



East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership

8th Meeting of Partners, Hokkaido, Japan

16-21 January 2015

FINAL (AS ADOPTED AT MOP9)

Report of the Eighth Meeting of Partners

It will be helpful to read this Report in conjunction with the Agenda Documents for MoP8.[LINK](#)

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Opening Ceremony (Friday, 16 January 2015)

Welcome from Japan, Host Country of MoP8

Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Environment of the Government of Japan, Ms. Hinako Takahashi, welcomed participants, especially for those who travelled far and the Secretariat which worked hard to organise the meeting. Japan has contributed to the establishment of the EAAFP as well as APMWCS. Parliamentary Vice-Minister Takahashi highlighted that she is deeply honoured to host the MOP8 in Kushiro, Japan, in cooperation with Kushiro City, as it is the first time for Japan to host an EAAFP MOP. Parliamentary Vice-Minister Takahashi expressed her hope that participants will have fruitful discussion at MOP8 toward the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

Mr. Hiroya Ebina, Mayor of Kushiro City, welcomed participants. EAAFP is the one of the most important international networks for the nature and human life. He is delighted and honored to host this meaningful meeting in Kushiro. Kushiro-shitsugen is Japan's largest wetland, extending 36 km from north to south and 25 km from east to west. It was Japan's first wetland to be listed under the Ramsar Convention, and consists mostly of reed-sedge marshland with a web of tributaries flowing into the Kushiro River, which runs over the wetland from south to north. Kushiro-shitsugen is a rich habitat for a variety of precious flora and fauna, including the Red-crowned crane (designated as a Special Natural Monument of Japan) and the Siberian salamander. Conservation of migratory birds is very important for Japan. Kushiro city is a very appropriate place to hold the MOP for these reasons.

Welcome from the Chair

Dr Lei Guangchun, Government of China, on behalf of the Chair (Mr. Yan Xun, State Forestry Administration of China), welcomed participants and expressed thanks to the Japanese high-level delegates to host MOP8 and as well as the Secretariat for their tireless efforts. He underlined that the Japan is one of the founding member for the Secretariat with the USA, China, and Australia. Especially Kushiro-shitsugen was registered on the Ramsar List in 1980, as the Japan's first wetlands. He noted although the Secretariat benefits from continued support from Incheon City Government since 2009, there is a need for additional resources from the outside. The Chair wished the Meeting every success.

Presentation of Certificates to new Partners: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Myanmar, Vietnam and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)

Representatives of Myanmar, Vietnam and ACB received Certificates from the Chair. Despite becoming new Partners at MOP8, all three have been active in EAAFP for some time with Myanmar and Vietnam participating in earlier MOPs. CBD received its Certificate at a special ceremony at CBD COP 12 in Korea in October 2014.

Presentation of Certificates to new Network Sites: Mongolia (1), Japan (2), Myanmar (3), Australia (1) and Thailand (2)

Certificates were presented by Chair.

- Dashinchilen Tsagaan wetlands. Accepted by the Representative of the Government of Mongolia
- Izu-numa and Uchi-numa. Accepted by the Representative of the Miyagi Prefectural Izunuma-Uchinuma Environmental Foundation
- Notsuke-hanto and Notsuke wan. Accepted by the Mayor of Betsukai Town
- Gulf of Mottama, a critical site for Spoon-billed Sandpiper and other wintering shorebirds
- Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary. Accepted by the Representative of the Government of Myanmar

- Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary. Accepted by the Representative of the Government of Myanmar
- South-East Gulf of Carpentaria: Karumba-Smithburne (Delta Downs). Accepted by the Representative of the Government of Australia
- Pak Thale Laem Phak Bia, also a critical site for Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Nordmann's Greenshank and other wintering shorebirds. Accepted by the Representative of the Government of Thailand
- Khok Kham, important for Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Accepted by the Representative of the Government of Thailand

1. Introductory session

1.1. Appointment of Meeting chairperson and rapporteurs

Dr Lei Guangchun (China) and Pete Probasco (USA) agreed to jointly chair the meeting. Pete Probasco noted that Kushiro is a very appropriate host for MOP8 since it is a sister city to Seward, Alaska, which hosted MOP8. The Meeting appointed Sandra Hails, Doug Watkins, Taej Mundkur and Yuna Choi as rapporteurs.

1.2. Approval of Minutes of the 7th Meeting of Partners

The [minutes of MoP7](#), Seward, Alaska, USA were posted on the website and then shown on screen. They were endorsed by Partners without alteration.

1.3. Approval of the Provisional Agenda for the 8th Meeting of Partners

The [Agenda](#) had been circulated before MoP8 and was shown again; it was endorsed by the Partners without alteration.

