



**EAST ASIAN – AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY PARTNERSHIP**

# **Implementation Strategy 2012 – 2016**

Adopted by the Sixth Meeting of the Partners  
Palembang, Indonesia  
21 March 2012

*This page is intentionally left blank*

## INTRODUCTION

---

This document provides the framework to guide implementation of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership during the period 2012 - 2016, in pursuance of the goal and major objectives identified in the Partnership Text.

The purpose of the Partnership is to provide a flyway wide framework to promote dialogue, cooperation and collaboration between a range of stakeholders including all levels of governments, site managers, multilateral environment agreements, technical institutions, UN agencies, development agencies, industrial and private sector, academe, non-government organisations, community groups and local people to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

The first EAAFP Implementation Strategy, covering the period 2007-2011, was developed from a draft prepared by the Partnership Working Group following discussion at the first Meeting of Partners (MoP1) in Bogor, Indonesia in November 2006.

The 2012-2016 EAAFP Implementation Strategy broadly follows the structure and content of the first Implementation Strategy, incorporating revisions led by the EAAFP Implementation Strategy Task Force appointed at MoP5 and subsequently reviewed and endorsed by Partners at MoP6 in Palembang, Indonesia, in March 2012.

The most substantive structural revisions include the rationalisation of the Outcomes (reduced from 14 to 11), some re-distribution of content between these Outcomes, and the introduction of “Key Result Areas” to replace the former “guidance points”. The Key Result Areas aim to provide direction by setting measurable targets to be achieved within the reporting period, while still allowing some flexibility in implementation. Actors responsible for implementation have been identified as far as possible, and explanatory text has been provided to facilitate understanding. Finally, comments have been added about possible mechanisms or processes that might be used to achieve the Key Result Areas.

Aside from providing a planning framework to guide the Partnership towards its Goal and Objectives, the Implementation Strategy also aims to provide a means of assessing progress towards the desired Outcomes over a five year period, based on annual reports from the Partners. In general, the Implementation Strategy emphasises the importance of a collaborative approach towards the implementation of activities, involving several partners at different levels of organisation (site, national and international) according to the types of activity involved.

A separate document on the ***Roles and Functions of EAAFP Bodies*** provides information on the various structures for collaboration possible within the scope of the EAAFP, with particular emphasis on national and site partnerships as key mechanisms for strategy implementation.

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

---

AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
APMWCS	Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Strategy
AI	Avian Influenza
BLI	BirdLife International
CEPA	Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (sometimes referred to as Communication, Education and Public Awareness)
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CSN	Critical Site Network
EAAF	East Asian – Australasian Flyway
EAAFP	East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FSN	Flyway Site Network (under EAAFP)
IBA	Important Bird Area
INGO	International Non Governmental Organization
IS	Implementation Strategy
KRA	Key Result Area
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MoP	Meeting of the Partners
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
Ramsar Convention	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
RRI	Ramsar Regional Initiative
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
TF	Task Force
WG	Working Group
WI	Wetlands International
WSSD Type II Partnership	An informal non-binding mechanism for cooperation recognised by the World Summit on Sustainable Development

## **Objective 1: Develop the Flyway Network of sites of international importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, building on the achievements of the APMWCS networks.**

---

### ***Outcome 1: Internationally important sites are identified for all migratory waterbirds across the Flyway, and prioritized for conservation and inclusion in the Flyway Site Network.***

---

**Explanation/observation:** This outcome recognizes that the EAAFP Flyway Site Network (FSN) represents a subset of the sites (probably numbering more than 1000) that are known to meet criteria for international importance for migratory waterbirds, across the flyway. Some non-FSN sites are recognized through other designations such as Ramsar Sites and IBAs. The outcome addresses all of the internationally important sites in the flyway, prioritizing them for conservation action. Guidance on the prioritization of sites, from working groups and technical experts on waterbird distributions, is required to assist Partners achieve this outcome. The outcome also seeks to expand the FSN so that, as a minimum, all sites in the flyway that are critical for survival of populations have been included. Inclusions should have the support of the relevant site management bodies.

