**EAAFP 9th Meeting of the Partners**

**Far Eastern Curlew Task Force Break Out Session**

**Day 4, 12th January, 10am.**

**Notes of Meeting**

Chair: Dr. Mark Carey (Australian Government)

Present: Micha Jackson (University of Queensland), Borja Heredia (CMS), Yury Gerasimov (Russia), Connie Warren (BirdLife Australia), Yusuke Sawa (BirdLife International – Tokyo), Sim Lee Kheng (Malaysia), Nicola Crockford (RSBP), Bruce McKinlay (NZ), Geoff Richardson (Australia)

Welcome

Chair stated that the purpose of this meeting is to address any outstanding comments on the FEC Action Plan, ToR and Work Plan. Any feedback given at this meeting will be incorporated into the final plan to be presented for approval at the 9th Meeting of the Partners.

Update on Far Eastern Curlew Action Plan

Chair provided update on pre-meeting of FEC Task Force on Tuesday 10th January where feedback from some partners was addressed, including:

* Which population estimate should be used – decision was to make reference to both estimates (Conklin – 32,000 and Hansen 35,000), but use the most recent estimate of 35,000 for the purpose of identifying internationally important sites for FEC
* Potentially two populations of FEC that use different migration strategies – decision was this is not yet confirmed and so the Action Plan should include actions that support research to investigate this and revise the Action Plan when the question of two populations has been investigated further.

Since the Task Force pre-meeting, Taej Mundkur from Wetlands International provided minor comments that will be incorporated in the final plan.

Yury Gerasimov provided a hard copy of Russia’s comments on the plan at this session. The Chair read over these comments briefly. I was agreed that the comments are miner and did not warrant further discussion as a group.

Meeting attendees gave approval to Chair to incorporate comments from Richard Fuller, Wetlands International and Russia into final draft of Action Plan to be submitted to the 9th Meeting of the Partners for approval.

Borja Heredia (CMS) explained that if the Action Plan is adopted at the Meeting of the Partners, CMS will endorse the plan at the CoP in October 2017. Once the plan is endorsed by CMS, it can be included in their list of fundraising priorities for implementation.

Update on ToR for FEC TF

Task Force members in attendance approved the goal of the Action Plan.

Chair clarified that the role of the Task Force also includes supporting range states that are not currently members of the Partnership (e.g. Palau) and that membership to the Task Force should be open to all relevant stakeholders.

Chair clarified that the Action Plan will must be updated every 10 years, but may need to be updated more frequently than this as new information emerges, such as clarification regarding the possibility of two separate FEC populations.

Task Force Members approved Terms of Reference.

Finalisation of FEC TF Work plan 2017-2018

Chair explained that the work plan was edited as during the pre-meeting of the Task Force and, in its current form, may include more actions than are feasible to carry out within a two-year period. The Chair reiterated that the original draft of the work plan sought to focus on high priority actions identified in the FEC Action Plan.

Text regarding how the Task Force could be involved in supporting and promoting tagging studies was discussed and edited to clarify that the Task Force sees as a CEPA opportunity to raise awareness and concern for FEC rather than participating in the research aspects of tagging. The new text also clarifies that these opportunities may arise from other studies beyond those that include tagging.

CMS CoP12 was included in the list of global events that the Task Force can help to promote.

Chair expressed concern about the extensive list of actions under Objective 3.

Text for first dotpoint was edited to clarify that this cataloguing international important sites will be undertaken through a desktop analysis.

Chair noted that the template for EAAFP work plans could be modified to include a section to list who is responsible for leading on individual actions within the work plan.

Discussion of whether work plan should include specific research needs, such as whether two population exists and food availability and foraging needs. It was decided that research needs should be listed in the Action Plan (under 6.1.4) and, while there are a multiple research needs for FEC, the two aforementioned questions are particularly important and supporting research to address these questions will be a priority for the FEC Task Force in the next two years.

TF could identify particular areas where it would support research

Some points in this aspect of the work plan are very specific. Some research included that is going on and TF wants to be aware, other aspects are research questions where it is unclear whether it will occur and who will carry out the research.

Chair expressed that the primary focus of the Task Force should be focused on conservation activities rather than research. Members of the Task Force present agreed.

Election of Chair and coordinator/s

Australian Government nominated for Chair

BirdLife Australia nominated for Coordinator

FEC Task Force also invites interested parties to nominate for a research coordinator role

Other business

N/A

Meeting close

12:00pm