



EAAFP MOP10/D1: EAST ASIAN – AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY PARTNERSHIP 2019-2028 STRATEGIC PLAN

Introduction

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway (the Flyway) stretches from the Russian Far East and Alaska, southwards through East Asia and South-east Asia, to Australia and New Zealand encompassing 22 countries. The East Asian – Australasian Flyway is home to over 50 million migratory waterbirds from over 250 different populations, including 28 globally threatened species. During migration, waterbirds rely on a chain of highly productive habitats to rest and feed, building up sufficient energy to fuel the next phase of their journey. International cooperation across their migratory range is therefore essential to conserve and protect migratory waterbirds and the habitats on which they depend.

In 2002, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Governments of Japan and Australia, together with Wetlands International, successfully proposed as an informal and voluntary Type II Partnership for the conservation and sustainable use of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds in East Asia, South East Asia and Australasia. The East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) builds on the achievements of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee, the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (APMWCS), and its Action Plans for Anatidae, Cranes and Shorebirds. The Strategy and Action Plans have enhanced and guided international cooperation and coordination and activities to conserve and protect internationally important habitat for migratory waterbirds since 1996.

In November 2004, representatives from twenty-one Governments, Inter-Governmental organizations and non-government organizations met in Seosan in the Republic of Korea to discuss future regional cooperation for conservation of migratory waterbirds using the Type II Partnership model. They agreed that this Partnership would enhance collaboration between Governments, Inter-governmental organizations and non-government organizations and contribute towards achieving the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals.

The East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) was agreed in late 2006 in Bogor, Indonesia, when nine national Government, two International Government Organisations (IGO) and six International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO) signed up to collaborate for the conservation of migratory waterbirds populations in the Flyway. Today the Partnership membership is 37 including 18 national Governments, eight IGOs, ten INGOs and one Corporate Partner.

Contribution to International Waterbird Conservation Efforts

The Partnership Document recognises that building and promoting the site network for migratory waterbirds, and delivering capacity building at a local level to ensure sustainable delivery of ecosystem services will enhance the conservation status of the migratory waterbirds. The Partnership also recognises that a flyway wide approach to the conservation of migratory waterbirds is the most effective way to enhance their conservation status.

The Partnership contributes to the implementation of a number of Inter-Governmental agreements and other international frameworks, including the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on Biological Diversity (Resolutions 7.4 and 7.28),



the UNDP and UNEP Project Priorities and Guidelines, the UNEP Water Policy and the Portfolio of Water Actions compiled at 3rd World Water Forum. Endorsement of the Partnership as a regional initiative within the framework of the Ramsar Convention as stated in Resolution 9.7 is a significant recognition of the importance of this Partnership in the Flyway.

Strategic Action to Protect Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitat

Over the past 12 years, collaboration with the EAAF Partnership has been fostered under two Implementation Plans (2007-2011 and 2012-2017).

In recognition that migratory waterbirds and their coastal and inland habitats are still under increasing pressure from rapid population growth and economic development, particularly in East and South East Asia, the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028 has been developed to build on and enhance the previous efforts to address the pressures that impact on the migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

The Strategic Plan also recognises the importance of achieving effective outcomes for economic development for communities that share important sites with migratory waterbirds, whilst ensuring the availability and quality of habitats required to maintain populations of migratory waterbirds.

As cited in the Partnership Document, the Purpose and Goal of the EAAF Partnership are:

- Purpose - 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; and,
- Goal - to see that migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway are recognised and conserved for the benefit of people and biodiversity.

Purpose and Goal of the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028

The Purpose and Goal of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership Strategic Plan 2019-2028 pursues the Purpose and Goal of the Partnership document. This reflects the efforts that have already been undertaken in the previous two Implementation Plans (2007-2011 and 2012-2018 but aims to build on and progress the objectives of the Partnership with significant outcomes being achieved over the next 10 years.

Structure of the EAAFP 2019 – 2028 Strategic Plan

The five Objectives prescribed in the Partnership Document have guided development of the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019 – 2028 to provide the Partnership with 10-year strategic directions.

The five Objectives of the Partnership as cited in the EAAF Partnership Document are:

- **Objective 1** - Development of the Network of sites of international importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds along the East Asian- Australasian Flyway, building on the achievements of the APMWCS networks.



- Objective 2** - Enhance communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats
- Objective 3** - Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, build knowledge and promote exchange of information on waterbirds and their habitats.
- Objective 4** - Build the habitat and waterbird management capacity of natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders.
- Objective 5** - Develop, especially for priority species and habitats, flyway wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds.