#### ***1.1. An initial list of internationally important sites is identified based on existing information, and is communicated to all national governments of the Flyway by March 2013. A more comprehensive list of sites necessary to support the life cycles of the Flyway's waterbirds, including up-to-date information and covering all waterbird groups, is completed by 2016. (Secretariat, WGs, INGOs and/or Monitoring Task Force)***

**Explanation/observation:** A list of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds in the EAAF (700 sites, for just three of the species groups) based on information from working groups was presented at MoP1. This original list should be reviewed and updated (e.g. initially, with information on the number of species for which a site is important) and put on the EAAFP website. It is proposed that the more comprehensive list produced by 2016 be based on available tools. All waterbird groups (e.g. herons, terns, other seabirds) should be included, which will increase the number of sites far beyond the original list.

*Potentially this work could be contracted out to one or more Partners or led by the Monitoring Task Force, and there could be a specific role for the EAAFP Science Officer.*

#### ***1.2. Initial guidance on the prioritization of these sites for nomination in the FSN is developed and made available to Partners by MoP7, and is reviewed/revise at each successive MoP. (Flyway: Secretariat / Consultant / Monitoring Task Force)***

**Explanation/observation:** The nomination of sites in the FSN to date has received limited guidance on prioritization. Future site nomination needs to be guided by the strategic needs of the FSN, for example in relation to the conservation of globally threatened species, populations that are recognized to be in serious decline, inclusion of disappearing key habitats, representation of various waterbird groups, and recognition of sites that are of outstanding importance to a wide range of migratory waterbird populations. The involvement of the EAAFP taxonomic Working Groups is needed to identify sites of importance for different species and/or groups as a basis for prioritizing nominations. This will ensure that governments are adequately informed when considering new site designations.

*Potentially this guidance could be elaborated into a Strategic Plan for the FSN (similar to the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention). The exercise might also be informed by the evaluation criteria being developed*

for the recently adopted Site Network under the CMS/IOSEA Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding. This work could be commissioned by the Secretariat or led by the Monitoring Task Force.

**1.3. The Flyway Site Network is progressively expanded to include all critical sites identified for migratory waterbird populations (target of 7-10 new sites per year, in line with identified priorities). (National: National Government Partners)**

**Explanation/observation:** This KRA recognizes that a systematically designed network of sites which collectively meets the migration requirements of the Flyway's 250 waterbird populations is needed, rather than simply a collection of sites that does not address all populations. Such a network will be a minimum, to be expanded. This outcome requires a strategic approach to site nomination, including prioritization of sites (see KRA 1.2). On the basis of a list of priority sites identified for waterbirds populations at a flyway level, national Partners will be in a better position to identify a national list of priority sites for inclusion in the FSN. Experience has shown that the process of site nomination is often time-demanding due to the need for consultation with a range of stakeholders at different levels, to secure the agreements needed to proceed. A relatively low and achievable target, 7-10 sites per year, has therefore been set for new nominations for the Flyway as a whole.

**Outcome 2: The management of internationally important sites demonstrates sound integration of wetland biodiversity conservation and sustainable development that benefits local communities.**

---

**Explanation/observation:** This Outcome recognizes that effective management of internationally important sites, both within and outside the FSN, is needed to conserve migratory waterbirds across the flyway. It also recognizes that local communities should benefit from conservation and sustainable development as an integral part of site management, in order to secure their support. It is intended that countries should apply their own management planning procedures to FSN sites. No specific EAAFP guidelines or formats are prescribed, although site management guidance provided by MEAs such as CBD and Ramsar are recommended as suitable models. An EAAFP assessment conducted by WI/BLI is underway which will help identify how many FSN sites have management plans.

*The conservation of migratory waterbirds should be enhanced through their integration into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), following guidance from CMS Resolution 10.18<sup>1</sup>. Indicators and monitoring mechanisms related to flyway conservation should be included in planning for national protected area systems and ecological networks, in line with Targets 11 and 12 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2020 approved by CBD in 2010<sup>2</sup>.*

**2.1. A range of management guidelines and case studies to enhance the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats, emphasising participatory management processes and benefits to local communities, are made available by December 2012 for site managers and stakeholders at all levels to consider, through the EAAFP website and other media (Flyway: CEPA WG, Secretariat, with support from all Partners)**

---

<sup>1</sup> "Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Other Outcomes from CBD COP10"

<sup>2</sup> Target 11 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2020 states "By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes." Target 12 states "By 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained."

