

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

Lead Organiser/s: Alex Zhang

Co-organiser/s: Nicola Crockford, Spike Millington, Taej Mundkur

Contact Person: Alex Zhang, Eco Foundation Global a.zhang@efglobal.org

Date: Monday November 10

Time: 13:00-14:00

Background

The [World Coastal Forum](#) (WCF) is an international, multi-stakeholder platform to catalyse, facilitate and upscale local and national coastal ecosystem conservation efforts, established in 2022 in response to calls from Resolutions of the Conventions on Migratory Species, Wetlands and Biodiversity and IUCN. The EAAFP and a number of its Partners are Partners of the WCF.

The World Coastal Forum contributes directly to at least two Partnership objectives and KRAs:

- Partnership Objective 2 - Enhance communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
KRA 2.1 The achievement of the elements in the EAAFP CEPA Action Plan (2019-2024).
- Partnership Objective 5. Develop, especially for priority species and habitats, flyway wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds.
KRA 5.6 The conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats is integrated into relevant multilateral and bilateral agreements and other regional mechanisms.

Five WCF Partner organisations (BirdLife International, EcoFoundation Global, Mangrove Conservation Foundation, Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust, Wetlands International) are among the seven EAAFP Partner co-proponents of *Draft Decision 17: The EAAFP Initiative on Tidal Flats and Ecologically-associated Working Coastal Wetlands* (“EAAFP Tidal Flats Initiative – TFI”).

Objectives

1. Increased awareness of WCF and how it, and its knowledge products, can be useful to EAAFP Partners and opportunities for collaboration.
2. Advance discussion on developing the EAAFP Tidal Flat Initiative proposed in Draft Decision 17 to be of maximum value in achieving EAAFP objectives including those of its Working Groups, Task Forces and Flyway Site Network.

Expected Outcomes

Sharing of ideas on the prompt and effective establishment and rollout/implementation of the proposed EAAFP Tidal Flat Initiative.

Tentative Programme

Chair: Alex Zhang

Time	Topic and Speaker	Notes
13:00	Opening remarks	Wu Qijiang, Director, Yancheng Wetland and World Natural Heritage Conservation and Management Center
13:03	An introduction to WCF and its relevance to EAAFP, and update on its achievements since MOP11, including outcomes of the WCF 2025 Conference	Alex Zhang, Secretary General, Eco Foundation Global and Facilitator, World Coastal Forum Coordination Group
13:10	Draft WCF work plan 2025-2027	Taej Mundkur, Facilitator, World Coastal Forum Coordination Group
13:15	World Coastal Ecosystem Conservation Toolkit as a tool to support implementation of EAAFP Objectives	Ward Hagemeijer, Wetlands International
13:20	2025 IUCN Resolution motion: <i>Facilitating synergistic delivery of multilateral commitments on conserving coastal ecosystems</i>	Nicola Crockford, BirdLife International and Facilitator, World Coastal Forum Coordination Group
13:25	Introduction to the proposed EAAFP Tidal Flat Initiative and how it supports delivery of the EAAFP objectives	Spike Millington, Facilitator, World Coastal Forum Coordination Group
13:35	1 minute speed pitches from representatives of EAAFP Task Teams and Working Groups on: a) how they recommend the EAAFP TFI could support delivery of their objectives b) how they could contribute to the establishing, and the work of the TFI (Use of a timer bell!)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennifer George, introduction & Flyway Site Network tbc Bruce McKinlay, Yellow Sea EcoRegion Task Force tbc David Li, Shorebird Working Group Far-Eastern Curlew TF, Mark Carey tbc Spoon-billed Sandpiper TF, Christoph Zöckler Yat-tung Yu, Black-faced Spoonbill WG tbc Matthew Vincent Tabilog, Youth TF tbc Tina Redshaw or Lindall Kidd, CEPA WG
13:45	Discussion on developing the proposed EAAFP Tidal Flat Initiative as tool to support delivery of EAAFP objectives	Facilitator: Spike Millington, Rapporteur: Taej Mundkur
13:58	Closing remarks	Alex Zhang