



APPLICATION FORM

Small Grants Fund for Working Groups & Task Forces

For office use only

Application received	
Application assessed	

NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

1. Applications must be reviewed by the relevant EAAFP Working Group or Task Force Chair or coordinator, who will provide a statement of the relative merit of the application against the assessment criteria, prior to submission.
2. Applications will be assessed by at least three members of the EAAFP Management Committee, Technical Committee and/or external referees that are not party to any of the proposals. If the reviewer is affiliated with a proposal, they must recuse themselves from the process.
3. EAAFP Working Group or Task Force are eligible for funding to go towards meetings, research, monitoring, site management, training and CEPA events and materials.
4. Students, with the support of the relevant Working Group or Task Force, are only eligible for funding toward studies being undertaken at a research institution or travel to a conference to present original research.
5. Grants are awarded on the strict understanding that funds will be exempt from institutional administration charges, unless Partner government law so requires.
6. Funds are limited and not all applications may be funded.
7. Applications should be targeted towards EAAFP key species or habitats, regions, or emerging threats or other specified Partnership objectives. All applications should demonstrate how it would contribute to Partnership objectives and the implementation of the Partnership document and Strategic Plan.
8. Applications with in-kind contributions and other matching financial are preferred.
9. The maximum amount annually provided by the Small Grants Fund to an applicant or for a specific project is \$5,000 (USD).
10. Conference attendance will be supported to a maximum of \$1,000 (USD) and is only for task force or working group members delivering their own work as a presentation, paper or poster.
11. Lead investigators are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from government authorities, indigenous communities, ethics committees etc., to undertake approved research or monitoring studies.
12. Successful applicants will be required to provide a short write up of their project outcomes in the EAAFP newsletter and website and to report to the relevant Working Group or Task Force, and are strongly encouraged to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals.

Call for proposal is on 3 January. Applications close at 5pm (Seoul Time) on 3 February annually. A follow-up application process may be available 6 months later should funds remain.

Announcements of funding will be made by 3 March.



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ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The merit of applications will be judged on the following criteria, with an overall ranking of 1 (highest priority) to 5 (lower priority) scale:

- The novelty and strength of the science employed
- The likely value of the project to migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF
- The alignment of the project with priority Single Species Action Plans or overall Working Group and Task Force objectives
- The alignment of the project with the EAAFP Strategic Plan
- The justification for the grant funds requested relative to the overall budget of the project
- The track record of the lead investigator and the likelihood of the project achieving its objectives
- Leveraging of in-kind contributions and other matching financial

ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

- Are migratory waterbirds and their habitats the focus of your project? Yes No
- Will your project improve our understanding of factors important to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF? Yes No
- Have you previously applied for an EAAFP Small Grants Fund? Yes No

If yes, provide details of which award you applied for, and if you were successful how much funding you received:

___ "Training and capacity building in Dauria International Protected Area (DIPA) in 2011, 3,000 \$ US. _____

How does this application differ from your previous application?

___ This application is dedicated to waterfowl survey with a special reference to Baer's Pochard on the Argun River, Transbaikalia, Russia, previous application was dedicated to training of staff and capacity building in Dauria International Protected Area _____

Applicants must answer 'yes' to all of the following statements in order to be eligible to apply:

- The applicant agrees to provide a final report within 3 months of the completion of the project. Yes No
- The applicant agrees to submit 1 – 2 page article and photographs for inclusion on EAAFP's website and/or write a brief article for the EAAFP's newsletter. Photographers will be acknowledged. Yes No
- The applicant will acknowledge the support of the EAAFP in any publications, presentations and reports arising from this work. Yes No

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title: Mr. Goroshko Oleg
(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

Institution: Daursky State Nature Biosphere Reserve

Institutional address: Post box-66, 76 Komsomolskaya Str.
Street address or GPO Box

Degree type: Ph.D. Nizhny Tsasuchey Zabaikalsky Krai, Russia 674480
Suburb or town State or country Postcode

(+7)-914-508-42-31 (+7)-924-512-76-96
Primary contact number Mobile phone number

Email address: oleggoroshko@mail.ru

Relevant Working Group or Task Force Chair - DETAILS

Title: Prof. Ding Changqing
(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

Email address: cqding@bjfu.edu.cn

Relevant Working Group or Task Force Coordinator - DETAILS

Title: Mr Hearn Richard
(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

Email address: Richard.Hearn@wwt.org.uk

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Title: Please provide concise and informative title of your entire project (not just the component for which funds are sought)

A waterfowl survey, focussed on Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*), of the Argun River, Amur basin, Zabaikalsky Krai (Transbaikalia) Russian Far East

Part A. FOR CONFERENCE APPLICANTS ONLY

Conference Title:	Location:	Date:
Presentation Abstract (250 word maximum):		

Part B. FOR ALL OTHER APPLICANTS

Details of your entire project (not just the component for which funds are sought) (2.5 page maximum)	
1. Objectives:	The objectives are: 1. Assess the status of breeding Baer's Pochard in the Argun river basin 2. Collect data on the abundance and breeding status of all waterbirds in the Argun river basin

2. Background:

The Argun is a transboundary river located on the state border between Inner Mongolia Province of China and Zabaikalsky Krai (former Chita Region) of Russia (Figure 1). The Argun is of global importance for the conservation of waterbirds in Asia: the Russian part of the upper Argun valley is listed as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The upper Argun has a wide (6 km at average) and wet valley about 150 km of length within the steppe zone (from 49° 32' N, 117° 50' E to 50° 20' N, 119° 22' E) - this area is very important stopover and breeding habitat for waterbirds including Baer's Pochard (BP) *Aythya baeri* (Gavrin & Rakov 1960; Goroshko, 2007, 2012). The territory includes a large number of fresh water lakes of different size, reeds, wet sedge and cereal meadows. (Figure 2). These habitats have been previously occupied by Baer's Pochard (Gavrin & Rakov 1960): in the spring of 1957, researchers noted during one day up to 120 Baer's Pochard flying in pairs and groups of up to 10 birds. The middle Argun has a more narrow (3 km at average) wet valley. The middle Argun is also important for waterbirds; it supports not very extensive but different types of wetlands: sedge grasslands dominate, but reeds are rare. The lakes on the upper Argun are usually edged by reeds, less often by sedges; on the middle Argun, on the contrary, the lakes are usually edged by sedges, less often by reeds. The lower Argun is a narrow valley with few lakes. The best habitats for Baer's Pochard are present in the upper Argun.

Despite its importance, the wetlands on the Argun basin are very poorly observed and there is very little information about the present status of waterbirds there due to the remoteness and inaccessibility of the territory, lack of funding, and strict restrictions due to the proximity of the state border. The Argun is located on the state Russian-Chinese border and therefore it is a restricted area for many people. We have successfully prepared the necessary documents to allow a visit to this area.

The ecosystems of the Argun wetlands depend significantly on long-term climatic cycles (of about 20-30-year duration) with interchanging wet and dry periods. These cycles have a great effect on the amount of precipitation, on the condition of wetlands and hence on the populations of waterbirds. The last favourable period for waterbirds was 1982–1998; extensive wetlands were present in the Argun floodplain. The arid period was during 1999–2017; about 90 % of the Argun wetlands were completely dry during this time. Since July 2018, a lot of rain in the region means that the wetlands in the Argun River have water again and so in 2019 the Argun River will again support good habitats for Baer's Pochard and other waterbirds.

The last record of BP on the upper Argun River was on September 2, 2010: one female on the Chinese side of the river; 2010 was arid and not favourable for BP. The last records on the neighbouring areas: 2 birds (male and female) on June 13, 2011 (the Torey Lakes, Russia), and 1 moulting male on July 23, 2015 (the Lake Khooh-Nur, adjacent area of Mongolia). Thus, BP continues to exist in the region even during a very unfavourable long-term arid climate period. With the advent of a favourable humid climatic period, the number of all species of ducks will increase, and we assume an increase in the number of BP; its most likely habitat in the region is the Argun River.

In 2019, we plan to observe wetlands and waterbirds on the upper Argun River (Figure 1), search and count BP. This section is about 150 km long. The best period for observation breeding BP is second half of July and first half of August. The best period for observation migratory BP is second half of April and first half of May.



Figure 1. Study area (the upper Argun River).



Figure 2. Wetlands of the Argun River basin.

<p>3. Project plan, timeline and methods:</p>	<p>We plan to conduct surveys breeding birds during July15 - August 15. Duration of fieldwork will be about 15 days. The team will include three people: an ornithologist, an assistant and a driver. The wetlands will be observed from the top of high hills along the river valley using a telescope (X15-75) and binoculars (X8). This is the most productive method. We will also perform walking surveys and maybe use a small boat (if needed) to survey wetlands that are poorly visible from such vantage points. We will create a network of monitoring plots, so the survey can be repeated in future and waterbird trends estimated. We will select the best method for the observation of wetland sites with good habitats for BP and with good overview, fix on the GPS location of the observer on a top of hills and map the boundary of the monitoring plots. If we find good walking tracks for monitoring, we will fix them on GPS too.</p>
<p>4. Likely benefit to conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitat/ or key research outputs:</p>	<p>There is an urgent need to locate and protect all breeding sites for Baer's Pochard, since currently we do not know where the majority of the known population (~800-1,000 birds) breed, and threats at breeding sites are considered to be (based on current evidence) the key drivers of population decline. The location of breeding sites will allow site protection and monitoring measures to be developed and implemented, and also such sites can provide opportunities to better understand the ecological needs of BP in order to inform site management and wetland recreation.</p>
<p>5. Alignment with EAAFP priorities:</p>	<p>Please indicate which of the EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces priorities are addressed in this project:</p> <p>This survey supports Result 4 in the EAAFP/CMS Baer's Pochard Single Species Action Plan, which states: The understanding of population status, distribution, key sites and demography is significantly improved.</p>
<p>6. Explain the part of your project for which you are seeking funds in this application:</p>	<p>We are seeking support for the full survey budget.</p>
<p>7. Scientific References cited in the application:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gavrin G.F. &Rakov N.V. 1960. Materials of study of spring migration of waterbirds on the upper flow of the Argun R. In Migrations of animals. Vol. 2. USSR Science Academy Press, Moscow. P. 146-174. (In Russian). 2. Goroshko O. 2007. The Chinese-Russian Argun River is a threatened globally important site of cranes, geese, swans and other birds // China Crane News. Vol. 11. N 2. P.28-34. 3. Goroshko O.A. 2012. Baer's Pochard. In Red Book of Zabaikalsky Kray. Novosibirsk Publishing House, Novosibirsk. Pages 87-88.

Part C. FOR ALL APPLICANTS

Experience Relevant to Project(0.5 page maximum):Please attach a maximum 2-page CV or list all non-academic research experience and experience with migratory waterbirds/conservation e.g. work experience, volunteer experience, bird banding, bird-watching.

Oleg Goroshko, Ph.D. (the leader and the main implementer of the project) has worked on the research, monitoring and conservation of birds in Transbaikalia (Russia) since 1990. Waterbirds are a priority group of birds for Oleg's work and he has significant experience in the identification of waterbirds, census methods and research techniques and long term monitoring of populations and habitats. Oleg is the main expert for research and monitoring of rare species of waterbird in Dauria (Dauria is transboundary steppe ecoregion including Transbaikalia (Russia), North-Eastern Mongolia and adjacent areas of China). Oleg is also an expert on the influence of global climate change to wetlands and waterbirds in Dauria.

Annually, Oleg undertakes around 5-10 censuses of waterbirds in Daursky Nature Reserve and adjacent territories, estimating bird abundance; conducts studies of habitat conditions, bird biology, and threats; and develops recommendations for conservation of birds and wetlands. Studies and conservation of rare species of bird is the main direction of the research.

Oleg is a famous ornithologist in Russia and he is famous international expert for cranes and waterfowl in many Asian countries (Mongolia, China, South Korea, Japan etc.). Oleg is Vice-President of Crane Working Group of Eurasia; Member of Swan Goose Task Force.

Oleg is author or co-author of more than 230 research articles and books. Some publications dedicated to waterbirds, Baer's Pochard, Argun wetlands are listed below:

- Goroshko Oleg is co-author of: Fox, A.D. & Leafloor, J.O. (eds.) 2018. A global audit of the status and trends of Arctic and Northern Hemisphere goose populations. Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna International Secretariat: Akureyri, Iceland. 31 p. ISBN 978-9935-431-66-0. <https://www.caff.is/assessment-series/all-assessment-documents/458-a-global-audit-of-the-status-and-trends-of-arctic-and-northern-hemisphere-goose>.
- Choi Chang-Yong, Lee Ki-Sup, Poyarkov N.D., Park Jin-Young, Lee Hansoo, Takekawa J.Y., Smith L.M., Ely C.R., Wang Xin, Cao Lei, Fox A.D., Goroshko O., Batbayar Nyambayar, Prosser D.J. and Xiao Xiangming. Low Survival Rates of Swan Geese (*Anser cygnoides*) Estimated from Neck-collar Resighting and Telemetry // *Waterbirds* 39(3): 277-286, 2016.
- Goroshko O.A., Liu Songtao. Data about population dynamics of cranes and geese in Dalai Lake and Huaihe Nature Reserves (Inner Mongolia, China) // In B. Buuveibaatar et al. [eds.], Proceedings of the International Conference of China-Mongolia-Russia Daurian International Protected Area. In B. Buuveibaatar et al. [eds.], Ulaanbaatar: Wildlife Conservation Society Mongolia. 2014. P. 78-82.
- Goroshko O., Egidarev E., Kiriliuk V., Kiriliuk O., Kochneva N., Obiazov V., Simonov E., Tkachuk T. Adaptation to climate change in river basins of Dauria: ecology, and water management. [E. Simonov ed.]. Beijing: Shifu Publishers. 2012. 102 p.
- Goroshko Oleg A. 2012. Red-crowned Cranes on the Russian-Chinese Argun River and neighboring parts of the Daurian steppes // *Chinese Birds*, 2012, 3(3). P. 230-237.
- Goroshko O.A. 2012. Baer's Pochard. In *Red Book of Zabaikalsky Kray*. Novosibirsk Publishing House, Novosibirsk. Pages 87-88.
- Goroshko O. 2007. The Chinese-Russian Argun River is a threatened globally important site of cranes, geese, swans and other birds // *China Crane News*. Vol. 11. N 2. P.28-34.
- Go Fujita, Guan Hong-Liang, Mutsuyuki Ueta, Oleg Goroshko, Vladimir Krever, Kiyoaki Ozaki, Nagahisa Mita & Hiroyoshi Higuchi. 2004. Comparing areas of suitable habitats along traveled and possible shortest routes in migration of White-naped Cranes *Grus vipio* in East Asia // *Ibis*. V. 146, Issue 3, P. 461-474.
- Goroshko O. A., Tsevenmyadag N. 2003. Data on influence of droughts to population of White-naped Crane. In Kirilyuk V.E. ed. *The ground vertebrates of Dauria. Collected scientific articles of Daursky Nature Reserve*. Vol. 3. Chita: Poisk Press. P. 121-130. [In Russian]
- Goroshko OA. 2002. Status and conservation of populations of cranes and bustards in South-Eastern Trans-Baikal Region and North-Eastern Mongolia. Dissertation, All-Russian Institute for Nature Protection, Moscow, Russia. P. 1-194. [In Russian.]
- Goroshko, O.A. 2001. Swan Goose in the eastern Transbaikalia and Mongolia. *Casarca* 7: 68-98.

PROJECT BUDGET (please outline your entire project, not just the component for which funds are being sought)

Item (Please list)	\$ Budget (in USD)	Current support / Requested Support (source and amount)	Requested support from EAAFP (source and amount)
Equipment Telescope Nikon Fieldscope ED82 D82 mm WP 25 Binocular Swarovski 8,5X42 Photo camera Nikon- D5100, lens Nikon 150- 500 mm	4200 in total	4200	

	Photo camera Canon PowerShot SX50 HS Tripods (2) Tents (3) GPS (2) Small boat (1)			
Consumable items	Food	450.00		450.00
Travel and accommodation	Vehicle hire Fuel	1330.00 300.00		1630.00
Computing & clerical				
Other				
Total amount requested from Small Grants Fund: (All amounts in USD)				2080.00

Budget justification: Please provide brief description and justification of all major budgetary items requested, indicating any that are essential to the project and/or conference for which you are applying(250 word maximum):

Whilst we have the equipment needed for waterbird monitoring and research, we lack funding for undertaking fieldwork. The Argun River basin is a very remote and inaccessible area that requires additional funds for travel and subsistence costs.

DECLARATION

I have discussed the contents of this application with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of relevant Working Group and/or Task Forces and I certify that to the best of my knowledge all documentation and information submitted or made available by me is true, accurate and complete.

By ticking the following box you are agreeing to the above statement:

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

All relevant sections of this application have been completed	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Full payment details have been provided on the final page	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Application is being submitted electronically as one single document	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Application is being submitted in either MS Word or PDF file format (it is important that text can be copied – please do not scan this form)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Application has been discussed with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of relevant working Group and/or Task Forces and these have been carbon copied (cc) to this application submission as evidence they have seen and approved this application.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Applications that do not comply with these guidelines will be returned to the applicant.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Please email your application as a single document to:
secretariat@eaaflyway.net

EAAFP will acknowledge the receipt of your application.

Applications close 3 February 2019
Results will be announced in 3 March 2019

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Decision: _____

Authorised: ___/___/___ _____

Entered: ___/___/___ _____

Comments: _____

Lead Investigator Advised: ___/___/___ _____

PLEASE COMPLETE PAYMENT DETAILS ON FINAL PAGE

PAYMENT DETAILS

To ensure prompt payment of successful applications please complete the following details and submit with your application.

PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD

Electronic funds transfer (EFT)

GRANT CONDITIONS

In accordance with the application criteria, the following conditions must be met:

- Funds are to be strictly exempt from organisational administration charges.
- You are required to submit one copy by email of the final report within 3 months of the completion of the project.
- You are required to acknowledge the EAAFP and the Small Grant Fund in any presentations, publications, reports or promotional material arising from this work. Please email secretariat@eaaflyway.net in order to obtain an electronic copy of EAAFP logo for use on any display material you will be preparing.
- You may be requested to write a brief article for the EAAFP newsletter.
- You are required to provide EAAFP with an electronic copy of your final report at the completion of your project, as well as a copy of any publications that result from your grant.