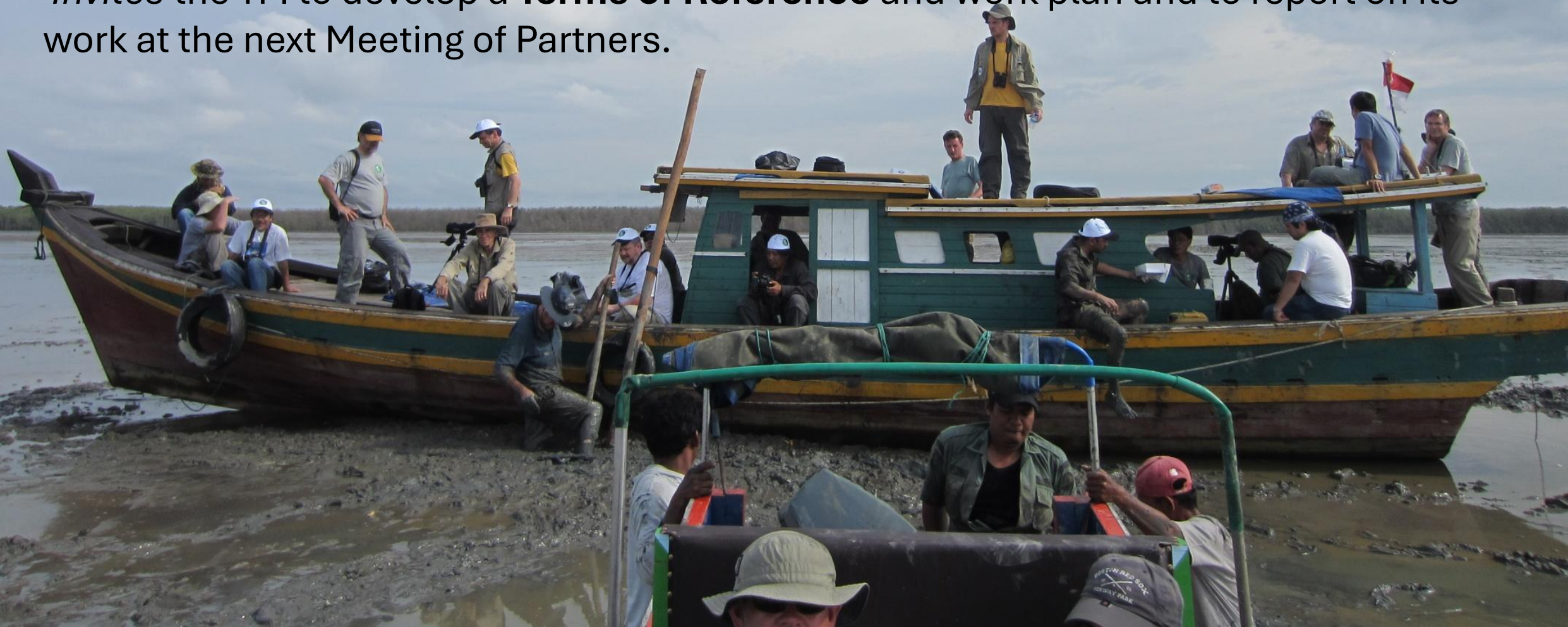
Coastal high-tide shorebird habitat management guidelines



Guidelines for maintaining and managing natural or artificial (i.e. human-created) coastal wetlands to provide suitable high-tide roosting conditions for shorebirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway

EAAFP MOP12 Draft Decision 17

- Agrees to **establish** an Initiative on tidal flats and ecologically-associated working coastal wetlands (EAAFP Tidal Flats Initiative, TFI);
- *Invites* all Partners & other donors to **participate & support** the work of this Initiative;
- *Invites* Partners in the TFI to select a **coordinator** for the initiative; and
- *Invites* the TFI to develop a **Terms of Reference** and work plan and to report on its work at the next Meeting of Partners.



Draft EAAFP Tidal Flat Initiative Terms of Reference



1. Background and purpose:

- assist Partners to promote & deliver protection, sustainable management, restoration and connectivity of TF & WCW in EAAF
- including through supporting existing relevant EAAFP Task Forces & Working Groups fostering connectivity between them,
- with actions for the Flyway Site Network.

2. Goal: increase area of priority well-functioning and sustainably managed TF & WCW to maintain or recover migratory waterbird populations.

3. Role: to facilitate concerted, coordinated, cooperative, connected efforts to protect, sustainably manage and restore TF & WCW including through securing their ecological, social and institutional connectivity.

2. Remit:

- a. Set priorities for its actions through a **work plan** and implement it;
- b. **Resource mobilization**
- c. **Monitor implementation** of work plan and submit progress reports to EAAFP MOPs;
- d. Facilitate **connectivity of effort** (internal e.g. Yellow Sea Ecoregion, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Far Eastern Curlew **Task Forces**; Shorebird, Anatidae, Seabird, Crane, Black-faced Spoonbill **Working Groups** , CEPA; EAAFP Technical Sub-committee) & external (e.g. ASEAN Flyway Network)
- e. **Compile and disseminate information** on the status and trends
- f. **Promote research, including in liaison with the Flyway University Alliance,**
- g. Support **identification and designation** of Flyway Network, Ramsar Sites & WH Sites
- h. Support **human connectivity between FNS eg EAAFP Sister Site Programme**
- i. **Promote capacity-building, through existing mechanisms** for evidence-based delivery eg training of trainers
- j. **Raise awareness and engagement,** eg, supporting CEPA Working Group and Secretariat in jointly developing campaigns and celebrations.



A large flock of birds, likely terns, is captured in flight over a body of water. The birds are scattered across the frame, with many in the foreground and others further back. In the background, a long, low concrete wall or barrier runs horizontally across the image. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is not visible.

Recent developments of the World Coastal Forum & discussion
on implementation of the proposed EAAFP Tidal Flats Initiative

Date: Monday November 10

Time: 1300-1400

A large flock of birds, likely terns, is standing on a muddy or sandy shore. The birds are densely packed in the foreground, filling the lower half of the image. They are mostly facing away from the camera, looking towards the water. The ground is a mix of brown mud and sand, with some small patches of green vegetation. The water is visible in the background, and the sky is not visible.

EAAFP Tidal Flat Initiative:
leading the world on conservation of tidal flat and
ecologically associated working coastal wetlands