1.4. Welcome to Partners (existing and new) and Working Groups/Task Forces

Apologies were received from several Partners as advised in the Agenda Documents: Philippines, Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat, Food & Agriculture Organisation, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat, IUCN and Wildlife Conservation Society

Partner and WG/TF representatives introduced themselves and their role in attending MoP8.

1.5. Presentation of new Partners' plans and activities

[CBD Secretariat](#)
[Myanmar](#)
[ASEAN Center for Biodiversity](#)
[Vietnam](#)

2. Special Session: information sharing and discussion on minimizing bird strikes from wind turbines

2.1. Presentations

- [EU nature legislation and best practise guidance in relation to wind energy development \(Richard Grimmett\)](#)

- [Strategic planning and sensitivity mapping in relation to wind energy development \(Tristram Allinson\)](#)
- [Measures taken by MOE-J for minimizing bird strikes from wind turbines \(Kaori Tsujita\)](#)
- [Wild birds and wind farm “Impact in Japan, challenges on Environmental Impact Assessment, and activities by Wild Bird Society of Japan” \(Tatsuya Ura\)](#)

2.2. Panel Discussion

3. Reports

3.1 Brief Reports from Secretariat

[Overview of activities since MoP7 including financial matters
Matters arising from 7th Meeting of Partners](#)

3.2 Brief Report from each Partner

3.2.1 Governments

- [Australia](#)
- [Indonesia](#)
- [Japan](#)
- [Republic of Korea](#)
- [Russia](#)
- [Singapore](#)
- [USA](#)
- [Cambodia](#)
- [China](#)
- [Bangladesh](#)
- [Thailand](#)
- [Mongolia](#)
- [New Zealand](#)
- [Malaysia](#)

3.2.2 International Non-Governmental Organisations

- [Australasian Wader Studies Group – BirdLife Australia](#)
- [International Crane Foundation](#)
- [Wetlands International](#)
- [WWF](#), [Related PPT \(WWF-Japan\)](#)
- [IUCN](#)
- [BirdLife International](#)
- [Wild Bird Society of Japan](#)
- [Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust](#)
- [Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust](#)

3.2.3 Intergovernmental Organisations

- [Ramsar Convention](#)

3.2.4 Special Partner

- [Incheon City](#)

3.3 Brief Report from each Working Group and Task Force

3.3.1 Working Groups (WG)

- [Anatidae WG](#)
- [Avian Influenza WG](#)
- [Crane WG](#)
- [Seabird WG](#)
- [Shorebird WG](#)
- [CEPA WG](#)
- [Black-faced Spoonbill WG](#)

3.3.2 Task Forces (TF)

- [Monitoring of waterbird populations and sites TF](#)
- [Yellow Sea Ecoregion TF](#)
- [Amur-Heilong Basin TF](#)
- [Spoon-billed Sandpiper TF](#)
- [Scaly-sided Merganser TF](#)
- [Baer's Pochard TF](#)

4. Implementation Status

4.1. Objective 1: Develop the Flyway Site Network

4.1.1. [Current status of Flyway Site Network and recent nominations](#)

Judit Szabo, EAAFP

4.1.2. [Effective management of Flyway Site Network](#)

Lew Young, Ramsar

4.2. Objective 2: Enhance communication, education and public awareness

4.2.1. [EAAFP World Migratory Bird Day](#)

Tomoko Ichikawa, EAAFP

Currently WMBD is celebrated in the second Week of May:

Wetland International: World Migratory day need not be on the same day in all countries. The web site shows that groups have been setting their own day. WI urged partners to find way to engage with the CEPA message.

Secretariat: In Korea WMBD was moved to coincide with World Wetlands Day to July when weather is warmer and encourages Partners to adapt to most suitable day for each Partner.

Sandra: Change in date had been proposed for WWD in Europe.

WI: CMS CoP proposed WMBD to be in the UN calendar, so this will now be celebrated and promoted as a formal UN event.

4.3. Objective 3: Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, knowledge and promote exchange of information

4.3.1. [Waterbird Monitoring](#)

Cristi Nozawa, Birdlife International

4.3.2. [Review of Populations of Waterbirds Considered under EAAFP](#)

Kaori Tsujita, Government of Japan

4.3.3. [Review of international policies for the conservation of migratory waterbirds: a way forward](#)

Eduardo Gallo-Caijiao, University of Queensland.

4.3.4. [Review of shorebird hunting](#)

Eduardo Gallo-Caijiao, University of Queensland.

4.3.5. [Proposal for an EAAFP Task Force on Eastern Curlew](#)

Paul O'Neill, Government of Australia

4.4. Objective 4: Build capacity to manage waterbirds and their habitats

4.4.1. [Proposal on the development of the next EAAFP Implementation Strategy taking into account the opinions of FNS managers in Japan](#)

Kaori Tsujita, Government of Japan.