**Explanation/observation:** A wide range of guidance and experience (case studies and reviews) exist on site management, from MEAs such as the Ramsar Convention, CBD and CMS, national governments, INGOs and projects, etc. However, it can be difficult for site managers to locate such guidance, especially in local languages. Existing guidance in English or in translations provided by Partners, would be made available through the EAAFP website, as well as EAAFP Partners' experience on a range of relevant administrative, management and technical subjects. Issues to cover include: recognition in management plans of the biological connectivity of individual sites -- how migratory birds are dependent on flyway site networks throughout their migration cycles; guidance on the process for management planning as a basis for participatory site management; how to address waterbird conservation through existing guidelines and planning systems.

**2.2. Management plans that provide for the participation of local stakeholders including local communities, are developed, implemented and regularly reviewed and updated for all FSN sites and other internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds. (Interim target of comprehensive management plans for 5 sites / year, in line with identified priorities) (National: National Government Partners; Subnational: Local Government with support from INGOs)**

**Explanation/observation:** Existing FSN sites are subject to varying intensities of management intervention. In order to improve management effectiveness, the aim is to progressively introduce participatory results-based management for all FSN sites, including monitoring, review and updating mechanisms. Participation is an important element of the approach, including the involvement of local communities in planning processes.

*The ongoing assessment of 100 FSN sites by WI/BLI will help to guide prioritization of management efforts. It should be noted that internationally important sites outside the FSN similarly need attention to management effectiveness. Those that are Ramsar Sites should receive attention through Ramsar's approach of promoting management plans for all listed sites.*

**2.3. Collaboration is developed with other international initiatives relating to the management of migratory waterbird habitat through participatory processes (Flyway: Secretariat, INGOs; National: National Government Partners)**

**Explanation/observation:** This point recognizes the value of active coordination and collaboration (beyond the application of site management guidelines mentioned in 2.1) with other international initiatives, for example concerning management of water resources, marine conservation programmes, transboundary river basins, protected area networks, and various habitat types of significance for migratory waterbirds. Specific activities include the review and incorporation of migratory waterbird interests into existing guidelines / planning systems (e.g. Ramsar, CBD), which could be assigned to a Task Force / individual.

**2.4. Model projects at Flyway Network sites are developed with the full involvement of related national and site partnerships, addressing key threatening processes, social and economic needs, and contributing to sound integration of wetland biodiversity conservation and sustainable development that benefits local communities. (National: National Government Partners)**

**Explanation/observation:** The intention of model projects is to demonstrate good practice and to share learning experiences widely with Partners and sites throughout the flyway. National and site partnerships should lead on such projects, assisted by international Partners and the Secretariat to communicate the results through the EAAFP.

***Outcome 3: The ecological, social and economic values of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds are recognized in development and impact assessment processes.***

**Explanation/observation:** This outcome seeks to enhance the recognition of biodiversity values in national development planning processes, with particular regard for migratory waterbirds and their habitats. Recognizing that such processes are nationally driven, national government Partners should lead this work, promoting mechanisms within their systems, and supported by national partnerships and NGOs. This needs to be informed by assessments to identify weaknesses in existing national government frameworks as a basis for recommending improvements.

*The wider flyway Partnership can assist by capturing and sharing good practice examples from other countries through the EAAFP Secretariat and website. EAAFP can also review existing international guidance on EIA and SEA (e.g. Ramsar and CBD) and propose amendments to ensure that migratory waterbird conservation concerns are adequately reflected.*

**3.1. Migratory waterbird conservation is mainstreamed into national policies, plans and programmes, facilitated by National Partnerships (i.e. national development planning recognizes the importance of migratory waterbird species and habitats/sites and requires EIA where an internationally important site would be impacted). (National: National Government Partners)**

**Explanation/observation:** Mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation into national government planning processes is a wide-ranging and challenging prospect for any country. In this case, the EAAFP can facilitate mainstreaming by promoting increased application of Ramsar and CBD EIA guidelines, and by facilitating or implementing reviews of the status of national policies as a basis for proposing improvements. It may be most feasible to introduce such changes gradually, starting within the national environment / conservation agency, then expanding to other relevant sectors such as agriculture, marine, water, etc.

**3.2. Guidelines and case studies on development and impact assessment processes relevant to network sites and their catchments are made available and adapted as appropriate. (Flyway: Secretariat, INGOs, National Government Partners)**

**Explanation/observation:** EAAFP aims to assist National Government Partners to improve development and impact assessment processes by sharing case studies of good practice from other countries and regions. While the Ramsar Convention has produced guidance on the *Wise Use* of wetlands including addressing change in ecological character and biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment, there remains a need for guidelines on assessing threats to internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds which could be shared through the EAAFP.

*There has also been significant experience in the region (and elsewhere) in conducting threat and impact assessments which could be adapted and made available through the EAAFP Secretariat as case studies.*

## **Objective 2: Enhance communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.**

---

**Outcome 4: There is a high level of awareness and recognition of the ecological, social and economic values of migratory waterbirds and Network sites.**

---

**Explanation/observation:** A draft CEPA Strategy for the EAAFP has been developed by the CEPA WG. The CEPA Strategy provides a more detailed framework for the implementation of Objective 2 and Outcomes 4 and 5. The general strategy is to build on existing CEPA programmes (e.g. Ramsar and CBD awareness plans), rather than to establish a new programme under EAAFP. These efforts should be complementary and support the



EAAFP strategy. Therefore EAAFP should ensure that waterbird issues are included in these related CEPA programmes.

***4.1. Partners use the flyway-wide communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) strategy at national and site levels as ongoing guidance for the awareness and communication activities of the Flyway Partnership. (All Partners)***

**Explanation/observation:** The intention here is to allow national Partners the scope to implement CEPA activities within a broad framework. A first step would be to identify what existing CEPA planning processes are relevant to EAAFP's interests in each country. It is also necessary to review and streamline national reporting on CEPA activities (in relation to Ramsar and CBD requirements, for instance).

***4.2. A compilation of communication and awareness resources is made available to the Partners by December 2012 and a mechanism for translating and updating these resources established. (CEPA WG, Secretariat, supported by all Partners)***

**Explanation/observation:** Significant CEPA experience and resources exist within the Partnership and through related organizations. This point aims to make this material available to a wide range of users throughout the flyway.

*Partners should make CEPA resources available for the Secretariat to compile and put up on the EAAFP website.*

***Outcome 5: There is a broad level of recognition of the activities and achievements of the Flyway Partnership.***

---

**Explanation/observation:** This outcome seeks to promote successful accomplishments of the EAAFP in order to achieve wider recognition. This includes making more effective use of EAAFP's status as a WSSD Type II Partnership and Ramsar Regional Initiative, and CMS Agreement equivalence. This Outcome includes EAAFP branding, engagement (because EAAFP is recognized, new Partners such as corporate bodies and other organizations are attracted to participate), and increasing the resources available for Partnership activities.

***5.1. Activities promoting the Partnership are implemented consistent with the Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Strategy. (All Partners, Secretariat)***

**Explanation/observation:** This point addresses the promotion and development of the Partnership in line with the EAAFP Communication and Public Awareness Plan. Some activities suggested for inclusion under this Outcome are: development and promotion of the EAAFP website; support from the Secretariat in terms of messages and CEPA materials to facilitate Partners' CEPA programmes; representation at relevant regional and global meetings and involvement in other opportunities for EAAFP promotion such as Migratory Birds Day, World Wetlands Day, etc.; involvement of government agencies in CEPA activities to continually remind people about EAAFP; corporate membership development; and Wetlands International's awards programme proposal.

***5.2. National and subregional partnerships are developed and strengthened as a critical mechanism for delivery of the EAAFP Implementation Strategy (National Government Partners, with involvement of other Partners)***

**Explanation/observation:** This point addresses the promotion and development of the Partnership at national level, aiming to enhance communication among different arms of government. This is supported by the EAAFP's status as a Regional Ramsar Initiative and as a WSSD Type II Partnership. Such partnerships should seek to embed EAAFP goals in NBSAPs and other national policies, plans and programmes as a means towards mainstreaming the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

*The Partnership website should be used as a repository for successful examples or case studies describing national partnerships. Representation at regional meetings and other opportunities for EAAFP promotion – such as the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju, Republic of Korea, in September 2012 – should be pursued.*

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

---

#### ***Outcome 6: Scientifically sound information is available on the flyway-wide status and trends of waterbird populations and their habitats.***

---

**Explanation/observation:** A core interest area of the EAAFP, this outcome focuses on collaborative actions to improve the information available on waterbird populations and their habitats across the flyway. While existing schemes such as the *Asian Waterbird Census* continue to provide good information, the extent of their coverage is need of enhancement and related capacity building can improve the quality of the information. These improvements are dependent on available financing to a large degree, therefore integrating such monitoring into national frameworks for biodiversity indicators such as NBSAPs is of great importance, as is more effective promotion of the value of monitoring schemes to national governments in order to secure their support.

*The inclusion of migratory waterbirds in monitoring related to the CBD's Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as expressed in CMS COP10 Resolution 10.18 should be promoted (see also Outcome 2). The EAAFP Working Groups are well positioned to coordinate and facilitate monitoring efforts related to their subject areas.*

#### ***6.1. Assessment and monitoring programmes are enhanced through increased collaboration and integration of activities to provide scientifically sound information on the status and trends of migratory waterbird populations (All Partners)***

**Explanation/observation:** This KRA aims to focus monitoring efforts on identified priorities, extend the coverage of assessment and monitoring programmes to data deficient species and areas, improve the quality of data, and enhance the integration of monitoring efforts. In addition to securing continued support for large flyway scale monitoring schemes like the *Asian Waterbird Census*, there is a need to encourage the development of smaller sub-regional monitoring programmes (e.g. WWF's work in south coastal China).

#### ***6.2. Wetland assessment programmes are developed for at least three priority regions by 2016 to provide information on the status of migratory waterbird habitats (Task Forces for priority regions)***

**Explanation/observation:** Wetland inventories and assessment programmes exist for much of the region, but to varying degrees of detail, using different methodologies, and in many cases not updated. This point aims to focus attention on migratory waterbird habitats in priority regions (especially those with a rapid rate of habitat loss and those already subject to special attention through EAAFP Task Forces) so that a stronger information base is developed to inform waterbird conservation measures.

#### ***6.3. Updated information is available on the status and threats to internationally important sites and to Flyway Network sites in particular. (National Governmental Partners, Wetlands International and BirdLife International)***

**Explanation/observation:** Informed by the ongoing assessment of FSN sites by WI and BLI, this KRA seeks to enhance knowledge of the conservation status of internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds and

especially the FSN sites. This includes more detailed and up to date information on the threats to these sites to inform priority setting and conservation action.

*Reviews of threats which should be shared through the EAAFP include: a threat assessment for Ramsar Sites in Australia supported by the Australian Government (completed in 2011), and BirdLife International's monitoring framework for IBAs, which is being adapted for the above-mentioned review of 100 FSN sites. The analysis of 100 FSN sites will group threats and consider mitigation responses. How applicable such mitigation approaches will be to other sites has yet to be determined and may depend on the causes of the threats – e.g. disturbance. Further consideration needs to be given to the mechanism for updating, and how frequently information should be updated.*

**6.4. A set of key threatening processes to migratory waterbirds is identified, and associated technical briefs are compiled on the EAAFP website, to illustrate examples of best practice mitigation measures. (Secretariat, National Government Partners, assisted by Task Forces and Working Groups / contracted input)**

**Explanation/observation:** The key threatening processes will include, but not be limited to, windfarms, powerlines, coastal reclamation, *Spartina* invasion, climate change, etc.

*This work should take into account existing guidance from CMS, AEWA, Ramsar and other international frameworks (e.g. with respect to wind farms, power lines, climate change, and habitat management).*

**Outcome 7: Information is available on the internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in all countries of the Flyway.**

---

**Explanation/observation:** The intention behind this outcome is to facilitate discussion and collaboration among Partners to fill information gaps, so no detail on specific activities is included. Informed by the assessment of FSN sites by WI and BLI (in progress) and the recognized weakness of information on existing FSN sites held by the EAAFP Secretariat, this outcome addresses the need for improved reporting on FSN sites, including the provision of accurate maps and periodic updating of Site Information Sheets. It also addresses the wider need for a more detailed listing of important sites throughout the flyway to inform prioritization of conservation actions.

**7.1. An analysis of count data has been published by December 2013 and used to identify internationally important sites and gaps for migratory waterbirds in the Flyway and inform conservation measures. (Wetlands International and BirdLife International, with input from National Government Partners and Working Groups)**

**Explanation/observation:** A rapid assessment of important sites was prepared for MoP1, identifying some 700 sites, covering previous survey work compiled in the Anatidae Atlas, Crane Atlas and Shorebirds report. There is still a need for a more detailed listing of important sites to help inform national governments about conservation priorities.

**7.2. Knowledge gaps at internationally important sites have been prioritized by December 2013 and progressively addressed by survey activities according to available resources. (National government Partners, EAAFP WGs)**

**Explanation/observation:** Priority is given to implementation of surveys in areas where an assessment of knowledge gaps has shown limited survey data but significant potential habitat. The EAAFP WGs and National Partnerships should proactively identify actual priorities and address these knowledge gaps.

**7.3. Data on internationally important sites are available and shared among Partners. (Secretariat, other Partners)**

**Explanation/observation:** Information on internationally important sites is held by a variety of organizations at different levels and in relation to diverse interests. In order to be of greatest use for flyway conservation, information on FSN sites and other internationally important sites should be made available through channels such as the EAAFP website.

**Outcome 8: Knowledge of the ecology and migratory strategies of waterbirds is enhanced to support conservation action.**

---

**Explanation/observation:** This outcome is of central significance to the Partnership, providing essential knowledge for identifying key sites, demonstrating the flyway network function of sites, understanding species needs, and providing the basis for conservation action. The main challenge is in improving coordination and developing regional projects across the whole range of a species to stimulate an integrated strategic approach.

**8.1. International collaborative migration research projects are implemented for migratory waterbirds to better understand the connectivity across the Flyway and inform development of the Flyway Site Network. (All Partners)**

**Explanation/observation:** This will involve migratory waterbird marking protocols, coordination between banding schemes, and coordination on band returns, flag re-sightings and electronic tracking studies.

**8.2. Focused attention is given to improving the knowledge base on migratory waterbirds for three priority subregions – the Yellow Sea, Amur/Heilong Basin and Yangtze Valley (Task Forces for these regions, including relevant Government Partners)**

**Explanation/observation:** EAAFP Task Forces were established for the Yellow Sea and Amur/Heilong Basin at MoP5 (and proposed but not established for the Yangtze Valley), recognizing the need for further information and conservation action in these high priority geographical subregions. This point emphasises the need for improving the knowledge base through research, assessment and monitoring activities.

**8.3. Migratory Waterbird Marking Protocols are developed for most migratory waterbirds. (Task Force on Colour Marking)**

**Explanation/observation:** National governments should decide on protocols for information-sharing arrangements on banding, rather than following a project-led approach. The Task Force on colour marking is reviewing protocols and information is on the EAAFP website.

**Outcome 9: Knowledge of the potential role of migratory waterbirds in disease transmission, especially Avian Influenza, is enhanced.**

---

**Explanation/observation:** Implementation of this Outcome will be led by the Asia-Pacific Working Group on Migratory Waterbirds and Avian Influenza (APWG-MWAI), which aims to coordinate:

- Avian flu sampling efforts of migratory waterbirds in the Asia-Pacific region
- Marking of birds through banding/ringing/satellite marking (needs/who/where)
- Sharing and analysis of banding returns in a flyway context
- Improving information sharing on migratory waterbird movements and migratory routes

- Better informing those agencies involved in development of national and international Avian Influenza Risk Assessments.

The focus will be on maintaining the network of scientists and representatives of national and international organizations and related communication. *Network members might be invited to conduct site visits to assess and assist with reduction of disease threats.*

***9.1. International collaborative projects are implemented to increase the understanding of avian influenza (and other relevant zoonotic diseases) and their impacts on migratory waterbirds through surveillance programmes at Flyway Network Sites and other important sites. (Partners, APWG-MWAI)***

***9.2. Networks for communication are enhanced, focusing on migratory waterbirds and disease related-issues amongst environment and wildlife agencies and researchers, and other relevant partners.. (APWG-MWAI)***

***9.3 Guidelines for improved management planning of wetlands of international importance for waterbirds, aimed at reducing the risk of disease, are disseminated, reviewed and updated (Partners, APWG-MWAI)***