The Plan has been developed to provide a coherent and strategic framework that will guide implementation by the Partners, the Secretariat and EAAFP bodies (Management Committee, Finance Sub-Committee, Technical Sub-Committee, Working Groups and Task Forces) in their endeavours to conserve and sustainably manage migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF.

A core element of the Partnership is the development of the EAA Flyway Site Network to ensure a chain of internationally important wetland sites are recognized and sustainably managed into the future. Migratory waterbird populations are dependent on this chain of sites to enable them to complete their life cycles across the EAA Flyway. The Partnership also supports a range of activities to increase knowledge and raise awareness of migratory waterbirds, while building capacity for the sustainable management and conservation of migratory waterbird habitats along the EAA Flyway.

The Strategic Plan provides the framework to operationalise the five Objectives set out in the EAAF Partnership Document. Under each Objective, the broad strategic directions are outlined to set the scene for the development of Key Result Areas, their Indicators, the Means of Verification and Responsible Reporting Entities.

The Key Result Areas (KRAs) will provide guidance to the Partnership in achieving improved and sustainable outcomes over the period 2019-2028 for migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

Evaluation and Review

The reporting by Partners to Meeting of Partners (MoPs) on the implementation activities is an essential component of assessing progress with the implementation of the Strategic Plan. It is important that this is available sufficiently prior to each MoP to enable the Secretariat to compile an overview of the work of the Partnership.

The Strategic Plan may be periodically reviewed if deemed necessary, in order to reflect updates on progress made at the KRA or Indicator level. However, the Strategic Plan is meant to provide a long-term perspective on EAAFP functioning, which should be reflected in its validity throughout its period.

The Strategic Plan and Partner Report enable easy reporting as well as monitoring of progress with achieving KRAs set in the Strategic Plan. Partners are invited to develop their own implementation plans of this Strategic Plan at their level.

In addition, a Secretariat work plan will be prepared to accompany the Strategic Plan. The Secretariat work plan will link the KRAs set in the Strategic Plan to clear, measurable activities, including timing, budget, and responsible persons. The Secretariat work plan may then be regularly



revised as the MOP deems it necessary, while the Strategic Plan continues to provide the long-term context within which the EAAFP operates.

The Reporting Template will provide each MoP over the 10 year period with information on progress in implementing the Strategic Plan.

Partnership Resourcing Plan

The EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028 is aimed at optimising the implementation of the EAAFP in a realistic way. Implementation can be ensured only when the appropriate means, both financial and in terms of human capacity, are available to the Partnership. Mobilising the required resources for implementation of the Strategic Plan will be a high priority for the Partnership.

The Partnership Resourcing Plan will assist in funding agreed activities in the Strategic Plan, the CEPA Action Plan and other priority activities over its 10-year life. The Resourcing Plan establishes priorities for funding of the Strategic Plan and its development is a priority task for the Finance Sub-Committee with the support of the Secretariat.



2.0 Details of the EAAFP 2019 – 2028 Strategic Plan

Partnership Objective 1 - Develop the Flyway Network of sites of international importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, building on the achievements of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy, with the ultimate goal of establishing a sufficient and efficient network of sites with sustainable management.

Partners have progressed building the Flyway Site Network in number and significance. Flyway Network Sites are managed to maintain their international importance for migratory waterbirds. Significant progress has been made to avoid adverse impacts on internationally important sites. International standards (International Finance Corporation (IFC) or equivalent) are used within and adjacent to Flyway Network Sites and other internationally important waterbird sites. Good progress in the development of national and site partnerships is underway. The Flyway Site Network brand has been developed to increase the recognition and visibility of the internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds. The Flyway Site Network is providing benefits to local communities and site management.

Key Result Areas	Indicators	Means of Verification	Reporting Entity
KRA 1.1 A comprehensive and coherent Flyway Network of Sites is developed for migratory waterbirds, including sites that are not currently Protected Areas.	Indicator 1.1.1 The Flyway Site Network has expanded to include at least 40 additional strategic internationally important sites for migratory waterbird conservation, some of which may not currently be in the national Protected Area.	<i>Partner Reports, Appendix V Partnership Document</i>	<i>All Partners.</i>
KRA 1.2 National and Site Partnerships have been developed to coordinate the implementation of the EAAFP at national and local levels.	Indicator 1.2.1 Guidelines for the establishment and operation of national and site partnerships have been developed and agreed.	<i>The guidelines.</i>	<i>Secretariat, Partners</i>
	Indicator 1.2.2 At least 50% of Government Partners have an active National Partnership and site partnerships have been developed for at least 50% of the Flyway Network sites.	<i>Partner reports.</i>	<i>Partners, Secretariat.</i>
KRA 1.3 Flyway Network Sites are valued by the community and sustainably managed.	Indicator 1.3.1 At least 50% of Flyway Network Sites have current management plans that address specific objectives for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats and that are being adequately implemented. Management plans have stakeholder participation and are approved by relevant agencies.	<i>Partner reports.</i>	<i>Partners.</i>