4.5. Objective 5: Develop flyway-wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds

4.5.1. [UNWTO: Destination Flyways and EAAFP sites](#)

Taej Mundkur, Wetlands International

4.5.2. [CMS: Global Programme of Work on Flyways and Migratory Birds 2014-2023](#)

Taej Mundkur, Wetlands International, Coordinator of CMS Flyways Working Group

[4.5.3 Report of the CMS Action plans on Chinese Crested Tern, Black-faced Spoonbill and Spoon-billed Sandpiper](#)

Simba Chan, BirdLife International

[4.5.4 Overall goals and objectives of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative](#)

Rick Lanctot, Government of USA

[4.5.5 Proposal for a collaborative academic program to investigate the costs and feasibility of restoring/reconstructing tidal mudflat habitat for migratory shorebirds](#)

Richard Fuller, University of Queensland

[4.5.6 Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds using the Mitigation Hierarchy \(including Biodiversity Offsets\) in Development Projects](#)

Ward Hagemeijer, Wetlands International

5. Development of EAAFP Activities

5.1. Implementation of the Priority Shorebird Conservation Action Plan

Ken Gosbell, Shorebird WG and Doug Watkins, Yellow Sea TF

- [Agenda for the workshop](#)
- [Prioritizing Migratory Shorebirds \(Bena Smith, WWF\)](#)
- [Yellow Sea Ecoregion Taskforce \(Doug Watkins, TF Chair\)](#)
- [EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force Draft Terms of Reference](#)

Side Event Session A

[5.1.2 Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative meeting](#) Rick Lanctot, Government of USA

[5.1.3 Black-faced Spoonbill WG meeting](#) Kisup Lee, WG Chair and Yat-Tung Yu, WG Coordinator

[5.1.5 Avian Influenza WG meeting](#) Taej Mundkur, Co-Chair of AI WG

5.2 [Participatory Workshop for Flyway Implementers: Communicating the Partnership](#)

Sandra Hails, CEPA WG

Side Event Session B

[5.2.3 Monitoring TF meeting](#) Doug Watkins, TF Chair

[5.2.4 Seabird WG meeting](#) Paul O'Neil, WG Chair

[5.2.5 Spoon-billed Sandpiper TF meeting](#) Evgeny Syroyechkovsky, TF Chair

[5.2.6 Anatidae WG meeting](#) Masayuki Kurechi, WG Chair [5.2.7 Scaly-sided Merganser TF](#) Diana V Solovyeva, TF Coordinator

[5.2.8 Shorebird WG meeting](#) Ken Gosbell, WG Chair

5.3. Brief Reports from EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces

Note: Order of notes and the numbering may vary from the adopted agenda.

5.3.1 [Shorebird WG](#)

Proposed Rick Lanctot of US Fish and Wildlife Service as new Chair. Thanked departing Chair, Ken Gosbell for his leadership and dedication to the Shorebirds WG

5.3.2 [Crane WG](#)

No report

5.3.3 [Anatidae WG](#)

Proposed Katsumi Ushiyama as new Coordinator of Anatidae WG.

5.3.4 [Seabird WG](#)

Proposed a new Chair of the Seabird Working Group; Robb Kaler from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and joint Coordinators for the working group: Yat-Tung Yu from the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and Mark Carey from the Australian Government Department of the Environment.

5.3.4 [CEPA WG](#)

Proposed Sandra Hails as new Chair of CEPA WG. Thanked departing Chair, Lew Young for his leadership and dedication to the CEPA WG.

5.3.5 [Avian Influenza WG](#)

Propose to endorse the ongoing role of the Avian Influenza Working Group to keep key agencies informed about avian influenza in wild birds in the flyway.

A meeting of the Working Group linked to an international symposium has been proposed to be hosted by Korea in mid/late 2015.

Partners will confirm their contacts for the AI Working Group.

5.3.6 [Monitoring Task Force](#)

5.3.7 [Yellow Sea Task Force](#)

Proposed Bruce McKinlay as new Chair of Yellow Sea TF. Thanked departing Chair, Doug Watkins for his leadership and dedication to the Yellow Sea TF.

Propose to endorse development and implementation of EAAFP work plan for Yellow Sea Ecoregion and adopt the updated Terms of Reference for the Task Force

5.3.8 [Amur-Heilong Task Force](#)

Judit Szabo, EAAFP on behalf of Chair of Amur-Heilong Basin TF

5.3.9 [Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force](#)

Minoru Kashiwagi on behalf of SBS TF Chair

5.3.10 [Black-faced Spoonbill \(BFS\) Working Group](#)

Since the BFS has not yet been officially endorsed by an EAAFP MOP, the creation of this WG is proposed at MOP8. It also recommends endorsement of the appointment of Dr. Kisup Lee from Korea Waterbird Network as the Chair and the appointment of Mr Yat-Tung Yu from the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society as the Coordinator of the Working Group

5.3.11 Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force

Proposed the appointment of Prof. Lei Guangchun (Beijing Forestry University) as the new Chair of Task Force and recommended the Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force hold an Action planning workshop in September 2015.