#### **Objective 4: Build the habitat and waterbird management capacity of natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders**

---

***Outcome 10: Natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders at internationally important sites have the skills and support to enable sustainable management of waterbird habitats.***

---

**Explanation/observation:** Capacity building is cross-cutting across most of the outcomes above, and is anticipated to form an integral part of many of the activities under these outcomes. It is highlighted in this outcome in view of the recognized need for continued capacity building intervention, especially in less developed parts of the flyway, in order to achieve the EAAFP's goal. Being heavily resource dependent, capacity building is often linked to specific projects and programmes, and the intention here is to ensure that such activities address recognized needs at local level, whilst also addressing identified priorities at the flyway level through collaborative action.

***10.1. Capacity development and training programmes address needs in the areas of migratory waterbird monitoring and conservation, habitat management, sustainable development, and communication, education and public awareness, and participatory methods. (All Partners engaged in capacity building activities)***

**Explanation/observation:** Capacity building programmes are needed in a range of fields in order to support migratory waterbird conservation, based upon targeted needs assessments for wetland managers and decision makers. This can be delivered through various means (tailored to local needs and situations), including training, site staff exchanges, management improvements, provision and training in use of equipment, and access to instructional materials and resources in local languages such as the development of a toolkit for site managers by compiling available materials.

**10.2. National capacity building programmes are established to facilitate the ongoing management of migratory waterbirds and their habitats. (National Partners, assisted by Secretariat)**

**Explanation/observation:** The EAAFP Secretariat should collect information on good examples of National Partnerships to assist the Partners; and consideration should be given to updating the document *Building National Partnerships* (EAAFP MoP2, Doc 7.23).

**10.3. Priority for capacity building efforts is given to developing countries that are members of the Partnership, giving consideration to the number of internationally important sites in each country.**

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

---

**Outcome 11: Collaborative flyway-wide actions for waterbird species and habitats have improved the conservation status of priority species.**

---

**Explanation/observation:** This is a core outcome for the Partnership, consisting of collaborative actions across the flyway focused on the conservation of high priority migratory waterbird species and habitats. Good examples exist of such collaboration to date, which should be compiled and disseminated as best practice case studies.

**11.1. Collaborative projects across the ranges of priority species of migratory waterbirds are improving their conservation status. (All Partners, assisted by Secretariat)**

**Explanation/observation:** Priority should be given to migratory waterbird species with an unfavourable conservation status or with potential as flagship species for international collaboration and habitat management. Priority should also be given to projects that involve a number of countries and address major threats to a range of migratory waterbirds. The EAAFP Secretariat should compile and disseminate best practice examples of genuinely collaborative projects.

*The collaborative work on the Black-faced Spoonbill (a charismatic bird, with popular appeal) is one of the best examples of sustained collaboration between both government and NGO Partners, building on some 20 years of cooperation. The downgrading of the species conservation status from Critically Endangered to Endangered is a clear indication of impact. Positive features of this collaboration included efficient information feedback to participants, and successful defense of its Taiwan wintering site from development plans for tourism and recreational use.*

**11.2. International Single Species Action Plans are produced and implemented for globally threatened species and populations of migratory waterbirds to act as a flagship for wetland conservation. (All Partners, assisted by Secretariat)**

**Explanation/observation:** Current International Single Species Action Plans in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership region are at different stages of development. For example:

1. Completed plans (e.g. Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) action plans for Black-faced Spoonbill, Chinese Crested Tern, Spoon-billed Sandpiper);
2. Plans in draft (e.g. Baikal Teal, Swan Goose); and
3. Plans under development (e.g. Scaly-sided Merganser, Migratory Shorebird Conservation Plan).

Action planning guidelines, terms of reference and types of endorsement for EAAFP Single Species Action Plans were agreed at MoP 5. The EAAFP now needs to take a strategic approach to threatened species conservation to act as a flagship for wetland conservation -- including reviewing the current status of the production and implementation of single species action plans (and their associated Task Forces), compiling a list of priority species and populations, and determining a mechanism for action plan prioritisation, production and implementation.

*See AEWA review document - MOP 5.24 21 Summary of Current State of Single Species Action Plan (SSAP) and Species Management Plan (SMP) Production and Coordination.*