	Indicator 1.3.2 At least 50% of Flyway sites recognise the Flyway Site Network as a brand for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF	<i>Partner reports, Secretariat Reports, EAAFP Website and Newsletter.</i>	<i>Partners, Secretariat</i>
	Indicator 1.3.3 All Partners are using and complying with International standards (IFC or equivalent) for development within and adjacent to FNS and other internationally important waterbird sites.	<i>Partner reports, Monitoring Task Force.</i>	<i>Partners.</i>
KRA 1.4 Where appropriate, Flyway Network Sites are being sustainably used to support subsistence livelihoods of the local community.	Indicator 1.4.1 Where local communities at Flyway Network Sites depend on the natural resources of the site to support subsistence livelihoods, this is occurring without adverse impacts on migratory waterbirds and their habitats.	<i>Partners Reports, EAAFP Website and Newsletter.</i>	<i>Secretariat, Partners.</i>
KRA 1.5 Partners and local stakeholders are engaged in responding to activities which may threaten Flyway Network sites.	Indicator 1.5.1 The level of engagement of EAAFP Partners and local communities in responding to threats to Flyway Network Sites is reflected in the number of meetings and events held and the participants attending.	<i>Partner reports, relevant Working Groups and Task Forces Reports.</i>	<i>Partners, Relevant Working Groups and Task Forces.</i>
KRA 1.6 The EAAFP Sister Site Programme has expanded.	Indicator 1.6.1 At least five new EAAFP Sister Site relationships have been developed.	<i>Partner and Secretariat reports.</i>	<i>Partners, Secretariat.</i>
KRA 1.7 The membership of the EAAFP has expanded to deliver stronger outcomes for migratory waterbirds and their habitats.	Indicator 1.7.1 Membership has increased	<i>Appendix I of the Partnership Document</i>	<i>Secretariat, Management Committee.</i>

Partnership Objective 2 - Enhance communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

Partners recognise the importance of stakeholder engagement in CEPA in the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats. Partners plan and actively implement effective communication, education and awareness-raising activities and initiate collaborations to secure effective conservation of migratory waterbirds and the sustainable management of their habitats. This will be achieved through ong-term support for wetland guardianship, including by local communities,. Partners develop a flyway knowledge network to share information, skills and knowledge, including traditional environmental knowledge of good practices through their CEPA activities.



Key Result Areas	Indicators	Means of Verification	Reporting Entity
KRA 2.1 The achievement of the elements in the EAAFP CEPA Action Plan (2019-2024).	Indicator 21 The CEPA Action Plan has been monitored, reviewed and updated as necessary to inform the EAAFP.	<i>Partner Reports, WG and TF and Secretariat reports.</i>	<i>Partner Reports, WG and TF and Secretariat reports.</i>

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

Partners, Working Groups and Task Forces have put in place effective programs and collaboration mechanisms that are contributing to knowledge of the effects of climate change and sustainable use on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats. Research programs are relevant and providing valuable support for conservation and sustainable management efforts (particularly sustainable use of resources for local livelihoods benefits). Research draws on and uses as appropriate traditional and local knowledge and information generated through research activities and case studies, and the results are shared and used to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats. The list of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds will be updated and prioritized for conservation management. Data describing waterbird population trends and distributions will be maintained by the Partnership. Monitoring, including the use of citizen science, is valued as a tool to drive research and support decision making to identify and rectify causal drivers of declines of migratory waterbirds and the conservation of their habitats.