5.3.12 [Baer's Pochard Task Force](#)

Baz Hughes, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

As well as endorsing a draft Terms of Reference for the EAAFP Baer's Pochard Task Force, EAAFP MOP7 requested the Secretariat to establish a Task Force and appoint the Lead Organisation, Chair and Coordinator and produce an action plan. After extensive consultation with technical experts, a draft action plan was completed in December 2014.

The EAAFP Baer's Pochard Task Force meeting held at MOP8 therefore requests EAAFP MOP8 to:

- Endorse the final draft of the EAAFP Baer's Pochard Task Force Terms of Reference and Action Plan.
- Accept the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust as Lead Organisation, Dr. Ding Changqing (Beijing Forestry University / State Forestry Administration) as Chair and Richard Hearn (WWT) as Global Coordinator.
- Request the Lead Organisation to officially constitute the EAAFP Baer's Pochard Task Force.
- Recommend the EAAFP Baer's Pochard Task Force holds an implementation workshop as soon as the necessary funds can be raised.

6. Development of EAAFP Consolidated Work Plan 2015-2016

1.1. [Secretariat's Work Plan for 2013](#)

1.2. [Secretariat's Budget for 2013](#)

1.3. Secretariat's Management Committee – report to plenary

1.4. Work Plan of each Partner and WG/TF

- [Secretariat](#)
- [Australia](#)
- [Indonesia](#)
- [Japan](#)
- [Republic of Korea](#)
- [Russia](#)
- [Singapore](#)
- [USA](#)
- [Cambodia](#)
- [China](#)
- [Bangladesh](#)
- Thailand [PPT](#) [Word](#)
- [Mongolia](#)
- [New Zealand](#)
- [Malaysia](#)
- [Myanmar](#)
- [Vietnam](#)
- [Ramsar Convention](#)
- [CAFF \(AMBI\)](#)

- [Convention on Biological Diversity](#)
- [ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity](#)
- [Australasian Wader Studies Group – BirdLife Australia](#)
- International Crane Foundation: [PPT](#) [Word](#)
- [Wetlands International](#)
- [WWF](#)
- [IUCN](#)
- [BirdLife International](#)
- [Wild Bird Society of Japan](#)
- Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust: [PPT](#) [Word](#)
- [Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust](#)
- [Rio Tinto](#)
- [Anatidae Working Group](#)
- [Avian Influenza Working Group](#)
- [Seabird Working Group](#)
- [Shorebird Working Group](#)
- [CEPA Working Group](#)
- [Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group](#)
- [Monitoring of Waterbird Populations and Sites Task Force](#)
- [Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force](#)
- [Far-eastern Curlew Task Force](#)

1.5. Discussion on Consolidated Work Plan

7. [Report and Approval of Key Endorsements and Decisions of MOP8](#)

In addition to the proposals from individual Working Groups and Task Forces (5.3, above), the MOP also approved the following:

7.1 Creation of Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group

A BFS WG was started on 14th October 2014 in Incheon, Korea and has subsequently met several times. Since the BFS WG has not yet been officially endorsed by an EAAFP MOP, the formal creation of this WG is proposed at MOP8. Since the BFS has not yet been officially endorsed by an EAAFP MOP, the creation of this WG is proposed at MOP8.

Ramsar noted the need to clarify the definitions and roles of Working Groups and Task Forces. ICF indicated that a Working Group is ongoing while a Task Force has a limited period of time to address set tasks, but WWT and others stated there was still confusion about the difference and that, for example, the BFS WG had a similar mandate to that of the Baer's Pochard TF. However, Korea suggested that, since it had been functioning under the WG title, this should be retained and would like it formalised as a Working Group. BirdLife suggested that the proposed Partnership review should cover this issue of the distinction between Working Groups and Task Forces. The Chair recommended we put forward the formal establishment of the Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group

7.2 Creation of an Eastern Curlew Action Plan Task Force

Paul O'Neil, Government of Australia

It is proposed that Partners agree to form a Far Eastern Curlew Action Plan Task Force, and develop an international action plan for Far Eastern Curlew for presentation to MoP9. As discussed, it is proposed that Australia (Dr Mark Carey) Chair the Task Force and lead development of the plan, largely through email communication.

Membership of the task force is open to any Partners and associates interested in its development. Members of the task force will be expected to review draft documents and provide input during plan development.

At time of writing, interest in participating had been received from China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Russia, Malaysia, Philippines, Mongolia, Birdlife International, RSPB. Relevant NGOs will be consulted in Australia as per usual domestic process, but other interested Partners are requested to notify Australia of intended participation.

7.3 Creation of an EAAFP South East Asian Network

Srey Sunleang, Government of Cambodia

Cambodia spoke to the recommendation and noted that the Network was needed to enable improved planning and strengthen information sharing, public awareness, capacity building, research, monitoring, resource mobilization, organization of meetings, etc. There was no formal proposal of whether the grouping would be termed as a Working Group or Task Force. BirdLife welcomed the proposal, but noted the possibility of confusion with the term Network and flyway site network and recognised the need for a focus on threatened waterbirds. Bangladesh requested that it be part of the network. Cambodia indicated that the Network would like to include Bangladesh. Singapore suggested the use of SEA rather than ASEAN. Wetland International recognised that proposed lead by ACB and BirdLife was logical given their regional presence and welcomed the opportunity for Wetlands International to participate.

It was recommended to endorse the creation of a South East Asian Network and accept the Terms of Reference. The Network would be formally approved at MOP9.

Proposal for a Southeast Asia Network in the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership

Rationale

In recent years, the geographical focus for migratory waterbirds in the Flyway has been in North East Asia, particularly the Yellow Sea for shorebirds, in light of precipitous declines at staging sites in this area. Furthermore, most species of migratory Anatidae and cranes are largely restricted to the northern part of the Flyway. Yet South East Asia is also an important but threatened area for many species of smaller shorebirds, including the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper. In addition, recent increases in the breeding populations of colonially-breeding waterbirds, such as storks, pelicans and darters, have led to increasingly regular migratory patterns across national boundaries.

Given the ecological connectedness of countries and sites in SE Asia, shared species and populations, as well as common pressures and threats, it is proposed to explore the possibility and interest in creating a Southeast Asia Network in the EAAFP for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in SE Asia.

Why a network?

The Partners from SEA feel that a network will allow them to focus their energies to working together as they share similar issues as well as possibly similar bird species. Once a clearer way of working or agenda is developed then perhaps this can lead to a working group or task force. The SEA partners who were at an informal meeting to discuss this felt that formalizing this can come at a later stage as needed.

Representatives of ASEAN Member States including Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam and representatives from BirdLife International and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity attended the MOP 8 of the EAAFP and recognized the need to highlight the relevance of intertidal habitats and wetlands in the Southeast Asian Region to the survival of migratory shorebirds, the corresponding skills that site managers need to acquire to be able to manage these habitats appropriately and the skills that would enable site managers to

communicate the relevance of these sites to the ecology and economy of the ASEAN Member States.

Proposed Membership

ASEAN Member States (AMS), ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) & Birdlife

The interest to organize a Southeast Asia Network was assessed at the EAAFP MOP 8 and all those present supported the concept and recommended that the formation of the network be acknowledged as part of the documentation of the EAAFP MOP 8.

Terms of Reference of the Southeast Asia Network:

Planning

- Incorporate migratory waterbirds into the agenda of the ASEAN Working Groups on Coastal and Marine Environments (AWGCME) and Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB), as well as other relevant ASEAN forums
- Include migratory waterbird conservation into regional plans, e.g. Greater Mekong Subregion Initiative and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

Information Sharing

- Improve information management (data organization, sharing and dissemination of information)

Capacity Building

- Identify training and capacity building needs of site managers in SE Asia
- Improve regional skills and survey techniques for monitoring of species, habitats and sites on migratory birds in SE Asia

CEPA

- Design and Undertake shared CEPA initiatives

Site – based Collaboration and Monitoring

- Improve protection of migratory waterbird habitats, e.g. through ASEAN Heritage Parks
- Joint monitoring activities

Resource Mobilization

- Mobilize resources to enable joint actions.

Meetings

- Hold regular meetings to share experience on migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the region

Support for translations

- Support translation of key information documents into languages of countries of SE Asia

The MOP recommended to include Bangladesh in the membership of the Network

7.4 Formation of an EAAFP Finance Committee

The EAAFP Management Committee proposes a Finance Committee, led by the Vice Chair to explore sustainable financing options for EAAFP Secretariat staffing and operational costs and partnership activities

Draft Terms of Reference - EAAFP Finance Committee

Goal: To achieve a more sustainable and equitable funding approach for the EAAFP.

Role

- To develop a strategy to achieve the goal
- To develop a document summarizing all contributions associated with the operations under the EAAFP

Timeline

- To commence very shortly after the conclusion of MoP 8 and conclude its work program within a 12 month period prior to MoP 9.

Membership

- Financial Committee Chair Pete Probasco
- EAAFP Chair Lei Guangchun
- Japan To be determined
- Korea To be determined
- AWSG Alison Russell-French
- ICF Jim Harris
- Shell/WI Dick Williams
- Ex-officio Spike Millington

Communication

- Meetings/Communication Exchange
- Contact/business will be by email/skype as required.

Reporting

- A draft report will be circulated to the Partnership to review and comment prior to MoP 9 and be considered at MoP 9.

Planning for the Future

- A more stable and diversified stream of funding will be required to ensure adequate staffing and operational costs of the Secretariat are supported.
- Support ongoing and enhance future partnership activities.
- Incheon City Government contributes approximately \$509,000 annually for the operational (administrative) costs of the Secretariat – no other contributions are received to support these types of costs.
- Other contributions are received which focus on partnership activities as directed by the contributor.

The Challenge

- Recognizing that future funds needed to support operational costs of the Secretariat by one entity, Incheon City Government is not realistic.

Why?

- Simply stated, "The costs of doing business is increasing" as a result of inflation, salary and support costs, expanding activities, increase in the number of Flyway Sites, new Partners, and the associated increased costs due to technical, communication, and management activities."

Addressing the Challenge

- To accomplish the goal of achieving a more sustainable and equitable funding approach the following is provided for consideration:
- The formation of a "Finance Committee", chaired by the Vice Chair position and supported by no more than five members from the partnership.
- This committee will be charged with developing a strategy to address the above mentioned goal as well as develop a document, summarizing all contributions associated with the operations under the EAAFP.
- This committee will start it's work shortly after the conclusion of MoP8, with a goal of finalizing

it's work within a 12 month period (???) and prior to MoP9.

A draft report will be the deliverable, which will be circulated to the Partnership for review and comment.

7.5 Undertaking an Independent Review of EAAFP

The EAAFP Management Committee proposes an independent review of EAAFP structures, functions and mechanisms, to take place in late 2015 and make recommendations that can be reviewed and a strategic plan prepared for consideration at MOP9

7.6 Monitoring the Status and Management of Flyway Network Sites

Lew Young, Ramsar Convention Secretariat

1. Guidelines for updating Site Information Sheets

On a voluntary basis, Country Partners will update the Site Information Sheet (SIS) and boundary map for each Flyway Network Site at least once every six years. As far as possible, International NGO and other Partners are encouraged to support the Country Partners in completing the SIS's and maps.

2. Report on status of FNS in the country reports

As part of their annual reporting to future EAAFP MOP's, Country Partners are requested, on a voluntary basis, to complete Table 1 (below) on the management and status of their FNS. International NGO and other Partners are encouraged to support the Country Partners in completing Table 1.

3. Agenda item on FNS at each future MOP

There will be a standing Agenda Item at future MOP's on the management and status of Flyway Network Sites. Under this item, the Secretariat is expected to present results on:

- The number of FNS in each Partner country, the number of those sites with current SIS and maps, the number that require an updated SIS and map etc;
- The total number of FNS designated along the EAAF; trends in the total number of FNS; FNS with completed SIS's and maps etc;
- Statistics on the management and status of FNS along the flyway based on the results of voluntary Table 1 that have been submitted by Country Partners;

4. Steps for the EAAFP Secretariat to take on dealing with reports of threats to FNS

On receipt of a report about a threat to a FNS, the Secretariat will forward the report to Country Partner and will notify the informant giving the contact details of Country Partner.

There was detailed discussion on this procedure with Indonesia indicating that the Secretariat first communicate with National Government Partner. Singapore added that the Secretariat needs to advise National Country Partner first and subsequently respond, a suggested supported by Indonesia. Australia warned that it cannot respond to "campaigns", but should respond to any genuine reports. Thailand noted that if informant contact details are provided, no action is taken. Bangladesh noted that their national process on this was same as in Thailand and Indonesia and emphasized that it is important for the country partner to know and seek clarification from the informant and would need to receive the contact details. Chair proposed to acknowledge receipt; notify country and wait for country to respond. However, Ramsar noted the possibility that the country does not respond and repeated information is sent to Secretariat (as is experience of Ramsar Secretariat). WWF-HK suggested that it would be at the discretion of the country. Korea said will be difficult for Secretariat to direct to correct part of Government as multiple agencies may be responsible for some sites, so best to send to National Government Partner, i.e. pass the information to the Country Partners and inform the complaint of the action. As a result of discussions, new text was developed.

FNS name	Indicator questions											Additional information
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Site A	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	?	?	No	Yes	Q11. Training is available but only infrequently
Site B	No	Yes	Yes	No	?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Q9. An EIA is now being conducted on a proposed development close to the FNS.
etc												

Table 1: Management and Status of Flyway Network Sites Country:
(Country Partners are particularly requested to complete Q. 8 and 9)

List of indicator questions:

Management

1. Does the site have an update SIS (Key Result Area 1.1)?
2. Does the Site have a site management committee that includes local community members and stakeholders?
3. Does the Site have a site management plan? If so, what is the starting date of the present Plan (KRA 2.2)?

CEPA

4. Does the Site have an active CEPA programme (KRA 4.1)?
5. Do Site staff have access to relevant capacity development and training programmes (KRA 10.1)?

Monitoring

6. Does the Site have a regular monitoring programme to assess the status of the site and its migratory waterbirds (KRA 6.3)?
7. Have monitoring results on trends in the status of the site and its migratory waterbirds been shared with the EAAFP Secretariat and Partners (KRA 7.3)?

Status

8. Are there any possible, actual or future threats to the Site and its migratory waterbirds (KRA 6.4)?
9. If so, have these threats been reported to the EAAFP Secretariat (KRA 6.4)?

Special projects

10. Have model projects been developed at the Site with the full involvement of related national and site partnerships, to address key threatening processes, social and economic needs. (KRA 2.4)?
11. Have the ecological, social and economic values of the Site been assessed (Outcome 3)?

7.7 Statement on Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Intertidal Areas

Deborah Pain, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

Statement on the conservation of intertidal areas along the East Asian -Australasian Flyway (EAAF) of critical importance for migratory waterbirds including the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper – a flagship species.

The Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmeus*, having declined dramatically in recent years to only about 150 breeding pairs, is one of the most threatened animals on the planet. Breeding in arctic Russia, it migrates 8000 km along the EAAF, depending on intertidal habitats for refueling in the Yellow Sea of China and the Republic of Korea and also for feeding in its main wintering areas in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

During its southward migration, one of the most important sites in the world for the species is the Tiaozini sandbanks on the coast of Dongtai, Jiangsu province, China, where more than half of the adults spend several months each autumn undertaking their annual moult; without this site the Spoon-billed Sandpiper could suffer a further severe decline taking it even closer to extinction. The Geum Estuary of the Republic of Korea is another key staging post. Key wintering sites are the Gulf of Mottama in Myanmar, a Flyway Network Site (EAAF117) which has recently been proposed as a Ramsar site, and the coast of Sonadia Island in Bangladesh.

Large scale developments are proposed at several of the most critical sites for Spoon-billed Sandpipers including Tiaozini sandbanks and parts of the coast of Sonadia Island. It is essential that any such developments minimise impacts on the Spoon-billed Sandpiper.

Over the last five years the Spoon-billed Sandpiper has received considerable global attention and has become a flagship species for the many threatened waterbirds using the EAAF. The rapid loss of intertidal habitats along the EAAF, especially to intertidal land claim, is recognised as a key threat to this species and many other declining waterbirds, as well as contributing to the collapse of fisheries and loss of ecological services. Observed rates of declines of waterbird species at 5–9% per year (and up to 26% in the Spoon-billed Sandpiper) are among the highest of any ecological system on the planet. This situation is of critical global concern and needs to be addressed urgently as part of a strategy for international conservation cooperation.

EAAF governments have already committed to halting the decline of wetland ecosystems along their coasts, including through enhanced protection of habitats for migratory waterbirds under a variety of instruments. These include: Resolution 28 on the 'Conservation of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and its threatened waterbirds, with particular reference to the Yellow Sea' adopted at the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju, Republic of Korea; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the 'Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets' including those to reduce habitat loss (Target 5), prevent species extinction (Targets 12) and restore ecosystem services (Target 14); the Ramsar Convention, including commitments to intertidal wetland conservation in Resolutions VII.21 and VIII.4 and in Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan 2009–2015; and for EAAF countries that are Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species, through 'Ensuring Migratory Bird Conservation through Flyway/Ecological Networks and Critical Sites and Habitat and Addressing Key Threats' as outlined in the global 'Programme of Work on Migratory Waterbirds and Flyways 2014-2023'.

The urgency and importance of the actions needed in the Chinese part of the Yellow Sea were reiterated at a meeting in Beijing in September 2014 (<http://www.cms.int/en/news/experts-get-together-beijing-discuss-conservation-key-sites-migratory-birds-yellow-sea>).

Relevant governments have taken some positive actions to help conserve intertidal areas. Good examples include the coastal 'Blueprint' currently being developed in China and the proposal to designate the Gulf of Mottama in Myanmar as a Ramsar site. However, time is running out for the conservation of some critical sites and endangered species. This situation is of global concern.

We, the Partners of the EAAF, restate our intention to work within existing structures, mechanisms and commitments to try to improve this situation.

We recognise that migratory waterbirds are a joint benefit and responsibility of all of the countries that they inhabit along the flyway. Therefore, the considerable efforts and resources spent on their conservation in one country or one part of the flyway need to be supported by similar actions in other parts of their range, or they risk being ineffective.

We, the Governmental Partners of the EAAF, will work actively together through:

- **Bilateral agreements on migratory bird conservation**

- **The Arctic Council (of which EAAF Partner countries of Russia and the USA are State Members and EAAF Partner countries of The Republic of Korea, Japan, China and Singapore are Observers) and the working group on the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna and its Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI).**
- **EAAF Partnership Task Forces, Working Groups and other mechanisms**

We, the intergovernmental agencies, international NGOs and other EAAF Partners, will work actively collaboratively with

- **EAAF Governmental Partners and others**

to help ensure the better delivery of Spoon-billed Sandpiper and other migratory waterbird conservation (including and especially regarding the conservation of critical sites along the EAAF) in line with agreements under the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention and IUCN Resolution 28.

This statement is intended to highlight that while many positive actions have been taken, they have been insufficient to meet these international commitments with respect to intertidal wetland and migratory waterbird conservation. A flyway-wide step change in activity is needed if we are to deal with the crisis faced by the spoon-billed sandpiper and other migratory waterbirds that are a shared benefit across EAAF countries.

References

CBD COP 10 Decision X/2. 2010. Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268>

Convention on Migratory Species UNEP/CMS/Resolution 11.14. 2014. Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways. http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/Res_11_14_PoW_on_Migratory_Birds__Flyways__En.pdf

MacKinnon, J., Verkuil, Y.I. & Murray, N. 2012. IUCN situation analysis on East and Southeast Asian intertidal habitats, with particular reference to the Yellow Sea (including the Bohai Sea). Occasional Paper of the IUCN Species Survival Commission No. 47. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. ii + 70 <https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/ssc-op-047.pdf>

Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 <http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/strat-plan-2009-e-adj.pdf>

Ramsar Resolution VIII.4. Principles and guidelines for incorporating wetland issues into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-viii-4/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E21494_4000_0__

Ramsar Resolution VII.21. Enhancing the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands. <http://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-vii21>

IUCN 2012. WCC-2012-Res-028-EN Conservation of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and its threatened waterbirds, with particular reference to the Yellow Sea http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/resolutions_and_recommendations__in_english.pdf

7.8 Statement on Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative

Rick Lanctot, Government of USA

Partners are encouraged to participate in and be aware of the opportunity to obtain funding, political support, sharing of experience and capacity building for key activities included in the EAAF work plan of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative of the Arctic Council's Conservation of Flora and Fauna Working Group. Key activities include the conservation of arctic breeding habitat in Russia and Alaska, intertidal staging and wintering habitats in Asia, and addressing unsustainable take of priority species (spoon-billed sandpiper, great knot, red knot, bar-tailed godwit, dunlin and lesser white-fronted goose).

7.9 Proposed Situation Analysis on Hunting and Illegal Killing

Nicola Crockford, BirdLife International

In advance of MOP9, Partners are encouraged to input to the proposed situation analysis on hunting and illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory waterbirds in the EAAF and, as appropriate participate in any workshop to evaluate the results and plan next steps to address the issue, for example through the possible establishment of a new EAAFP working group.

Preparatory process in the lead up to MOP 9 proposed using a Questionnaire. BirdLife and Queensland University offered to take the lead on this. Wetlands International offered to provide accesses to historic hunting data from Indonesia. WWT also offered to provide information

7.10 Proposed Task Force on the definition of migratory waterbirds under EAAFP

Kaori Tsujita, Government of Japan

Ramsar noted that it would be important to include CMS in any consultations around the definition of migratory species.

The Chair called for Nominations for the Group and Australia indicated it needed to be on the Task Force, as key migratory species laws in Australia are linked to CMS and its definition. In Australia there are a lot of national "migrants", altitudinal "migrants" and population "dispersals". Inclusion of any non-migrant species (as defined in CMS) would be against the law. There has already been a lengthy discussion with Japan, Korea and China involved.

Nominations for the Taskforce included ICF, Russia, Australia and CMS. Japan offered to co-lead the drafting of the paper with support from BirdLife.

8. Next Meeting: Announcement of MoP9

Discussions are underway with Singapore to host MOP9 in January 2017, with an expected confirmation within six months.

9. Meeting Close

The Meeting was closed at 11:30 pm on Wednesday 21 January by the Co-Chair, who extended thanks once again for arrangements, the field trip, transport and everything done for MoP8 by the Japan and Kushiro hosting team.