

Coordinating Seabird Conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway

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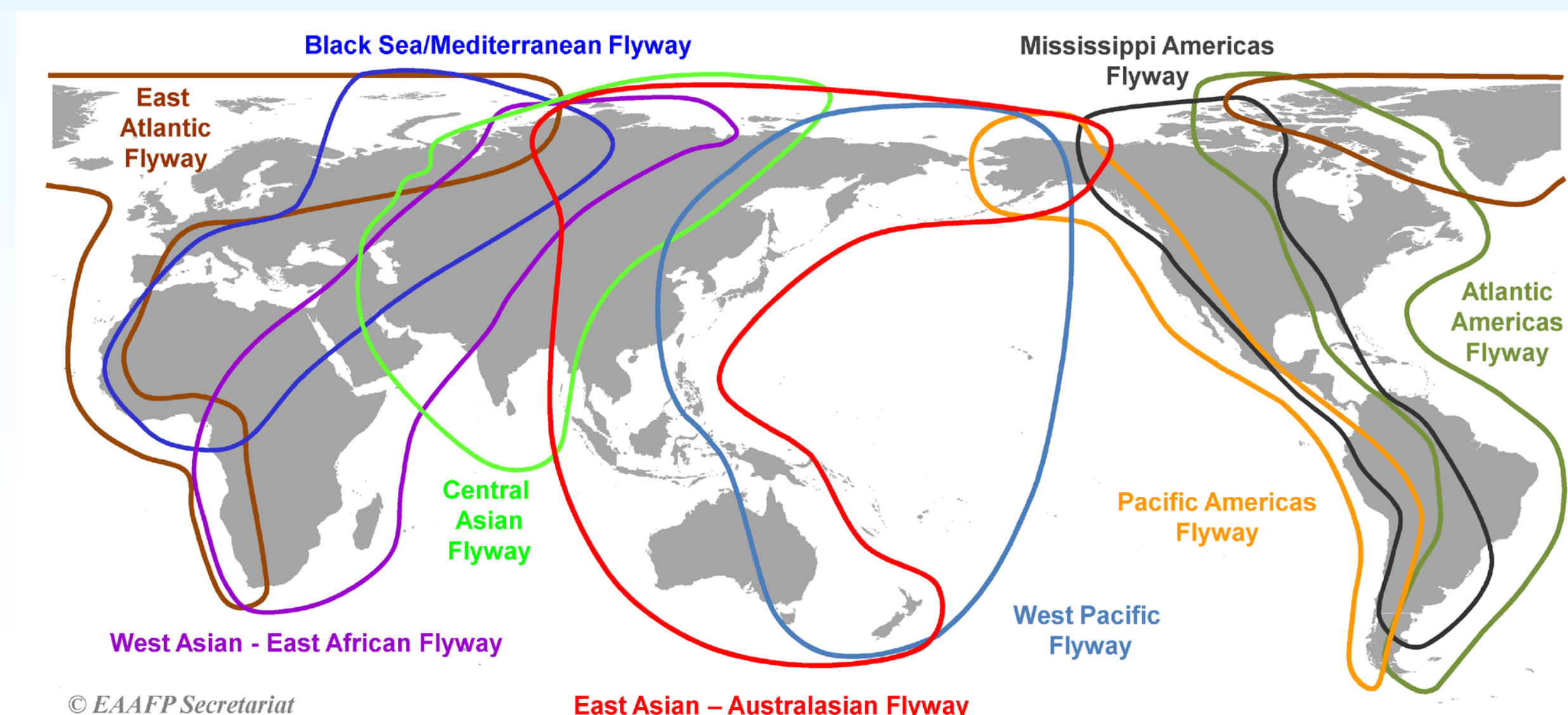
1. Background

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership

East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) is one of nine major migratory routes, extending from arctic Russia and Alaska through South-East and East Asia to Australia and New Zealand. The East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) was established in 2006 as an **informal, voluntary international framework** aimed at coordinating the conservation for migratory waterbirds and their habitat.

Partners

- National governments (17)
- IGOs (6)
- International NGOs (10)
- International private enterprise (1)



Seabird Working Group

Over 150 seabird species inhabit the EAAF, some which have long trans-equatorial migration routes while others move at a smaller regional scale. Although some species have very large populations, **many species are declining or are facing a high risk of extinction due to several ongoing threats** at their breeding and wintering sites. To achieve positive conservation outcomes, a joint and equal responsibility for the conservation of seabirds is urgently required across the region. Unfortunately, conservation, management, education, and research activities for seabirds in the EAAF have lacked coordination in terms of objectives, field methods, reporting and information exchange.

The EAAFP Seabird Working Group was formed in 2012 to promote, facilitate, coordinate and harmonize seabird conservation, management education, and research activities across the EAAF and cooperates with all Partners, scientists, and land managers interested in seabird conservation. We present results of our initial work:

- **Seabird Species Prioritization project**
- **Regional priorities and future conservation activities (next 2 years)**

EAAFP Seabird Species Prioritization Project

Objective:

Identify priority seabird species that would most benefit from conservation action through the Partnership.

Methods:

Compile basic information on seabirds that occur in the EAAF.

- Known or estimated population data
- Current conservation status in the region

Results:

A total of 186 seabird species from 10 Families were reported as occurring in the flyway. Of those, 39 seabird species have an IUCN status of Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Data Deficient or Near Threatened (Table 1).

Next Steps:

These 39 species will be the focus of targeted management actions and research (e.g., protecting breeding sites, population surveys, reducing identified threats).

Table 1

Species	CommonName	IUCN status	EAAF Population
<i>Sterna bergii</i>	Chinese Crested Tern	CR	<50
<i>Brachyramphus brevirostris</i>	Kittitz's Murrelet	CR	20,000 - 50,000
<i>Fregata ariel</i>	Christmas Island Frigatebird	CR	2,400 - 4,800
<i>Pseudobulweria becki</i>	Beck's Petrel	CR	50 - 249
<i>Pterodroma magenta</i>	Magenta Petrel	CR	120 - 150
<i>Oceanites mesoleucus</i>	New Zealand Storm-petrel	CR	<50
<i>Sterna bergii</i>	Black-bellied Tern	EN	<500
<i>Papadula abbotti</i>	Abbott's Booby	EN	6,000
<i>Pterodroma axillaris</i>	Chatham Petrel	EN	500
<i>Puffinus huttoni</i>	Hutton's Shearwater	EN	300,000 - 350,000
<i>Nesiogetta fuliginosa</i>	White-throated Storm-petrel	EN	1,000 - 1,600
<i>Larus saundersi</i>	Saunders's Gull	VU	7,100 - 9,600
<i>Larus relictus</i>	Relict Gull	VU	10,000 - 20,000
<i>Rissa brevirostris</i>	Red-legged Kittiwake	VU	100,000 - 500,000
<i>Rynchops albigularis</i>	Indian Skimmer	VU	2,000 - 3,350
<i>Sterna bergii</i>	Fairy Tern (New Caledonia)	VU	200 - 400
<i>Synthliboramphus sumatranus</i>	Japanese Murrelet	VU	2,500 - 10,000
<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>	Dalmatian Pelican	VU	50
<i>Pterodroma cervicalis</i>	White-necked Petrel	VU	100,000
<i>Pterodroma leucophaea</i>	Gould's Petrel	VU	3,000 - 21,000
<i>Pterodroma cookii</i>	Cook's Petrel	VU	1,258,000
<i>Pterodroma pyralis</i>	Pyralis's Petrel	VU	30,000 - 40,000
<i>Pterodroma brevipes</i>	Collared Petrel	VU	1,000 - 10,000
<i>Pterodroma solandri</i>	Providence Petrel	VU	100,000
<i>Puffinus bulleri</i>	Buller's Shearwater	VU	2,500,000
<i>Puffinus pacificus</i>	Hutton's Shearwater	VU	250 - 1,000
<i>Phoebastria albatrus</i>	Short-tailed Albatross	VU	2,200 - 2,500
<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>	Black-footed Albatross	VU	120,000
<i>Oceanodroma matsudairae</i>	Matsudaira's Storm-petrel	DD	20,000
<i>Brachyramphus perdix</i>	Long-billed Murrelet	NT	>10,000
<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>	Spotted-billed Pelican	NT	7,000 - 10,000
<i>Archibuteo lagopus</i>	Oriental Osprey	NT	22,000 - 38,000
<i>Gavia adamsii</i>	Yellow-billed Loon	NT	11,000 - 12,000
<i>Pseudobulweria rostrata</i>	Tahiti Petrel	NT	20,000
<i>Pterodroma inexpectata</i>	Mottled Petrel	NT	1,500,000
<i>Puffinus pacificus</i>	Sooty Shearwater	NT	15,000,000
<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>	Laysan Albatross	NT	<100
<i>Oceanodroma monorhis</i>	Swinhoe's Storm-petrel	NT	100,000
<i>Oceanodroma tristrami</i>	Tristram's Storm-petrel	NT	20,000



2015-2016 Work Plans

The following work plans were agreed at the 8th Meeting of Partners (MOP8) in January 2015.

1. Update the working group's Prioritization Process before MOP9

The Working Group will review and update the seabird prioritization list prior to each MOP. Changes in taxonomy, conservation status, and population estimates will be reviewed.

2. Coordinate input into the 'Global Seabird Colony Registry'

The Working Group will contribute information to the 'Global Seabird Colony Registry' (Seabirds.net) managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. First efforts will focus on priority species in the flyway (Table 1).

3. Develop a Tern conservation plan

The working group will prepare a conservation plan for terns over the coming two years.

4. Coordinate information update on the Aleutian Terns in Russia

The Aleutian Tern (*Onychoprion aleutica*) breeds in Alaska and Siberia. Recently, Alaskan populations are thought to be in a steep declining, and information particularly on Russian breeding populations is needed. The Working Group will raise awareness of this species and enhance communication and information exchange in the flyway.

5. Encourage the nomination of sites to the EAAFP Flyway Site Network

The Working Group will encourage Partners to submit nominations of Flyway Site Network that are important to seabirds.

6. Support a meeting with seabird experts, conservationists and policy makers from the EAAF



Join us!

Pease email us:

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For more information:

<http://www.eaaflyway.net/our-activities/working-groups/seabirds-working-group/>