Key Result Areas	Indicators	Means of Verification	Reporting Entity
KRA 3.1 National monitoring systems to assess the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats are established, maintained and further enhanced.	Indicator 3.1.1 A standardized monitoring methodology for migratory waterbirds and their habitat is developed and used in nationally coordinated monitoring programmes.	<i>Partner reports, Report of Monitoring Task Force.</i>	<i>Partners, Monitoring Task Force.</i>
	Indicator 3.1.2 All country partners have nationally-coordinated monitoring programs in place.	<i>Partner reports</i>	<i>Partners, Monitoring Task Force.</i>
	Indicator 3.2.1 Data describing waterbird population estimates, trends and	<i>Partners Reports, Conservation Status Review.</i>	<i>Partners, Wetlands International, Technical</i>



KRA 3.2 Conservation status reviews for waterbird populations are produced and updated to set and adapt priorities for action.	distributions are available to the Partnership.		<i>Sub-Committee, relevant Working Groups.</i>
	Indicator 3.2.2 Two updates of waterbird population estimates have been produced and published.	<i>Technical Sub-Committee Reports, EAAFP Website and Newsletter.</i>	<i>Wetlands International, Technical Sub-Committee, Secretariat.</i>
KRA 3.3 Updated list of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds for conservation management and prioritization.	Indicator 3.3.1 An updated list of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds for conservation management and prioritization will be maintained by the Partnership.	<i>Partner Reports, relevant working group reports, EAAFP Website and Newsletter.</i>	<i>Partners, Technical Sub-Committee, relevant Working Groups, Secretariat.</i>
KRA 3.4 A stronger understanding is developed on the anticipated impacts of climate change on waterbirds and their habitats and this is informing planning and site management.	Indicator 3.4.1 Improved knowledge about threats, including climate change impacts, on waterbirds and their habitats is shared and appropriate action taken where possible.	<i>Partner Reports, research institution reports, relevant Working Group and Task Force reports, EAAFP Website and Newsletter.</i>	<i>Partners, Technical Sub-Committee, relevant Working Groups and Task Forces, Secretariat.</i>
KRA 3.5 Collaborative research programs are established to provide effective support for conservation and sustainable management efforts, particularly the sustainable use of resources for local livelihoods benefits.	Indicator 3.5.1 Research programs on improving conservation and sustainable management outcomes have increased.	<i>Partner Reports, research institution reports, Working Group reports, EAAFP Website and Newsletter.</i>	<i>Partners, Technical Sub-Committee, relevant Working Groups and Task Forces, Secretariat.</i>
	Indicator 3.5.2 Knowledge generated is being applied in at least 50% of internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds.		
KRA 3.6 Best practice guidelines for waterbird and habitat conservation programs, including the incorporation of traditional knowledge, are developed and made available.	Indicator 3.6.1 Best practice guidelines are available on the EAAFP website.	<i>Partner reports, Working Group reports, EAAFP Website and Newsletter.</i>	<i>Secretariat, Partners, Technical Sub-Committee, relevant Working Groups and Task Forces.</i>

Partnership Objective 4 - Build the habitat and waterbird management capacity of natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders.



Building of skills in the Flyway is recognised as a priority. Partners and the Secretariat have provided necessary training tools and assistance to site managers, resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders. A sound understanding of migratory waterbird conservation, wetland management issues, sustainable management of sites and local livelihood issues have been accepted as an integral part of effective skills building. Partners share successful and innovative skills building experiences and tools.

Key Result Areas	Indicators	Means of Verification	Reporting Entity
KRA 4.1 EAAFP promotes the use of the range of available training tools and provides assistance to address challenges at Flyway Network Sites.	Indicator 4.1.1 All Partners and Secretariat have mechanisms for capacity building in place to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, tools and experience.	<i>EAAFP Focal Point Manual, Secretariat reports.</i>	<i>Secretariat.</i>
	Indicator 4.1.2 Partners and the Secretariat include capacity building assessment in project proposals.	<i>Partner Reports, Secretariat reports.</i>	<i>Partners, Secretariat</i>
	Indicator 4.1.3 The EAAFP online technical training manual for Flyway Site management is supported and used by at least 50% of Flyway Site Managers.	<i>Partner Reports, Secretariat reports.</i>	<i>Partners, Secretariat</i>
KRA 4.2 Capacity of Partner Focal Points and site managers to pursue the EAAFP objectives has increased.	Indicator 4.2.1 The EAAFP implementation manual for Focal Points is produced and distributed, providing a set of resource materials for EAAFP implementation and awareness.	<i>Partner Reports, EAAFP Newsletter, training reports, Secretariat reports.</i>	<i>Partners, Secretariat.</i>
	Indicator 4.2.2 At least one meeting of Partner Focal Points, including site managers, is held per annum.	<i>Partner Reports, EAAFP Newsletter, training reports, Secretariat reports.</i>	<i>Partners, Secretariat.</i>
	Indicator 4.2.3 All Partner Focal Points are submitting their partner reports prior to each MoP.	<i>Partner Reports, Secretariat Report.</i>	<i>Partners, Secretariat.</i>
KRA 4.3 Corporates with operations impacting on migratory waterbirds are engaged in delivering better outcomes for the conservation of waterbirds and their habitats.	Indicator 4.3.1 An increased number of internationally important sites and programmes, in which Corporates are contributing to positive outcomes for migratory waterbirds and their habitats.	<i>Partner Reports, Secretariat Reports.</i>	<i>Partners, Secretariat.</i>



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

Threatened migratory waterbirds are protected from threats and populations are increasing. Threats to migratory waterbirds’ habitats are reduced. Information about these efforts is shared with the Flyway Partnership. Partners are also actively collaborating and pursuing measurable action to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF. Partners are using the relevant multilateral regional and bilateral agreements and other regional mechanisms, as well as to mainstream conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats into national policy instruments including adaptation to the impacts of climate changes. The Partnership is committed to better collaboration and information sharing with other Flyway initiatives.

Key Result Areas	Indicators	Means of Verification	Reporting Entity
KRA 5.1 Partners are actively collaborating to develop approaches to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF across national boundaries.	Indicator 5.1.1 At least 50% of Partners are collaborating across national boundaries initiatives for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, particularly for threatened migratory waterbirds.	<i>Partner reports, relevant Working Group and Task Force reports, Technical Sub-Committee reports, EAAFP Website and Newsletter.</i>	<i>Partners, relevant Working Group and Task Forces, Technical Sub-Committee, Secretariat.</i>
KRA 5.2 Threatened migratory waterbirds are protected from threats and populations are stable or increasing.	Indicator 5.2.1 The Partnership, with leadership from IUCN, BirdLife International & Wetlands International, is updating and maintaining a list of threatened migratory waterbird populations and encouraging Government Partners to protect these threatened populations under national legislation.	<i>Partner reports, relevant Working Group and task Force reports, Technical Sub-Committee reports, Conservation Status Review, Waterbird Population Estimates and IUCN Red List.</i>	<i>Partners, Technical Sub-Committee, relevant Working Group and Task Forces.</i>
	Indicator 5.2.2 Single Species Action Plans are developed and implemented for threatened migratory waterbird species in the EAAF.	<i>Partner reports, relevant Task Force reports.</i>	<i>Partners, relevant Task Force.</i>
	Indicator 5.2.3 Populations of threatened migratory waterbirds are either stable or increasing.	<i>Partner reports, relevant Working Group and Task Force reports, Technical Sub-Committee reports; Conservation Status Review, Waterbird Population Estimates and IUCN Red List.</i>	<i>Partners, Technical Sub-Committee, relevant Working Group and Task Forces.</i>



<p>KRA 5.3 Regional Action Plans are developed and implemented for priority geographic regions of the EAAF.</p>	<p>Indicator 5.3.1 Development and implementation of Regional Action Plans for geographical regions with common critical threats in the EAAF.</p>	<p><i>Relevant Task Force reports.</i></p>	<p><i>Partners, Relevant Task Forces.</i></p>
<p>KRA 5.4 Measures to reduce and, as far as possible eliminate, illegal hunting, take and trade of migratory waterbirds are developed and implemented.</p>	<p>Indicator 5.4.1 All Government Partners have mechanisms in place to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate, illegal hunting, take and trade of migratory waterbirds.</p>	<p><i>Partner reports, Illegal Hunting, Take and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds Task Force reports, EAAFP Website and Newsletter.</i></p>	<p><i>Illegal Hunting Take and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds Task Force, Partners, Secretariat.</i></p>
<p>KRA 5.5 The conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats is mainstreamed into national legislation and/or policy instruments including adaptation to the impacts of climate changes.</p>	<p>Indicator 5.5.1 All Government Partners have relevant national legislation and/or policy instruments include provisions on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.</p>	<p><i>Partner Reports.</i></p>	<p><i>Government Partners.</i></p>
<p>KRA 5.6 The conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats is integrated into relevant multilateral and bilateral agreements and other regional mechanisms.</p>	<p>Indicator 5.6.1 Relevant environmental agreements recognise the EAAFP as an effective regional framework to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats.</p>	<p><i>Decisions adopted by relevant MEAs and BAs.</i></p>	<p><i>Secretariat, Partners.</i></p>