

**10th Meeting of the Partners (MoP) of the
East Asian-Australasian Flyway
Shorebird Working Group Meeting Minutes**

9 December 2018, 13:30 to 17:30

Meeting location: New Century Resort, Qizi Bay;
Ask at front desk to determine exact meeting location. Room 2

Actions taken at meeting are highlighted in yellow.

Chair, Shorebird Working Group (SWG): Rick Lanctot (USA)

13:30 – 14:00 Introduction (All), Adoption of Agenda

- Welcome and brief background to the Shorebird Working Group
- Introduction of participants (name, affiliation, shorebird activities)
- Agenda: Objectives of the workshop

14:00 – 14:15 Key note talk: ASEAN Flyway Network (Yang Shufen/David Li, Singapore)

- See presentation entitled “David Li_ASEAN flyway project – Hainan 2018.pptx” located [HERE](#)

14:15 – 14:30 Review of Terms of Reference SWG / membership / elections (Rick Lanctot, USA)

Action requested: Creation of a “Coordinator” position to help organize/run the group

- Two new coordinators were created to help the Chair administer the group, see revised Terms of Reference at EAAFP SWG website [HERE](#)

Action requested: Update formal members and advisors to the SWG

- Rick Lanctot requests that each EAAF Partner affirm who their formal members are on the SWG, and verify existing or possibly new science advisors to the SWG (see [HERE, scroll down to see all three pages](#))

Action requested: Nomination of officers to SWG: chair, coordinator

- Richard Lanctot affirmed to be chair for next two years.
- David Li affirmed to be Coordinator of the Monitoring Efforts
- Phil Straw affirmed to be Coordinator of CEPA activities

14:30 – 15:00 Summary of Actions taken since MOP9 (all)

- Informal oral presentations (limited to 5 mins max) from interested parties.

- A number of people attending the meeting gave brief presentations about their activities since the last MOP9 meeting. See Meeting Talks [HERE](#)

15:00 – 15:15 Break

15:15 – 16:00 Summary of Species Conservation Actions

- Spoon billed Sandpiper Conservation programme, by Christoph Zoeckler
- Far Eastern Curlew conservation plan, by Mark Carey
- Nordmann's Greenshank activities, by Evgeny Syroechkovskiy, others

- See Meeting Talks [HERE](#)

16:00 – 16:15 Description of the draft EAAFP strategic plan and the proposed AMBI EAAF plan (Doug Watkins, AMBI EAAF coordinator)

- Doug Watkins described the draft EAAFP strategic plan and the proposed AMBI EAAF plan verbally (no pptx provided). The EAAFP strategic plan can be found at <https://www.eaaflyway.net/about-us/the-partnership/eaafp-strategic-plan/>
- The AMBI EAAF plan can be found at <https://www.caff.is/arctic-migratory-birds-initiative-ambi/east-asian-australasian-flyway>
- The cross walk document that shows how the two plans share and do not share objectives is [HERE](#)

16:15 – 17:30 Discussion of the proposed 2019 – 2020 Shorebird Working Group Work Plan (Rick Lanctot, USA; David Li, Singapore)

- What are priority items – how we can help get them achieved?
- Contributing to the implementation of the EAAFP strategic plan and the AMBI EAAF plan
- Holding a shorebird science meeting in 2020

Action requested: adoption of the 2019 – 2020 SWG Work Plan

- The group discussed the priorities of the SWG and developed a priority list that can be found [HERE](#) (also listed at end of this document). These priorities were formally adopted at this meeting as something to aspire to accomplish over the next two years.

Action requested: whether to hold Shorebird Science Meeting

- The participants discussed the possibility of holding a Science-focused meeting during the off years when MoPs are not being held. See information below that describes reasons for holding a meeting as well as potential issues to resolve. David Li and Rick Lanctot agreed to look for a venue to potentially host a meeting in 2020.

17:30 – 17:40 Small Grant submissions

- The EAAF Partnership formalized a small grant program that allows people to apply for up to \$5000 to do a project. A formal announcement will be sent out on the listserv when submissions are possible. These are typically due 1 February.

17:40 – 17:50 Other Business / Meeting close

- A short discussion was held about having the SWG take over the editorial role of the Tattler Newsletter (see back issues at www.awsg.org.au). While this seems like a logical thing for the SWG to do, there was concern among some participants about the capability of our group to do this over the long term. For now, the issue was

tabled. We do encourage people to submit articles on a regular basis to the Tattler.
It is an existing newsletter that helps people throughout the EAAF to communicate.

- List serv is available for regular discussions amongst the SWG members and advisors. Contact Richard.Lanctot@fws.gov to join.
- David Li began a Facebook group entitled “East Asian – Australasian Flyway Shorebird Conservation Network” to foster communication and sharing of information with all interested parties across the flyway.

EAAFP Shorebird Working Group Priorities 2019-2020

Adopted 9 December 2018 at Shorebird Working Group meeting at 10th EAAF MoP, Qizi Bay, Hainan, China

1. Support identification and monitoring of internationally important shorebird sites.

1.1. Provide technical advice and support to industry, government, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations to conduct shorebird monitoring throughout the EAAF, particularly in developing countries where large area of potential shorebird habitats is not surveyed (e.g., Myanmar, Malaysia and Indonesia).

2. Support conservation of shorebird species.

2.1. Engage existing task forces within the EAAF Partnership (e.g. Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Far Eastern Curlew) by providing financial and logistical support where possible.

2.2. Develop a conservation plan, support the survey and monitoring of important sites, and work towards developing a task force for Nordmann's Greenshank along the flyway.

2.3. Oversee and lead in red-listing of potentially new globally threatened and near threatened shorebirds in the EAAF, especially when new evidence emerges on shorebird population trends (e.g., Little Curlew, Curlew Sandpiper, Nordmann's Greenshank).

2.4. Coordinate and promote collaborative migration ecology studies along EAAF.

2.5. Engage with efforts of the Illegal Hunting, Taking, and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds Task Force.

2.6. Develop a flyway shorebird conservation strategy / plan that would emphasize important issues and needs throughout the EAAF

3. Support Capacity building for shorebird conservation and management

3.1. Organize training workshops to enhance efforts to monitor, band, track, and manage sites (e.g., *Spartina* control, other wetland restoration, and hunting) for shorebirds in the EAAF.

3.2 Use existing field studies to broaden the experience of shorebird biologists throughout the flyway (e.g., NW Australia Shorebird expedition, Russian and Alaska breeding study sites, ASEAN Flyway Network Project).

3.3 Learn, share experiences and develop best managing practices with groups operating in other flyways (Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group, International Wader Study Group) or parts of the EAAF (Australasian Wader Study Group, Russian Wader Study Group, Alaska Shorebird Group).

4. Enhance communication relating to shorebird conservation

- 4.1. Encourage regular, EAAF-wide focused meetings of shorebird working group members to promote collaboration, partnering and priority setting of shorebird conservation activities.
- 4.2 Compile a list of members and engage shorebird experts throughout the EAAF via regular communication (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, newsletter, e-mail/listserv).
Facebook Group: East Asian-Australasian Flyway Shorebird Conservation Network
- 4.3 Provide regular news item to EAAFP Secretariat and regional newsletters.
- 4.4 Produce new CEPA materials for shorebirds, particularly on new relevant issues and in languages currently not available
- 4.5. Encourage members to participate in shorebird events (e.g., World Shorebird Day and Migratory Bird Day)

Why hold a EAAF-wide shorebird research/conservation/education meeting (independent of the MoP)?

1. Allows participants to coordinate and collaborate on species that transcend the flyway
2. Allows participants to share best management practices on issues that transcend the flyway
3. Provides opportunity for species groups (SBS, Nordmann's Greenshank, Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot, Dunlin, etc.) to meet across the flyway.
4. Provides opportunity for people that don't normally participate in MoP to participate.

Issues

1. Funding – need a sponsor for the meeting and funds to pay travel for those that can't afford to come; e.g., CMS scientific council had to cut down the frequency of their meetings due to fund constraints.
 - a. Meetings could be self-funded but folks would need to budget for this.
2. Need translation services – what languages (Mandarin, Korea, English, Japanese ???)
3. Need some type of structure to organize the meetings and sustain meeting schedule
 - a. