

# **EAST ASIAN – AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY PARTNERSHIP**

## **NINTH MEETING OF PARTNERS (MoP9)**

### **REPORTS AND WORK PLANS**

**11-15 January 2017**

**Singapore**

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**\*Partners are listed in joining order.**

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## Australia

Australia's Report can be found at [Annex Doc.2.4.1.1 Australian National Report to the 18th JAMBA, 12th CAMBA and 5th ROKAMBA Consultative Meetings](#).

## Indonesia

1. **Participatory Type: Government Partner (Government, Inter-Governmental, International NGO, and Private Sector)**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: INDONESIA**
3. **Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Badiyah - Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Yus Rusila Noor – Wetlands International Indonesia (with contribution of Dr. Dewi Malia Prawiradilaga – Research Centre for Biology-Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI); Jihad – Burung Indonesia; Fransisca Noni Tirtaningtyas - Burung Nusantara/Burung Laut Indonesia; Iwan Febrianto – Anak Burung Surabaya)**

### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets :

- Indonesia has 2 Flyway Network Sites, namely Wasur National Park (Papua) and Sembilang National Park (South Sumatra). Both are also having status as Ramsar Site

Number of proposed new FNS

- Indonesia is currently in the process to propose 2 (two) new sites: Taman Wisata Teluk Kupang (East Nusa Tenggara – NTT) and Bagan Percut (North Sumatra). A site verification is required to officially submit the sites as new FNS, engaging local government institution as one of the site (Bagan Percut) is under the jurisdiction of local government. The other site is under the management of Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Funding support is required to carry out field verification survey and assessment.

Publication for Bagan Percut: Putra, C.A., D. Hikmatullah, Dewi M. Prawiradilaga & J.B.C. Harris. 2015. Surveys at Bagan Percut Sumatra, reveal its international importance to migratory shorebirds and breeding herons. Kukila 18(2): 46-59.

### *Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

- The Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation (KKH) is currently acted as the government CEPA focal point for Ramsar Convention. The other Partner, Wetlands International, is acted as the NGO focal point for Ramsar Convention. Both institution worked cooperatively with Indonesia's administrative focal point, Directorate of Essential Ecosystem Management (BPPE) to coordinate a Site Managers Workshop partially supported by EAAFP Secretariat. The workshop provided information on the implementation of EAAF Partnership at national level, as well as ample opportunity for Site Managers to integrate Ramsar and EAAFP issues.

Number of National Partnership meetings held

- Exact number is not available

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

- The celebration of World Migratory Bird Day by both Government and Non-Government Organization (NGO) has been effectively promoting the migratory waterbird conservation awareness in Indonesia. For example, the celebration of WMBD by Wasur National Park (Flyway Network Site) has been successfully raised awareness among students and farmers on the important of migratory waterbirds of the National Park. The 2016 celebration of WMBD in Wasur National Park was supported by EAAFP Secretariat.

Other celebration were also coordinated by NGOs and Universities, aimed on the promotion of migratory waterbird conservation awareness.

One of the NGO in Gorontalo Province, Northern Sulawesi, won the best short documentary film competition, organized by WMBD Secretariat.

- The celebration of World Wetlands Day carried out in the areas known as important waterbirds site (mostly residents, but also migratory waterbirds). The introduction of flyway concept during the celebration has been effectively raised the concern of both local community and government official.
- Partners actively raising awareness on Flyway Site Network and migratory bird species to related stakeholders through discussion and meetings, and also to general public through media release and social media

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- Indonesia has developed a National Partnership on Migratory Bird Conservation. The establishment was supported by the decree of the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation in 2012, aimed to: i) coordinate and communicate migratory birds conservation activities in Indonesia, including the implementation of the EAAFP agenda and disseminate it to partners nationally, ii) Manage data and information of activities related to migratory birds, iii) Monitor Flyway Network Sites, iv) Link migratory bird conservation and wetlands management, v) Identify potential new FNS, and vi) Support the development of national report and workplan to be submitted on annual EAAFP meeting (MoP). Considering the strategic role of this body, and due to the current restructurization of the Ministry, we are currently in the process of revitalization of the National Partnership under new supported decree.
- The Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI) and Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) has initiated the revision of the list of protected species. Most of (non-protected) migratory waterbird species have been included on list to be protected. The legislation process is currently still on-going. Many environment NGOs and Universities were actively engaged on the review and assessment of the proposed list.
- Coordinating Meeting of Zoonotic on Wild & Domestic Animals organized by the Directorate of Animal Health-Ministry of Agriculture and FAO in Jakarta on 29 February-1 March 2016
- Workshop 'Risk Mapping EID (Emerging Infectious Disease) and Targetted Zoonotic on Wild and Domestic Animals held by Directorate of Animal Health-Ministry of Agriculture and FAO in Jakarta on 7-8 June 2016
- Meeting with the Director of Conservation of Sea Diversity, Dit.Gen. of Management of Sea Space, Ministry of Maritime & Fishery to discuss implementation of National Action Plan CTI Goal 5: Threatened Species and commitment of the Government of Indonesia to reduce the accident of Seabird bycatch, by the fishing vessels on 20 July 2016. Discussion with Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries for Coral Triangle Initiative Plan Action about Seabird Action Plan and Seabird by Catch on October 2016
- Discussion with Ministry of Environment and Forestry for Seabird Action Plan on October 2016

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

- Indonesia is actively organized various international waterbird census aimed on the improved information on migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
- Wetlands International and Ministry of Environment and Forestry organized annual Asian Waterbirds Census which has been held since 1986. The 2016 census has been remarkably successful in gaining interest from waterbird observers, mostly campus-based organization. No less than 100 sites all overs Indonesia have been included on the census.

- Initial Meeting between Division of Zoology, RCB - Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI), Burung Indonesia, Burung Laut Indonesia, and Jakarta Birder with researchers from US Forest Service to discuss future research and conservation of Aleutian Tern (*Sterna aleutica*) was carried out on 14 September 2016 in Cibinong Science Centre, Bogor.
- Indonesia has established an Indonesian Bird Banding Scheme (IBBS), jointly coordinated by Indonesia Institute of Science – LIPI and Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Several NGOs and Universities supported the Scheme to coordinate all nation-wide activities on bird banding and marking, including data collection and repository, and capacity building. The email of IBBS : [ibbs@mail.lipi.go.id](mailto:ibbs@mail.lipi.go.id) and The web site of IBBS will be set up soon.
- The Indonesia Seabirds Community (Seabirds Indonesia – Burung Laut Indonesia) carried out a monitoring the Christmas Island Frigatebirds and others seabirds from 2011 until now in Indonesia, especially in Sunda Straits and Jakarta Bay.
- An annual Indonesian Shorebirds Monitoring program, known as MOBUPI, is coordinated during the months of September to April. It is aimed on the collection of information on the shorebirds population and habitat, with special emphasis on the collection of information on marked shorebirds

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) has been widely used to share information on ornithological issues, including migratory waterbirds. The following group have been actively working on Ornithological issues:
  - Sumatra: UKM Himpus FKH Unsyiah, Aceh Birder, Padang Zoologi UNAND, PEMA Biologi UMA dan Bioparasitologi USU, Kerinci Birdwatching Club, Palembang HMB, Komunitas Universitas Sriwijaya, KPB-SOS (Kelompok Pengamat Burung Spirit of South Sumatra), BNWP (Biology Nature and Wildlife Photography), Himpunan Mahasiswa Biologi FMIPA, Riau; Community of Conservation, Palembang; Bencoolen Bird Watching, Komunitas Mangrove Bengkulu, Bengkulu; Fauna Flora Bangka, Bangka;
  - Java: Srigunting Unesa, Surabaya Sayap Surabaya, PPBJ Jogja, Tim Ekspedisi Ornitologi Biolaska (TESIA), Pelatuk BSC UNNES, Kepak Sayap UNS, Serikat Birdwatcher Ngalam, Biodiversity Society, Ketapang KBK/BSYOK; KSHL Comata UI, BBC Ardea UNAS, KPB Nycticorax UNJ, KPB Nectarinia UIN, BICONS (Bird Conservation Society) and BWP (Be Wildlife Photography); Bird Consultant, KSBLPecuk, KOKOKAN birdwatcher club,
  - Bali and Nusa Tenggara: Minpro Satwa Liar Rothschildi FKH, Universitas Udayana, Sindikat Fotografer Wildlife Bima-Dompu, Kupang Birdwatcher Society, staf of BKSDA Bali,
  - Kalimantan: TKIP PGRI Banjarmasin, Banjarmasin- Kalimantan Selatan;
  - Sulawesi: Gorontalo Biodiversity Forum, Gorontalo-Sulawesi;
  - Papua: staff of National Park of Wasur, Papua
- Some publication about the monitoring of seabird in Indonesia :
  - NONI, F. 2012. Conservation of Christmas Island Frigatebird *Fregata andrewsi* in West Java, Indonesia-mid term report. *BirdingAsia* 17 (2012):101-103
  - TIRTANINGTYAS, F.N. 2014. Kleptoparasitic behaviour of Christmas Island Frigatebirds *Fregata andrewsi* in Jakarta Bay, Indonesia. *BirdingASIA* 21 (2014): 66–67
  - TIRTANINGTYAS, F.N & HENNICKE, J. 2015. Threats to The Critically Endangered Christmas Island Frigatebird *Fregata andrewsi* in Jakarta Bay, Indonesia, And Implications For Reconsidering Conservation Priorities. *Marine Ornithology* 43:137-140. [http://www.marineornithology.org/PDF/43\\_2/43\\_2\\_137-140.pdf](http://www.marineornithology.org/PDF/43_2/43_2_137-140.pdf)
  - TIRTANINGTYAS, F.N. & YORDAN, K. 2016. Updating the seabird fauna of Jakarta Bay, Indonesia. *Marine Ornithology*. *in press*
  - <http://readersblog.mongabay.co.id/rb/2016/12/15/serunya-mengintip-burung-laut-di-selat-sunda/>
  - <http://regional.liputan6.com/read/2682780/burung-burung-laut-di-selat-sunda>

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

- The Ministry of Environment and Forestry supported by NGO Partners coordinated a Site Managers Workshop partially supported by EAAFP Secretariat. The workshop provided information on the implementation of EAAF Partnership at national level, as well as ample opportunity for Site Managers to integrate Ramsar and EAAFP issues.

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

- The Ministry of Environment and Forestry supported by Wetlands International and Burung Indonesia organized Technical Supervision for field Staff on the management of migratory waterbirds, including introduction of the flyway and EAAFP concept and operation
- Banding and Marking training was conducted in collaboration with WWF Indonesia and Surabaya Bird Banding Club at Lorentz and Wasur National Parks in September 2014.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

- National Geographic Society supported the coordination of Asian Waterbird Census 2016-2017 in Indonesia, including the dissemination of call for participation, collation of information, data and information analysis, and data reporting and dissemination. In addition, support is also provided for capacity building in selected sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds.
- Wetlands International provided support for the implementation of Indian Ocean Coastal Counts.

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

- None so far. Indonesia is interested to develop a sister site partnership

### **Japan**

1. **Participatory Type: Partner (Government)**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Japan**
3. **Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Kaori TSUJITA at Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ)**

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets: 28 out of 33 FNS in Japan

Number of proposed new FNS: 1

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP): Developed already

Number of National Partnership meetings held: Once a year

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness:

- Newsletters have been published and distributed to FNS managers and other related groups. As for FY2015, newsletters of Anatidae, shorebirds and cranes were published 8 times, 3 times and once respectively.
- Mailing list of each of Anatidae, shorebird and crane group has been operated.

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- Revised “Important Wetlands in Japan” was published by MOEJ in 2016. It lists 633 wetlands of importance in terms of biodiversity that include the habitats of waterbirds. It is used as a basic material to encourage consideration for the environment when development plan is developed.
- EIA Law applies to huge projects. Project proponents must survey, predict and assess in advance the environmental impacts, including impacts on waterbirds when necessary, and reflect the results into the projects to make them more environmentally friendly. Due consideration is given particularly to breeding sites and staging sites of birds, and main migration routes of raptors, swans, ducks and geese.
- Sensitivity map which shows the location with high impact on birds is now under development in order to enable wind energy developers to investigate, and when possible avoid, those locations when they consider the location of new projects. Sensitivity map of the whole of Japan will be completed by March 2018.

### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

- Monitoring of shorebirds (including White Spoonbill, the Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders’s Gull and Common Shelduck that are considered as indicators in tidal flats) has been conducted at about 140 fixed sites during each period of August-September, December-February and April-May as a part of Monitoring Sites 1000 project by MOEJ.
- Monitoring of Anatidae has been conducted one or more times during each period of September-November, December-January and February-May at about 80 fixed sites as a part of Monitoring Sites 1000 project by MOEJ.
- Population Census of Anatidae has been conducted at about 9,000 sites every year in January under the initiative of prefectural governments. Total count was 1,886,555 at 9,054 sites in 2015 and 1,949,694 at 9,185 sites in 2016 (note: number in 2016 is provisional).
- A total of 1,951 shorebirds including 47 species were newly banded in 2015. Recapture and ring recovery was recorded for 154 shorebirds including 17 species in 2015.
- A total of 2,151 Anatidae including 14 species were newly banded in 2015. Recapture and ring recovery was recorded for 146 Anatidae including 12 species in 2015.

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- Training workshop for Anatidae monitoring and that for shorebird monitoring were held respectively in FY 2016.

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- The results of most of the above surveys are publically available on the internet (Japanese only).

### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

- MOEJ held a workshop for promoting communication and collaboration among local governments and NGOs which are involved in the management of FNS for cranes in 2016.

Number of sites with local capacity building programs: 15 or more sites

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

- Joint survey on Saunder's Gull has been conducted with China and Republic of Korea since 2001 under the framework of bilateral agreements.

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions: 5

### **The Philippines**

1. **Participatory Type: Government**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)**
3. **Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Anson M. Tagtag, Biodiversity Management Bureau**

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

*Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets:*

One (1) : Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park

*Number of proposed new FNS: Four (4)*

- 1) Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area (NOCWCA);
- 2) Cabusao Wetlands Critical Habitat;
- 3) Sasmuan Wetlands Area ;and
- 4) Bangrin Marine Protected Area

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP):

*Number of National Partnership meetings held:*

At least eight (8) meetings with major partners in bird conservation were held from October 2015 to December 2016 to discuss and plan for the collaborative organization of the Philippine Bird Festival, preparation for the Asian Waterbird Census, and development birdwatching guidelines . These partners include the Wildbird Club of the Philippines, Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, and the Wildbird Photographers of the Philippines, Inc., and members of the academe.

In November 30, 2016, BMB convened a planning meeting in Manila for Luzon cluster involving Field Offices of the DENR, representatives of Regional Tourism Offices and Haribon Foundation to organize the 2017 AWC in Luzon areas. Similar Meeting was convened on December 09, 2016 in Bacolod City for Visayas-Mindanao Cluster involving DENR –field offices, representatives of Regional Tourism Offices and the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Foundation. These meetings intend to revitalize efforts and engage more volunteers for the 2017 AWC nationwide and hopefully to cover as many wetland sites as possible.

### Activities to promote migratory waterbird Conservation awareness:

Two major national migratory waterbird awareness campaigns are regularly observed in the Philippines. These are:

- 1) The annual Philippine Bird Festival is religiously being observed and is alternately hosted by local government units in certain regions nationwide. The bird festival is spearheaded by the Wildlife Bird Club of the Philippines in collaboration with the host local government unit, the Department of Tourism and the DENR. The festivities includes bird lectures and tours, bird race, parades, and conservation forum. The Bird festival is normally scheduled between the months of November to January in time for the south migration period.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Philippine Bird Festival was held in Balanga City on 10 December 2015 while the 11<sup>th</sup> Philippine Bird Festival was held in Negros Occidental in 24-27 November 2016.

- 2) The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Welcome to the Birds": a celebration of the return of migratory birds with events held from October 2015 to March 2016: The festive campaign highlights the country as part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Activities included teaching tours, wader quest, Birdwatching tours and Bird Race. This event is spearheaded by the Haribon Foundation with support from the DENR.

Waterbird awareness activities in Flyway Network Sites, all of which are managed as protected areas, is integrated in the regular annual work program of the protected area. These includes conduct of community meetings and production and distribution of print materials for protected area visitors and surrounding communities. The Annual celebration of the World Wetland Day (WWD) is also regularly observed where waterbirds and their wetland habitats are highlighted in the FNS and other wetland declared as protected areas or Critical Habitats.



Brochures and posters produced in 2016 for Olango Island.

Tubbataha Reef Natural Park, having been designated as FNS for seabirds, maintains its public outreach and awareness as one of its core program. The Park, being a strict protected zone (“no-take” zone) has relentlessly boost its public and visitor awareness campaigns on the rules and regulations within the Park. Its public outreach activities aim to bring conservation awareness among coastal villages, schools, and Dive tourism industry operating in Tubbataha.

The Park’s awareness strategy is its **Educational Caravan: Ang Tubbataha ay ATIN**. A team of Park volunteers and Park staff brings Tubbataha closer to youth and communities through a caravan - Ang Tubbataha ay ATIN (Tubbataha is Ours). The acronym ATIN stands for: **A**lagaan (Protect), **T**uklasin (Explore), **I**salin (Transmit), **N**gayon (Now). Print materials, Videos and radio plugs are also available in its website (<http://tubbatahareef.org/>). The very first book on Tubbataha, **'Tubbataha: A National Treasure'**, was launched in 9 November 2016.

In Naujan Lake, A CEPA approach called **‘Bangklase’ Program** is being implemented in partnership with the academe. The ‘Bangklase’ is a mobile classroom on top of a raft, which will also serve as an educational service to all visitors of the lake. Clean –up activities are also organized during celebration of the World Wetlands Day.

#### *Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies*

- 1) Conservation of migratory waterbirds is integrated in the updated Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP). Maintenance or increase in the Population of migratory birds in selected inland and coastal wetlands is among the target results of the PBSAP. The PBSAP also included threatened migratory waterbirds in its “Preventing Extinction Plan” whereby programs and activities were recommended to address threats to threatened species occurring in the Philippines.
- 2) 24 species of migratory birds are included in the National List of Threatened Fauna. The Philippine Wildlife Act prohibits hunting/taking of wildlife.
- 3) The Philippine Wildlife Act provides for the protection of threatened species and congregatory areas of wildlife including the habitats of waterbirds through the designation of Critical Habitats. Three nationally designated Critical Habitats for migratory birds (i.e Malasi lake, Cabusao Wetlands, and Las Pinas-Paranaque Critical Habitat and Eco-tourism Area) are currently being managed. Critical habitats are designated as such through a Department Administrative Order that set aside areas critical for the survival of threatened species or are congregatory sites of certain species, for strict protection.
- 4) The National Wetland Action Plan includes 37 priority wetlands for conservation in which 76 % (28 wetland areas) are important congregation site of migratory and native/endemic waterbirds.
- 5) Wetlands critical for migratory birds are also increasingly recognized and their conservation is integrated in the land use plans of local government units as bird sanctuaries or marine protected areas (MPAs). Among the notable locally manages migratory bird sites are the *Sasmuan Wetlands*, *Balanga City wetlands*, *Lake Mainit*, and *Baras Bird Sanctuar*.
- 6) To highlight their importance, Critical Habitats and locally managed migratory birds sites are part of tourism development plans of municipal and provincial government promoting bird watching tourism.
- 7) The Department of Tourism (DOT) has designated in 2013 the TOP 13 Birdwatching Sites featuring migratory waterbirds: *Bangrin Marine Protected Area (Bani, Pangasinan)*, *Balanga City Nature and Wetland Park, Bataan*, *Candaba Marsh (Pampanga)*, *Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary (Lapu-lapu City)*, *Hundred Islands Park in Alaminos City*, *Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary (Narra, Palawan)*, *Las Piñas*

– *Parañaque Critical Habitat*. The DOT and concerned local government units continuously promote and support development plans for these sites. For 2016, the DOT allocated funds (Php 45 Million ) to initiate the implementation of the development plan for the Pas Pinas –Paranaque Critical habitat.

8) The BMB has recently developed a Birding guidelines in consultation with birding club, DOT and conservation organization. The guidelines will be release as public advisory in the form of a Technical Bulletin to promote responsible birding activities in the country.

### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

#### *Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats*

-Regular monitoring of waterbird populations are undertaken at the three FNS sites as would other migratory bird sites in the country through the conduct of the annual Asian Waterbird Census.

- In addition to the annual AWC in January in Olango Island, monthly records of waterbird population is being gathered to document waterbird species occurring outside the AWC period.

-Seabird inventory is continuously undertaken in Tubbataha Reef in the month of May as part of its seabird population trend research. Seabird monitoring is undertaken quarterly by park staff.

- Seabird monitoring data in Tubbataha is accessible in the park official website.

### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

#### *Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation*

Two cluster trainings (Luzon island and Visayas-Mindanao Islands) on waterbird monitoring and conservation were organized by the Biodiversity Management Bureau on November and December of 2016. The participants are DENR, FNS staff and managers, DENR field personnel who are responsible for Waterbird monitoring activities, including local tourism office staff. 48 participants were trained for Luzon while 65 participants were trained for Visayas and Mindanao).

#### *Number of sites with local capacity building programs:*

The three FNS sites (Tubbataha reefs, Naujan Lake and Olango Island) are formally managed as Protected Areas under the national Integrated Protected Area System. As such. capacity building activities is part of its annual work program .

In Tubbataha, a four-day Trainers Training on marine conservation and communication skills, was carried out in July 2, 2016. Sixteen (16) participants from various partner agencies and partner organizations, i.e. Tubbataha Youth Ambassadors, Philippine Coast Guard District - Palawan, Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, DENR, PCSD, and the Tubbataha Management Office, benefited from the activity funded by Shell foundation, Inc.

In Olango Island, Capacity Development for the members of its Protected Area Management Board and People's organization on Environmental Laws and protected area management was conducted on November 28-29, 2016. The two-day activity was attended by 25 participants.

### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

-none

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

-none

## Republic of Korea

1. Participatory Type: Partner(Government)

2. Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: ROK

3. Name of draftsman and organization you present: MOE-K

### Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites

1.1 Number of FNS(11) with current and updated Site Information Sheets : 7 (missing SIS: 4)

EAAF Site Code	Name of Site	Site Information Sheet
EAAF027	Cheolwon Basin	*
EAAF028	Han River Estuary	*
EAAF046	Cheonsu Bay	*
EAAF078	Gumi Haepyung wetland	*
EAAF079	Suncheon Bay	O
EAAF095	Junam Reservoir	O
EAAF096	Upo Wetland	O
EAAF097	Nakdong Estuary	O
EAAF100	Geum River Estuary	O
EAAF101	Yubu-do Tidal Flat	O
EAAF107	Chilbaldo Island	O

1.2 Number of proposed new FNS: None

### Objective 2: CEPA

2.1 Progress in developing National Partnerships(increased recognition of EAAFP)

2.2 Number of National Partnership meetings held:

- Related national and international workshops with International Day for Biological Diversity and UN World Wildlife Day

(International Level)

- Regional Workshop on the Conservation and Management of the Tidal Flats, Associated Wetlands, and Migratory Waterbirds of the Yellow Sea\*(Aug, 2016)
- a symposium for the commemoration of the new hosting of the RCC-EA in Suncheon (Mar, 2016) and an international symposium on the conservation of endangered migratory waterbirds by NIE (Dec, 2016)
- \* The workshop as a follow up measure of the Resolution 28 and 51 raised by Korea and adopted in the WCC held in Jeju Island in 2012 as part of cooperative projects with IUCN Framework Partnership

(National Level)

- Regional workshop on the conservation and management of migratory birds habitat in the Yellow Sea (May, 2016)
- Celebrating event for World Wetlands Day and public-private workshop on conservation and management of wetlands (Feb, 2016) and capacity building workshop for nationally protected areas
- National Workshop on the conservation and management of the migratory shorebirds and coastal wetlands, and workshop for Management Effectiveness Evaluation in protected areas

### 2.3 Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

- Carried out experiential and educational programs in birds exhibition areas by local governments and national parks
  - ex) Tour programs to observe birds in Seosan and Taean
- Held celebrating events annually for World Migratory Bird Day, World Wetlands Day, International Day for Biological Diversity, and UN World Wildlife Day
- Provided regular programs explaining ecology of the sites as well as educational programs for students at the visitor's centers in several FNSs, including Cheonsu Bay, Suncheon Bay, Jumanam Reservoir, Upo Wetland, Nakdong Estuary, and Geum River Estuary
- Annual Migratory Bird Festival: 'Gunsan (EAAF100) and Seochon (EAAF079) Migratory Bird Festival' and 'Cheonsu Bay Migratory Bird Festival' of Seosan (EAAF046)
- Photography awards for natural ecology in protected areas (ecological and scenery conservation area, and wetland protection area) by the Ministry of Environment (Oct, 2015 and Oct, 2016)
- Black-faced Spoonbill photo exhibition in Incheon City (Dec, 2016)
- Exhibition 'Migratory Birds Visiting Han River Estuary' in Kimpo Eco Center (Dec, 2016 ~ Jan, 2017)
- Special exhibition 'Migratory Birds in Wangsong Lake' in Uiwang City (Nov, 2016 ~ Dec, 2016)
- Opened Shinan Migratory Bird Museum in Heuksan Island of Shinan County (Apr, 2015)

- Founded Kimpo Eco Center in Han River Estuary (EAAF028) in Kimpo City (Oct, 2015)

#### 2.4 Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies:

- (Species Protection) Designation and conservation of endangered species (61 birds species among 246 species)
- (Habitat Protection) Biodiversity Management Contract encouraging 24 local governments by providing 1.309 billion KRW, expanded designation and improved management of protected areas
- ex) Suncheon Bay (FNS) enlarged its wetland protection area coverage to 5.394km<sup>2</sup> (Dec, 2015) and listed in Ramsar Site (Jun, 2016) as well as Chimsil wetland in Sumjin River designated as wetland protection area (Nov, 2016)
- ex) Created open habitat (128km<sup>2</sup>), planted green barley (27km<sup>2</sup>), and fed migratory birds (2.4ton) in Dalseong Wetland at Daegu
- (Building Infrastructure) Promoting establishment of National Bird Research Center and National Wild Animal Health Research Institute, operating and expanding rescue center to treat wild animals (currently 15 centers)
- (Policy) Carried out conservation and protection policies for biodiversity and birds by the 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014 - 2018

#### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

##### 3.1 Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

- Two couples of endangered Chinese Crested Turn were spotted in uninhabited island in the west coast of Korea, as the first case of the bird to confirm its breeding other than China
- Continuous research in ecology and moving routes of migratory waterbirds
- Conducted in-depth research of ecology in wetland protection areas of Han River Estuary and Upo Wetland in 2016
- Studied feed and habitat environment of shorebirds in Yubu-do Tidal Flat (FNS) in 2016
- Ecology guides and watchers in 17 wetland protection areas, and monitoring on environmental changes

##### 3.2 Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- Winter Waterbird Census of Korea (200 key sites, research in every December and January), regular monitoring in spring and fall for birds that fly through the route, and publication of documents
- Supported monitoring activities in developing countries, such as North Korea, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Bangladesh
- Encouraged and assisted K-BON, monitoring program participated by citizen with cooperation a

mong experts, institutes, and private organizations

### 3.3 Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

(International Level)

- 2016 Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreement Consultative Meetings between Korea, Japan, China and Australia held in Cairns, Australia (Nov. 23rd ~ 30th, 2016), resulting in exchange of information about recent national policies and research as well as increase of cooperation among the countries
- Consultative meeting with New Zealand to discuss further measures such as cooperative meetings and signing MoU between competent research institutes
- (National Level) Established Nakdong River Crane Network with public and private partnership to continuously promote projects improving habitat environments of migratory birds, including feeding birds and regulating disturbing activities

### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

#### 4.1 Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

- (International Level) North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network Workshop (Jun, 2016), Regional Training Workshop for Flyway and Wetland Managers in East and Southeast Asia (Oct, 2016), Workshop for Development of Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem Services Tool (Oct, 2016)
- (National Level) Korean Site Managers Workshop (May, 2015 in Seosan, May, 2016 in Suncheon), managers workshop for controlling poach and invasive alien species, and ecotourism workshop

#### 4.2 Number of sites with local capacity building programs

- Carried out programs for nurturing volunteers and for watching birds at migratory bird observatories run by local governments
- Provided assistances for working group meetings and activities, including Black-faced Spoonbill WG and Incheon-Gyeonggi Ecoregion TF

### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

#### 5.1 Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

- Made significant efforts to list Southwestern Coast Tidal Flats (1,279km<sup>2</sup>), including Yubu-do (46 km<sup>2</sup>), in the World Natural Heritage by the UNESCO
- Joint research for Sander's Gull among Korea, China, and Japan, Black-faced Spoonbill co-research between Korea and China, cooperative research of Korea and Mongolia for Whooper Swan's migratory routes, development of joint research projects between Korea and Russia

or shorebirds

5.2 Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

- Signed an MoU for Sister Site between Suncheon Bay wetland and Guandu Nature Park (Oct, 2016)

**Russia**

1. **Participatory Type:**  
**Government**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from:**  
**RUSSIA**
3. **Name of draftsman and organization you present:**  
**Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of Russian Federation, Dr. Evgeny Syroechkovskiy**

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

9 FNS in total and updated SIS for 1 of them. Update for others in progress

Number of proposed new FNS

Preparation of documentation and discussion of creation of new FNS with regional governments and national level are ongoing for the following sites to be proposed for the Flyway partnership network

- 1) Vorovskaya River Lagoon (Kamchatka)
- 2) Ust'Khairiuzovo (Kamchatka)
- 3) Ulbanskiy Bay (Khabarovskiy Kray)
- 4) Nikolaya Bay (Khabarovskiy Kray)
- 5) Baikal and Pomr' Bays (Sakhalin)

*Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

No plans for development of national partnership

Number of National Partnership meetings held

none

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

IUCN situation analysis on intertidal areas of Asia was translated into Russian language;

World Migratory bird day celebrated in the Amur river basin network sites;

EAAFP was promoted at the International Anatidae conference in Salekhard in December 2015 and in Ivanovo Russian Waders conference in January 2016.

### Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

As a result of the revision of the list of Russian state species protected list (Russian Red Data Book) the new 8 management units (species/subspecies/populations) were included to the final candidate list of the new edition of Russian Red Data Book to be finally confirmed by the Minister during 2017.

#### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

### Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

Mapping of distribution of waterbirds on Kamchatka in different seasons (for new field guide);

Survey of the Aleutian tern colonies in selected regions of Kamchatka and Koryak highland coasts;

Reestablishment of monitoring of Greater White-fronted goose work in Southern Chukotka

Survey for the new breeding locations of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (SBS) in Southern Chukotka, which resulted in the discovery of the second most important breeding location for the species.

Finalization (still one year left) of the 7 years long inventory project of the SBS breeding grounds and other waterbirds of the most remote coasts of Koryak coasts (filling gaps – areas never visited by ornithologists before) in cooperation with “Heritage Expeditions”

Continuation of monitoring and conservation activities of the Scaly-sided Merganser in Primorie

Surveys for Baer’s Pochard in Amur basin had not discovered any birds in 2016.

Swan Goose surveys in Amur river basin and Ulbanski and Nikolaya Bays had identified further declines of local populations.

The location of intensive hunting of Great Knots and other shorebirds is identified in Ulbansky Bay of Khabarovskiy Kray

### Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

Extension of the long-term monitoring waterbirds number on several monitoring sites during breeding season on Kamchatka (including Far Eastern Curlew);

Established new locations for the long-term monitoring of waterbirds number during migration, including counting shorebirds on mudflats and counting flying past waterbirds in Kamchatka

### Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

Russian Marine IBA inventory finalized and published by BirdsRussia in cooperation with BirdLife Asia;

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

### Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

0

### Number of sites with local capacity building programs

2 training and education workshops run in the Amur river basin focused on crane conservation

### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

#### Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

Russia was the leading force with AMBI program of CAFF if Arctic Council, which led to proposal for the EAAFP MoP to establish the WG on illegal hunting in Asia.

Russia was instrumental in promoting concrete actions for conservation of the key waterbird areas in the Yellow Sea through several different instruments including AMBI and Russia-China bilateral.

#### Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

0

### **Singapore**

1. **Participatory Type: Partner (Government)**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, National Parks Board, Singapore (SBWR)**
3. **Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Mendis Tan, SBWR National Parks Board**

### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

1.1 Number of FNS (1) with current and updated Site Information Sheets: 1

- Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve

1.2 Number of proposed new FNS before MoP 9: 0

### *Objective 2: CEPA*

2.1 Number of FNS Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

2.2 Number of National Partnership meetings held

2.3 Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

- Workshops and school talks for students and teachers
- Nation-wide bird surveys like Heron watch, Waders Watch, Garden birds Survey to develop appreciate for nature.
- Guided walks, Tree planting, mangrove reforestation, mudflat maintenance. Awareness programs held in September to create awareness of arriving birds.
- Expansion of volunteer program

2.4 Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- Continued working with government partner agencies has brought about greater awareness of migratory birds and their habitat.
- Kranji Marshes was opened in Feb 2016 to protect and conserve freshwater marshland habitat and biodiversity.

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

3.1 Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

3.2 Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- Bird census program
- Bird ringing and color flagging program
- Implementation of geolocators, radio and satellite transmitters
- Surveillance of birds for Avian Influenza.

3.3 Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- Data shared with various fora and organisations.

*Objective 4: Capacity Building*

**Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation**

1. CUGE (Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology) provides courses to build capacity of staff and interested residents in most topics related to nature management.
2. Visiting researchers
3. Collaborations with university

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

**Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation**

Management exchange programme with wetland sites in the region

- a. Mai Po Nature Reserve – staff exchange programme
- b. Shenzhen Mangrove Wetland Conservation Foundation –Staff Visit and information exchange

**Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions**

1. Seocheon County – Yubu-do EAAFP network site
2. Hong Kong Wetland Park

## United States of America

1. **Participatory Type: Government**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: United States**
3. **Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Pete Probasco, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

The United States currently has designated one East Asian-Australasian (EAA) Flyway Network Site, the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, which was nominated in 2012 and formally accepted into the network during the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership's (EAAFP) 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Partners (MOP7) in Alaska. Information sheets for this site were updated in September 2016.

The United States is taking steps to nominate three additional sites to the EAA Flyway Network. The first site is located northeast of Teshekpuk Lake within the National Petroleum Reserve of Alaska in northern Alaska. Staff from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM, which has jurisdiction over the land) have conducted public hearings with Native Alaskans living near the area, as well as environmental groups within Alaska, to determine the feasibility of adding this site. Concerns from Native Alaskans about the potential for the designation to either restrict future subsistence harvest or oil and gas development led the BLM to select a small area that harbors at least 1% of the world's population of Dunlin. In addition, the site is currently protected from any oil and gas development and is away from subsistence cabins. A nomination package is currently being prepared with the hopes the site will be nominated during the MOP9 in Singapore in January 2017.

The second site is Sirius Point at Kiska Island located in the western Aleutian Archipelago of Alaska and part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (AMNWR). The US Fish and Wildlife Service is the federal agency that has jurisdiction over the land. Sirius Point is the breeding site of over six million Least and Crested auklets, many of which may winter in waters near the Kurile Islands and the Sea of Japan. Discussions with Steve Delahanty, AMNWR Refuge Manager, and Heather Renner, AMNWR Lead Refuge Biologist, were positive and tentative nomination of Sirius Point is hopeful.

The third site is Buldir Island, also part of the AMNWR and located in the western Aleutian Archipelago between Kiska Island and the Near Island group (Attu, Agattu, Nizki, Alaid, and Shemya). Buldir is home to 3.5 million breeding seabirds, including 500,000 Least and Crested auklets. Both auklets were recently confirmed wintering near the Kurile Island and the Sea of Japan. As with Sirius Point, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is the federal agency that has jurisdiction over the land. Discussions with Steve Delehanty (AMNWR Refuge Manager) and Heather Renner (AMNWR Lead Refuge Biologist) regarding the nomination of the site to the Flyway Network have been positive, and we continue to urge the AMNWR to support Buldir's nomination as a site to the EAA Flyway Network.

### *Objective 2: Communication, Education, Participation, and Awareness (CEPA)*

The US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies engage in regional meetings such as the Aleutian Life Forum, Alaska Bird Conference, and many other national and international bird meetings such as the American Ornithologist's Union meeting, the Pacific Seabird Meeting, the World Seabird Union, and the International Wader Study Group Meeting where issues on East Asian Australasian waterbird species are discussed.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners are celebrating the centennial of the first Migratory Bird Treaty, which formed the cornerstone of our efforts to conserve birds at the national and international levels. Partners in Alaska have been promoting activities and outreach initiatives designed to engage the public about migratory birds and their long-term conservation. Canada (1917), Mexico (1936), Japan (1972), and Russia (1976) signed similar treaties with the United States aimed at the conservation of migratory birds. The centennial anniversary emphasizes the value of actions like the Migratory Bird Treaty and how it continues to benefit migratory bird conservation today

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD; <http://www.migratorybirdday.org/>), similar to World Migratory Bird Day (<http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/>), is an annually held event to celebrate the spring arrival of migratory birds with celebrations held from Alaska to South America. The annual IMBD festivals strengthen community involvement in bird conservation by focusing on bird-related themes, for which outreach and education materials are prepared and available year-round, with an emphasis on introducing the next generation of conservationists to careers in natural resource fields.

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. Documentary style videos, for example, have helped engage local youth into conservation issues occurring in their communities. The Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, lands managed by the National Park Service (NPS), produced several youth videos focused on Yellow-billed Loons and the NPS's efforts to monitor and assess the health of the species [ *Alaska's Yellow-billed Loons* 2014, <http://youtu.be/Qwol-oBX540?list=UUIVsMcv6QD7cmqaZxCwulXg>; *Telling a loon story: An Alaskan youth filming expedition in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve* 2013, <http://youtu.be/EbRmNLWNvAc>; *Filming Alaska's Yellow Billed Loons: A Youth Experience* 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFGpfu2lauo>].

Bird resources in remote areas of Alaska are co-managed between federal, state and native groups via the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council (AMBCC). This process seeks to educate rural residents of the need to conserve bird resources but also recognizes the needs of native subsistence users. 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. Additionally, the AMBCC is a key partner in helping educate waterfowl hunters on the harmful consequences of toxic lead shot, an EAA Flyway identified threat.

Many federal agencies are involved with the conservation planning of migratory birds in Alaska. Within the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, conservation framework plans are in the process of being developed for high priority species, including the Canada Goose, Black Brant, Greater White-fronted Goose, Steller's Eider, Spectacled Eider, Harlequin Duck, Emperor Goose, Common Eider, Dunlin, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Yellow-billed Loon. These conservation frameworks will affect where resources are allocated in Alaska. Other federal agencies include the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Forest Service. The State of Alaska Fish and Game Department also conducts many community and education events.

### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Federal and state agencies conduct surveys at sites important to EAA Flyway migratory birds throughout Alaska, including annual aerial surveys for waterfowl species, boat-based surveys for seabirds, and ground-based surveys for shorebirds and landbirds. Numerous species-specific studies are also conducted on Yellow-billed and Red-throated Loons, Aleutian Terns, Kittlitz's Murrelets, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Least and Crested Auklets, Red-faced Cormorants 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.

During the spring 2015 and 2016, a number of partners conducted ground-based surveys for water birds on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge to determine the distribution and relative abundance of waterbirds. Because current population size or trend information is lacking for most arctic breeding shorebirds, it is extremely difficult to measure whether conservation actions range-wide are achieving their goal of increasing populations. Completing the surveys in the Yukon Delta NWR represent major progress toward this objective and results of the survey will be applied in management an

d conservation planning efforts throughout the ranges of the species, including parts of the EAA Flyway. When completed, we will have the first statistically robust estimates of the population size of shorebirds and other waterbirds in the Yukon Delta NWR. This geographically-broad, land-based survey is the first to be conducted on the refuge, and will contribute information to the Site Information Sheets for this EAA Flyway Network Site.

A mass seabird mortality event of unprecedented duration, geographic scope, and magnitude has been recorded based on observation of tens of thousands of dead marine birds across Alaska (mostly Common Murres). Dead murres were first observed during at-sea marine bird and mammal surveys in the Bering Sea in fall 2014, followed by reports of beach-cast murres throughout the northern Gulf of Alaska (GOA) in spring 2015 at annualized rates exceeding 150 times the long-term baseline. During summer of 2015 and 2016, complete reproductive failure of murres at several colonies in the GOA was reported for the first time in >30 years of monitoring. Reports of dead murres continued into fall and winter and ranged from southeast Alaska to the eastern Aleutian Islands and north to St. Paul Island in the Bering Sea. Following severe winter storms in December and January, >17,000 dead murres were counted at-sea and on beaches in Prince William Sound (in the GOA) for a total estimated mortality of ~25,000-60,000 birds. Similar mortality was recorded at Kodiak Island and the Alaska Peninsula. Results from necropsies indicate birds were emaciated and died of starvation.

Vessel traffic in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas is expected to increase dramatically with the decreasing extent of sea ice along the Northern Sea Route and the implementation of plans for offshore oil and gas development and deepwater port construction. Given the potential for an oil spill, knowledge of pelagic distribution of breeding seabirds and post-breeding shorebird distribution is critical for forming a spill response plan and for understanding the implications of a spill for marine bird (seabirds, shorebirds, loons) populations. Biologists within Alaska participate in a number of broad networks including the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Observing Network, the Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring, the Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey, Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey, At-Sea and Colony-based Seabird Surveys, and numerous waterfowl-specific surveys. Products from these monitoring efforts help inform decision-makers, guide conservation efforts, and develop spill response plans.

Population data on seabirds are essential for conservation of marine birds in Alaska, with several focal species widely used as indicators of change in marine ecosystems in the North Pacific Ocean. Several U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) (Alaska Maritime NWR, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWRs, Kodiak NWR, Togiak NWR, and Yukon Delta NWR) have collected similar data on nesting seabird populations since 1975 but disparate data formats and data storage locations have made it difficult to use data effectively. To remedy these issues, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Inventory and Monitoring Program began the task of tracking down and compiling seabird monitoring data for 24 seabird species from across Alaska. Once data sets and files are compiled into a standard format, next steps include population analysis across the North Pacific with efforts to identify correlations with environmental and other extrinsic variables. Such analyses will aid in identifying risk and mitigation factors for threats such as oil spills, invasive species, and climate change and associated changes to ocean environments.

The Yellow-billed Loon is an international species of concern with the global population estimated at 16,650-21,000. The species was considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act in 2014, but was not listed. These birds occur in a circumpolar distribution and breed on arctic tundra habitats, including areas of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and Cape Krusenstern National Monument. The loons winter from Russia and Alaska along the coastlines of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands to the Yellow Sea in China. Approximately 20-25% of the global population occurs seasonally in Alaska, where the total summer breeding population is estimated at 3,700-4,900 birds. The National Park Service in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conduct aerial loon surveys every other year (2013, 2015, 2017, etc.) to assess population trends and collect loon eggs and small prey fish to monitor types

and levels of contaminants at nesting lakes. Preliminary contaminants data from Yellow-billed Loons suggest that mercury may be approaching levels that could impede reproduction in the species (publication URL: <http://www.aoucospubs.org/doi/abs/10.1650/CONDOR-14-28.1>).

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Migratory bird management occurs throughout Alaska on the (i) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 16 National Wildlife Refuges (about 77 million acres); (ii) National Park Service's 15 national parks, preserves, monuments and national historic parks (about 54 million acres); (iii) Bureau of Land Management units (about 72 million acres); and (iv) several forests managed by the U.S Forest Service (about 22 million acres). In addition, the State of Alaska has 31 state wildlife areas totaling over 3 million acres. Federal and state personnel are involved in numerous training workshops/courses aimed at bettering conserving and managing areas and the birds 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, the Alaska Center for Conservation Science, Alaska Geographic Association, The Nature Conservancy Alaska, and others. These organizations are integral to conservation of migratory birds in Alaska and often work closely with federal and state partners to identify priorities and fill knowledge gaps.

The United States has a steering committee member (along with Canada, Russia and Norway) that is part of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI), an initiative of the Conservation for Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), designed to improve status and secure long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory birds. The AMBI steering committee members have worked closely with many parties in the EAAFP to develop a step-down conservation plan that focuses on habitat alteration and illegal harvest of migratory birds, and has a special focus on several arctic-breeding species that migrate along the EAA Flyway. This effort hopes to direct effective management across a species' range, regardless of national boundaries.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Federal biologists are involved in a number of international projects related to migratory waterbird and habitat conservation in the EAA Flyway, including the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative, the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Observing Network, the Pacific Seabird Group, the World Seabird Union, and the Circumpolar Seabird Working Group. These projects vary from focused on-the-ground conservation studies on the demographic of marine birds and shorebirds to formal groups that focus on communicating and sharing information.

The Government of the United States and the Government of the Russian Federation jointly developed an agreement in 1994 titled "Conservation of Nature and the Organization of Reserves". This agreement provides a framework for the two nations to coordinate and cooperate in the fields of natural resource conservation and is implemented by the "Area V Working Group". Among the topics of mutual interest for the Working Group include the exchange of best practices in management, and the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. In support of these joint interests, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Management Program invited aerial survey biologists from the Russian Academy of Sciences to Alaska to work with personnel from the Alaska Migratory Bird Management's Aerial Waterfowl Survey Program. During the visit, both U.S. and Russian pilot/biologists shared ground-based and air-based instruction of standardized aerial survey protocols including use of specialized data collection software. Methods for analyzing and displaying aerial survey data was also demonstrated. This information exchange is the beginning of international collaborations to monitor migratory bird species throughout the EAA Flyway using consistent protocols. Development of standardized data collection protocols increases the ability of scientists to accurately monitor population trends in shared waterfowl resources throughout their ranges.

Audubon Alaska has been working hard to compile ecological information on areas of high value to migratory birds. Audubon Alaska spent several years developing new methods based on mapping technology to identify marine Important Bird Areas, adding 124 new global IBAs to the list, many which are relevant to the EAA Flyway. Additionally, Audubon Alaska recently published version 3 of the Ecological Atlas of Alaska's Western Arctic (Sullender and Smith, 2016, Audubon Alaska, Anchorage, AK, USA). As birds from the Western Arctic disperse along all four major flyways, including the EAA Flyway, the atlas of maps helps to better understand the overlap of wildlife, people and development to inform conservation and management. Lastly, Audubon Alaska is updating the Alaska Watch List, which is updated every few years and is intended as a tool for early detection of declining and vulnerable bird populations.

## **Cambodia**

- 1. Participatory Type: Government Partner (Government, Inter-Governmental, International NGO, and Private Sector)**
- 2. Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Royal Government of Cambodia**
- 3. Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Dr. Srey Sunleang, Director of Department Freshwater Wetlands Conservation of General Directorate of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection, Ministry of Environment**

### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets: 1

- Prek Toal Ramsar site
- Koh Kapih Ramsar site

Number of proposed new FNS: 6

- Stung Treng Ramsar Site
- Koh Kapi Ramsar Site
- Ang Trapeang Thmor Protected Landscape
- Boeung Prek Papov Protected Landscape
- Anglung Pring Protected Landscape
- Northern Tonle Sap Protected Landscape

### *Objective 2: CEPA*

Cambodia has joined the East Asian Australasia Flyway Partnership in 2007. The conservation and protection of breeding colonies of migratory waterbirds and its habitats are particularly stated in the Prek Toal Core Area Management Plan for year 2007 to 2011 and updating to 2015-2019.

The establishment of the FNS is ongoing. Three national partnership meetings were held at all levels including local, provincial and national levels (2011). Purpose of the meeting is to recognize Prek Toal Core Area of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve and as the Ramsar site as well as the Flyway Network Site which is contributed to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats within the East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership; and to strengthen information sharing and lessons learnt. A total of 150 participants attended the meetings from local communities, Protected Area rangers, local authorities and relevant governmental organizations and NGOs.

Video documentary and video spots are produced to promote public's interest in the conservation of waterbirds and visitor attraction.

Translation and dissemination of Flyway document. The Flyway document have been translated from English to Khmer (national language) as the followings:

1. Partnership for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and the Sustainable Use of their Habitats in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. (Short Title “Partnership for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway)
2. Implementation Strategy for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership: 2007 – 2011
3. Communications Strategy for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership
4. Information Sheet on Flyway Network Sites
5. Fourth Meeting of Partners, Songdo, Republic of Korea, 23 and 24 February 2010
6. Information Brochure on Partnership for the EAST ASIAN Australasian Flyway

### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

Annual celebration of the World Migratory Bird Day with the participation of government officials, NGOs, teachers, students and local communities has been conducted.

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- Promote bird watching activities
- Migratory bird education in universities
- Welcome to the bird educational program
- Establishment of bird watching club
- Organize census for key species such as Black Face Spoon-billed
- Bird and habitat monitoring at all FNS (potential sites)

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

Waterbird monitoring programme was developed in 2001 at Prek Toal Core Area. A comprehensive monitoring programme has put in place from 2003 onward, aim to estimate population size and detect annual population trend of key species of large waterbirds. The detection of population increase and decrease of species concern is critical to evaluate the success of the management intervention.

Ministry of Environment, BirdLife and partners organized annual Sarus Crane Census in Cambodia. This monitoring initiative has been implemented for more than 6 years to see the trend of this sub-species. The regional workshop on Sarus Crane had been conducted in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in June 2016 with the purpose of developing regional species action plan.

### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation:

Number of training workshops had been conducted for the wetland site managers, NGOs and other stakeholders.

Number of sites with local capacity building programs:

Prek Toal, Koh Kapi, Boeung Tonle Chhmar, Anlung Pring, Boeung Prek Lapov and Ang Trapeang Thmor.

### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

There are 6 international projects have been developed and implemented in the FNS including Tonle

Sap (Prek Toal and Boeung Tonle Chhmar Core Areas of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve), Stung Treng and Koh Kapi Ramsar Sites, Anlung Pring, Boeung Prek Lapov and Ang Trapeang Thmor Protected Landscape.

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions:

Beside the FNS under the management of Ministry of Environment, there are many other sites that are being managed by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

## **People's Republic of China**

1. **Participatory Type: Partner (Government, Inter-Governmental, International NGO, and Private Sector)**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: China.**
3. **Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Report prepared by Lei Guangchun State Forestry Administration**

### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

- FNS: 19.
- Updated SIS: 1 (Xianghai NR, still in Chinese)

Number of proposed new FNS

- 1 (Hainan Dong Fang Black-faced Spoonbill Nature Reserve)

### *Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

Number of National Partnership meetings held

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- 2.1 National wide scale activities in Birds Week, the first week of April, were organized by government, specialized societies, NGOs, to enhance public awareness of bird conservation.



Birds Week in Wuhan, Hubei.



Exhibition and communication activities in Beihai, Guangxi.

- 2.2 National and international bird festivals have been held in many places, from the north to the south, especially on the East Asian – Australasian Flyway sites.



The Second International Bird Viewing Megagame of Dalian, Liaoning.



The Bird Festival of Dongtan Wetland, Shanghai.



The Fourth Bird Festival of Dongzhaigang, Hainan.

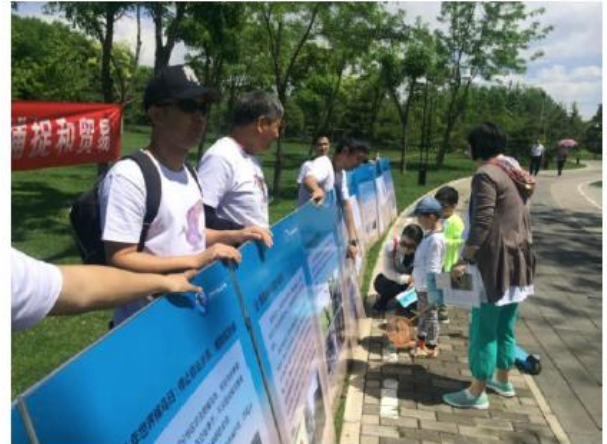
- 2.3 The 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Bird Fair was organized by Jingshan County People's Government and Cuncaoxin Rural Environmental Protection Association (NGO).



- 2.4 The State Council issued national policy for the protection and restoration of wetlands in Dec, 2016. It stipulates that with joint efforts from central and local governments, the total area of wetlands should be preserved. Meanwhile, a reward and punishment system should be established, with

lifelong accountability for major government officials in wetlands protection. The plan also urges more legal, financial, and scientific support to protect and restore wetlands.

- 2.5 The World Migratory Bird Day campaign was held in Beiwu Park at the foot of Yuquan Hill, Beijing, in May 15th, 2016. This campaign was organized by National Bird Banding Center, and focused on the publicity of anthropogenic threats that migratory birds faced in China. A line of exhibition boards was established along the main road of the park, and staff from National Bird Banding Center stood besides these boards to introduce the situation and research of migratory birds in China.



### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

3.1 Major research works on White-naped Crane, Scaly-sided Merganser, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Baer's Pochard, and shorebirds.

- Participated in the International White-naped Crane Working Group Conference was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (2016). The participants, from the breeding and wintering areas of these cranes, made the further protected works for them. Banding and satellite tracking of cranes were still carried on.
- Study on relationship between hydrological fluctuation, Carex and wintering geese, have been conducted in the middle of Yangtz River. Satellite tracking has been applied to the migratory geese.
- National wide survey on Baer's Pochards, and new breeding sites and distribution areas have been confirmed. More surveys for these rare waterbirds will be monitored in the next 2 to 3 years.
- With the scientific and technological support of the EAAFP Scaly-sided Merganser Group, The China Birdwatching Association has set up a network of bird watching societies all over the country and conducted three over wintering surveys since 2014. Each year, nationwide investigations on the population and habitat of Scaly-sided Merganser were carried out at more than 200 sites in 21 provinces by over 65 societies, organizations and groups, with research areas involving the southern, middle and eastern parts of China. New wintering sites were

discovered each year, and threats to habitat were also reported, which has promoted the establishment of local ecosystem management and protection policies.

- Shorebirds.

For understanding the population status of shorebirds stopover in Rudong of Jiangsu, some shorebirds including Spoon-billed Sandpiper were banded and marked with color flag markers by the professor of Nanjing Normal University with the experts of British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and Royal Society of Bird Protection (RSBP) from September 25 to October 6, 2016. Nearly one thousand shorebirds were banded and marked with (green/blue) flag markers. 9 Spoon-billed Sandpipers were banded and marked using yellow flag with engraved 2 numbers and 3 Spoon-billed Sandpiper were captured and attached with Platform Transmitter Terminals (PTTs). At least one of them was moving from Rudong to Zhaoan of Fujian province on December.



Photo by David Li, Zhanjiang, 6/12/2016

To implement the Working plan of China-Russia bilateral agreement on conservation of

migratory birds and their habitats agreed during the first meeting in Moscow in 2015, The experts of Spoon-billed Sandpiper from All-Russian Institute of Ecology was invited to China and join a investigation on migratory population of Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Jiangsu, Fujian. In the survey, 116 Spoon-billed Sandpiper were recorded in Rudong, which was the largest number of the wintering population survey.



3.2 China coastal wetland blueprint project has been completed successfully by October 2015. The achievements of this project have strongly impacted on government policies. Much more coastal wetlands, especially for the habitats of these migratory birds, will be preserved. The local governments have promised to establish two new nature reserves – Nanpu wetland and Rudong wetland, which are unprotected just now. And public awareness for the conservation of coastal wetlands has been improved.

3.3 Organized Yellow Sea-Bohai Region Coordinated Waterbird Survey in April 2016.

- Approximately 30 partners from institutions related to environmental protection, forestry, wetland reserves, wetland parks, universities and research institutes worked together to undertake the survey. Altogether, 154 professional and technical personnel and volunteers along with international waterbird experts from Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands participated in the survey. The total length of survey area stretches about 6500 km, from the Yalu River estuary in the northeast (adjoining North Korea), along the sea coast to south of the Yangtze River estuary, covering six provinces and municipalities. The survey recorded a total of nearly 80,7000 waterbirds of 119 species in 18 major sites along the Yellow Sea-Bohai Region. The count was dominated by shorebirds (81.4% of the total). The survey provided a good chance to communicate with all nature-protected workers, and collected very important data of waterbirds. It will be useful to protect these migratory birds and their habitats.



#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

##### 4.1 National training

- December 9-10, 2016, national training of Chinese Flyway Network Sites was organized by State Forestry Administration and Beijing Forestry University, for improving capacity of their protection works. During this training, the organizers emphatically introduced the SIS and how to complete it. Considering most of these sites are also the distribution areas of Baer's Pochards, the workshop on conservation network of BPs was held on the same day. The participants presented the current situation in different habitats, and discussed the further action plan for conservation of BPs.



4.2 China Coastal Wetland Conservation Network was built by SFA and Paulson Institute in 2015, involved wetland nature reserves, wetland management governments, universities and research institutes, NGOs. It holds meeting of partners every year. Meanwhile, it holds training classes for the staffs of nature reserves, such as organizing the study tour to Mai Po wetland, Hong Kong. It provides the information exchange platform for the conservation of birds.

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

5.1 Workshop on nature conservation and transboundary cooperation

- This workshop was organized by UNESCAP (East and North-East Asia Office, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations) and Beijing Forestry University on November 28-29, 2016. It reviewed the status of transboundary nature conservation in North-East Asia including outcomes of two NEASPEC (North-East Asia Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation) projects (Amur tigers and leopards, and key habitats on migratory birds) and discussed the way forward. For the three NEAPSEC flagship species (Black-faced Spoonbill, Hooded Crane and White-naped Crane), NEASPEC implemented the project on 'Conservation and rehabilitation of habitats for key migratory birds in North-East Asia' aiming to improve the conservation status and strengthen bilateral and multilateral, as well as multi-level cooperation for migratory birds conservation.



5.2 China –US bilateral cooperation, both official and unofficial cooperation.

5.3 Revision of national wildlife protection law

The revision of national wildlife law emphasizes the importance of conservation of habitat for endangered species, and upgraded many migratory water birds in the list.

National policy supports the management of key habitat for the migratory water birds.

A new GEF proposal has been formulated, with the specific focus on the flyway network sites.

### 5.3 Yalujiang – Miranda sister site cooperation

#### Bangladesh

Partner Report has not been submitted.

#### Thailand

1. Participatory Type: Government Partner
2. Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Thailand
3. Name of draftsman and organization you present: The Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Task	Activities
Number of Flyway Network of Sites with current and updated Site Information Sheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thailand has nominated wetland site at Krabi Estuary, Krabi Province (Ramsar site No 1100) as shorebird network and Thailand's first migratory bird network since Nov. 9, 2005 (EAAFP site No. 084)</li> <li>- Moreover, Thailand has submitted the two sites at Pak Thalay – Leam Pak Bia wetland, Petchaburi Province (EAAFP site No. 121) and Khok Kham wetland, Samutsakorn Province (EAAFP site No. 122) as shorebird network and Thailand's migratory bird network since Dec. 26, 2014</li> </ul>
Number of proposed new FNSs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The next three FNSs : Huay Jarakae Mak Reservoir Wildlife Non – Hunting Area, Sanam Bin Reservoir Wildlife Non-Hunting Area and Huay Talad Reservoir Wildlife Non-Hunting Area, Buriram Province are on the process to get approval from the National Wetland Management Committee and suppose further to submit to the Secretariat in 2017.</li> </ul>

*Objective 2: Enhance communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory water birds and their habitats*

Task	Activities
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<p>1. Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)</p>	<p>The National Partnerships are as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP)</li> <li>- Pak Thalay District Administrative Organization</li> <li>- Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BCST)</li> <li>- Thai Wetlands Foundation</li> <li>- Bang Pu Nature Education Center</li> </ul>
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Task	Activities
2. Number of National Partnership meeting held	DNP and BCST have already set up project and activities in its own management plan as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precautionary and monitoring of emerging diseases program</li> <li>• Leg flag labeling</li> <li>• Migratory bird population counting and migratory waterbird mapping</li> </ul>
3. Activities to promote migratory water birds conservation awareness	Many public relation activities have been conducted to promote wildlife conservation especially migratory water birds as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Youth Camps in many wildlife non – hunting areas annually</li> <li>• Exhibition about migratory shorebirds at the Thailand National Research Conference 2016, to publicize related studies and researches and raise public /tourist awareness on migratory waterbirds and their habitat conservation.</li> <li>• Migratory Shorebirds Festival to promote public awareness on migratory birds and its habitat conservation to tourists</li> <li>• Bird Festival to disseminate knowledge about migratory waterbirds and its habitat to all people annually at Khok Kham wetland.</li> <li>• World Migratory Bird Day at Petchaburi Rajabhat University and Laem Phak Bia Environment Research and Development project on 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The event comprised of lecture and leg flag labeling activities.</li> </ul>
4. Migratory water birds incorporated into developing plans and policies	Thailand already compiled projects and activities to promote migratory water birds and their habitats in the Master Plan for integrated Biodiversity management B.E. 2015 -2021 and Biodiversity Management Action plan B.E 2017–2021, as well as in management plan for National Park such as precautionary and monitoring of emerging diseases program, leg flag labeling, and migratory bird population counting.

*Objective 3: Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, build knowledge and promote exchange of information on water birds and their habitats.*

Task	Activities
1. Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory water birds and their habitats	None
2. Improved monitoring of migratory water birds and habitats	None
3. Information shared and widely available (improved networks)	Publicize project on associated with migratory birds emerging diseases, including leg flag tagging and sampling for bird flu testing of barn Swallow in Bangkok.

**Objective 4:** *Build the habitat and water birds management capacity of natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders.*

Task	Activities
1. Number of site manager training Workshops /courses in migratory water birds and site conservation	DNP conducts training course on migratory water bird identification, leg flag labeling, sample collection and habitat management to all DNP staff.
2. Number of sites with local capacity building programs	2 sites (Khok Kham, Samutsakorn Province and Pak talay-Laem Pak bia, Petchaburi Province

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

Task	Activities
1. Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory water birds and habitat conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thailand has international cooperation in migratory route monitoring. In this year, Thailand already got financial support from UNDP – GEF to conduct the project on Conserving Habitat for Globally Important Flora and Fauna in Production Landscape. The habitat of the Spoon bill sand piper was selected and therefore, the reintroduction of Sarus crane will be implemented by the Zoo Organization.</li> <li>- Thailand shares the information and the number of species of migratory waterbirds that have leg flag labeled</li> <li>- DNP to take part in Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of natural Resources and Environment of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation on exchange and sharing information /knowledge regarding migratory waterbirds.</li> </ul>
2. Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions.	None

## **Mongolia**

1. Participatory Type: Partner: Mongolia Government
2. Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Ministry of Environment and Tourism
3. Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Mr. Tsogtsaikhan Purev, Ministry of Environment and Tourism / Dr. Gombobaatar Sundev, Mongolian Ornithological Society and National University of Mongolia

### **Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites**

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

*Except for Ugtam, all network sites/10/ database updated by Mongolian ornithological society National University of Mongolia and MEGD in March 2016. As well shorebird ringing program every autumn Waterbird census every year conducted by Mongolian ornithological society National University of Mongolia and MEGD*

Number of proposed new FNS

*Ganga lake, Buir lake, Uvs lake and Airag, Khar-Us and Khyargas lakes /6/ nominated as new network sites by related organizations.*

## **Objective 2: CEPA**

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

*On 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 more 30 people were involved in the event in Terelj National Park by Mongolian ornithological society National University of Mongolia and MEGD*

Number of National Partnership meetings held

*Conducted World Migratory Bird Day 2015-2016 and in during this measurments In 2015 more than 200 participants, 2016 more than 800 school children and others involved. The event was organized by Mongolian ornithological society National University of Mongolia and MEGD*

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

*Poster of Waterbirds printed out and distributed by Mongolian ornithological society National University of Mongolia and MEGD to 200+500 people in 2015 and 2016.*

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

*National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan/2015-2020/ of Mongolia completed in August 2015 by Government and some migratory water bird conservation, its habitat conservation actions are included.*

## **Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange**

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

*Every January 2015 and 2016 wintering waterbirds count was run and reported by Mongolian ornithological society, National University of Mongolia. Shore bird count and migration in Eastern Ramsar sites were conducted by Mongolian ornithological society National University of Mongolia and MEGD in Autumn 2016*

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

*Fifty percent of the action were completed which related to developed and completed database on shore birds and migratory water birds' migration by November 2016.*

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

*Twenty percent of the atlas were developed by Mongolian ornithological society National University of Mongolia and MEGD.*

## **Objective 4: Capacity Building**

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

Two people participated in Regional wetland managers workshop in Suncheon city in October 10-14, 2016.

*In October 2015 Ramsar National workshop was organized by RRC-EA, EAAFP MOS, NUM and MAS. The report was written and sent to RRC-EA and EAAFP.*

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

#### **Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches**

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

*According to plan Develop potential sister city programme between Mongolia, China, Korea, Japan the Suncheon bay and Mongol Daguur sister sites/2/ initiative is under progress in 2016.*

### **New Zealand**

#### **New Zealand Report for 2015-2016**

**Prepared by: Bruce McKinlay Department of Conservation representative to the EAAFP.**

- 1. Participatory Type: Government**
- 2. Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Department of Conservation (DOC)**
- 3. Name of draftsman and organisation you represent: Bruce McKinlay, Department of Conservation**

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

- Both the Firth of Thames and the Farewell Spit FNS sites have up to date Site Information Sheets.

Number of proposed new FNS

- DOC is currently working on submitting two new Flyway Site Network Nominations. These relate to the Awarua Bay in Southland New Zealand and the Heathcote Avon Estuary in Canterbury New Zealand.

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

- The New Zealand Partners (Department of Conservation and Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust) have regular formal and informal meetings.

Number of National Partnership meetings held

- There have been three formal meetings held in 2016.

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness.

- DOC has launched an Estuaries website to identify knowledge and information relating to sites that waterbirds use in New Zealand. Here is the link <http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/habitats/estuaries/>
- DOC and colleagues from Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust presented on the EAAFP and migratory shorebirds at the NZ Bird Conference in Napier in June 2016.
- DOC and colleagues from Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust, the Australian Wader Study Group and Australian Department of Environment and Energy presented on the EAAFP and migratory shorebirds at the Australasian Shorebird Conference in Auckland in October 2016.
- Christchurch City Council has taken a lead of highlighting the arrival of godwits back to NZ in September 2016. Here is a link <https://ccc.govt.nz/the-council/newsline/show/1013>
- DOC took the lead in organizing a “Dog’s Breakfast event in Napier to work with dog owners to protect roosting shorebirds from wandering dogs. Here is a link to a press release <http://events.stuff.co.nz/2016/ahuriri-estuary-dogs-breakfast-for-you-and-your-dog/napier>
- The Birdlife New Zealand Partner, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, runs an Annual Bird of the Year contest which is open to all New Zealanders to vote in. The 2015 Bird of the Year was the bar-tailed godwit. Here is a link to the release <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/publications/media-release/bar-tailed-godwit-kuaka-crowned-bird-the-year>

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- Nil to report

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

The following is a list of Science outputs on migratory shorebirds generated in part or whole by Dr Phil Battley, Massey University, and his students.

1. Conklin, J.R., N.R. Senner, P.F. Battley & T. Piersma. Extreme migration and the individual quality spectrum. *Journal of Avian Biology*, in press.
2. Choi, C.Y., P.F. Battley, M.A. Potter, Z. Ma, D.S. Melville & P. Sukkaewmanee. 2017. How migratory shorebirds selectively exploit prey at a single-prey-species-dominated staging site. *Auk*, in press (cover illustration, March 2017).
3. Martin Bulla, Mihai Valcu, Adriaan M. Dokter, Alexei G. Dondua, András Kosztolányi, Anne Rutten, Barbara Helm, Brett K. Sandercock, Bruce Casler, Bruno J. Ens, Caleb S. Spiegel, Chris J. Hassell, Clemens Küpper, Clive Minton, Daniel Burgas, David B. Lank, David C. Payer, Egor Y. Loktionov, Erica Nol, Eunbi Kwon, Fletcher Smith, H. River Gates, Hana Vitnerová, Hanna Prüter, James A. Johnson, James J. H. St Clair, Jean-François Lamarre, Jennie Rausch, Jeroen Reneerkens, Jesse R. Conklin, Joanna Burger, Joe Liebezeit, Joël Bêty, Jonathan T. Coleman, Jordi Figuerola, Jos C. E. W. Hooijmeijer, José A. Alves, Joseph A. M. Smith, Karel Weidinger, Kari Koivula, Ken Gosbell, Larry Niles, Laura Koloski, Laura McKinnon, Libor Praus, Marcel Klaassen, Marie-Andrée Giroux, Martin Sládeček, Megan L. Boldenow, Michael Exo, Michael I. Goldstein, Miroslav Šálek, Nathan Senner, Nelli Rönkä, Nicolas Lecomte, Olivier Gilg, Orsolya Vincze, Oscar W. Johnson, Paul A. Smith, Paul F. Woodard, Pavel S. Tomkovich, Phil F. Battley, Rebecca Bentzen, Richard B. Lanctot, Ron Porter, Sarah T. Saalfeld, Scott Freeman, Stephen C. Brown, Stephen Yezerinac, Tamás Székely, Theunis Piersma, Tomás Montalvo, Vanessa Loverti, Veli-Matti Pakanen, Wim Tijssen, Bart Kempenaers. Defying the 24-h day: Unexpected diversity in socially synchronized rhythms of shorebirds. *Nature*, in press.

4. Weiser, E.L., R.B. Lanctot, S.C. Brown, J.A. Alves, P.F. Battley, R. Bentzen, J. Bêty, M.A. Bishop, M. Boldenow, L. Bollache, B. Casler, M. Christie, J.T. Coleman, J.R. Conklin, W.B. English, H.R. Gates, O. Gilg, M.-A. Giroux, K. Gosbell, C. Hassell, J. Helmericks, A. Johnson, B. Katrínardóttir, K. Koivula, E. Kwon, J.-F. Lamarre, J. Lang, D.B. Lank, N. Lecomte, J.R. Liebezeit, V. Loverti, L. McKinnon, C. Minton, D. Mizrahi, E. Nol, V.-M. Pakanen, J. Perz, R.R. Porter, J. Rausch, J. Reneerkens, N. Rönkä, S. Saalfeld, N. Senner, B. Sittler, P.A. Smith, K. Sowl, A. Taylor, D.H. Ward, S. Yezerinac, B.K. Sandercock. 2016. Effects of geolocators on demographic rates of 16 species of Arctic-breeding shorebirds. *Movement Ecology* 4:12.
5. Choi, C.-Y., K. Rogers, X. Gan, Q.-Q. Bai, A. Lilleyman, A. Lindsey, D.A. Milton, P. Straw, Y.-t. Yu, P.F. Battley, R.A. Fuller & D.I. Rogers. 2016. Phenology of southward migration of shorebirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and inferences about stopover strategies. *Emu* 116: 178–189.
6. Conklin, J.R., T. Lok, D.S. Melville, A.C. Riegen, R. Schuckard, T. Piersma & P.F. Battley. 2016. Declining adult survival of New Zealand Bar-tailed Godwits during 2005–2012 despite apparent population stability. *Emu* 116: 147–157.
7. Szabo, J.K., P.F. Battley, K.L. Buchanan & D.I. Rogers. 2016. What does the future hold for shorebirds in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway? *Emu* 116: 95-99.
8. Choi, C.-Y., P.F. Battley, M.A. Potter, K.G. Rogers & Z. Ma. 2015. The importance of Yalujiang in the northern Yellow Sea to Bar-tailed Godwits *Limosa lapponica* and Great Knots *Calidris tenuirostris* during northward migration. *Bird Conservation International* 25: 53-70.

#### Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- Birds New Zealand takes the lead on coordinating bi-annual surveys of shorebirds in New Zealand. These are compiled and summarised here <http://www.osnz.org.nz/national-wader-count>
- As part of a partnership between the Department of Conservation, Dairy Co-Op Fonterra and Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust, a parcel of land adjoining the Firth of Thames Flyway Site was recently purchased. The negotiations were led by Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust. This land is a critically important component of the shorebird high tide roost system on the Firth of Thames. This partnership is currently planning habitat restoration and enhancement on a wider catchment scale

#### Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- Information on shorebirds and the work of DOC and the EAAFP is freely available on a variety of websites.
- Regular formal and informal catchups between partners (DOC & PMNT) and colleagues from Universities and other NGO groups such as Birds NZ as well as individuals engaged in shorebird conservation ensure that domestic networks are strong.
- DOC completed an in-house analysis of whether to add ruddy turnstone to our priority list of species. This analysis concluded that New Zealand is not a significant part of the range of Turnstone.

#### Objective 4: Capacity Building

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

- The New Zealand Ramsar Symposium entitled “Our Global Wetlands” was held 17-19 March 2015. Both New Zealand Partners were represented and presented to a plenary on the topic “Migratory bird flyways-priorities for New Zealand”. We also facilitated a workshop on identifying Flyway Site Network nominations.

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

- Nil to report

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

- The New Zealand Department of Conservation has concentrated effort in building bilateral relations with partners from State Forestry Administration in the Peoples Republic of China. We have engaged with SFA partners to visit China and discuss with them the needs of migratory shorebirds along the flyway. In November 2015, the Director-General of the Department of Conservation (Mr Lou Sanson) travelled to Beijing and held a number of meetings with partners from the State Forestry Administration, the State Oceanic Administration, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Hebei Forestry Administration. In addition, the Director-General had discussions with several NGO partners in Beijing.
- In March 2016 Vice Minister Cheng Fengxue of the State Forestry Administration visited New Zealand and signed a Memorandum of Arrangement between his organization and the Department of Conservation to facilitate cooperation on shorebird conservation. This agreement was signed at Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre.
- The Department of Conservation has also engaged with Australian Partners by supporting the launch of the 2016 Australian Migratory Shorebird Plan in Melbourne in April 2016.
- The Department of Conservation has also engaged with the IUCN regional workshop in Beijing and at the IUCN World Conservation Congress to support international efforts to support the conservation of the intertidal areas of the Yellow Sea for the conservation of migratory shorebirds.
- The Department of Conservation was also invited to be an observer at the Migratory Bird Agreement bi-laterals between Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea and PR China. While there we had informal meetings with colleagues from PRC, ROK and Australia.

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

Nil to report

## Malaysia

1. **Participatory Type: Government**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Malaysia**
3. **Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment**

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

1. Bako Buntal Bay, Sarawak, Malaysia

Number of proposed new FNS

1. Kuala Gula, Kerian, Perak

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

#### Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

1. The establishment of Bako Buntal Bay (BBB) as a flyway site has raised the awareness of various government agencies, key stakeholders and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of the importance of BBB as a site for migratory birds.
2. Participation of Malaysian delegates in the MoP8 in Kushiro enhances the recognition of the said site.

#### Number of National Partnership meetings held

1. Post-MoP8 meeting in Kuala Gula, Perak on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2015 organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, which was attended by Malaysian delegates to MOP8 and other key stakeholders, demonstrates the country's commitment in conservation of migratory birds.
2. Preparation meetings with other local stakeholders on Launching of the BBB monument on-site
3. Meeting with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment on the formalization of sister-site partnership between BBB and Kushiro-shitsugen.
4. 2 debriefing meetings were held to discuss on decisions and actions that need to be taken by respective partners following the MoP8:
  - (i) Pre Debriefing 8th Meeting Of Partners (MoP8) Meeting, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), Kushiro, Japan was held at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015; and
  - (ii) Site visit to Kuala Gula Wildlife Conservation Center and Debriefing of MoP8 EAAFP Meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015 which involved the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Wildlife and National Park, Department of Forestry of Peninsular Malaysia, Darul Ridzuan Institute, Malaysian Nature Society, Sarawak Forestry Corporation and Perak Forestry Department.
5. Site visit to Kuala Gula Wildlife Conservation Center and Meeting for Kuala Gula as Flyway Network Site (FNS) was held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016 which involved Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Wildlife and National Park, State Planning Unit, Department of Environment and Department of Forestry of Peninsular Malaysia. The objective of this meeting is to discuss on the nomination of Kuala Gula as a Flyway Network Site. During this meeting, Dr. Asae Sayaka of Darul Ridzuan Institute had presented a Preliminary Survey of Waterbirds along the Matang Coast, Perak.

#### Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

1. Asian Waterbird Census was held from 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and 21<sup>st</sup> - 22nd January 2016 at Hutan Simpan Paya Laut Matang, Perak. The objective of this programme is to collect waterbirds

census data in wetlands and related Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and is coordinated by Wetlands International.

2. Program Kembara Bersama Media was held in April 2015 and this programme has helped in bringing major press in the country to do a media coverage on BBB.
3. Launching of Bako Buntal Bay Monument in conjunction with Buntal Festival on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016 by the Honorable Minister of Natural Resources and Environment.
4. Migratory Waterbird and East-Asia Asian Flyway (EAAF) Awareness Programme was organized by Department of Wildlife and National Park at Kuala Gula Wildlife Conservation Center, Perak on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015. This programme was also jointly organized with Milky Stork Reintroduction Awareness Programme to raise awareness among local community on waterbirds and EAAF.
5. Festival of Wings was organized by Malaysian Nature Society on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016 at Kuala Selangor Nature Park, Selangor to promote the importance of birds as a natural indicator for earth health, awareness of the environment as well as promoting the nature park itself as an eco-tourism destination.

#### Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

Under the recently launched National Policy on Biological Diversity 2016-2025, Malaysia has set under Goal 5 to improve the capacity, knowledge and skills of all stakeholders to conserve biodiversity. Hence, to achieve this goal, Malaysia will strengthen its international and regional organizations and fully support Malaysia's obligations biodiversity-related conventions which include EAAFP. Thus, some of the actions taken to incorporate migratory waterbirds conservation into plan and policies are:

- (i) EIA is required for land developments;
- (ii) site parts of protected area to meet country's Aichi Target;
- (iii) to include site under integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans;
- (iv) to list site under Important Bird Areas; and
- (v) Local Structural Plan

#### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

##### Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

- (i) Monitoring and data collection for 12 months;
- (ii) DNA collections for Department of Wildlife and National Park DNA Bank; and
- (ii) Avian Influenza monitoring;

##### Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

1. Asian Waterbird Census (AWC)

##### Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

1. AWC report, article for newsletter

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

##### Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

Two training and workshops were organized by Malaysian Nature Society:

1. Introduction to Coastal Waterbirds and Wetlands was held in January 2015; and
2. AWC Training Workshop was held in October 2015

##### Number of sites with local capacity building programs

A community programme was held in Bako Buntal in February 2016 to engage the local community with the conservation effort on Bako Buntal as EAAFP site. The programme was held in conjunction with Festival Buntal. The highlight of the programme was the installation and launching of Bako Buntal Monument on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

##### Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

1. The Kapar Declaration 2016 - habitat conservation

##### Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

There is one proposed sister site partnership with Kushiro-shitsugen of Japan. Early discussion with the relevant stakeholders was held in 2016 in Putrajaya to finalize the details of the proposed partnership before it can be brought up for endorsement.

#### **Myanmar**

Partner Report has not been submitted.

#### **Vietnam**

1. **Participatory Type: Government**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), Viet Nam**
3. **Name of draftsman and organization you present: Biodiversity Conservation Agency, Vietnam Environment Administration, (MoNRE)**

### **VIETNAM PARTNER 2016 REPORT**

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

In period of 2015-2016, Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA) actively developed Flyway Network Sites via:

✓ Provide technical supports for potential sites: Xuan Thuy National Park in Nam Dinh province and Tram Chim National Park in Dong Thap to complete their site nomination information sheets;

✓ Review and comments for the completed information sheets submitted by two sites to further completion;

✓ In 2016, the funding from Small Grant Program 2016 of EAAFP (\$ 1.000) provided finance for holding one day workshop (WS) at Nam Dinh Province in June 2016. The WS aimed at consult with local experts and local government to further develop the nomination profile for Xuan Thuy National Park. The WS timely facilitated the completion of XTNP profile for submitting the Secretariat.

✓ In addition, in 2016, Viet Nam also got the financial support (over \$ 900) from the Secretariat for translation of profiles of Xuan Thuy NP and Tram Chim NP.

✓ The English version information sheets of Xuan Thuy National Park and Tram Chim National Park to the Secretariat was submitted to the Secretariat for review and consideration in mid – December, 2016. BCA is active cooperating with EAAFP to contact with the sites for improvement of profile and recognition of 2 sites.

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

In 2016, BCA has raised the understanding and awareness of the public and relevant organizations about the importance of conservation areas for migratory birds as well as the information on Flyway Partnership when integrating the CEPA in the World Wetlands Day (02 February 2016).

With support from the Small Grant Program (SGP) for World Migratory Bird Day events, BCA in cooperation with the management board of Xuan Thuy National Park (XTNP) to organize a consultation workshop for nominating XTNP as a Flyway Site on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

The Workshop (WS) was organized in order to highlight the importance of participation into the Network as well as to discuss about nominating XTNP as one of the first site of Viet Nam in the Network.

The participants from universities, institutes, local experts, representatives from buffer zone communes and especially the management board of XTNP and local officers accessed to information on the objectives, strategies, structure and participation of EAAFP and the benefits and opportunities for the Network.

The criteria and procedure to nominate a wetland area to a Flyway site were presented to the target audiences.

#### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Up to 2016, there is no in-depth research relating to conservation of water migratory birds at wetland areas in Viet Nam. Although the significance of wetlands monitoring are commonly recognized, the resources for this activity remain limited, far from actual needs in terms of both finance, techniques and human resources

Because there are a few knowledge generation and exchange in Viet Nam. BCA expects to promote this kind of activity with the support from relevant international organization and donors.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Due to the limit of resources, the capacity building for local stakeholders is prioritized, a limited number of activities are carried out, though. BCA mainly provides technical comments and advice for local staffs of potential sites on development of the nomination information sheets from the parks.

For upcoming time, BCA hopes to implement more capacity building campaign for stakeholders through organizing training workshops, delivering publications relating to the Flyway Partnership.

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

In the future, BCA plans to seek the international support from programs and projects to strengthen Flyway-wide approaches, helping to the efforts of Viet Nam in migratory birds and wetland protection and conservation.

**Australasian Wader Studies Group – BirdLife Australia**

**1. Participatory Type: INGO**

**2. Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Australasian Wader Studies Group**

**3. Name of compiler and organisation: Ken Gosbell, Doug Watkins, Alison Russell-French (AWSG)**

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

1.2 Prepare draft Site Information Sheets for potential nomination by National Governments

- AWSG and Birdlife Australia have provided support for the nomination of several Network Sites in the Gulf of Carpentaria region of northern Australia with the cooperation and collaboration of Indigenous Rangers.
- Birdlife Australia lead on the technical preparation of the nomination of part of Spencer Gulf.
- AWSG has reviewed the nomination documents for three Australian Flyway Network Sites at the request of the EAAFP Chief Executive.

*Objective 2: CEPA*

2.2 Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

- Over the March – May 2016 period, AWSG supported the Birdlife Australia 'Shorebirds Campaign'. This was a major program coordinated by Birdlife Australia aimed at publicizing the migratory shorebird story and the critical need for conservation action both in Australia and elsewhere in the Flyway. Several web-based and field activities were undertaken. One of the objectives was to raise funds for shorebird conservation initiatives.
- As part of this Campaign, a day long 'Shorebird Summit' was held in Melbourne involving key stakeholders from Commonwealth and State governments, NGO's, private sector corporations, academics and other shorebird experts. The focus of the day was for the Commonwealth Government to launch the updated "Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds" and the development of an action plan around this. It was a successful first step but will require ongoing follow up. A further planning workshop was held by BirdLife Australia for December.
- Another component of this 'Campaign' was the tracking of Grey Plovers fitted with satellite transmitters. (see below under 3.1). This was a very useful tool to engage wide sections of the public and to some extent, the media.
- *Publications relevant to shorebirds include:*
  - The Birdlife Australia Journal *Emu* published a Special Issue on the 'EAAF population trends, threats and the future' earlier this year. This is an excellent publication covering much of the most recent scientific information available in our flyway.  
<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/97/issue/7997.htm>
  - EAAFP Newsletters: <http://www.eaaflyway.net/our-activities/eaafp-newsletters/>
  - AWSG publishes quarterly newsletter (Tattler) twice yearly journal (Stilt).  
<http://www.awsg.org.au/publications.php>
- *Conferences and Meetings*

- The Australasian Shorebird Conference coordinated by the AWSG and Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust was held in New Zealand in October 2016. This provided an opportunity to publicise the EAAF Partnership and collaborate with other key stakeholders in Australia and NZ. Two delegates from China were sponsored by AWSG under the Mark Barter Award to participate.
- Flyway Print Exchange supported by BirdLife Australia with Kate Gorringer-Smith. The Flyway Print Exchange is an international environmental art project featuring 20 artists from 9 different countries, linked by the East Asian - Australasian Flyway.  
<http://www.theflywayprintexchange.info/>

### 2.3 Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- In 2016 the Australian Government launched the *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds* updating the 2006 - 2011 Plan.
- Detailed studies to document shorebird use of the Spencer Gulf to inform the development of the Adelaide International Bird Park and its nomination as a Flyway Network Site (Birdlife Australia staff)

### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

#### 3.1 Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

- This continues to be a key feature of the AWSG in collaboration with State shorebird groups, Deakin University and Birdlife Australia. The main components can be summarized as:
  - Banding and leg flagging a wide range of shorebirds at a number of locations around Australia.
  - Continuation of geolocator studies particularly on Ruddy Turnstone in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. These studies have now resulted in identifying specific breeding locations for Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot and Sanderling as well as providing an indication of breeding characteristics.
  - Undertaking satellite studies of Grey Plover. Funding for this project was raised through a web based 'crowd funding' site (Pozible) which enabled the deployment of 5 transmitters on Grey Plover in Northwest Australia. A feature of this study was that reports and tracks were regularly posted on the web to enable a wider public audience. In fact, two of these birds reached the breeding grounds in northern Siberia. A companion study was undertaken by colleagues in South Australia under separate funding; in that case two Grey Plover reached their breeding ground on Wrangel Island. Again, the tracks were made available on the web.
- Global Flyway Network (which involved key AWSG members) has conducted valuable surveys on the Luannan Coast, Bohai Bay, China for 2 months every year since 2010 in close collaboration with Chinese universities and WWF-China. These surveys have demonstrated the critical importance of this small area for migrating Red Knot from Australia and New Zealand. AWSG continues to seek out opportunities to promote the establishment of a Protected Area along this coast and adjacent artificial wetlands.
- Refer to Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust report for initiatives at Yalu Jiang and North Korea.
- The Fuller Lab at University of Queensland continues to publish valuable information on shorebird population trends and changes in tidal habitats in the Yellow Sea region.  
<http://www.esajournals.org/doi/abs/10.1890/130260>
- Supporting the EAAF Colour Flagging Protocol
- Operation of the AWSG Flag Resighting Database by Joris Driessen (volunteer). The database now holds over 62,000 resightings, of which the 2016 total was over 11,000 observations).
- Operation of the "Shorebird leg-flag sightings in the EAAF" Facebook site  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/175781629137442/> (we acknowledge the voluntary work on the 6 site Administrators).

#### 3.2 Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- AWSG provides the Chair for the EAAFP Monitoring Taskforce (Doug Watkins). In April 2016 Doug participated in the China Yellow Sea Protected Area Network waterbird monitoring program coordinated by Wetlands International. This monitoring program is an initiative of the Protected Area Managers.
- The China Coastal Waterbird Census is a long-term project initiated by a group of China birdwatchers in September 2005 with an aim of monitoring the distribution, numbers and seasonal movements of waterbirds through monthly surveys along the Chinese coast. This important survey was supported this year by volunteers from Australia and the UK. Opportunities for capacity building and information transfer.
- In Australia monitoring of non breeding populations by lead by BirdLife Australia's in the Shorebirds 2020 Monitoring project <http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/shorebirds-2020>. This is a particularly valuable resource for governments and land managers.
- This is supplemented by AWSG's summer and winter surveys (MYSMA) of the important shorebird areas of North-west Australia.
- The February data collected in Shorebirds 2020 is shared with the Asian Waterbird Census to enable revision of populations flyway estimates and the identification on internationally important sites.
- Recent initiatives have shown that published data on flyway population estimates and particularly non-breeding regional estimates are outdated. The Australian Government initiated a review of the Flyway Shorebird Populations Estimates. Birdlife Australia in conjunction with AWSG provided input into this review and recommend revised estimates. A draft report has been provided to the Australian Government.
- It should be noted that a particularly valuable monitoring activity continues to be undertaken by the Global Flyways Network in which experts (AWSG is a key collaborator) monitor the movements and numbers of several key species of shorebirds through a critical site in Bohai Bay (Northwest Yellow Sea) for 6 weeks of the northwards migration. This is the most critical stopover site for two subspecies of Red Knot and is currently under extreme threat from reclamation and port developments. See report at <http://globalflywaynetwork.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/GFN-Bohai-Report-2016-web.pdf>

### 3.3 Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- BirdLife Australia shares data from the February shorebird counts on the Shorebirds 2020 program within the Asian Waterbird Census.
- AWSG publishes quarterly newsletter (Tattler) twice yearly journal (Stilt). <http://www.awsg.org.au/publications.php>

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

- The Australasian Shorebird Conference coordinated by the AWSG was held in NZ in October 2016. This provided an opportunity to publicise the Partnership and collaborate with other key stakeholders in Australia and NZ. Two delegates from China were sponsored by AWSG under the Mark Barter Award.
- AWSG arranged and supported a program for a visit by an 8 person delegation from the State Forestry Administration (China) to study wetland management and migratory shorebird conservation in New Zealand and Australia in late 2016.
- Two staff from the Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve (FNS), and a researcher from Fudan University (Shanghai), have been invited by AWSG to participate in the 2017 North-west Australia Shorebird Research Program.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

### 5.1 Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbirds and habitat conservation

- AWSG participated in the April 2015 Yellow Sea Protected Area Network workshop in Yalu Jiang and the April 2016 Yellow Sea Protected Area Network waterbird monitoring program.
- Colour Flagging Protocol support and resighting database and Facebook site
- AWSG is looking for opportunities to support migratory waterbird surveys in Sumatra, Indonesia.

## 5.2 Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

- BirdLife Australia provided funding from an Australian base corporate to BirdLife Asia to continue a project at the Geum Estuary FNS in Republic of Korea.

## 5.3 Other

### **International Crane Foundation**

1. **Participatory Type:** International NGO
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from:** International Crane Foundation
3. **Name of draftsman and organisation you present:** Jim Harris, International Crane Foundation

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

Number of proposed new FNS

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

Number of National Partnership meetings held

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

We developed and printed 28-page waterbird calendars and large format calendar/posters, with 8,000 copies disseminated in 2015 and again in 2016 to over 20 wetlands across eastern China, featuring waterbirds, wetlands and water issues.

We held International Nature Schools in northeast China at Huanzidong and Xianghai wetlands (in 2015) and at Huanzidong and Keerqin wetlands (in 2016) each lasting 2-3 days. We reached over a thousand children living near wetlands important for waterbirds; each year, we trained 20 university students in the design and delivery of environmental education programs. We also held summer (or winter) camps at Cao Hai and Ruorgai National Nature Reserves in China and Muraviovka Park of Amur Region, Russia for local children.

We worked with Ruorgai National Nature Reserve in Sichuan Province of China and local teachers to develop a school curriculum in Tibetan about Black-necked Cranes, wetlands and culture that is now in use in three schools.

During breeding seasons of 2015 and 2016, ICF worked with Hui River National Nature Reserve on raising awareness through visits to schools and homes of herdsman living near the cranes, with messages focused on reducing disturbance at crane nests. Chick production has increased dramatically since this program began in 2011.

ICF and the Wildlife science and Conservation Center of Mongolia (WSCC) co-hosted a Crane Festival at the Khurkh-Khuiten River Valley in June 2015 and 2016 attended by over 1,000 people and strongly supported by local government.

In April 2015, ICF organized a "Sarus Crane Festival" at Phu My Project site, Kien Giang Province, Vietnam. More than 300 elementary and middle school students participated in the festival. The main goal was to raise awareness about Sarus crane and wetland conservation in the Mekong Delta.

During 2015 – 2016, ICF also organized monthly environmental education for school children in Phu My through movie showings, out-door games and arts (painting, photography). More than a thousand children in the project area participated.

#### Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

In cooperation with Chinese Academy of Forestry and the two nature reserves, we developed Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments and Climate Change Adaptation Plans for Momoge and Xianghai National Nature Reserves in northeast China. These documents focus on water, wetlands, and migratory waterbirds due to their high vulnerability -- although they cover all birds and ecosystems as well.

In cooperation with Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanchang University, and other organizations, we developed a Sub Lake Management Plan for Poyang Lake Nature Reserve to improve quality of these key winter habitats for cranes and other waterbirds.

The WSCC and ICF worked with partners leading to the approval of a county level protected area by the Ministry of Ecology, Tourism, and Green development of Mongolia at the Khurkh-Khuiten River Valley.

#### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

##### Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

ICF sponsored one- to two-day meetings in July of 2015 and July of 2016 for researchers working on sub lakes within Poyang Lake and Nanjishan National Nature Reserves, including reports on monitoring of waterbirds, wetlands, water, fish, and aquatic plants. Reports were assembled, edited and published.

In April 2015, together with Chinese Academy of Forestry and Momoge and Tumuji National Nature Reserves, we organized a workshop presenting and evaluating results of our three-year project on climate change adaptation for these two wetland reserves in this semi-arid region of northeast China.

ICF has provided support to the Wetlands International – IUCN Species Survival Commission Crane Specialist Group as it has developed species assessments for each of the eight crane species within the EAAF Region. These assessments will be published as part of a global Crane Conservation Strategy. Current range maps have been completed for each of these species. Nineteen threats affecting cranes in the EAAFP region are being assessed and SMART actions targeted. Several dozen specialists from all crane range countries of the region have been involved in the strategy.

ICF worked with the Institute of Biological Problems of the Cryolithozone to conduct aerial surveys across Yakutian tundra and taiga suspected of having breeding Siberian Cranes. Four nests were discovered, confirming a wider breeding range for the species than formerly known.

ICF worked with the Institute of Biological Problems of the Cryolithozone to co-host a seminar in Yakutsk at which 11 presentations were given on research and management at the Kytalyk Wildlife Refuge.

ICF, the WSCC, and the US Forest Service have collaborated to study nesting ecology of White-naped Cranes, hydrology of wetlands, and rangeland management in the Khurkh-Khuiten River Valley of Mongolia.

ICF participated in the 2015 Asia water bird census with coordinated counts at Tram Chim National Park and several other sites in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam.

#### Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

For the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> years, ICF supported monitoring of waterbirds, aquatic plants, and water levels in four sub lakes in or adjacent to Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve, Jiangxi Province, China

ICF supported two basin-wide counts of waterbirds across the Poyang Lake Basin each winter. The first included all waterbirds; the second count included cranes and other large waterbirds.

ICF coordinated synchronous counts of waterbirds at over 20 wetlands in northeast China and along Bohai, with three counts each spring and fall in 2015 and 2016.

ICF completed its ninth and tenth annual three-day transect of Zhalong Nature Reserve, the most significant breeding site for the Red-crowned Crane. Data collected for ten years on birds, vegetation and water will now provide the basis for recommendations regarding water releases into Zhalong initiated a decade ago.

ICF assisted Hui River National Nature Reserve in Inner Mongolia for the eighth and ninth annual surveys of breeding cranes (4 species), with a focus on production of Red-crowned Crane chicks in this westernmost breeding site for the species.

In Vietnam and Cambodia, Sarus Cranes were counted monthly at all known sites from December through May in 2015 and 2016.

ICF provided a tundra vehicle and a boat to support research and monitoring at the Kytalyk Wildlife Refuge with the goal to increase monitoring of nesting Siberian Cranes to from 6 to 50 pairs.

#### Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

ICF and the Ministry of Environment Cambodia, in collaboration with Birdlife International, Wildfowl & Wetland Trust and Wildlife Conservation Society, convened a workshop on Sarus Crane Conservation in Cambodia and Vietnam in Phnom Penh Cambodia during July 26-27, 2016. Forty people from various conservation NGOs and government offices of both Cambodia and Vietnam attended.

With support from Faku County, Liaoning Province of China we organized the first meeting of the White-naped and Hooded Crane Network attended by eight specialists from five of the six range countries. Recent research results and conservation needs were discussed.

We co-sponsored two meetings of the Black-necked Crane Network, one held at Ruogai in Sichuan Province of China in July of 2015 (attended by >80 managers and researchers), the second held at Yanchiwan in Gansu Province in August of 2016 (attended by >90 people). Each meeting included two days of presentations on research and site status.

We have posted waterbird monitoring data from over 20 wetlands in northeast China and along Bohai on the website of the China Ornithological Society, making the data widely available. We also supported dissemination of results through 5-6 newsletters each year.

ICF working with China Ornithology Society has edited and disseminated four issues of *China Crane News*, with short articles on research and monitoring of cranes and other waterbirds

across China, published in Chinese and English.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

We supported field investigations by two American experts – one specialized in wetland ecology, the other in wetland management, both highly experienced with wetlands of semi-arid regions – at Momoge and Xianghai National Nature Reserves in northeast China which led to presentations to reserve staffs and local government representatives at the two sites and a management report in two languages.

In spring 2016, with the Chinese Academy of Forestry, we sponsored a study tour by directors and lead technical staff of Momoge and Xianghai National Nature Reserves to Klamath Basin of Oregon and northern California to study wetland management and restoration in semi-arid landscapes.

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

We held six educator training workshops for reserve staff and local school teachers at Ruoergai and Cao Hai National Nature Reserves.

Wardens at the Kytalyk Wildlife Refuge were provided with a boat and an improved ranger station to improve capacity to monitor this 1 million sq ha protected area.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

During early 2015, we initiated intensive planning as a basis for development of a ten-year plan (using the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation) for the Critically Endangered Siberian Crane. We held two international workshops attended by Russian and Chinese researchers and site managers from along the flyway, in March and June of 2015. We supported first year of implementation for the plan in 2016, including activities at Kytalyk, Momoge, Xianghai, Yellow River Delta, Poyang Lake, and Nanjishan reserves. This planning effort also involved an additional planning meeting by staff of five wetland reserves from Songnen Plain of northeast China.

During 2015-16, we continued with the third and fourth year of research and migration tracking of White-naped Cranes from Mongolia across eastern China to Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve. Satellite tracking of the cranes enabled us to identify movements and habitat selection during breeding, migration, and wintering. In August 2016, we supported an international workshop attended by representatives of all six range countries (Russia, China, Mongolia, DPRK, ROK, and Japan) as well as ICF and international experts to assess results of the project and conservation needs for White-naped Cranes along its flyway).

In 2015 and 2016, ICF, in collaboration with the Mekong University Network, organized two international training courses on wetland ecology and management for young lecturers and researchers of 22 universities from 6 Mekong countries and Malaysia. One component of the training was on bird field survey techniques and bird conservation.

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

ICF organized reciprocal exchange visits between the Khurkh and Khuiten River Valleys of Mongolia and Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve of China at the two ends of the western White-naped Crane Flyway strengthening collaboration and sharing information on response to threats, monitoring movements, research on nesting ecology, work with local communities, and crane capture techniques,.

ICF sponsored two visits by a total of 19 reserve staff and teachers from Ruorgai National Nature Reserve in Sichuan Province of China to Cao Hai National Nature Reserve of Guizhou, and two teachers and 3 reserve staff from Cao Hai to Ruorgai in 2015. These two sites represent the most important breeding area and wintering area for the eastern population of Black-necked Cranes.

### **Wetlands International**

Partner Report has not been submitted.

### **World Wildlife Fund**

- 1. Participatory Type: International NGO**
- 2. Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: WWF Offices: China and Hong Kong**
- 3. Name of draftsman and organisation you present:**

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Six projects supported by Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund completed in 2015 and 2016:

1. Daursky State Nature Biosphere Reserve:
  - Local people established a guard network to minimize poaching and disturbance to the breeding waterbirds;
  - A local herder motivated to set up a new refuge (225 ha) for waterbirds at his private land located in the unprotected area near to the Reserve;
  - A local hunting agency signed an agreement to stop hunting in part of the wetland during the breeding season;
  - Breeding success of Swan Goose and White-naped Crane increased by 70% and 50% respectively in 2014 comparing to the average number of 2011-2013.
2. Russian Society for Bird Conservation and Study (BirdsRussia), Kamchatka Branch:
  - International significance of the site was confirmed for 8 wader species, including Spoon-billed Sandpiper;
  - Awareness of local communities, students, hunters and government officials on the importance of the site to shorebirds was raised;
  - Knowledge of shorebird migration in Kamchatka was improved.
3. Mongolian Ornithological Society:
  - Awareness of local communities, students and government officials on the importance of Dashinchilen Tsagaan to migratory waterbirds was raised;
  - Waterbird research skills of university students was improved through training;

- Important government departments and organizations were engaged in the nomination of Dashinchilen Tsagaan as a Flyway Network Site and protected area. The wetland was eventually designated as a Flyway Network Site in 2014.

4. Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation:

- Awareness of local communities, students, NGOs, academics and government officials on wetland conservation was raised;
- Waterbird research skills of local stakeholders was developed;
- Important wetland sites in Southern Negros Wetlands were identified and Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area was designated as a Ramsar Site in 2016.

5. Bangladesh Bird Club:

- Waterbird monitoring work was carried out at 17 delta islands in the coastal area to understand the habitat use of shorebirds and their threats;
- Migration of shorebirds was studied by bird ringing;
- Awareness of local communities and students on wetland and waterbird conservation was raised;
- Capacity of the locals in monitoring and safeguarding waterbird habitat was built.

6. Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China:

- Waterbird survey results confirmed the importance of Dongtai Tiaozini in Jiangsu Province to migratory waterbirds;
- Awareness of local communities and students was raised.

In Northeast China, 20 artificial nests are set up, 10 large ones in Xingkai Lake for Oriental White Stork, 10 small ones in Harbin (Heilongjiang Prov.) and Zhaolin Wetland Park (Jilin Prov.) for Anatidae and others. We see many of them are utilized by storks.

In Beibayao Wetland in Chongming Dongtan, we work on the *Spartina* control project led by the NR and the wetland management, including fine control on bird habitat, terrain design of restored wetland, as well as co-management with local community. Wetland management units are being planned and prepared while infrastructures being built.

*Objective 2: CEPA*

In Minjiang Estuary National Nature Reserve, Fujian Province:

- Totally, over 150 teachers and students from local schools attended activities in the Reserve to celebrate Love Bird Week and World Wetlands Day in 2015 and 2016 and World Migratory Bird Day in 2016;
- A working group composed of 2 trained Reserve staff and 8 trained local teachers from 2 partner schools was established. Six education programmes have been developed and an education pack consolidating the programmes is under development.

In Mai Po Nature Reserve:

- From July 2015 to June 2016, 10,002 students participated in the education programmes and 13,969 public visitors joined the guided tours;
- Starting from March 2015, WWF has commenced a project namely Discovering Biodiversity in Hong Kong Wetlands (DB project), over 450 citizen scientists recruited to assist over 15 kinds of baseline ecological researches in Deep Bay area including Mai Po Nature Reserve. Ecological survey training techniques for these voluntary citizen scientists conducted for bat, large mammal, aquatic fauna, benthic fauna, insect, spider, firefly, crab and water quality etc.;
- A set of biodiversity themed roving exhibition panel and education pack for Hong Kong's secondary school are developed in DB project.

In Beibayao Wetland of Chongming Dongtan NR:

- From July 2015 to December 2016, 8 out of 12-session trainings are held for 35 staff from Coca-Cola China. These staff will serve as volunteers in nature reserve. This is to explore a new way of corporate engagement in conservation.
- About 10 one-day introduction and experience sessions for public are held, about 40 persons are involved each time.

In central Yangtze:

- The 9th and 10th Dongting Birdwatching Festival held in Jan. 2015 and 2016. About 300 birdwatchers participated in, respectively.

Love Bird Week is held in cities with WWF presence, including Changchun, Wuhan, Changsha, Shanghai, etc.

### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

In Minjiang Estuary National Nature Reserve:

- Action points listed in the 5-year management plan of Minjiang Estuary National Nature Reserve were carried out as planned. Monthly waterbird monitoring work has been conducted in the cooperation between the Reserve and Fujian Bird Watching Society. Monthly water quality monitoring and yearly vegetation survey works have also been conducted by the Reserve;
- In order to understand how the percentage of water coverage affects waterbird distribution in aquaculture ponds, waterbird surveys were also carried out in the experimental zone (twice a month from September to April; once a month from May to August).

In Mai Po Nature Reserve and Deep Bay area

- In DB project, additional baseline ecological surveys were conducted on top of the current *Mai Po Nature Reserve Habitat Management, Monitoring and Research Plan 2013-2018* from March 2015 to December 2016. These surveys include bat, small and large mammal's camera trapping, aquatic fauna (sluice gate, netting and trapping), benthic fauna, Insect (pitfall, hand netting, flight interception trap, Malaise trap, nest trap), spider and crab.
- Most of the surveys in DB project were conducted within Mai Po Nature Reserve. Some of the surveys including bat, bird, firefly, camera trapping, butterfly and crab, the survey locations extend to Lut Chau and outer Deep Bay area e.g. Lau Fau Shan and Ha Pak Nai.

Visits to wetland parks or nature reserves in Guangdong Province, Hainan Province and Jiangsu Province were also made to provide on-site advice.

#### In Beibayao Wetland of Chongming Dongtan NR

- 12 morning bird surveys and 12 high-tide bird surveys are done, as scheduled in the *Operation Plan of Beibayao Wetland Centre*.
- Baseline study of plants, benthic and aquatic animals are conducted in Beibayao Wetland in 2016.

#### In Central Yangtze

- A simultaneous water bird survey was carried out in early 2015. In total, 67 sites were covered, with an average site coverage of more than 80%. A total of 923,342 waterbirds of 81 species was recorded.

A satellite-tracking project was launched in March 2016 and a training on it was held in October. This project aims to tag 300 individuals of birds and mammals.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Eighteen 8-day wetland management training courses (total: 202 participants) and 20 study tours (total: 196 participants) in Mai Po Nature Reserve were organized from January 2015 to December 2016.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

A 5-year cooperation project at a coastal nature reserve in the Yellow Sea Region will be launched in 2017 to improve the skills in wetland management, wise-use of wetlands and environmental education.

### **International Union for Conservation of Nature**

1. **Participatory Type: Quasi-governmental international organisation**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN**
3. **Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Scott Perkin, IUCN Asia Regional Office**

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

- (NB: The Gulf of Mottama is a Flyway Network Site, so all activities reported below related to GoM also contribute to Objective 1.)

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

- IUCN has collaborated with BANCA (a local NGO in Myanmar) to implement CEPA activities in three townships adjacent to the Gulf of Mottama.
- IUCN has published a number of webstories about its work on the Yellow Sea and the Gulf of Mottama.

#### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

- IUCN supported BANCA to implement surveys of spoon-billed sandpiper in the Gulf of Mottama as part of the SDC-funded project, *Community-led Coastal Management in the Gulf of Mottama*.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

- IUCN provided training on the use of the Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT), as part of the capacity building workshops organised by the Regional Ramsar Centre for East Asia (RRC-EA) in Suncheon, RoK. The workshop took place between 11-14 October 2016 and involved approximately 40 wetland managers from Asia.
- IUCN provided training on wetlands management for local stakeholders from Mon State and Bago Region in Myanmar, under the umbrella of the *Community-led Coastal Management in the Gulf of Mottama* project in Mawlamyine. The training took place between 30-31 May 2016, and involved some 50 representatives from local government and local communities in the Gulf of Mottama.
- IUCN and RRC-EA organised a technical training workshop on the *Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem Services of the Intertidal Wetlands of the Yellow Sea*. The workshop was held in Suncheon, RoK, between 26-28 July 2016, with the financial support of MoEK and the Suncheon City Government. The workshop was attended by thirteen participants from RoK and China and was facilitated by Rob McInnes, an international wetlands expert.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

- With the financial support of MoE RoK, IUCN organised a *Regional Workshop on the Conservation and Management of the Intertidal Wetlands, Associated Wetlands and Migratory Waterbirds of the Yellow Sea* in Beijing from 3-5 August 2016. Nearly 70 participants from RoK and China took part, representing government agencies, inter-governmental organizations and NGOs. The workshop reviewed the progress made in implementing WCC Resolutions 28 and 51 on the conservation of the Yellow Sea and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The workshop concluded with the adoption (by consensus) of an Outcome Document, calling for a wide range of measures, including enhanced transboundary cooperation to conserve the habitats and species of the Yellow Sea. The Outcome Document also included a suite of detailed actions related to the legal and policy framework, site protection, ecosystem services, monitoring, research, and CEPA.
- On 4 September 2016, the IUCN Asia Regional Office collaborated with Birdlife International, EAAFP and other partners to organise a workshop at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i on the conservation of intertidal habitats and migratory waterbirds of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, especially the Yellow Sea. The session was attended by nearly 50 participants, including government representatives from RoK and China, international experts and other stakeholders concerned with coastal conservation in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The workshop comprised a series of short update presentations followed by facilitated discussions on: 1) next steps in implementing the "Outcome Document" from the Beijing Workshop; and 2) other initiatives relevant to the Yellow Sea coastal management (e.g. Caring for Coasts).

#### **BirdLife International**

1. **Participatory Type: Partner (International NGO)**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: BirdLife International**
3. **Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Simba Chan**

### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

BirdLife International and partners in Asia has been supporting country partners along the EAA F to develop new Flyway Network Sites by providing technical support and organizing awareness meetings (such as workshops in Thailand and Myanmar organized under the South East Asian Wetland Conservation Project under the auspices of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan).

BirdLife International did not engaged in developing new Flyway Network Sites between January 2015 and December 2016 (MOP8 to MOP9). However, BirdLife and BirdLife Partners/Offices have been supporting activities in the following FNSs:

#### China:

- Chongming Dongtan: The Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB, BirdLife in the United Kingdom) has provided advise on management of the nature reserve.
- Mai Po- Inner Deep Bay: The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS, BirdLife in Hong Kong SAR, China) is supporting bird census at this FNS

#### Japan:

- Tokyo Port Wild Bird Park: The Wild Bird Society of Japan (WBSJ, BirdLife in Japan) has been managing the park for the Tokyo Port Terminal Corporation
- Utonai-ko: Directly managed by WBSJ
- Furen-ko and Shunkunitai: Part of this FNS, the Shunkunitai Wild Bird Park Visitor Center, is managed by WBSJ

#### Myanmar:

- Gulf of Mottama: The Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA, BirdLife in Myanmar) had engaged in data collection and site designation in 2014, and is regularly surveying and giving management advice on this FNS. This FNS was designated because of the support of the BANCA and BirdLife Asia (under the auspices of the SE Asia Wetland Conservation Project of the MOEJ)
- Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary: BANCA and BirdLife Asia have been supporting management of this FNS, including organizing workshops on ecosystem services. This FNS was designated because of the support of the BANCA and BirdLife Asia (under the auspices of the SE Asia Wetland Conservation Project of the MOEJ)

#### Thailand:

- Pak Thale – Laem Phak Bia: The Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BCST, BirdLife in Thailand) has been engaged in advocacy on conservation and management of this FNS. This FNS was designated because of the support of the BCST and BirdLife Asia (under the auspices of the SE Asia Wetland Conservation Project of the MOEJ)
- Khok Kham: BCST has been engaged in advocacy on conservation and management of this FNS. This FNS was designated because of the support of the BCST and BirdLife Asia (under the auspices of the SE Asia Wetland Conservation Project of the MOEJ)

#### Malaysia:

- Kapar Power Station Ash Pond: The Malaysian Nature Society (MNS, BirdLife in Malaysia) has been working on study of its conservation status and updating the information sheet.

- Bako Buntal Bay: MNS has been engaged in advocacy on conservation and management of this FNS. This FNS was designated because of the support of the MNS and BirdLife Asia (under the auspices of the SE Asia Wetland Conservation Project of the MOEJ)

Proposed new FNS: 2 from MNS (Malaysia): *North central Selangor coast and Teluk Air Tawar-Kuala Muda coast IBA*

## *Objective 2: CEPA*

BirdLife International Tokyo Office is coordinating the national partnership network in Japan under the auspices of the MOE Japan

Under projects on the following threatened waterbird and seabird species, awareness material have been produced and meetings/workshops/seminars have been held in the following EAAFP countries:

- Spoonbilled Sandpiper (posters for all range countries, an animation for all range countries, meeting on prevention of shorebird hunting in China and Myanmar)
- Chinese Crested Tern (China and Indonesia)
- Baer's Pochard (Myanmar)

Report from BirdLife partners:

Malaysian Nature Society:

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

*AWC Seminar 2016- future of Kapar Power Ash Ponds (August); coming out with the Kapar Declaration*

*Teluk Air Tawar-Kuala Muda coast IBA. Proposed a conservation concept for the TAT and also did a pilot TESSA study.*

Number of National Partnership meetings held

*Government meetings once a year*

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

*Through annual public events i.e. Festival of Wings in Kuala Selangor Nature Park and Raptor Watch Week in Tanjung Tuan with exhibits, birdwatching, school activities, community activities and talks*

*CEPA materials- Migratory Waterbirds Awareness- Welcome to the Birds pamphlet; EAAF Poster; Bako Buntal Bay Brochure; Booklet on EAAFP;*

*Permanent exhibit at the Kuala Selangor Nature Park*

Website: [www.mnswetland.weebly.com](http://www.mnswetland.weebly.com)

*A Concept Paper on the Proposed Establishment of a "Wetland Nature Reserve" and Development of*

*Nature-based Initiatives in the Teluk Air Tawar-Kuala Muda coast IBA. Malaysian Nature Society, 2015.*

*A Pilot Rapid Assessment of Selected Ecosystem Services Provided by the Teluk Air Tawar- Kuala Muda Coast IBA in Pulau Pinang. Foong, S.Y., Yeap, C.A. and Butt, C., 2016.*

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

*National Physical Plan- IBA*

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (Myanmar)

Regular conducting CEPA programme in Gulf of Mottama, Moeyungyi Ramsar Site and Nanthar Island.

Conservation awareness activities have regularly conducted in Migratory Bird Day, World Wetland Day and Welcome to the bird events in the areas.

Conduct bird watching activities with local conservation group at the Gulf of Mottama.

Prepare IEC materials on the conservation of migratory bird species.

Conduct environmental conservation awareness talk to local communities in Gulf of Mottama and Nanthar Island.

Develop environmental education sustainable center at Thein Ngu village, Gulf of Mottama.

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

BirdLife China Programme and HKBWS supported development of the China Coastal Waterbird Census (The Third Report published in 2015)

Spoon-billed Sandpiper: BirdLife Partners (RSPB, WBSJ, HKBWS, BCST and BANCA) supports research and monitoring of this species.

Chinese Crested Tern: BirdLife Asia Division and BirdLife Partners (HKBWS) supported restoration of a deserted breeding site in China in 2015; Burung Indonesia (BirdLife in Indonesia) supported survey of the wintering ground in 2016.

Baer's Pochard: BirdLife Asia Division and BANCA surveyed and discovered a new wintering site in central Myanmar in 2016.

BirdLife partners:

BirdLife Australia (Australia): is supporting Australia country partner on standardizing waterbird monitoring in Australia.

MNS (Malaysia):

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

*Survey and documentation of potential roosting sites along the Selangor coast*

*No. 15. A Concept Paper on the Proposed Establishment of a “Wetland Nature Reserve” and Development of Nature-based Initiatives in the Teluk Air Tawar-Kuala Muda coast IBA. Malaysian Nature Society, 2015*

*No. 16. A Pilot Rapid Assessment of Selected Ecosystem Services Provided by the Teluk Air Tawar-Kuala Muda Coast IBA in Pulau Pinang. Foong, S. Y., Yeap, C.A. and Butt, C., 2016.*

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

*Waterbird training for MNS members as counters for the annual AWC in January and regular monitoring of the Kapar ash ponds with reports*

*Raptors training for MNS members as counters for the annual spring and autumn count*

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

Website: [www.mnswetland.weebly.com](http://www.mnswetland.weebly.com)

BANCA (Myanmar)

Annual survey and research on Spoon-billed Sandpiper (CR) in Gulf of Mottama, Nanthar Island and other potential habitat in coastal region.

Annual survey on the status of population and identification of threats on migratory bird species in Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary.

Regional workshop for designation of Gulf of Mottama as Ramsar site.

Shared on migratory birds knowledge in universities by producing the field guide book with the title of “Shore bird of Mottama” by local language.

Shared on migratory birds knowledge to National level and local level to promote designate EFN site, IBAs and Ramsar site.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Spoon-billed Sandpiper: BirdLife China Programme/HKBWS trained local conservationists in southern China on preventing illegal hunting of shorebirds.

Chinese Crested Tern: BirdLife International Asia Division and Burung Indonesia trained field researchers, government officers and local conservationists on survey of seabirds in the Maluku.

BirdLife partners:

MNS (Malaysia):

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

*7 migratory waterbird trainings conducted*

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

*One site with local communities*

BANCA (Myanmar)

Conducted basic water birds watching training for Local Conservation Groups (LCG) in Gulf of Mottama.

Advocate priority migratory bird species and important wetland area to be designated as Ramsar site and included in National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP).

Continue to support BirdLife partners working on IBAs and IBA in danger monitoring.

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

The BirdLife IBA Programme supports updating of information and monitoring of important flyway sites all along the EAAF.

BirdLife manages the IUCN Red List of birds thus supporting updating of information and dissemination and awareness of globally threatened waterbirds and seabirds along the EAAF

### **Wild Bird Society of Japan**

1. **Participatory Type: International NGO**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Wild Bird Society of Japan**
3. **Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Seiji Hayama Wild Bird Society of Japan**

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

*Objective 2: CEPA*

• Selected Marine-IBAs in Japan and published report of Marine IBAs in Japan under collaboration with Birdlife.

### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

- Launched a project to study Latham's Snipe's (*Gallinago hardwickii*) migratory route and identify their important stopover and wintering sites for their conservation. We banded metal rings and leg-flags to 102 individuals of Latham's Snipe at Yufutsu plain (Tomakomai city, Hokkaido, Japan).
- Performed questioners survey about IBAs status and threat. There are 166 IBA sites in Japan and 127 sites are important migratory waterbirds sites.
- Cooperate with Japan Black-faced Spoonbill network. WBSJ monitored on Black-faced Spoonbill every January.
- Monitor wintering states of White-naped crane and Hooded crane in Japan to promote making new wintering site.

### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

- Held 1 or 2 training courses every year about interpretation and survey planning training.

### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

- Making sites information about wintering sites of Black-faced Spoonbill(Hakata-bay,Fukuoka prefect. Not network site) and Hooded Crane (Izumi, Kagoshima prefect. network site) under EASPEC programs

## **Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust**



### **Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust report to 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties to the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership**



*Singapore, 11-15 January 2017*





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## 1. BAER'S POCHARD CONSERVATION

### Activities since MoP8

1. Following the adoption of the Action Plan at MoP8, the EAAFP Baer's Pochard Task Force (BPTF) was formally established in 2015. WWT's Richard HEARN was appointed Global Coordinator, working to support Prof. DING Changqing (Chair), Prof. CAO Lei (China Coordinator) and Sergey SURMACH (Russia Coordinator) and others engaged with Baer's Pochard conservation.
2. The BPTF website was set up and maintained <http://www.eaaflyway.net/our-activities/task-forces/baers-pochard-task-force/>.
3. The Baer's Pochard Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) was formally approved by the CMS Scientific Council in April 2016 and published at <http://www.cms.int/en/document/action-plan-baers-pochard-aythya-baeri>.
4. A conservation status update was published in *BirdingASIA*: Hearn, R.D. 2015. The troubled Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri*: cause for a little optimism? *BirdingASIA* 24: 78–83. <http://www.eaaflyway.net/wordpress/new/ouractivities/taskforces/BaersPochard/Baers-Pochard-BA24.pdf>
5. A census of potential wintering sites in central Myanmar located c. 20 individuals at three sites. This is a positive result, particularly as the main site where 12 birds were found (Pyu Lake) was not previously known to support important waterbirds. This suggests further sites may also exist undetected in Myanmar. This project was funded through WWT by a generous donation from

Charles Martell, as well as some additional funding BANCA (BirdLife partner in Myanmar) found from the Conservation Leadership Programme.

6. All records of Baer's Pochard are recorded in a database, maintained by WWT.
7. An interview with the BPTF Global Coordinator was recorded in May 2016 for Talking Naturally, available as a podcast at <https://soundcloud.com/talkingnaturally/tn-027-baers-pochard-a-critically-endangered-east-asian-duck>
8. Liaison with EAZA (Pete Smallbones, Paignton Zoo, UK) and AZA Jamie Toste (Minnesota Zoo) studbook keepers was maintained.
9. WWT maintained the largest captive stock of Baer's Pochard, comprising 89 birds in October 2016. New biosecure rearing and breeding facilities, approved under the EU Balai Directive, were established at WWT Slimbridge.
10. A genetic analysis was undertaken of captive birds held by WWT, in collaboration with Cardiff University and funded by the Oriental Bird Club. There was no evidence of hybridisation or significant inbreeding in the WWT captive stock, though there is less genetic diversity in these birds when compared to wild Baer's Pochard, indicating that genetic drift has occurred. Nevertheless, the WWT stock has been well-managed, especially considering the small number of founders and many generations in captivity, and provides a suitable source of founders for a conservation breeding programme.

## **2. SCALY-SIDED MERGANSER CONSERVATION**

### **Activities since MoP8**

1. WWT facilitated a second Action Planning workshop, held in Vladivostok, Russia, in September 2015. The workshop was attended by participants from the Russian Federation, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Republic of China (Taiwan), Australia, the UK, and the EAAFP Secretariat, including Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force (SSMTF) members working on both in and ex situ conservation, and set out to finalise the International Single Species Action Plan (ISSAP), which will be presented to MOP9 for approval.
2. For more information see the Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force's report to the MOP.

## **3. SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER CONSERVATION**

### **Activities since MoP8**

1. Headstarting continued in 2015 and 2016. The 2016 expedition was the most successful to date with a total of 30 fledgling Spoon-billed Sandpipers (SBS) released, representing approximately 20% of global productivity. All 30 are thought to have left the release area on migration. The project has now released a total of 111 SBS since 2012.
2. A total of 74 sightings of headstarted birds at 14 different sites throughout the flyway (not including the breeding grounds) had been received by late September 2016. Thirty (40%) of these have been made on the Jiangsu coast of China, with the other sightings coming from southern China, Taiwan, Myanmar, South Korea, Japan, Thailand and Russia. Some 25% of birds headstarted between 2012 and 2015 have been seen away from the breeding grounds, and one bird from the 2016 cohort has already been seen this year: White 1K in South Korea on 1 September. While it is too soon to draw firm conclusions about survival, preliminary analyses of the survival of headstarted birds suggest a survival rate to two-years old that is not abnormally low and may well be as high as or higher than that for wild-bred juveniles.
3. At the end of September 2016, the captive flock at WWT Slimbridge contained 22 birds (7 females and 15 males). During the 2016 breeding season, a total of seven eggs were laid by two pairs: one egg collapsed shortly after collection due to a poor-quality 'soft' shell; four eggs did not develop past early or mid stage incubation; and two eggs developed well and hatched.

4. All five of the failed eggs were sent for analysis at Sheffield University. The analysis revealed that the collapsed egg was probably fertile and the other four eggs were definitely fertile with embryo death occurring within the first half of incubation – cause(s) unknown.
5. The first chick to hatch initially appeared healthy but died on the afternoon of 4 July. Post mortem examination revealed that the chick had a reduced bone mineral density, a condition known as osteopenia.
6. The second chick hatched as expected after 21 days' incubation on 3 July and again initially appeared healthy. On the afternoon of 5 July, 24 hours after the death of the first chick, the second chick's health suddenly deteriorated and the chick died. Post mortem examination found that this bird suffered from infection of the yolk sac and umbilicus. Histology reports also confirmed that, like the first chick, the second chick was likely to have suffered from osteopenia.
7. Looking ahead, new preventative measures will be put in place to counter the causes of death recorded during the 2016 breeding season. More stringent hygiene controls will be implemented where necessary (note, however, that rigorous hygiene measures were already in place during the 2016 season). Ways to increase calcium in the diet of the adult birds are currently being investigated by the avicultural and veterinarian team. The team will also seek advice from other wader breeding experts to inform any alterations that could be made ahead of the 2017 breeding season.
8. The trials to investigate the use of satellite tags on Spoon-billed Sandpipers using captive Dunlin were completed in September 2016. These trials resulted in a suitable tag design and important information about how a proxy species (Dunlin) reacts to carrying a tag.
9. In autumn 2016, an international team, funded by WWT, RSPB, and BTO caught and marked three Spoon-billed Sandpipers in southern Jiangsu with bespoke satellite tags developed by Microwave Telemetry (MTI) in order to track their onward migration to south east Asia and then back to the breeding grounds in Russia. Currently, we don't know where 25% of the global population spend the winter (in south east Asia) and where 75% of the birds breed in summer (in north east Russia) so it is hoped that this tracking work will help identify the sites used throughout the year so that they can be better protected.

#### **4. YANGTZE WATERBIRD MONITORING NETWORK**

##### **Activities since MoP8**

1. A coordinated census of the Central & Lower Yangtze was carried out by WWF China and partners in January 2015. This successfully repeated the effort last undertaken in 2011 and involved >100 people from government and local bird watching societies. A pre-census training workshop took place at Dongting Hu in early January – see <http://monitoring.wwt.org.uk/2015/01/capacity-building/training-counters-for-yangtze-waterbird-survey/>.
2. The census recorded more than 900,000 waterbirds, including significant counts for a number of waterbirds, some of which are globally threatened species: c.212,000 Bean Goose, c.87,000 Greater White-fronted Goose, c.76,000 Tundra Swan, c.64,000 Swan Goose, c.39,000 Falcated Duck (Near Threatened), c.31,000 Avocet, c.28,000 Spotted Redshank, 11,947 Lesser White-fronted Goose (Vulnerable), 3,779 Siberian Crane (Critically Endangered), 2,675 Oriental Stork (Endangered), 465 White-naped Crane (Vulnerable) and 125 Baer's Pochard (Critically Endangered). Thirty sites held internationally important concentrations of at least one waterbird population.
3. The final report was launched at the State Forestry Administration's Yangtze Network meeting in November 2016.
4. The WWF/WWT project officer, Mr. TAO Xudong has undertaken a number of training and support activities. He has given 10 training courses and presentations on waterbird identification,

status and surveying for bird watchers, school and university students, and nature reserve staff and managers. In total, just over 600 people attended these training courses.

5. TAO Xudong has also worked more closely with reserve managers at individual sites to develop and implement site monitoring plans, including Zhangdu Hu, Fu River Basin, Chidong Hu and Longgang Hu (all Hubei Province).
6. TAO Xudong also coordinated the national waterbird censuses carried out by the State Forestry Administration in Hubei Province.
7. TAO Xudong coordinated surveys of breeding waterbirds in the Yangtze floodplain in 2016 at sites in Hubei and Hunan provinces.
8. Site-based surveys have also been carried out at Baoan Hu, Lishui River, Chufeng Hu, Wufeng and Xujia River to support the establishment or the evaluation of the 'probationary' phase of wetland park status.
9. TAO Xudong carried out waterbird surveys at Wang Hu (Hubei Province) to support an application for designation as a National Nature Reserve and Ramsar Site.

## 5. CAMBODIAN LOWER MEKONG FLOODPLAIN WETLANDS PROJECT

### Activities since MoP8

1. Land use maps developed in cooperation with local communities and agreed with government authorities; these maps have since been updated to monitor changes and any encroachment of the wetlands.
2. Local Community monitoring groups given additional capacity training and resources to increase patrolling and biodiversity monitoring.
3. Work underway on the development of Wetland Wise-use Guidelines for Cambodia.
4. Specific activities at Anlung Pring (AP) have included:
  - i. A new community wetland has been created to secure fresh water access for villagers away from the wetland, thus decreasing pressure and disturbance at the site whilst building community goodwill;
  - ii. Use agreements have been signed with local communities;
  - iii. The Community-based Ecotourism (CBET) work has been significantly invested in, including developing a training needs assessment, buying equipment necessary to provide a quality tourism experience, securing equipment to diversify the range of activities available to site visitors, upgrading the ranger station to act as a CBET visitor centre and look-out point, creating a tourist map of the site, and re-structuring the CBET group with clearer roles and responsibilities;
  - iv. Sluice gates have been restored to assist the newly-formed multi-stakeholder water-users group regulate water levels and salinity in and around the protected area;
  - v. A full water level management plan is under development;
  - vi. Environmental education programme rolled out at schools in all villages around the protected area;
  - vii. Investigation into the impact of shrimp farming in areas directly abutting the reserve has found a significant detrimental effect on water quality entering the reserve; alternative land-use options are being investigated, with *Lepironia* farming for handcraft products potentially the most viable option.
5. Specific activities at Boeung Prek Lapouv (BPL) have included:
  - i. A 'Buffalo Bank' has been established, where villagers have become guardians for project buffalo (which are used for habitat management) and in return are granted ownership of offspring, which are used as financial security in this area of Cambodia;
  - ii. Sarus Crane Rice Groups, supporting local farmers to use wildlife-friendly techniques to produce and market a value-added product, have been established and are working with 30 households at three locations;

- iii. Legal designation process nearing completion for a second community fishery;
- iv. Two new fish habitat restoration areas have been established, in partnership with the community fisheries;
- v. Trans-boundary illegal fishing coordination group has been established with Cambodian and Vietnamese counterparts to address unregulated fishing in the Protected Landscape;
- vi. Invasive species have been mapped and a community-based Invasive Non-Native Species clearance programme has been implemented;
- vii. Water management/retention trails being implemented to test the effectiveness of different techniques.

## **6. WETLAND LINK INTERNATIONAL**

### **Activities since MoP8**

- 1. WLI Asia is now being hosted by the Ramsar Regional Centre East Asia, South Korea.
- 2. WLI formed part of the WWT group that attended the INTECOL meeting in China in September 2016, running a symposium on wetland centres and making contacts with wetland centres and the State Forestry Administration.

## **7. WORLD WETLAND NETWORK**

### **Activities since MoP8**

- 1. The WWN committee met in Nagoya, Japan, at the end of October 2016.

## **8. WWT CONSULTING PROJECTS IN EAAF COUNTRIES**

### **Activities since MoP8**

- 1. In 2016/17, WWT Consulting are working for Jianhu Bureau of Commerce and Tourism, Jiangsu province, China, to develop a masterplan for Jiangsu Jianhu Jiulongkou National Wetland Park. WWT Consulting, with partners MET Studios Design Hong Kong and Nanjing University Ecological Research Institute of Changshu, have been assisting the local government in the design of a 160ha wetland park next to the protected 659ha Jiulongkou wetland. We are also providing management planning and guidance for the existing wetland area and potential locations for wetland restoration. Approx 100 hundred waterbird species have been recorded on site including Baer's Pochard.
- 2. In 2015, WWT Consulting continued providing advice to Tongli Ancient Town regarding wetland management, improving facilities and developing new interpretation at Tongli National Wetland Park, west of Shanghai, China.
- 3. WWT Consulting, WWT and Wetlands Link International (WLI) staff attended the 10th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference in Changshu, China. Martin Spray (WWT CEO) chaired a symposium organised by the Chinese State Forestry Administration (SFA) on wetland parks. He also presented the London Wetland Centre as a case study for wetland park design.
- 4. Matt Simpson (WWTC Co-Director) gave a keynote presentation on some of our rural wetland projects from around the world in WWF China's Symposium 'Rural Wetland Value Reconstruction'.
- 5. On the final day of the conference, Matt and Chris Rostron (WLI) presented in a symposium on wetland parks which we co-hosted with our colleagues from Nanjing University Ecological Research Institute of Changshu (NJUecoRICH). It was a great chance to demonstrate best practice and exchange knowledge.

6. WWT Consulting are supporting the Ramsar Regional Centre East Asia to develop a Ramsar site management guidebook for wetland managers in East and Southeast Asia. This will be published in 2017.



**Figure 1.** Martin Spray (WWT CEO) at 10th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference in Changshu, China (left); Bena Smith (WWT) speaking at the Ramsar Regional Centre East Asia workshop (right).

## **Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust**

### **Report – Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust**

#### **1. Participatory Type : International Non-Government Organisation**

#### **2. Name of partner: Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust**

#### **3. Name of draughtsman: David Lawrie – International Liaison**

##### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

The Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust (PMNT) operates the Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre located on the edge of the Firth of Thames Ramsar site which is a designated flyway network site. During the reporting period the Trust has been assisting the government representative to update the site information sheet for this site.

##### *Objective 2: CEPA*

The PMNT and the NZ Government Representative hold regular National Partnership meetings and have worked extensively together during this reporting period.

During the past 12 months three formal meetings have been held between the representatives and several informal meetings.

The PMNT holds regular events to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness. During this reporting period the PMNT held celebrations to mark its 40<sup>th</sup> year of operation and during that period organised four key note speakers from overseas to visit New Zealand and provide lectures on important shorebird activities.

To assist raising public awareness of migratory shorebirds the PMNT started a programme called The Flock in which people are invited to paint cut out shapes of shorebirds. Begun in February 2016, the project has grown exponentially and there are now well over 2,500 painted birds in the Pukorokoro Miranda flock. Subsidiary flocks have been started in other parts of New Zealand as well as Australia and the Republic of Korea. These painted birds will be used to create highly visual spectacles at

public events to raise awareness of the plight of migratory birds. This project continues to be a tremendous success with many participants - including school classes, members of the public and visiting dignitaries including the Prime Minister of New Zealand and the Vice-minister of the State Forestry Administration, China.

During the year the PMNT organises two public open days to correspond with spring migration (Welcome to the Birds, October) and autumn migration (Farewell to the Birds, March). These events – involving a guest speaker followed by a visit to the high tide roosts to view the shorebird flocks - are usually well attended.

This year the PMNT received a substantial grant which was used to fund a six month pilot education outreach program. An educator was employed to develop and present education material in schools and to encourage subsequent school visits to Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre. This has been very successful in advancing the outreach ability of the Trust, as well as furthering our key educational objectives. The Trust is now seeking sources of funding to sustain the program into next year.

Over the last four years the Trust has received an annual grant to support the employment of a shore guide who is stationed at our bird hides over the high tide period each day. The guide engages with visitors, using spotting scopes to show people good views of shorebirds while explaining their ecology and the issues faced by migratory birds in the EAAF. This is proven to greatly enhance the visitor experience while also generating support for the work of PMNT and the flyway.

#### *Objective 3: Research Monitoring*

The team at PMNT are still conducting the catching and marking of migratory shorebirds to add to the knowledge regarding migration routes and demographic trends. They also have a keen team of observers finding birds marked at other flyway sites and which visit New Zealand.

In association with Birds NZ, PMNT members also conduct annual winter and summer shorebird counts. This pool of knowledge now goes back over 50 years and provides an excellent database which has contributed the New Zealand data for the Queensland university research into population trends.

Each year Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre run training courses in shorebird identification and counting techniques thus adding to the pool of experienced observers.

Research is also undertaken on the flyway network site adjacent to the Shorebird Centre.

In September 2016 the manager of the Shorebird Centre presented a paper on PMNT shorebird survey work in DPRK at the International Wader Studies Group conference in Ireland. Presentations were also made to the Australasian Ornithological Conference and the Australasian Shorebird Conference and at many other events.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

A 7 day residential field course is held at the Shorebird Centre each January with the primary aim of increasing the skills of participants and also to raise awareness of conservation issues. Core components of this course include catching and marking shorebirds, recording morphological data and the importance of counting and observing banded birds.

A three day course on management and conservation of New Zealand Dotterel and other coastal nesting species, is used to train field staff of government agencies as well as community based volunteers. NZ Dotterel are an endemic beach nesting non-migratory shorebird, but skills learnt at the course are applicable to the monitoring and conservation of other migratory species that utilise the same or similar habitat.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway Wide Approaches*

PMNT in association with the Nature Conservation Union of Korea (NCUK) has been active over the past 2 years in undertaking shorebird counts along the coast of the West Sea in DPRK. These counts are part of a 5 year programme, the aim of which is to cover as much of the western coastline of DPRK as possible to fill a gap in our knowledge of shorebirds in that region. So far at least six sites of international importance for one or more of six migratory shorebird species have been identified.

In January of 2016 the Shorebird Centre hosted a delegation from China who were on a fact finding mission relating to shorebird protection measures.

During the period of this report the Chinese Ambassador to New Zealand made several visits to the Shorebird Centre because of concerns that were raised with him regarding the protection of migratory shorebirds along the Yellow Sea coast of China. A further outcome of these visits was a combined delegation from PMNT, local indigenous people and the New Zealand Government visiting China for a series of meetings with high ranking Chinese Officials.

These discussions eventually lead to the signing of an agreement between the Chinese and New Zealand Governments which was hosted by the PMNT at the Shorebird Centre.

PMNT still maintains a sister site agreement with the reserve officials at Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve and frequently exchange information. Because of the commitment to the North Korean counts a team from PMNT has not undertaken shorebird counts at Yalu Jiang in recent years.

#### **Wildlife Conservation Society**

Partner Report has not been submitted.

#### **Hanns Seidel Foundation**

New Partner, Hanns Seidel Foundation joined EAAFP on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

#### **Convention on Migratory Species**



## **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals**

*Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme*



**Ninth Meeting of Partners (MOP9) to the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)  
Singapore, 10-15 January 2017**

(Report of the CMS Secretariat)

1. This report corresponds to Agenda item 2.4 of MOP9. It provides a summary of activities undertaken by the CMS Secretariat since COP11 in 2014 that are of relevance to the EAAFP.

## **Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023**

2. At CMS COP11 Parties adopted Resolution 11.2 on the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (SPMS). Under this Resolution, Parties took a major step forward by adopting a strategic plan, which is very closely aligned with the CBD Aichi Targets. The plan will now allow much more coherence, cooperation and synergies with CBD and the overall initiatives taken in conjunction with the Aichi Targets. A companion volume on implementing the SPMS and on indicators is now being developed by a working group during the intersessional period.
3. The SPMS focusses on the conservation of migratory animals (populations, species or lower taxonomic levels, as the context requires), rather than on the Convention itself. This approach shifted the focus from the institution to the issue, thereby broadening relevance and ownership among the CMS Family of instruments and beyond. This approach is also consistent with COP decisions regarding the CMS “Future Shape” process, which identified the need for a coordinated and coherent approach to migratory species conservation among CMS and its daughter agreements.
4. Resolution 11.2 urges the CMS Family of instruments to integrate the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan within relevant policy and planning instruments, and also to take action to raise awareness of the Plan. Furthermore, it encourages the decision-making bodies of CMS instruments, to identify existing or develop new sub-targets for the species and issues relevant to those instruments and organizations that support the achievement of the targets in the SPMS, and to inform the CMS Secretariat of such sub-targets.
5. A call for nominations for the regional members of the Strategic Plan Implementation Working Group (SPIWG) was made by the Secretariat in December 2014. The first meeting of the SPIWG took place in Bonn in October 2015 back to back with the 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee. Resources to cover the consultant’s work that is supporting the SPIWG are provided through a generous contribution from the Government of Germany.
6. The Strategic Plan also entails amendments to the format of National Reports, in respect of assessing implementation of the SPMS and those indicators for which such reports are identified as a potentially important source of information, and the scope for streamlining existing processes to reduce reporting burdens. Accordingly, a new reporting template will be discussed at Standing Committee 45 on the 9-10 November 2016.

## **Synergies and common services among CMS Family instruments**

7. Resolution 11.3 on Enhancing Synergies and Common Services among CMS Family Instruments was adopted at COP11. Through this Resolution, Parties adopted a process to promote further synergies and common services in the CMS Family. The Resolution calls for an independent analysis to be undertaken for the next steps on common services to be considered by the CMS Standing Committee and AEWA.
8. The Institute for European Studies at the University of Brussels was contracted to undertake the independent analysis of synergies in the CMS Family. The outcome of this analysis was presented at the 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee in October 2015 (see UNEP/CMS/StC44/Doc 15.1). Meanwhile, the current common service pilot in CMS and AEWA for communications activities will continue providing further lessons on sharing future common services.

## **Restructuring of the Scientific Council**

9. Under Resolution 11.4 on Restructuring of the Scientific Council, the CMS COP decided on a

major reorganization of the operation of the Scientific Council, the scientific and technical advisory body of the Convention. While the basic structure of the Council, defined by the text of the Convention, has not been changed, for each intersessional period between two consecutive COPs, a representative selection of the membership of the Scientific Council (Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council), has been identified, composed of the 9 COP-appointed Councillors, and 15 Party-appointed Councillors selected regionally.

10. The Resolution also defined criteria for the selection of the membership of the Sessional Committee and transitional measures for the appointment of the Committee for the triennium 2015-2017. Main efforts have been directed towards the development of Terms of Reference for the Scientific Council and the establishment of the Sessional Committee. These were the subject of a dedicated document (UNEP/CMS/StC44/14) that was discussed at the 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee in 2015.
11. In relation to the appointment of Sessional Committee members, a consultative process will be discussed at the 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee for the renewal of membership and a recommendation will be submitted to COP12 in the Philippines in October 2017 on the composition of the Sessional Committee.
12. A Scientific Council workshop on connectivity took place in Venice (Italy) from 28- 30 September 2015, convened in cooperation with the Veneto Po Delta Regional Park and UNESCO.

#### **Process to review implementation**

13. Through Resolution 11.7 on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Convention through a Process to Review Implementation, Parties took a decision to develop terms of reference for a review mechanism for the Convention. Terms of reference were presented to the CMS Standing Committee at its 44<sup>th</sup> meeting to consider the next steps on setting up a working group and presenting options for a review mechanism at COP12. In accordance with the Resolution the Secretariat drafted the terms of reference for the working group which were adopted by the Standing Committee.
14. The Working Group on the Development of a Review Process had its first meeting in Bonn from 19 to 20 September 2016 and discussed options for developing such a process including three scenarios of what a CMS review mechanism could entail: (1) use of internal and existing CMS structures and processes, (2) a customized/institutionalized system of review, and (3) retaining the status quo ("zero option"). The second meeting of the Working Group is foreseen in November 2016, back to back with Standing Committee 45.

#### **Communication, Information and Outreach**

15. Resolution 11.8 endorsed the CMS Communication, Information and Outreach Plan 2015-2017 and urged CMS Family Instruments to assist actively in the implementation of the Plan and to provide both voluntary contributions and in-kind support, particularly for the priority activities identified.
16. As a first step to developing a Communication Strategy for the entire CMS Family, a consultant was engaged to develop strategically aligned Communications Strategies for CMS and AEWA. Workshops to support the development of the communication strategy and communication action plans around specific topics will be convened. Similarly, a project for the development of common branding for the CMS Family will commence when resources become available.
17. A joint Communication, Information Management and Awareness-raising Unit was established in January 2014 to serve CMS and AEWA. The joint Unit oversaw the successful 2015 and 2016 World Migratory Bird Day campaigns and has contributed to the design, editing and drafting of a number of in-house publications, including fact sheets and technical material. In

2015, a strong focus of the Unit was to support communication efforts around AEWA MOP6 that took place in November 2015.

18. The CMS Family website launched in March 2014 continues to be maintained with available in-house capacity and the joint Unit is also participating in the steering committee of several related information-management related initiatives, for example the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative and an EU-funded project to further enhance the Online Reporting System for MEAs.

#### **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)**

19. The joint CMS-AEWA Communication Unit, with support from the Raptors MOU Coordinating Unit, has developed a scoping paper for improving the long-term management of the World Migratory Bird Day campaign and how to support implementation of COP11 Resolution on obtaining official UN Status for WMBD through the UN General Assembly.
20. The 2015 topic of WMBD was energy and the slogan “Energy – make it bird friendly”. In 2016 the topic was illegal killing of birds and the slogan “... and when the skies fall silent? – Stop the illegal killing, taking and trade”. Both campaigns were very successful and in both years a benefit concert was organized in Bonn to raise funds for the campaign.

#### **Concerted and Cooperative actions**

21. The Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) was included in the list of species designated for Concerted and Cooperative Action during the 2015-2017 triennium through Resolution 11.13.

#### **Flyways Programme of Work**

22. Resolution 11.14 adopted a global programme of work on migratory birds and flyways with the overall purpose of identifying and promoting implementation of activities at the international and national levels that will effectively contribute to an improvement in the status of migratory birds and their habitats worldwide.
23. The Programme of Work includes specific objectives for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway region including promoting and supporting the effective implementation of the EAAFP Implementation Strategy 2012 – 2016 and its action plans. Another action under “Conservation of Flyway/Ecological Networks and Critical Sites” requests the identification of internationally important sites for priority species/populations of migratory birds, as a matter of high priority.

#### **Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*)**

24. Under “Species-specific Conservation Actions”, the Flyways Programme of Work recommends the development, adoption and implementation of an International Single Species Action Plan for the conservation of Far Eastern Curlew in line with CMS priorities for concerted and cooperative action. The CMS Secretariat is part of the Task Force established under the EAAFP to develop this Action Plan. Once the Plan is adopted at MOP9 of EAAFP it will be submitted to CMS COP12 in the Philippines for adoption by the CMS Parties.
25. The Government of Australia has generously pledged 20,000 Australian dollars to the CMS Secretariat for implementation of the Action Plan once it is adopted.

#### **Baer’s Pochard (*Aythya baeri*)**

26. The International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Baer’s Pochard which was adopted at MOP8 of the EAAFP in January 2015 was endorsed by the CMS Sessional Committee in April 2016. The document will be subsequently submitted to COP12 for adoption.

#### **Siberian Crane (*Leucogeranus leucogeranus*)**

27. Under the framework of the Siberian Crane MOU a project was implemented by the NGO Naurzum on "Safe Flyways: Monitoring threatened waterbirds along the Central Asian site network". The project undertook regular monitoring of cranes and other waterbirds at designated and potential sites in the Western and Central Asian Site Network (WCASN) to ensure updated knowledge of usage by cranes, habitat needs and conservation issues. The final report of the project is due at the end of October 2016.

#### **Preventing poisoning of migratory birds**

28. Through Resolution 11.15, COP11 adopted comprehensive guidelines to prevent the poisoning of migratory birds. Poisoning is a significant global problem affecting a wide range of migratory bird species across almost all habitats and regions. Birds may be exposed to multiple sources of poisoning in their ranges causing lethal and sub-lethal effects with waterbirds being among the most vulnerable. The guidelines contain recommendations to cover five priority poisoning areas: insecticides; rodenticides; poison-bait; veterinary pharmaceuticals (diclophenac); and lead ammunition and fishing weights.
29. Regarding lead ammunition, the Guidelines establish the deadline of CMS COP12 in October 2017 to phase out the use of lead ammunition across all habitats (wetland and terrestrial) replacing with non-toxic alternatives, with countries reporting to COP12 on progress to implement this recommendation.
30. A joint CMS, AEWA and Raptors MOU workshop on bird poisoning in the Southern African region took place on 24 August 2015 in Cape Town (South Africa), back to back with the AEWA pre-MOP6 meeting. Representatives from ten countries attended and discussed an Implementation Plan for the CMS Guidelines in the region. This workshop was made possible thanks to the financial contribution of the European Union through the ENRTP Strategic Cooperation Agreement with UNEP under the project "Effective Implementation of CMS, AEWA and other CMS Family instruments across various regions and languages through capacity-building".

#### **Illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (IKB)**

31. Illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds have been identified as being among the key factors that threaten the conservation status of migratory birds. Although problems of global scale, there are specific regions and hotspots in the world where they are particularly acute and well documented, as is the case with the Mediterranean Region.
32. Resolution 11.16 calls on the CMS Family of instruments to engage in immediate cooperation to address the illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds (IKB). In particular, it calls on the Secretariat to convene an Intergovernmental Task Force to Address the Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean in conjunction with the Secretariat of the Council of Europe (Bern Convention), involving the Mediterranean Parties, including the European Union, other interested parties, and other stakeholders such as BirdLife International and the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE).
33. Thanks to the support pledged by the European Union, it has been possible to appoint a Coordinator for the Task Force and the first meeting of members was held in Cairo from 12 to 15 July 2016. The meeting adopted the Programme of Work 2016-2020 and issued a strong declaration emphasizing the zero tolerance approach to IKB. The Coordinator is based at the CMS Secretariat in Bonn.
34. This initiative complements, with a specific focus on birds, the wider efforts undertaken by UNEP to address the problem of wildlife crime globally. If the Mediterranean experience is successful, the Task Force model could be replicated in other parts of the world where illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory birds are a problem.

#### **Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian region**

35. This Action Plan was adopted at COP11 through Resolution 11.17. It especially urges CMS Parties to address the issue of habitat loss and degradation of migratory landbird species through the development of policies that maintain, manage and restore natural and semi-natural habitats within the wider environment, including working with local communities, and in partnership with the poverty alleviation community and the agriculture and forestry sectors in Africa.
36. Thanks to the funds pledged by Switzerland, it was possible to organize a meeting of the Landbirds Working Group in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 25 to 27 November 2015. Also, in November 2016 a landbirds workshop will take place in Abuja. The meeting will focus on the problem of land use change in West Africa and how this change is causing degradation and fragmentation of the habitats of migratory birds. A draft Resolution on sustainable land use will be discussed at the meeting.

### **Taxonomy and Nomenclature**

37. COP11 adopted the reference recommended by the Scientific Council as the CMS standard reference for bird taxonomy and nomenclature for non-passerine species:  
Handbook of the Birds of the World/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World, Volume 1: Non-passerines, by Josep del Hoyo, Nigel J. Collar, David A. Christie, Andrew Elliot and Lincoln D.C. Fishpool (2014). Volume 2 on Passerines is due to be published in December 2016. The Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council, foreseen to take place in July 2017 in Bonn, will evaluate the potential consequences of adopting this reference as standard reference for passerines under CMS.

### **Climate change and migratory species**

38. For the first time the CMS COP adopted a comprehensive programme of work (POW) on climate change and migratory species. The POW includes provisions on topics such as: adaptation measures in response to climate change; vulnerability assessments; monitoring and research; mitigation, adaptation and land use planning; knowledge exchange and capacity-building; cooperation and implementation.
39. In particular, the POW requests Parties to consider expanding existing networks of protected areas to cover important stop-over locations and sites for potential colonization, and ensure the effective protection and appropriate management of sites to maintain or to increase the resilience of vulnerable populations to extreme stochastic events. Effective monitoring of the site network should be ensured in order to detect threats, and act on any deterioration in site quality, implementing specific actions to address important threats to sites. This may include increasing both the number and size of protected sites.
40. Preparatory work for the convening of a meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change established within the Scientific Council has been undertaken in consultation between the Secretariat and the COP-appointed Councillor for climate change, Colin Galbraith. Discussions with a view to identifying possible collaboration have been initiated with potential partners such as the Bern Convention and the IUCN SSC Climate Change Task Force.

### **Renewable Energy and Migratory Species**

41. Through Resolution 11.27 on Renewable Energy and Migratory Species, COP11 endorsed guidelines for the sustainable deployment of renewable energy technologies with respect to migratory species. The guidelines were developed under a joint initiative by the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and BirdLife International, and the COP took note of a review undertaken under the same initiative summarizing knowledge of actual and possible effects of renewable energy installations on migratory species.

42. The Resolution urges Parties to implement the guidelines as applicable, and also urges Parties to implement, as appropriate, a series of priorities in their development of wind, solar, ocean energies, hydropower and geo-energy. The Resolution also instructs the Secretariat to convene a multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species Conservation (the Energy Task Force), and defines the terms of reference of such a Task Force.
43. The Energy Task Force is being convened in line with the mandate provided by Resolution 11.27 to assist Parties or Signatories to CMS, AEWA, EUROBATS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS and the Raptors MOU to fulfil their obligations with regard to avoiding or mitigating possible negative impacts of energy sector developments on migratory species.
44. As initial steps towards the establishment of the Energy Task Force, the Secretariat, in consultation with stakeholders, has worked towards the definition of elements of a Work Programme for the Task Force for the triennium 2015-2017, as well as activities for a Task Force Coordinator to facilitate the implementation of the Work Programme. Thanks to a generous voluntary contribution from the Government of Germany, resources have been secured for the coordination and basic functioning of the Energy Task Force for the triennium 2015-2017. With a view to getting advice on prospective members of the Energy Task Force, the Secretariat has established a small advisory group. The first meeting of the Energy Task Force will take place 1-2 December 2016 in Cape Town (South Africa).

#### **EAAFP Task Force on the Definition of Migration**

45. The CMS Secretariat is member of this Task Force and has participated in the process to develop the document "Recommendations on the EAAFP Definition of 'Migratory Waterbird'" to be discussed and adopted at MOP9.

#### **Ramsar Convention**

1. **Participatory Type: International governmental organization**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention**
3. **Name of draftsman and organisation you present:**

##### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

From 2015 to 2016, the following Ramsar Sites were designated in the EAAF region that have the potential to be Flyway Network Sites:

- Cambodia: Prek Toal
- China: Anhui Shengjin Lake, Zhangye Heihe Wetland
- Japan: Higashiyoka-higata, Hinuma, Hizen Kashima-higata, Yoshigadaira Wetlands
- Korea (RO): Dongcheon Estuary, Hanbando Wetland, Sumeunmulbaengdui
- Myanmar: Indawgyi Lake,
- Philippines: Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area
- Vietnam: Lang Sen Wetland Reserve, U Minh Thuong National Park

##### *Objective 2: CEPA*

The Ramsar Secretariat has been active in promoting the importance of the EAAF for migratory waterbirds and the Partnership as a mechanism for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats through presentations at various workshops and meetings in 2015 and 2016.

This includes the organization of a workshop on the conservation of the tidal flats of the Yellow/West Sea during the 10th INTECOL meeting in Changshu (China) in September 2016.

The Secretariat has also been working to raise awareness of the importance of the EAAF and the Partnership in the DPR Korea to encourage their accession to the Ramsar Convention and to joining the Partnership.

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*  
n.a.

*Objective 4: Capacity Building*

The Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia (RRC-EA) has been very active in cooperating with the EAAFP to organize national and regional training workshops for site managers from Ramsar Sites and Flyway Network Sites.

*Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

The Secretariat has been part of the international team working:

- on the conservation of the Yellow Sea tidal flats, including the organization of a workshop on the topic during the 10th INTECOL meeting in Changshu (China) in September 2016;
- to support the accession of the DPR Korea to the Ramsar Convention and to join the EAAFP.

## **Food & Agriculture Organisation UN**

Partner Report has not been submitted.

## **Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna**

- 1. Participatory Type: Inter-Governmental**
- 2. Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: CAFF (Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group of the Arctic Council)**
- 3. Name of draftsman and organization you present: Tom Barry (Executive Secretary of the International CAFF Secretariat)**

CAFF's main instrument in activities related to the EAAFP is the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI), a project designed to improve the status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations. AMBI efforts are guided by a work plan that prioritize five Arctic-breeding migratory bird species and three conservation issues. The work plan is guided by a flyway working group with representatives from: the Russian Federation, the United States of America, BirdLife International, the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat, the People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Republic of Singapore, and the CAFF secretariat, under the guidance from an AMBI Steering Group.

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

AMBI's focus in the EAAF is fostering conservation actions throughout the flyway, including habitat protection. This includes AMBI workplan actions to identify encourage and assist in the nomination of important breeding and staging areas used by priority species in the Alaska as part of the EAAFP Flyway Site Network.

*Objective 2: CEPA*

AMBI's communication efforts are aimed at high-level audiences in Arctic Council states, Permanent Participant organizations, Observer states and organizations, and other partners. To this effect, AMBI has produced a one-page information sheet that is shared with project partners about each of the focal flyways to increase awareness of the conservation issues and priority species in each region (see attached).

AMBI is also actively communicating with other inter-governmental organizations and states about the need to conserve Arctic-breeding migrants. AMBI recently presented at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii 2016, including a section on the EAAF.

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Part of the aim of AMBI is to bring high level awareness to the needs for Arctic-breeding bird

conservation that will contribute to increased support for research, monitoring and knowledge generation.

AMBI EAAF's workplan is focused on building opportunities for dialog and creating shared conservation plans in the EAAF region. To achieve this CAFF co-hosted, with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (an Arctic Council Observer state), an AMBI Implementation Meeting in the Netherlands in April 2016. This workshop focused on conservation issues relating to the AMBI workplan for the African Eurasian Flyway and the EAAF.

AMBI is also hosting a workshop prior to the EAAFP MOP9 supported by the Norwegian Embassy in Singapore and the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs (an Arctic Council observer state). This event is bringing together experts from across the region to discuss conservation of Arctic-breeding birds in the EAAF with a special focus on habitat conservation and illegal killing. We are proposing to report the results from the workshop at the EAAFP MOP9 (see attached proposal).

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

AMBI's EAAF committee is committed to building relationships and capacity with the EAAF region. Through the hosting of face-to-face meetings AMBI is supporting dialogue on conservation issues in the region that include the important stakeholders.

Additionally, AMBI has hired a new EAAF coordinator (Ding Li Yong) to support the EAAF committee and actions within the region.

The AMBI EAAF workplan also includes supporting the EAAFP secretariat to coordinate implementation actions for wetland and lesser white-fronted goose conservation. AMBI is continuing to work with the EAAFP and support common objectives through AMBI personnel.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

All of AMBI's activities in the EAAF are flyway-wide approaches, as it is recognized in the AMBI workplan that to conserve Arctic-breeding migratory shorebirds, actions must be taken in the breeding, migratory and over-wintering habitats.

### **Convention on Biological Diversity**

Partner Report has not been submitted.

### **ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity**

#### **Partner Report**

#### **ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity**

- 1. Participation Type: Inter-Governmental**
- 2. Name of the Partner: ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)**
- 3. Name of Head of the Organisation: Mr. Roberto Oliva, Executive Director, ACB**

The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) is an intergovernmental organization established by the Agreement of the Governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2005. Its mandate is to facilitate cooperation and coordination among the members of ASEAN, and with relevant national governments, regional and international organizations on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such biodiversity.

ACB joined in 2014 as the 33<sup>rd</sup> partner of the East-Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP). ACB will support the EAAFP in its work on bringing the conservation of migratory water birds and their habitats into the national agenda of the ASEAN Member States (AMS). Through collaboration with the EAAFP, the ACB will support AMS in addressing the threats that beset the region's coastal, marine

and wetlands ecosystems.

ACB's collaboration with EAAFP will contribute to AMS' increased compliance with Aichi Target 12 which focuses on supporting the conservation of habitats and ecosystems important to the persistence of migratory water bird species in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway.

### **Accomplishments since MOP8**

ACB's support to EAAFP for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats will be achieved through its functional components on programme development and implementation, biodiversity information management, and communication and public awareness. Other related interventions contribute in strengthening regional cooperation include capacity building activities of ACB in support of the AMS on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development and in meeting their commitments as parties to other multilateral environmental agreements.

Major accomplishments of ACB vis-à-vis the objectives of the EAAFP, include the following:

- **Bringing into the agenda of the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB) and the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME) the objectives and strategies of EAAFP for ASEAN including its plans for fund leveraging and mainstreaming its work to national level initiatives.** A proposal to convene and organize a network of countries and experts in the ASEAN to mobilize conservation of migratory waterbirds in the region was presented by EAAFP and discussed at the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AWGNCB in June 2015 in Bangkok. The concept on the "Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats in ASEAN Member States" was noted by the Meeting and requested EAAFP to further develop the proposal in collaboration with ACB. The proposal was further revised by ACB to incorporate the cross-cutting concern on climate change resilience using the ecosystem-based approach. The revised proposal, now entitled, **"Improving Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Resilience in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) through Better Informed Wetland Site Management"** was presented by ACB at the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AWGNCB held in Hanoi, Vietnam in May 2016. At the 26<sup>th</sup> AWGNCB Meeting, Singapore expressed interest to lead the project proposal.

The proposal on ***Improving Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Resilience in the EAAF through Better Informed Wetland Site Management*** is a three-year project that aims to increase resilience to climate change of wetland habitats in the EAAF and strengthen their effectiveness as staging areas for migratory shorebirds through five major strategies: 1) establishment of a functional and responsive Southeast Asia network to champion the conservation of wetlands, in particular coastal and marine, along EAAF; 2) development of a strategic plan that embodies climate resilience, knowledge management strategies, and capacity development mechanisms for the conservation of coastal wetland ecosystems; 3) improving the management capacities of site managers and local stakeholders in managing coastal wetland habitats; 4) implementation of a comprehensive knowledge and awareness campaign to support the conservation of coastal wetlands areas being important staging sites of migratory shorebirds, and; 5) spur and support the development of local conservation actions directed towards improving the resilience to climate change of coastal wetlands.

In consultation with Singapore, as lead AMS, ACB will further review the proposal and focus on key components, e.g., Establishment of the Southeast Asian Flyway Partnership Network. ACB is exploring other funding sources through the ASEAN Secretariat for this proposed project.

- **Brokering the advocacy of the EAAFP into the national agenda of AMS.** Related to this, a meeting among ACB, EAAFP, BirdLife International, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines was convened in May 2015. Key decisions and agreements of the meeting include the following: possible contribution of Philippines to EAAFP; establish sister sites to increase synergy in learning and capacity building; looking at wetland conservation as a modality for disaster risk reduction; and creating opportunity for business sector engagement through an “Adopt-a-Flyway” programme.
- **Continued support to AMS in the establishment and effective management of the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHPs).** Several projects were implemented in 2015-2016 that focused on improving the management effectiveness of AHPs. Two of which have benefited the Tarutao National Marine Park (TNMP) in Thailand, a marine complex comprising a number of islands which is also important staging areas of migratory birds (i.e. in Ko Adang). These projects include the “AHP Development through Capacity Enhancement and Information Development”, implemented in 2015 and supported by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), which has improved the TNMP in terms of the species in protected area data management and management planning; and the “Collaborative Project on Research on Ecotourism for Biodiversity Conservation and Effective Management of the ASEAN Heritage Parks”, implemented in 2016 that provided relevant insights on sustainable ecotourism management in TNMP.

The new nominations for new AHP sites are all marine ecosystems, namely: the Bai Tu Long National Park in Vietnam, and the Wakatobi National Park in Southeast Sulawesi Province in Indonesia. The draft ASEAN Strategic Plan on the Environment (ASPEN) for 2016-2025 has targeted an increase in the number of marine AHPs (at least 8 more coastal and marine areas designated as AHP sites).

- **Built and strengthened partnerships to enhance ACB's thematic area on coastal and marine environment conservation.** New partnerships were established in 2015-2016 to strengthen wetland and coastal/marine conservation in the ASEAN that may complement or synergize with the EAAFP work. ACB has recently partnered with IUCN, and as partner, ACB sits at the Steering Committee of IUCN's Mangroves for the Future Initiative. ACB is also working with UNEP-WCMC, UNEP-COBSEA, Ramsar Secretariat (Asia), and PEMSEA in developing joint initiatives on integrated coastal management.
- **Continued improvement and development of shared information and database on biodiversity.** The Regional Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) remains the platform by which ACB organizes information on biodiversity from the AMS CHMs and other related sources and biodiversity information facilities. The Species in Protected Areas, which is an online tool for mapping migratory birds, is also continuously being developed and populated through visual materials (e.g. posters) to reach a wider audience. The Species and Protected Areas tool will be used to generate maps of migratory bird staging areas in the ASEAN Region. Overlaying occurrence and distribution data of migratory bird species on habitat and protected area maps will determine the protection status of these species as well as the adequacy of habitat protection that the PA provides in terms of area coverage. The Species in Protected Areas tool is a web service that allows overlays of species occurrence and distribution data from IUCN on to the habitats map and existing ASEAN protected areas from the World Database of Protected Area (WDPA) data and Birdlife International (Important Bird Areas and Endemic Bird Areas).

Besides EAAFP, linkages among the global data providers (i.e. AP-BON, GEOBON, GBIF, OBIS, FIN, ABCDNet, Nature Serve, Birdlife International, CMS) are also continuously being renewed to support the CHM infrastructure. ACB has acquired an increasing roles in these partnerships as well.

## Rio Tinto

Partner Report has not been submitted.

## Incheon City Government

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

*Objective 2: CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness)*

### 1. Education for Migratory birds (Black-faced spoonbill etc.)

#### 1) Black-faced spoonbill school: 2015 - 2016

- Organization: Incheon Black-faced spoonbill Network (7 NGO consortium)
- Results: 7 times, 500 participants (2015), 6 times 500 participants (2016)
- Contents: Education for Black-face spoonbill conservation, Bird watching, Field activities etc.

#### 2) Black-faced spoonbill Eco school: 2016

- Organization: Incheon Black-faced spoonbill Network, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat, Incheon City Government
- Results: 6 times, 500 participants
- Contents: Education for Black-face spoonbill conservation, Bird watching, Field activities etc.
  - International conference for Black faced spoonbill's habitat and breeding sites
  - : Black-faced spoonbill's wintering sites (Hongkong, Taiwan, Japan etc.) activist by Skype, discussion and sharing information with teenage

### 2. Enhancement for Citizen's public awareness

#### 1) Conservative activities for Black-faced spoonbill's habitat

- Making nest and arrange materials for Black-faced spoonbill's habitat : Every March
  - Welcoming fair (Apr) and Birthday fair for Black-faced spoonbill (May)
    - Cleaning around Black-faced spoonbill's breeding sites (Namdong Reservoir), Bird watching, Field activities
  - Farewell party for BFS (Nov) : Presentation of BFS forum and activities
  - Photo Exhibition: Every year (2015, 2016)
- #### 2) Training for Migratory bird watching guide: 21 guides (2016)
- #### 3) Activities for migratory birds in Southern Yeongjon island
- : 120 participants (June 2016)

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, sharing knowledge and information*

1. EAAFP Incheon-Gyeonggi-do ecology Task Force: every quarter

2. Eco monitoring of Black-faced Spoonbill's breeding sites

: Mar - Oct, Namdong Reservoir

Year	Maximum Population in Namdong Reservoir	Breeding succeed nests	Number of breeding success	Other
2015	292	85	150	
2016	423	94	169	

*Objective 4: Capacity Building*

1. Workshop for WMBD (World Migratory Bird Day)

: June 2015, Incheon G-Tower

- Contents: Sharing information and cooperation between habitat and breeding sites for BFS

- 113 Participants (Government, Experts, NGO etc.)

2. Workshop for Migratory Water birds and their habitats

: Dec 2015, 50 participants

- Hosted by EAAFP Incheon-Gyeonggi-do Eco-region Task Force

3. Long-term plan for migratory birds and their habitat conservation (Mar 2015)

4. Establishing Incheon's Nature and Natural resources conservation execution plan (2016 – 2025): 2016

## **WORKING GROUPS (7)**

### **Anatidae Working Group**

1. Participatory Type: EAAFP Working Group

2. Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Anatidae Working Group

### **3. Name of draftsman and organisation you present:**

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

- Two candidate FNS under consultation between local site managers and the Anatidae WG coordinator in Japan: Tofutsu-ko, an important stopover for 67,000 Anatidae species, and Shizugawa bay, an important wintering site of brent geese.
- One candidate site, Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve, in the DPRK is in the process of filling out SIS by the Ministry of Land and Environmental Protection (MoLEP) in DPRK, with the support from Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia.
- Mongolia nominated 5 new FNS, 4 of which are internationally important for Anatidae, including Swan Goose, Ruddy Shelduck and Red-crested Pochard

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

- 4 symposia concerning the impact on waterbirds of wind farms hosted by the Wild Bird Society of Japan and concerned bodies in Japan. Large scale wind farm construction has become an issue in several Anatidae FNS in Japan.
- Wetland exchange programme of students to learn about Nakaumi and Shinjiko Ramsar / FN sites to encourage communication and interaction between young generations who are studying about wetlands and migratory birds

#### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

##### **1) Research and Monitoring**

Coordinated voluntary goose counts (Greater white-fronted geese and Bean geese: twice a month from October to April, Brent geese: fall, winter and spring in collaboration with Russian counterparts) are conducted in Japan. Trends in the abundance of diving ducks and sea ducks wintering in Japan was recently analyzed and published using the long term data set from the National Anatidae Census, and has shown that Long-tailed Duck, Harlequin Duck, Black Scoter and Red-breasted Merganser exhibited significant long term declines, Common Goldeneye and Common Pochard showed moderate declines over the 26-year period; and Greater Scaup declined during 2000–2015 (Shimada et al. 2016).

Research project on computer-automated monitoring system for Anatidae and its habitat launched by the University of Tokyo and others in Japan.

Conducting water bird survey along the Middle and Lower Yangtze River floodplain in January 2016, counting more than 640,000 birds including 73 species.

Continuation of long-term monitoring, banding and demography research of breeding ducks and Tundra Swan in Chaun Delta, Chukotka, Russia, including camera-trap studies of incubation behaviour and predation.

Geese populations monitoring in Western Chukotka by Russian researchers.

Satellite tracking (from Japan) and banding (in Russia) on Brent geese by Japanese researchers.

Satellite tracking (from China) and banding (in Russia) on Tundra Swan as well as other species by Chinese researchers.

Satellite tracking of Swan Geese and Whooper Swans from Mongolia by Mongolia-Chinese-Korean research team.

GPS/GPRS tracking of Tundra Swans, Bean Geese and Greater White-fronted Geese from Eastern Russia by Chinese and Russian researchers.

GPS-Mobile Tracking of Swan Geese and Ducks in cooperation with Korea, China, Russia and Mongolia in 2016 using about 400 devices. This tracking research will continue in 2017.

## 2) Knowledge generation and exchange

Round table held in the annual meeting of Ornithological Society of Japan by the Japan Ornithologist Group for ASN (JOGA). (2015: Requestioning the role of Anatidae researchers, 2016: Anatidae and wind power facilities)

A brief meeting on Baer's Poached was organized in early November 2016 in Guangzhou by the Beijing Forestry University and Bird Life International.

Session on "Current state of waterfowl populations of the EAAF" (Workshop of the Anatidae WG EAAFP) in joint conference of the Goose Specialist Group and Goose, Swan and Duck Study Group of Northern Eurasia at Salekhard, Russia, November 30 –December 6, 2016. The conference also provided opportunity for an intermediate meeting of Anatidae WG in between MoPs.

Session on "Research and Conservation Status of the Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* of the East Asian Flyway" in 3rd Meeting of the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group in April 2016.

### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

- SINO BON (China Biodiversity Observation Networks) Bird Monitoring Training Course at Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China on 23-27th May, 2016.

Bird Diversity Observation Network of Sino BON developed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2015, will provide technical support for a future domestic monitoring platform, establishing best practice in bird monitoring methods and standards, developing analytical methods to analyze 'big' data and work towards creating a global data sharing platform.

- A training course on waterbird identification and counting was organized recently in the DPRK with the collaboration between MoLEP and WSCC of Mongolia. We plan to continue the training and capacity building and conduct joint surveys in the DPRK in 2017.

### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

- Cooperation with AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose Working Group.
- Cooperation with AEWA in WI Swan Specialist Group

### **Avian Influenza Working Group**

Report has not been submitted.

### **Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group**

#### **EAAFP Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group Report**

- 1. Participatory Type: Working Group**
- 2. Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: 6 (Republic of Korea, Japan, People's Republic of China, Vietnam, BirdLife International, Wild Bird Society of Japan)**
- 3. Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Yat-tung Yu (BirdLife international / Hong Kong Bird Watching Society), coordinator of the EAAFP BFS Working Group**

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets

- 0 FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets. The EAAFP BFS WG has not involved in the process of updating the Site Information Sheets after MOP8.

Number of proposed new FNS : 0

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

- Major distribution range of BFS includes Japan, Republic of Korea, People's Republic of China and Vietnam. All these countries are already partners of EAAFP. Russia, Thailand and the Philippines, with smaller numbers of BFS found within, are also partners of EAAFP.

Number of National Partnership meetings held

- EAAFP BFS WG members joined a national BFS conservation meeting at Shenzhen, China, March 2016. This is the first meeting organised by Wildlife Conservation Office of Forestry Ministry of China Government to discuss BFS conservation activities in China. Representatives from Taiwan and Macau also attended this meeting. The next meeting is planned in June 2017 and BFS WG members also plan to attend the meeting.

- An international Black-faced Spoonbill Workshop was organized by EAAFP BFS WG chair in June 2015, Incheon.

- Japan BFS Network organized annual meeting at Fukuoka, July 2016.

- EAAFP BFS WG members also joined the NEASPEC Workshop on Nature Conservation and Transboundary Cooperation at Beijing, November 2016. NEASPEC works on a project 'Conservation and rehabilitation of habitats for key migratory birds in North-East Asia' and Black-faced Spoonbill is listed as a key species in the North-East Asia region. The meeting had reviewed the outcome and relevant activities of the project so far and also discussed follow-up actions for coming future.

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

- BFS photo exhibition was organized in Incheon.

- “TEAM SPOON” was organized by students of Tokyo University to promote awareness of the BFS and its habitat conservation.

- A booklet titled “BFS Dictionary” at Hizen-Kashima and Higashi-Yoka tidal flats (Ramsar Sites) was published by Japan BFS Network.

Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- International Single Species Action Plan has been implemented into government plans and policies (e.g. Japan, ROK and Hong Kong (China)).

- EAAFP BFS WG, Japan BFS Network and HKBWS (BirdLife in Hong Kong) sent letters to Mayor of Incheon City to express concerns on the plan of building a sewage treatment plant at Namdongji, an globally important breeding site of the BFS.

#### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

- Satellite-tracking and colour-ringing of fledging juveniles from Korea’s breeding sites has been continued.

- Monthly count has been conducted in each wintering site in Japan from Oct 2015 to May 2016.

- Annual International Census in winter sites is still continued and the 2017 census is scheduled on 13-15 January.

- Website to collect re-sightings of colour-ringed individuals is still running and it provides a platform to share information of BFS’s home range, longevity and migration route.

Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- Annual international census and regular monitoring activities in several sites (e.g. Japan, Hong Kong, Macau) have been continued.

Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- Annual census report has been published and made available for download. Emails have been regularly exchanged for latest information.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

Number of sites with local capacity building programs

- No capacity building activities or programme for site managers has been conducted after MOP8.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions

- Satellite-tracking and colour-ringing programme has been continued that promotes international cooperation and researches of the Black-faced Spoonbill.

- NEASPEC's scoping survey for BFS in Hakata Bay has been conducted and report was published in September 2016, a collaboration between Japan and Korea's researchers.
- Sister Site partnership between Incheon (Korea) and Mai Po (Hong Kong) has been started and further discussion will be arranged.

### **Crane Working Group**

Report has not been submitted.

### **Seabird Working Group**

1. **Participatory Type: EAAFP Working Group**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Seabird Working Group**
3. **Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Robb Kaler (United States Government)**

#### *Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

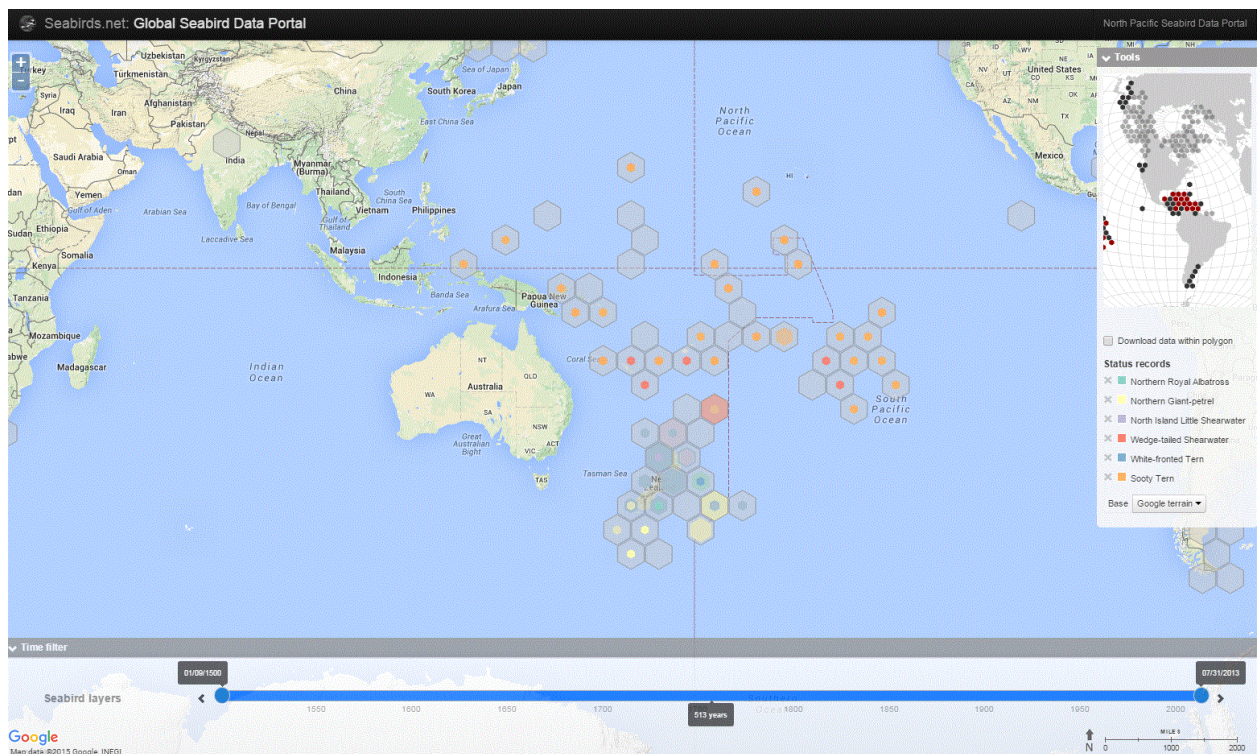
- One candidate FNS has been proposed for Australia, the Ashmore Reef Commonwealth Marine Reserve and Pulu Keeling National Park.
- Two candidate FNS are waiting for additional approval to move forward with the nomination process: (i) Sirius Point at Kiska Island located in the western Aleutian Archipelago of Alaska and is the breeding site of over six million Least and Crested auklets. (ii) Buldir Island, located in the western Aleutian Archipelago of Alaska, is home to 3.5 million breeding seabirds, including 500,000 Least and Crested auklets.

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

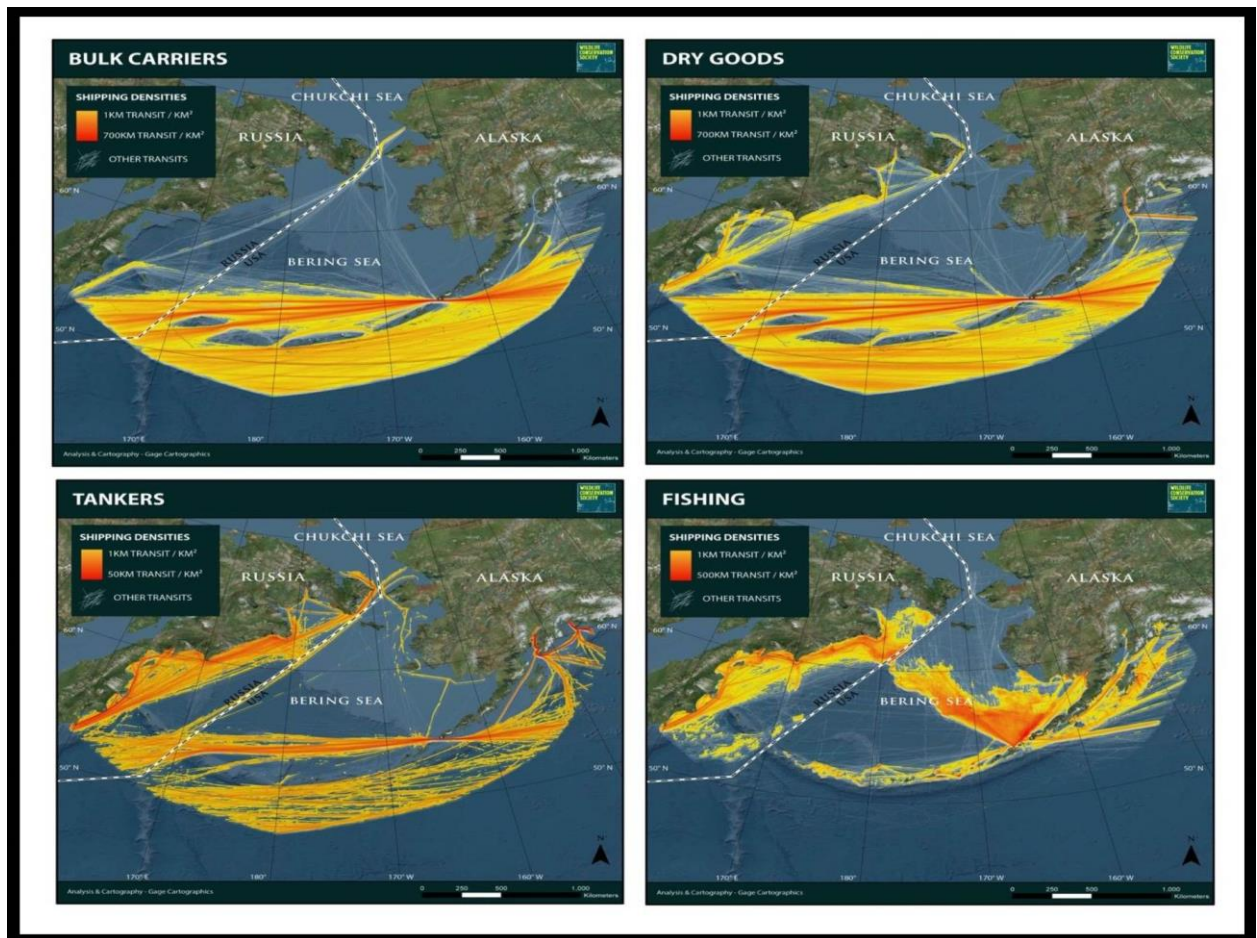
- The EAAFP Seabird Working Group members participated in numerous international meetings, helping increase the recognition of the EAAFP:
  - (i) World Seabird Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, October 2016
  - (ii) Pacific Seabird Group annual meetings held San Jose, California, USA, February 2015, and Oahu, Hawaii, USA, February, 2016
  - (iii) 9th Australasian Ornithological Conference (Adelaide, Australia) where activities of the EAAFP and the SWG were promoted
  - (iv) BirdLife Australia's Australasian Seabird Group.
- Promoting to use terns (any species but Chinese Crested, Great Crested and Aleutian could be flagships) to strengthen international studies and conservation on seabirds, particular to the warmer parts of Asia. BirdLife International (Simba Chan) will be leading a session at the International Ornithological Congress (Vancouver 2018) on seabirds: "Conservation Reliant Seabirds in the Pacific Basin".

#### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in collaboration with the Pacific Seabird Group has made great progress toward the development of a Pacific-wide seabird program with a primary objective aimed at hiring a full-time seabird data manager position. Robb Kaler (EAAFP Seabird WG chair) has been active in the development of the program and intends to further raise protocol sharing efforts and data management needs which include the EAAF and its partners.
- Global Seabird Colony Register development as made good progress with support from the New Zealand Department of Conservation and BirdLife International. Seabird colony data from New Zealand (including Campbell, Auckland, Adams, Chatham, Pitt, Forty-Fours, Raoul Islands) and islands in the South Pacific (Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands) to the Global Seabird Colony Register ([http://axiom.seabirds.net/global\\_portal.php](http://axiom.seabirds.net/global_portal.php)).



- A mass seabird mortality event of unprecedented duration, geographic scope, and magnitude has been recorded based on observation of tens of thousands of dead marine birds across Alaska (mostly Common Murres) in 2015-2016. In November 2016, reports of dead puffins and crested auklets were received. In all cases, necropsy results of examined birds found the cause of death to be due to starvation. The starvation has been thought to be associated with record-breaking high sea surface temperature in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed their eleventh year of pelagic seabird surveys in the Bering and Chukchi seas. Data from all of the at-sea surveys will be archived in the North Pacific Pelagic Seabird Database, and will also be accessible on the Alaska Ocean Observing System web site following completion of the respective projects.
- Shipping traffic through the Arctic is anticipated to increase as record low Arctic sea ice levels are recorded. A shipping traffic and risk assessment was conducted using modeled projections on vessel traffic patterns and frequency, resulting in the ability to recommend Areas-To-Be-Avoided. These recommendation were later used to implement updated traffic patterns that reduced risk to breeding seabird colonies, marine mammal haul-outs and breeding rookeries.



#### Objective 4: Capacity Building

- No capacity building activities for site managers has been conducted following MOP8.
- Russia and USA researchers are discussing seeking appropriate approval to add Aleutian terns to the species list used to direct conservation and research efforts through the Russia-USA bilateral agreement.

#### Objective 5: Flyway-wide Approaches

- Cooperation with Pacific Seabird Group's Aleutian Tern Working Group, Tufted Puffin Working Group, and the Seabird Monitoring Committee
- Cooperation with the World Seabird Union and participating in contributing information to the global seabird colony register
- Cooperation with BirdLife International efforts to update IUCN Red Book to elevate status of concern for relevant EAAFP species
- In Alaska, researchers at Washington Sea Grant, Oregon State University and the International Pacific Halibut Commission continued a project to assess characterization of spatiotemporal patterns and trends in albatross and other seabird bycatch rates in Alaskan longline fleets and conducted seabird bycatch avoidance best practice workshops at various ports in Alaska.

### Shorebird Working Group

1. Participatory Type: EAAFP Working Group
2. Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: Shorebird Working Group.
3. Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Richard Lanctot, Chair, Shorebird Working Group

#### Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites

Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets:

- BirdLife Australia provided funding from an Australian base corporate to BirdLife Asia to continue a project at the Geum Estuary FNS in Republic of Korea.
- Australasian Wader Study Group (AWSG) has reviewed the nomination documents for three Flyway Network Sites at the request of the EAAFP Chief Executive.
- Alaska Shorebird Group representative and SWG chair, Richard Lanctot, updated the Yukon Delta, Alaska SIS, and reviewed the nomination documents for one Flyway Network Site in Japan at the request of the EAAFP Chief Executive.
- Mongolian Ornithological Society and National University of Mongolia updated 4 network sites in Mongolia

Number of proposed new FNS:

- SWG Chair, Richard Lanctot, worked with Casey Burns and others at the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, to select and nominate a new Flyway Network Site near Teshekpuk Lake in the National Petroleum Reserve of Alaska. This 211 km<sup>2</sup> area harbors at least 4900 Dunlin and many other waterbirds that migrate along and winter in the EAAF. A nomination package is being prepared for acceptance at the MOP9.
- AWSG and Birdlife Australia have provided support for the nomination of several Network Sites in the Gulf of Carpentaria region of northern Australia with the cooperation and collaboration of Indigenous Rangers.
- Birdlife Australia led on the technical preparation of the nomination of part of Spencer Gulf.
- 12 new sites within Japan were identified based partly on shorebird numbers.
- Mongolian Ornithological Society, National University of Mongolia and Ministry of Environment and Tourism nominated 6 network sites in Mongolia and counted shore birds in 6 new sites and 5 Ramsar sites in Mongolia

#### *Objective 2: CEPA*

Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)

- The SWG collaborated closely with the Secretariat and other working groups/task forces of the EAAFP. The SWG also collaborates and supports other international and national groups such as the International Wader Study Group, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group, Australia Wader Study Group, and the Russian Working Group on Waders.
- The Australasian Shorebird Conference coordinated by the AWSG and Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust was held in New Zealand in October 2016. This provided an opportunity to publicize the EAAF Partnership and collaborate with other key stakeholders in Australia and NZ. Two delegates from China were sponsored by AWSG under the Mark Barter Award to participate.
- A Flyway Print Exchange, which was supported by BirdLife Australia with Kate Gorrington-Smith, was held. This Exchange is an international environmental art project featuring 20 artists from 9 different countries, linked by the East Asian - Australasian Flyway.  
<http://www.theflywayprintexchange.info/>
- The Alaska Shorebird Group met for two days in Anchorage in December 2015 and for one day in Cordova in December 2016, with a principal goal of updating the state shorebird conservation plan. During each meeting, an update on the EAAFP was presented.

Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness:

- Members of the SWG participated in regional and national awareness activities for migratory shorebirds such as Farewell Shorebirds, Welcome Shorebirds, AWSG Shorebirds 2020 Program, and other outreach activities initiated by EAAF partners and NGOs throughout the flyway.
- Over the period March – May 2016 AWSG supported the Birdlife Australia 'Shorebirds Campaign'. This was a major program coordinated by Birdlife Australia aimed at publicizing the migratory shorebird story and the critical need for conservation action both in Australia and elsewhere in the Flyway. Several web-based and field activities were undertaken. One of the objectives was to raise funds for shorebird conservation initiatives.

- As part of this Campaign, a day long ‘Shorebird Summit’ was held in Melbourne involving key stakeholders from Commonwealth and State governments, NGO’s, private sector corporations, academics and other shorebird experts. The focus of the day was for the Commonwealth Government to launch the updated “Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds” and the development of an action plan around this. It was a successful first step but will require ongoing follow up. A further planning workshop is planned by BirdLife Australia for December.
- Another component of this ‘Campaign’ was the tracking of Grey Plovers fitted with satellite transmitters. (see below under 3.1). This was a very useful tool to engage wide sections of the public and to some extent, the media.
- Japanese members of SWG conducted CEPA activities at the following Flyway Network Sites: Yatsu Tidal Flats, Manko, Hizen Kashima Higata, Arao Higata, Fujimae Higata, and the Kumagawa Estuary. Other activities include:
  - Kasai Seaside Park: Spring birdwatching festival of shorebirds
  - Presentation at: “Signs from birds: Watarase Retarding Basing and surrounding area” by Moriya organised by Local civil commission on Watarase Basin
  - “Ramsar Symposium 2016 in Nakaumi-Shinjiko”
  - Publication of World Shorebirds Day
  - Poster Presentation at 17<sup>th</sup> Tokyo Bay Symposium
  - Scrutinizing Committee Meeting of Shorebird Survey of Monitoring Sites 1000
  - Exchange meeting of Shorebird Survey of Monitoring Sites 1000
- Mongolian Ornithological Society and National University of Mongolia printed out poster “Threatened Birds of Mongolia” including shorebirds and distributed 500 local people in Mongolia from June to September, 2016.
- During the national workshop and training on Ramsar Site Managers in Mongolia in November 2015 and Workshop on Biodiversity monitoring in protected areas in October, 2016 experts of the Mongolian Ornithological Society and National University of Mongolia gave speeches on shorebird identification and sexing and ageing to Ramsar and EAAFP site managers, students of Universities, and rangers of protected areas.
- Publications relevant to shorebirds include:
  - The Birdlife Australia Journal *Emu* published a Special Issue on the ‘EAAF population trends, threats and the future’ earlier this year. This is an excellent publication covering much of the most recent scientific information available in our flyway. <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/97/issue/7997.htm>
  - EAAFP Newsletters: <http://www.eaaflyway.net/our-activities/eaafp-newsletters/>
  - AWSG publishes quarterly newsletter (Tattler) twice yearly journal (Stilt). <http://www.awsg.org.au/publications.php>
  - The Alaska Shorebird Group publishes an annual summary of projects completed on shorebirds that breed or migrate through Alaska (see [https://www.fws.gov/alaska/mbmp/mbm/shorebirds/working\\_group.htm](https://www.fws.gov/alaska/mbmp/mbm/shorebirds/working_group.htm)). This website also has information on meeting minutes from our annual meeting.

#### Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

- Members of the SWG participated and helped revise the Alaska Shorebird Conservation Plan (version III, still in progress), prepare the first Far Eastern Curlew Shorebird Conservation Plan, and revise the Australian Government’s “Wildlife Conservation plan for Migratory Shorebirds”.

#### *Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

##### Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats

- The SWG collaborated closely with the Global Flyways Network, the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative, other university, NGO and governmental groups in fly-wide migratory connectivity studies on a variety of shorebird species (see details below).
- Members of the SWG participated in conducting surveys and capturing birds throughout Australia, New Zealand, Alaska, Russia, China, and South Korea. This information helped

expand databases on population estimates, stopover duration, biometrics, moult and age structure and survival rate studies (see details below).

- The AWSG, in collaboration with Australian state shorebird groups, Deakin University and Birdlife Australia, participated in the following activities:
  - Banding and leg flagging a wide range of shorebirds at a number of locations around Australia.
  - A Colour Flagging Protocol, database and Facebook site are maintained to document resightings of birds throughout the EAAF.
  - Continuation of geolocator-tagging studies particularly on Ruddy Turnstone in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. These studies have now resulted in identifying specific breeding locations for Ruddy Turnstone, Great Knot and Sanderling as well as providing an indication of breeding characteristics.
  - Undertaking satellite-tagging studies of Grey Plover. Funding for this project was raised through a web based 'crowd funding' site (Pozible) which enabled the deployment of 5 transmitters on Grey Plover in Northwest Australia. A feature of this study was that reports and tracks were regularly posted on the web to enable a wider public audience. In fact, two of these birds reached the breeding grounds in northern Siberia. A companion study was undertaken by colleagues in South Australia under separate funding; in that case two Grey Plover reached their breeding ground on Wrangel Island. Again, the tracks were made available on the web.
- Members of the Alaska Shorebird Group continue to conduct research studies on shorebirds; see annual summary of projects, which includes papers published, at [https://www.fws.gov/alaska/mbasp/mbm/shorebirds/working\\_group.htm](https://www.fws.gov/alaska/mbasp/mbm/shorebirds/working_group.htm)).
  - A circumpolar Arctic study on Dunlin was initiated using geolocators to track their movements. This included birds tagged at breeding sites in Alaska (2 sites) and Russia (3 sites) that will likely migrate down the EAAF.
  - Extensive studies evaluating climate change related effects on breeding shorebirds are being conducted at several sites in Alaska.
- Members from Japan
  - participate in the Shorebird Survey of Monitoring Sites 1000 Project; Results of the survey, Data files are found in the following site: <http://www.biodic.go.jp/moni1000/index.html>
  - publish three issues of Bird Research Waterbird Newsletter every year. (June, October 2016 and January 2017);
  - manage an e-mail listserv called "jssn chidori", which is owned by national coordinator of shorebird network, includes 158 Participants as of 20 December 2016, and works toward sharing information on wetlands and shorebirds; and
  - manage an e-mail listserv called "SRJapan", which is composed of shorebird researchers of Japan Ornithological Society, includes 47 participants as of 20 December 2016, and works toward sharing information on academic reports on wetlands and shorebirds.
- Members of Mongolian Ornithological Society and scientists of National University of Mongolia leg-flagged Red-necked Stint in Dashinchilen Tsagaan Lake, EAAF network site in Central Mongolia in August 2014 and resighted in Victoria, Australia in April, 2016. Field team of the Society photographed a Curlew Sandpiper with orange leg-flag banded in Victoria, Australia at Ayaga Lake, Central Mongolia in August, 2015 and 2 Red-necked Stints with orange leg-flags ringed in Victoria, Australia were documented at Buir Lake, Eastern Mongolia in May and July.
- Mongolian Shore Bird Database was created by the Mongolian Ornithological Society and the database is in under progress.

#### Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats

- Members of the SWG participated in monitoring of shorebirds at priority shorebird breeding, staging, and wintering areas (see details below).
- Members of the Alaska Shorebird Group conducted their second year of surveys on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (an EAAFP site) for shorebirds using the Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring protocols. This area harbors some of the highest densities of shorebirds in the world. Analyses are underway to ascertain the

population size of shorebird species. One of these species is the Bar-tailed Godwit (*baueri* subspecies) that migrates along the EAAF. Additional post-breeding surveys were conducted on the species on the Yukon Delta during August-September 2016 to better estimate breeding success and rates of survival.

- The SWG shared shorebird count data from EAAF sites with the Asian Waterbird Census.
- AWSG provided the Chair for the EAAFP Monitoring Taskforce (Doug Watkins). In April 2016 Doug participated in the China Yellow Sea Protected Area Shorebird monitoring program coordinated by Wetlands International. This monitoring program is an initiative of the Protected Area Managers.
- The China Coastal Waterbird Census is a long-term project initiated by a group of China birdwatchers in September 2005 with an aim of monitoring the distribution, numbers and seasonal movements of waterbirds through monthly surveys along the Chinese coast. This important survey was supported in 2016 by volunteers from Australia and the UK. Opportunities for capacity building and information transfer. Publication of recent surveys are being prepared.
- In Australia monitoring of non breeding populations are led by BirdLife Australia and their Shorebirds 2020 Monitoring project <http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/shorebirds-2020>. This is supplemented by AWSG's summer and winter surveys (MYSMA) of the important shorebird areas of North-west Australia.
  - Shorebirds 2020 coordinates twice annual counts of a proscribed set of shorebird sites. This is a particularly valuable resource for governments and land managers.
  - The February data collected in Shorebirds 2020 is shared with the Asian Waterbird Census to enable revision of population flyway estimates and the identification of internationally important sites.
- Recent initiatives have shown that published data on flyway population estimates and particularly non-breeding regional estimates are outdated. The Australian Government initiated a review of the Flyway Shorebird Populations Estimates. Birdlife Australia in conjunction with AWSG were asked to provide input into this review and recommend revised estimates. A draft report has been provided to the Australian Government.
- Global Flyway Network has conducted valuable surveys on the Luannan Coast, Bohai Bay, China for 6 weeks during northward migration every year since 2010 in close collaboration with Chinese universities and WWF-China. These surveys have demonstrated the critical importance of this small area for migrating Red Knot from Australia and New Zealand. AWSG continues to seek out opportunities to promote the establishment of a Protected Area along this coast and adjacent artificial wetlands. See report at <http://globalflywaynetwork.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/GFN-Bohai-Report-2016-web.pdf>
- Surveys and other components on the Yalu Jiang and parts of North Korea are in the Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust report.
- The Fuller Lab at University of Queensland continues to publish valuable information on shorebird population trends and changes in tidal habitats in the Yellow Sea region. <http://www.esajournals.org/doi/abs/10.1890/130260>

#### Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

- The SWG shared and disseminated information via a listserv set up specifically for the SWG in 2015. See <https://www.fws.gov/lists/listinfo/eaafswg>
- Members of the SWG shared information on technology related to deploying geolocators and satellite tags on shorebirds.

#### Objective 4: Capacity Building

Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation

- The Australasian Shorebird Conference coordinated by the AWSG was held in New Zealand in October 2016. This provided an opportunity to publicize the Partnership and collaborate

with other key stakeholders in Australia and New Zealand. Two delegates from China had their travel sponsored by AWSG under the Mark Barter Award.

- AWSG is arranging the visit by an 8 person delegation from the State Forestry Administration (China) to study wetland management and migratory shorebird conservation in New Zealand and Australia in late 2016.
- Two staff from the Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve (FNS) and a researcher from Fudan University located in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, have been invited by AWSG to participate in the 2017 North-west Australia Shorebird Research Program.
- Shorebird enthusiasts from Asia continue to come to Alaska for training at the Barrow shorebird breeding ecology study site.
- Japanese SWG members conducted a survey training course focused on the identification, survey methods, and knowledge of shorebird biography/conservation.
- Mongolian Ornithological Society, National University of Mongolia and National Park Service Institute of South Korea organized Shore Bird Identification and Banding training in August in Mongolia and involved 10 researchers.

Number of sites with local capacity building programs: not applicable

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation

- SWG members participated in the development, promotion, and implementation of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative's EAAF plan.
- SWG members participated in the development of the Far Eastern Curlew Conservation Plan.

Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions: none

### **CEPA Working Group**

#### **CEPA Working Group Report**

**January 2014 – January 2016**

The activities of the CEPA Working Group (WG) since the eighth Meeting of the Parties have followed the findings and associated follow-up of the CEPA Workshop held at MOP8. In addition, the WG has developed a new CEPA Strategy and Action Plan to replace the CEPA Strategy (2012); reviewed and updated the paper on *Benefits of Being a Flyway Network Site* first published in 2013; and provided some general advice and support to the Secretariat's Communication Officer.

The full report of the CEPA workshop is available on the [CEPA WG's web page](#). The report analysed the responses to various questions from the diverse EAAFP implementers present at MOP8 including Government Focal Points, Intergovernmental Organizations, scientists, INGO/NGOs and the EAAFP Secretariat. Time allocated for EAAFP work, number of years' involvement, key limitations to implementation, use of the EAAFP website and newsletter all provided interesting insights into implementers and implementation strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement. Partners are encouraged to re-visit the report for further information on this.

The analysis suggested a number of activities for the CEPA WG and during the last two years the WG, working in collaboration with the EAAFP Secretariat, has focussed on various activities, some very

simple and others more complex, to assist implementers and implementation. We have worked as a group which includes the Secretariat's Communications Officer and with input from the Chief Executive on some work areas.

The workshop findings indicated that over 40% of those present had only two years or less experience in the EAAFP; 60% of Government representatives were in this category. In response to this each new government Focal Point now receives a detailed but concise email from the Secretariat identifying basic flyway information, key implementers, main tasks of Government implementers and links to useful information and official documents etc. While effective hand-overs from one Focal Point to another are carried out by some implementers this quite simple change in procedures will ensure that full information is available to all newcomers. In addition, the newsletter is now automatically sent to all new Focal Points (government and non-government) rather than simply suggesting they should make a request to the Secretariat to receive it; Focal Points can of course request to be removed from the newsletter list.

The CEPA WG Chair, working with the Secretariat's Communication Officer, reviewed the Working Group and Task Force web pages, an area identified by workshop respondents as lacking consistency in depth and content. While the web pages of only three Working Groups and one Task Force have so far been reviewed and updated, with the agreement of their respective Chairs where necessary, this is a start and the WG will continue with this to help ensure consistency of content and presentation of information.

Many workshop respondents noted that they did not have time to work with certain groups of implementers, and Site Managers were identified as one of three such groups (others being relevant government agencies and National Government Focal Points). As a contribution to resolving this problem, and to respond to a suggestion from the previous CEPA WG, it was decided that some time should be given to updating the briefing paper for Site Managers on *Benefits and Expectations of the East-Asian Australasian Flyway Site Network*. This was first published in early 2013 and has been reviewed and updated to reflect the current situation, to introduce some relevant illustrative case studies and to improve the layout. This will be available [here](#) once the new layout is completed. Implementers are strongly encouraged to make this document available in their national language and to make broad use of it including during national Site Manager training events. Similarly, this could be effectively used during international Site Manager training events.

While developing national partnerships was identified as a means to encourage and sustain national implementation, it was recognised that little information existed on such partnerships. The WG has provided an example of an effective partnership and this is now available on the [EAAFP website](#) and has been referenced in the Benefits and Expectations briefing paper. The CEPA WG encourages other partners to make available to the Communications Officer at the Secretariat other documents that illustrate the structure, operation and value of effective national partnerships.

The current CEPA Strategy was developed in 2011 and became an official EAAFP document in 2012. It has helped steer the work of the CEPA WG during the last four years. The CEPA WG has reviewed the Strategy with a view to updating this in time for MOP9. Initially this was intended to coincide with the new Implementation Strategy. While it has recently become clear that the new Implementation Strategy will not be available until MOP10 the WG has continued with the development of what is now a new CEPA Strategy and Action Plan. This has been made available to MOP9 participants and any constructive feedback is encouraged so that a final document can be produced and hopefully implemented over the coming four years. It may become necessary to edit this document again once the new Flyway Implementation Strategy/Strategic Plan is available.

## Amur-heilong Basin Task Force

Report has not been submitted.

## Baer's Pochard Task Force



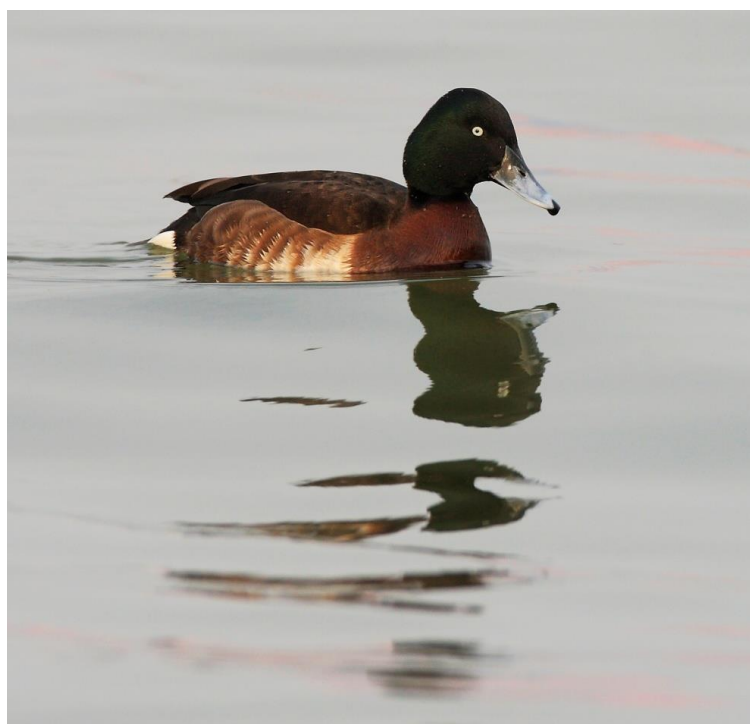
### Baer's Pochard Task Force report to 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Partners to the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership



*Singapore, 11-15 January 2017*

**DING Changqing<sup>1</sup> and Richard HEARN<sup>2</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup> Beijing Forestry University, China; <sup>2</sup> Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, UK*



## 1. SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the activities by the Baer's Pochard Task Force in 2015 and 2016, the period between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Partners to the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP). Progress with implementation of actions in the Single Species Action Plan is also summarised (Appendix 1).

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During 2015 and 2016, significant new knowledge was gained about the abundance and distribution of Baer's Pochard, including the discovery of several new breeding sites. Furthermore, awareness of the status of the species and the need for more targeted conservation effort was raised considerably. Despite this progress, it is clear that Baer's Pochard continues to face a serious risk of extinction in the wild and additional significant new effort is needed from 2017 in order to reduce this risk further.

Of greatest importance are:

- The protection and appropriate management of all sites currently known to support Baer's Pochard and targeted action to address harvesting; effective action on these issues may be sufficient to halt the ongoing decline
- Habitat restoration, particularly in NE China, is likely to be essential for population recovery

## **2. BAER'S POCHARD TASK FORCE COORDINATION**

### **Activities since MoP8**

11. Following the adoption of the Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) at MoP8, the EAAFP Baer's Pochard Task Force (BPTF) was formally established in 2015. Prof. DING Changqing was appointed Chair, Richard HEARN appointed Global Coordinator, Prof. CAO Lei appointed China Coordinator, and Sergey SURMACH appointed Russia Coordinator.
12. The BPTF website was set up <http://www.eaaflyway.net/our-activities/task-forces/baers-pochard-task-force/>
13. The Baer's Pochard SSAP was formally approved by the Scientific Council in April 2016 and published at <http://www.cms.int/en/document/action-plan-baers-pochard-aythya-baeri>.
14. DING Changqing attended the *International Workshop on Yellow-breasted Bunting and migratory land bird conservation* in Guangzhou, China, in November 2016 to meet national delegates from Russia, Mongolia, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar in order to meet each other, share information on the status of Baer's Pochard in each country, and to discuss the BPTF work.

## **3. RESEARCH, MONITORING, KNOWLEDGE GENERATION AND EXCHANGE**

### **Activities since MoP8**

15. During the past two years there has been a steady increase in the number of surveys and anecdotal observations of Baer's Pochard, which has improved the understanding of current population size, distribution and site use. Surveys have been conducted in various parts of the flyway, particularly in China.
16. In China, this work has been predominantly carried out by a team from Beijing Forestry University (BJFU), led by WU Lan, a post-doctoral researcher employed by BJFU since April 2016, and a team from China Wild Nature, coordinated by LI Qingxin. In addition, monitoring at sites in Shandong during 2016 was carried out by the Birdwatching Society of Qufu Normal University. Greater awareness among birdwatchers of the importance of looking for Baer's Pochard and reporting all sightings has augmented the results of these studies.
17. The highest total counts have been made during the winter, when the birds are typically most concentrated. The largest recent count was made at the end of October 2016, when a total of 283 was recorded over a 2 day period, comprising 168 birds at Hengshui Hu (Hebei Province), 86 at Taiping wetland (Shandong Province), 8 at Jiujiang (Jiangxi Province) and 21 at Huangpi (Hubei Province). This is the largest total population count since 2010/11 and, given the low coverage (since it was not part of a coordinated census), suggests the post-breeding population is likely to comprise at least 300 individuals.
18. Other recent high counts include 211 at Jiujiang on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2016, though few were reported elsewhere in winter 2015/16. A coordinated waterbird census of the central and lower Yangtze in January 2015, organised by WWF China (Wuhan office), located 125 Baer's Pochard, half of which were at Chong Hu (Hubei Province). At the same time, about 105 individuals were known to be wintering at other Chinese sites, including 84 at Taibai Hu (Shandong Province) and with a few reports from elsewhere the final total was 238 birds. The count data from 2014/15 and 2015/16 suggest that winter distribution varies considerably between years.

19. Away from China, a comprehensive census of potential wintering sites in central Myanmar was conducted in winter 2015/16 by BANCA. This census surveyed 22 sites during January, March and April 2016. At least 12 Baer's Pochard were found at Pyu Lake near Mandalay city in January, with at least four remaining until March. An additional four birds were recorded at two other sites, giving a total of 16 birds wintering at three sites in Myanmar during 2015/16 (Aung *et al.* 2016).
20. Significant new knowledge of the breeding range has been gathered since 2015. Of particular significance is that breeding is now known to occur as far south as the Yangtze floodplain in central China. One site near Wuhan (Hubei Province) was documented by Lu *et al.* (2015) in *BirdingASIA* and another was discovered in 2016 near Jiujiang (where around 200 birds also over-wintered; see above). Possible breeding has also been noted at other sites in the Yangtze floodplain.
21. Monitoring of breeding populations was conducted at five sites during late March to October 2016: (i) Huangpi; (ii) Hengshui Hu Nature Reserve, Hebei Province; (iii) Chenqiao Nature Reserve, Henan Province; (iv) Qufu, Shandong Province; and (v) Jiujiang. Due to extensive flooding, at least five nests were destroyed at Huangpi, however, successful breeding (at least the hatching of ducklings) was recorded at all five sites, with at least 15 females producing a minimum total of 72 ducklings across these five sites.
22. Detailed monitoring continued at the main breeding site Hengshui Hu. Although accurate counts during the breeding season are difficult, it appears numbers are stable at around 15-25 pairs. Numbers present in late summer have been as high as 99 birds (on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016) and it is believed such flocks are comprised entirely of locally-breeding birds and their young.
23. To determine the recent status of Baer's Pochard in northeast China, in May 2016 WU Lan and her team also conducted surveys and interviews with staff at 15 nature reserves and wetland parks that have all previously held breeding Baer's Pochard during the 1970s to 1990s. Five Baer's Pochard were found at Xianghai Nature Reserve on 12<sup>th</sup> May, but there was no evidence of attempted breeding. No records were reported from the other 14 sites during the past ten years.
24. Detailed waterbird studies at Muraviovka Park, Russia, as part of the Amur Bird Project, have not located any Baer's Pochard during the breeding season since the sightings in July 2013 (Heim *et al.* 2013). However, a male was seen in September 2015, highlighting again the potential of this vast area to support breeding Baer's Pochard (Heim 2016).
25. A conservation status update was published in *BirdingASIA* (Hearn 2015). [Download](#)
26. All records of Baer's Pochard are recorded in a database, maintained by WWT.

#### 4. SITE PROTECTION, MANGEMENT AND THREATS

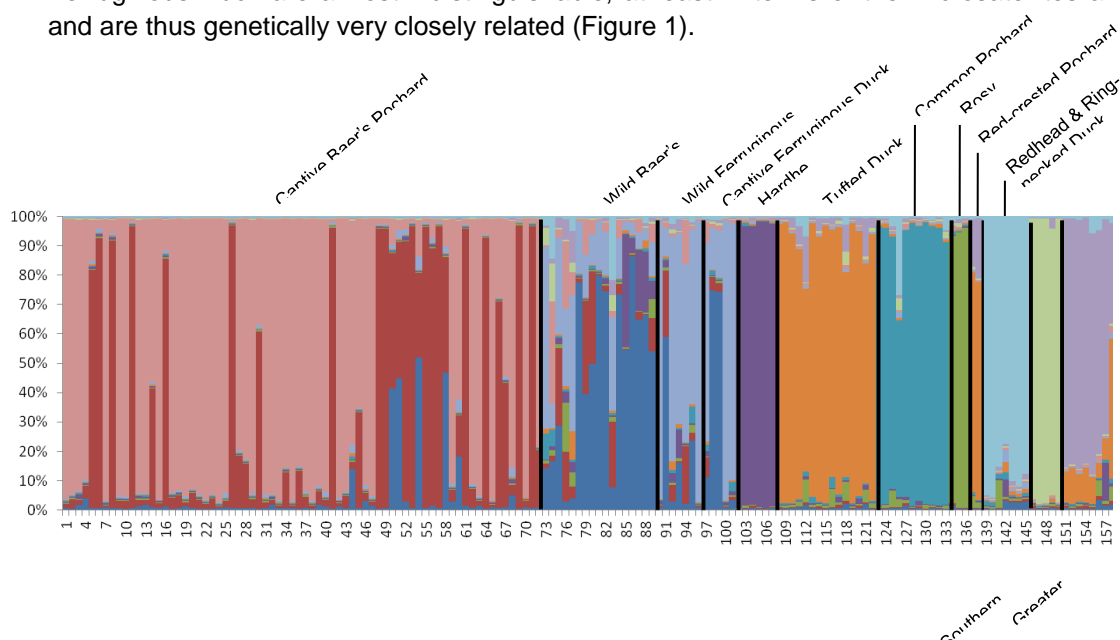
##### Activities since MoP8

27. Only limited progress with site protection and management, and addressing key threats, has been achieved; all known breeding sites in China still lack an adequate level of protection and are at risk from unfavourable development.
28. WU Lan has engaged with authorities at Hengshui Hu to ensure they are aware of the need to consider Baer's Pochard in their decisions about site management.
29. Some engagement with local people has been made at the newly discovered wintering and breeding site at Jiujiang, which is threatened by unfavourable management activities.
30. WWF China (Wuhan office) have engaged with the Provincial State Forestry Bureau in Wuhan regarding protection of the Huangpi fishponds (see Lu *et al.* 2015).
31. At Taibai Hu, the Nansi Hu Provincial Nature Reserve intends to apply to become a National Nature Reserve. However, in the new zoning plan, Taibai Hu (the North Lake of this lake complex) has been excluded from the nature reserve area; meaning that development and exploitation of Taibai Hu will be legal. This is a significant threat to Baer's Pochard.
32. No information has been received about Khasan, the key site in Russia.

## 5. CAPTIVE BIRD MANAGEMENT

### Activities since MoP8

33. Peter Smallbones (Paignton Zoo) appointed Baer's Pochard studbook keeper for the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA).
34. Jamie Toste (Minnesota Zoo) appointed Baer's Pochard studbook keeper for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) in North America.
35. In October 2016 the European captive stock stood at 90 males, 77 females and 13 unsexed birds, a total of 180 individuals. Of these, 89 are held by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and the remainder were at 17 other collections. In 2015, 40 birds were reared in captivity, and in 2016 a further 13 birds were reared. In North America, captive holdings stood at 41 males and 35 females in eight collections.
36. New biosecure rearing and breeding facilities, approved under the EU Balai Directive, have been established at WWT Slimbridge.
37. A genetic analysis was undertaken of captive birds held by WWT, in collaboration with Cardiff University and funded by the Oriental Bird Club. The results indicated that Baer's Pochard and Ferruginous Duck are almost indistinguishable, at least in terms of the microsatellites analysed, and are thus genetically very closely related (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Structure analysis of microsatellites from *Aythya* and *Netta* ducks.

38. There was no evidence of hybridisation or significant inbreeding in the WWT captive stock, though there is less genetic diversity in these birds when compared to wild Baer's Pochard, indicating that genetic drift has occurred. Nevertheless, the WWT stock has been well-managed, especially considering the small number of founders and many generations in captivity, and provides a suitable source of founders for a conservation breeding programme.

## 6. AWARENESS AND POLICY

### Activities since MoP8

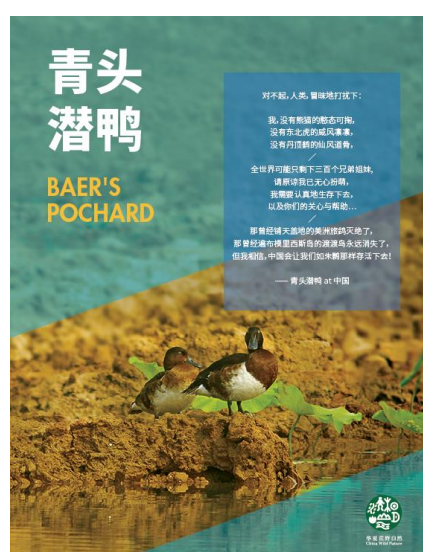
39. A number of articles about Baer's Pochard have been published in *BirdingASIA*, including Hearn (2015), Heim (2016) and Lu *et al.* (2015).

40. In September 2016, Beijing Forestry University held a training course for staff from the Forestry System of Hubei Province. DING Changqing discussed the importance of Baer's Pochard conservation and the future actions with the vice-director of the Conservation Department of Hubei Forestry Bureau and the director of Wuhan Forestry Bureau.
41. An interview with the BPTF Global Coordinator was recorded in May 2016 for Talking Naturally, available as a podcast at <https://soundcloud.com/talkingnaturally/tn-027-baers-pochard-a-critically-endangered-east-asian-duck>
42. Leaflet distributed to Russian bird watchers and hunters (Figure 2).
43. Poster distributed by WWF to wetland site managers in Yangtze floodplain (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Leaflet distributed to Russian bird watchers and hunters (left) and poster distributed to wetland site managers in Yangtze floodplain (right).

44. In October 2015, 1,000 leaflets and brochures were distributed in Myanmar to hunting authorities responsible for control of waterfowl hunting during the wintering season, hunters, local villagers, birding guides, universities and nature lovers both within the areas close to survey sites (Aung *et al.* 2016) and elsewhere in Myanmar.
45. In 2016, China Wild Nature produced leaflets about Baer's Pochard and other waterbirds for distribution to local people living near to Hengshui Hu and for wider distribution in '*China Environmental Magazine*', published by All-China Environment Federation and the Ministry of Environmental Protection (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** Advertisement by China Wild Nature placed in *China Environmental Magazine*, 2016.

46. Various other interested individuals have helped to raise awareness of Baer's Pochard and the need to search for them and report sightings among birdwatchers, particularly in China, to great effect. These include Terry TOWNSHEND (see <https://birdingbeijing.com/tag/baers-pochard/>), WU Lan (Beijing Forestry University) and LEI Jinyu (WWF China, Wuhan).
47. A Baer's Pochard Task Force Twitter account (@Baers\_TaskForce) was set up in May 2016 and as of 31<sup>st</sup> October had 81 followers.

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## Acknowledgements

This report could not have been compiled without support from a number of dedicated people working to save Baer's Pochard. Of particular note are: Prof. LEI Guangchun and WU Lan (Beijing Forestry University); LI Qingxin and TONG Menxiu (China Wild Nature); ZHU Bingrun; WANG Xu; GAO Xiaodong and SONG Zeyuan (Qufu Normal University); WANG Qingyu; TAO Xudong and LEI Jinyu (WWF China); WEI Qian (China Birdwatching Association); MO Xunqiang (Tianjing Normal University); YU Xiubo and JIA Yifei (Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS); LU Qun; LI Sichun; LUO Jianhong; Paul HOLT and Terry TOWNSHEND (Birding Beijing); LIU Yang (Sun Yat-sen University); Thiridawei AUNG (Biodiversity And Nature Conservation Association, Myanmar); Simba CHAN (BirdLife Asia); Pete SMALLBONES (Paignton Zoo); Jamie TOSTE (Minnesota Zoo); Rebecca LEE and Nigel JARRETT (Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust); and Mike BRUFORD and Josie JACKSON (Cardiff University).

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Additional unrestricted support was also received from Mr. Yann MUZIKA and WWT.

**Appendix 1.** Summary of progress against actions in the Baer's Pochard SSAP in 2015 and 2016.

Action	Priority and timescale	Progress in 2015 and 2016
<b>Result 1: The impact of habitat loss and degradation is understood and significantly reduced.</b>		
1. Assess the scale and causes of habitat loss and degradation in core parts of the range	High, complete by end 2016	No progress
2. Assess importance of spring grass burning in breeding range and implement appropriate management to minimise impact on Baer's Pochard	Medium, complete by end 2016	No progress
3. Develop and implement integrated landscape management strategies that minimise and mitigate for future loss of Baer's Pochard habitat	High, complete by end 2016	No progress
4. Identify sites throughout the flyway, but particularly in the breeding range, where habitat restoration and enhancement can be undertaken	High, complete by end 2016	A suite of suitable sites has been identified, but habitat restoration / enhancement has not yet been initiated
<b>Result 2. The impact of harvesting of birds and eggs from the wild is understood and significantly reduced.</b>		
5. Assess the scale, methods and drivers of current harvesting, particularly in China	High, complete by end 2015	No progress
6. Implement measures to significantly improve the enforcement of existing bird protection legislation, particularly in China	High, complete by end 2015	No progress
7. Establish an EAAFP Task Force on Harvesting of Wild Birds	High, complete by end 2015	Not completed, but other initiatives are addressing the harvesting issue; BPTF need to ensure Baer's Pochard is taken into account as these develop
<b>Result 3. Knowledge of the ecological requirements of Baer's Pochard is significantly improved.</b>		
8. Undertake detailed study of ecology at Hengshui Hu	High, initiate by summer 2016	Initial surveys of the population and breeding success have been initiated
9. If a suitable site can be located, undertake research to determine the ecological needs of non-breeding Baer's Pochard	High, initiate by winter 2016/17	No progress, though suitable sites for research are now known
<b>Result 4. The understanding of population status, distribution, key sites and demography is significantly improved.</b>		
10. Undertake surveys of potential breeding locations in N and NE China, particularly Xingkai Hu (Lake Khanka)	High, complete by end 2016	Some surveys and interviews with reserve managers have been conducted but no sites supporting breeding Baer's Pochard have been found in NE China. Some sites have been located in north-central China, between the Yangtze flood

Action	Priority and timescale	Progress in 2015 and 2016
		dplain and Beijing.
11. Undertake surveys of potential breeding locations in Russia, particularly Lake Khanka and the Khasan wetlands	High, complete by end 2016	Some surveys have been undertaken, particularly around Muraviovka Park
12. Undertake surveys of potential breeding locations in the Rason region of DPRK	Medium, complete by end 2017	No progress
13. Develop and implement an annual monitoring programme in the breeding range	High, initiate by summer 2017	Initial surveys have been undertaken
14. Undertake, ideally annually, comprehensive counts at all known and former wintering locations	High, ongoing from January 2015	Gradual progress has been made, with an increasing number of sites surveyed each winter
15. Maintain a database of all records of Baer's Pochard (including sites with nil counts)	Medium, ongoing	Completed and ongoing
<b>Result 5. A flyway-wide network of protected and well managed sites is established and maintained.</b>		
16. Designate Hengshui Hu as a Ramsar site and develop and implement a site management plan focused on the needs of Baer's Pochard	High, complete by end 2015	No progress
17. Ensure that the Khasan wetlands are protected and managed for Baer's Pochard	High, complete by end 2015	No progress
18. Assess the current protection of and management at all sites supporting Baer's Pochard, and enhance where necessary	Medium, complete by end 2016	No progress
<b>Result 6. A global management strategy for the captive population is developed and implemented.</b>		
19. Determine the genetic status of all captive Baer's Pochard	High, ongoing, to be completed by end 2015	Study completed for the birds held by WWT
20. Develop a strategy for the management and conservation breeding of the global captive population, including the possibility of reintroduction	High, complete and ongoing by end 2015	No progress, but studbook keepers for EAZA and AZA have been appointed
<b>Result 7. Awareness of Baer's Pochard and its conservation needs is significantly enhanced, particularly among decision-makers.</b>		
21. Create an EAAFP Baer's Pochard Task Force	High, complete by end 2014	Completed
22. Promote status and conservation needs of Baer's Pochard among relevant governments and other decision-makers	High, ongoing	Gradual progress is being made
23. Promote the status and conservation needs of Baer's Pochard among the general public, particularly with respect to the prevention of hunting and consumption of wild ducks	High, ongoing	Some progress, though not yet related to hunting
<b>Result 8. Appropriate policy for the international conservation of Baer's Pochard is in place</b>		

Action	Priority and timescale	Progress in 2015 and 2016
<b>ace.</b>		
24. Include Baer's Pochard on the List of National Special Protected Animals of China (1st level)	High, complete by end 2015	No progress
25. Hold a Baer's Pochard SAP implementation workshop	High, complete by end May 2015	No progress
26. Hold annual Baer's Pochard SAP action planning workshops to review and update this Plan	Medium, annual from 2016 to 2019	No progress
27. Add Baer's Pochard to CITES Appendix I	Low, complete by end 2016	Not completed; discussion with CITES lead to conclusion that there was an insufficient international trade issue for this change to be justified

## **Far Eastern Curlew Task Force**

### **Far Eastern Curlew Task Force**

*(Prepared by Chair, Far Eastern Curlew Task Force)*

In 2015 at the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Partners, Australia proposed, in pursuant to Paragraph 9(9) of the Partnership text, the establishment of the Far Eastern Curlew Task Force. The proposal was unanimously endorsed and Australia was elected Chair.

The primary purpose of the Task Force was to draft and seek Partnership endorsement of the International Single Species Action Plan for Far Eastern Curlew as the issues facing the species are well suited to the development of targeted conservation actions.

The Far Eastern Curlew is endemic to the East Asian – Australasian Flyway and is the largest migratory shorebird in world. The species breeds in Russia, China and Mongolia and migrates to the Philippines, Thailand, Palau, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand for the non-breeding period.

Evidence from Australia indicates a severe population decline of 81.4% over 30 years or three generations (5.8% per year). In large part, the observed decline in Far Eastern Curlew numbers stems from ongoing loss of intertidal mudflat habitat at key migration staging sites in the Yellow Sea. If habitat loss and degradation continues, it is expected that the species will continue to decline.

The Far Eastern Curlew Task Force, in cooperation with the Secretariat, prepared a draft Single Species Action Plan that was sent to all Range States, Partners and the Chair of relevant Working Groups and Task Forces on 5 August 2015. Further targeted consultation occurred on 17 December 2015 with Range States, non-government organisations and researchers. All comments received were considered and the draft action plan was amended accordingly.

The final draft of the Single Species Action Plan was again circulated for comment on 1 April 2016 to all EAAFP Partners. Comments were incorporated as appropriate, and the draft action plan was sent to the Secretariat for final consideration.

A revised version of the action plan, which takes into account all comments received was submitted to the Secretariat on 31 October 2016 for inclusion in the MOP9 agenda.

In order to effectively monitor and report on the implementation of the Plan, the Far Eastern Curlew

Task Force will be maintained pursuant to Paragraph 9(9) of the Partnership text.

### **Monitoring of Waterbird Populations and Sites Task Force**

Report has not been submitted.

### **Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force**

1. **Participatory Type: Task Force**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from: the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust**
3. **Name of draftsman and organization you present: Dr. Diana Solovyeva, Institute of Biological Problems of the North, FEB RAS & Dr. Baz Hughes, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust**

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

No

*Objective 2: CEPA*

#### Action Planning Workshop

A second Action Planning Workshop was held in Vladivostok, Russia, in September 2015 to further develop the International Action Plan. Facilitated by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the workshop was attended by a total of 20 participants from the Russian Federation, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Republic of China (Taiwan), Australia, the UK, and the EAAFP Secretariat including Task Force members working on both *in* and *ex situ* conservation. The workshop was followed by a two-day field excursion to the Kievka River basin, the key study area of the Scaly-sided Merganser project. This provided participants with close-up views of Scaly-sided Mergansers and training on nest box building and placement for managers from key refuges in China.

#### Task Force Operations

The Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force now numbers 20 members and nine consultants and has received funding from Toledo Zoo, Ohio, and Global Conservation Connections. Four small grants were given by the Task Force in 2016 for:

- winter surveys in Hubei, Hunan and Anhui provinces in China;
- breeding surveys in the Jewish Autonomous Okrug in Russia;
- breeding surveys in Khabarovsk R in Russia;
- the artificial nest box programme in Bishui Nature Reserve, China.

#### Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness

Creating, printing and distribution of 2000 copies of leaflet and of 1000 magnets in Primorye, Russia. Poster campaign in Dongting Nature Reserve, China.

#### Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies

Providing background information about the species for the Red Data Book of Russian Federation (edition 2016).

Providing background information about the species for the Chinese-Russian bi-lateral migratory bird agreement.

### Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange

#### Range Map

Updated information from breeding and winter surveys, modelling of winter distribution, geolocation and tracking of breeding birds to their wintering grounds, and stable isotope ratios (indicating moulting grounds) have allowed us to update the Scaly-sided Merganser range map (Figure 1).

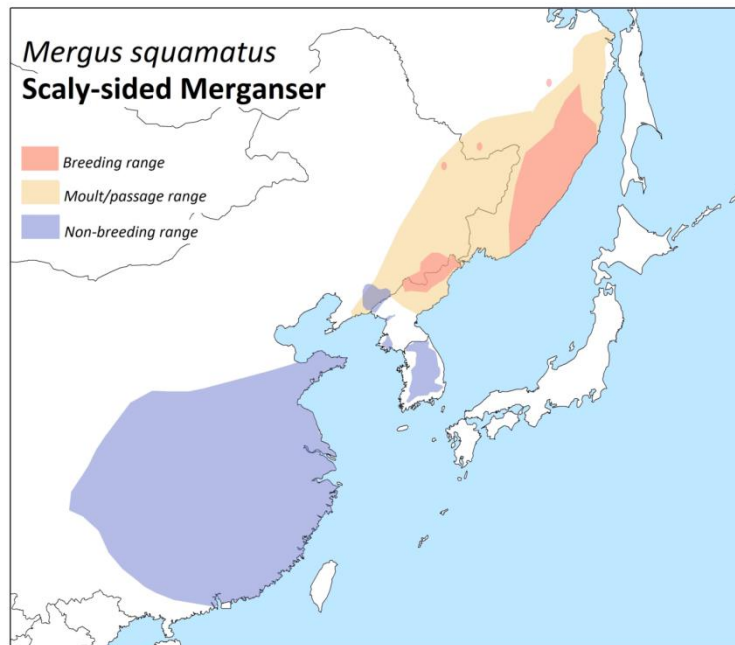


Figure 1. Scaly-sided Merganser range map, 2000-2015.

#### Large-scale surveys on wintering grounds in China

During surveys in winter 2014/15 a total number of 350 Scaly-sided Mergansers were reported and Hubei, Henan and Anhui provinces were recognized as the highest potential wintering sites for the species. In winter 2015/16 8 rivers, 2 lakes and 3 reservoirs of total 349 km<sup>2</sup> were visited in these regions providing 175 sightings of Scaly-sided Merganser.

#### Breeding Population Dynamics in Russia

The Scaly-sided Merganser population in the Kievka River study area has been largely stable at around 40-60 pairs since the study began in 2000 (Figure 2).

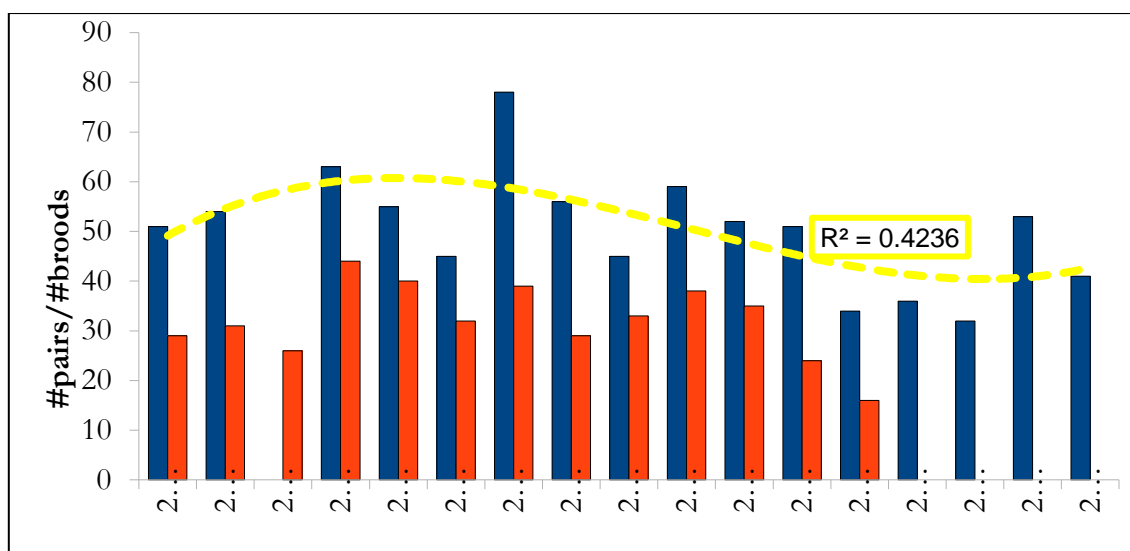


Figure 2. Numbers of Scaly-sided Merganser breeding pairs (blue) and broods (red) in the Kievka River catchment, Primorye, Russia.

#### Artificial Nest Box Programme

In addition to two active “incubators” in the Primorye – in the Kievka River basin and the Avvakumovka River, a third “incubator” on the Zhuravlevka [Notto] River on the western (Siberian) slope of the Sikhote-Alin mountain range produced at least 30 ducklings in 2015 and 2016. In total, 313 ducklings were hatched in nest boxes in Russia since the last MOP, making a total of 1213 ducklings since the project began. Ten nest boxes were erected in the Changbaishan Mountains in China and one was occupied for the first time in China with 11 ducklings hatched in 2015 and a further 20 nest boxes were erected in Bishui Nature Reserve (Lesser Xingan Mountains). Video monitoring of nest boxes in Russia helped to reduce hen disturbance during incubation by remote checking of ANs without flushing a female from the nest. Typhoon Lionrock resulted in 4 to 50% of artificial nest loss on the rivers in Primorye (Table 1).

Table 1. Artificial nest loss after typhoon Lionrock in Primorye, Russia.

River	AN in spring 2016	AN after Lionrock (August 2016)	% AN lost
Kievka basin	46	37	19.5
Avvakumovka R	10	5	50
Zhuravlevka basin	24	23	4.1

#### Contamination Study

Ten heavy metals were analyzed from blood, feathers and eggs of Scaly-sided Mergansers breeding in Russia. Metal levels will be plotted on other seaducks levels to estimate vulnerability from heavy metal pollution (Table 2).

Table 2. Among tissues average levels of heavy metals in Scaly-sided mergansers breeding in

Primorye, Russia.

Metal	Cr	Zn	As	Se	Pb	Cd	Ni	Ag	Hg
Average level, ppm	0,84	32,512	0,13	0,89	0,71	0,78	0,11	0,04	0,69
# samples	33	33	29	33	6	9	33	19	35

#### Information shared and widely available (improved networks)

Information posted on the Scaly-sided Merganser webpage of the EAAFP website. Information on the Global Conservation Connections website. Final report for the Competition grant from Rufford Foundation [www.rufford.org](http://www.rufford.org).

#### Publications:

Solovyeva, D., Hobson, K.A., Kharitonova N., Newton, J., Fox, J.W., Afanasyev, V. & Fox, A.D. Using feather stable  $\delta^2\text{H}$ ,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  isotopes to identify moult origins of Scaly-sided Mergansers In: Abstracts of 4th Pan-European Duck Symposium. 7-11 April 2015, Hanko, Finland: p. 83.

Соловьёва Д.В., Лиу П., Антонов А.И., Аверин А.А., Вартанян С.Л., Пронкевич В.В., Шохрин В.П. 2015. Гнездовой ареал и численность чешуйчатого крохала *Mergus squamatus*. Abstracts of International Conference "Waterfowl of Northern Eurasia: Research, conservation, and sustainable use", 30 November – 6 December 2015, Salekhard, Russia

Solovyeva, D., Hobson, K.A., Kharitonova N., Newton, J., Fox, J.W., Afanasyev, V. & Fox, A.D. 2015. Combining stable hydrogen ( $\text{d}^2\text{H}$ ) isotopes and geolocation to assign Scaly-sided Mergansers to moult river catchments. *Journal for Ornithology* 157 (3): 663–669. DOI 10.1007/s10336-015-1319-x.

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

Capacity building for Chinese bird-watchers from China Birdwatching Association in Scaly-sided Merganser surveys was continued in winter 2015/16. Over 300 specially trained people participated in national wide surveys in winters 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Six local villagers and three local companies received benefits from the Scaly-sided Merganser project in Primorye, Russia.

Training on nest box building and placement was provided for managers from key refuges in China during field trip followed the Scaly-sided Merganser Workshop.

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

#### Action Plan

The Single Species International Action Plan was produced and will be presented to MOP9 for approval.

#### **Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force**

Report has not been submitted.

#### **Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force**

1. **Participatory Type: Taskforce**
2. **Name of the Partner that you are submitting from:**
3. **Name of draftsman and organisation you present: Bruce McKinlay**

*Objective 1: Develop Flyway Network Sites*

*Number of FNS with current and updated Site Information Sheets*

*Number of proposed new FNS*

- Support the development and updating of SIS as required.

*Objective 2: CEPA*

*Progress in developing National Partnerships (increased recognition of EAAFP)*

*Number of National Partnership meetings held*

*Activities to promote migratory waterbird conservation awareness*

- Members to engage with Wechat group developed by Wetlands International China

*Migratory waterbirds incorporated into developing plans and policies*

*Objective 3: Research, monitoring, knowledge generation and exchange*

*Increased knowledge and information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats*

- Collaborate with other relevant task forces and working groups – SWG, AMBI, CAFF.
- Support improved collation and utilization of data from tracking studies undertaken by other Working Groups and Researchers to effectively contribute to Yellow Sea Taskforce priorities.
- -Support feasibility investigations on eradication of Spartina from Yellow Sea habitats
- -Promote ongoing monitoring of Spartina at important waterbird sites around the Yellow sea

*Improved monitoring of migratory waterbirds and habitats*

- Engage with the Monitoring Working Group to ensure that monitoring standards in the Yellow sea are robust and continue to improve
- -Support Partners to work together to coordinate waterbird monitoring efforts and systems in the YS
- 

*Information shared and widely available (improved networks)*

- Support Partner efforts to develop and publicise Partner initiatives to collate and publish restoration best practise for intertidal site and working coastal wetlands.
- Build relationships with relevant academic institutions in China in particular to build links with Chinese Academy of Sciences and the relevant Universities who are undertaking research in the Yellow Sea.
- Work with NGO partners on corporate engagement to improve coastal development practices in the Yellow Sea

#### *Objective 4: Capacity Building*

##### *Number of site manager training workshops/courses in migratory waterbird and site conservation*

- Support Reserve Manager Networks for sites surrounding the Yellow Sea.

##### *Number of sites with local capacity building programs*

- Engage where appropriate with site managers and regional and national leaders to promote conservation of habitats for critically threatened species
- Support conservation of priority habitats for common species of migratory waterbirds.
- Support organisations who are providing onsite assistance to ensure the effectiveness of important sites

#### *Objective 5: Flyway-wide approaches*

##### *Number of international projects developed or ongoing for migratory waterbird and habitat conservation*

- Support, when established and as appropriate, the planned Joint Committee of PR China and ROK on intertidal conservation facilitated through IUCN and the outcome documents from the Beijing workshop (Aug 2016) and the Hawaii WCC 2016.
- Work to support partners to develop projects in the Yellow Sea which support conservation of shorebird habitats. Examples include WWF China projects with communities and supporting Spartina Control (eradication feasibility study).
- Engage with and support the ROK, PR China and DPRK transboundary World Heritage process.
- Engage with and support the ROK, PR China and other members of the Partnership on the draft Ramsar resolution on coastal wetlands.
- Engage with and support the CBD Caring for Coasts (on coastal restoration) initiative
- Engage with and support the CBD East Asian Seas EBSA initiative
- Engage with and support initiatives to develop guidance on the management of Working coastal Wetlands (eg saltpans, aquaculture).
- Support the development of case studies for conservation of migratory waterbirds in the Yellow Sea and ensure that they continue
- To continue to develop Lead Partners, Local Partner and National support function at priority sites as identified in the Collaborative Work Programme.
- Encourage bilateral cooperation between government Partners on Yellow Sea conservation initiatives
- Provide support to work programs of other groups including AMBI, CAFF on conservation initiatives in the Yellow Sea
- Nominate a contact point within the YSTF (Chair) to communicate with AMBI in order to ensure collaborative work and awareness of each others' activities and meetings
- Align work with WWF HK collaborative work plan for shorebirds (on EAAF website)

*Number of sister sites or similar collaborative programs/actions*

- Support Partners who wish to develop sister site relationships that include Yellow Sea sites.

### **South East Asia Network**

South East Asian Network's Report can be found at [Annex. Doc 1.7.8.2 ASEAN Cooperation Project Proposal](#).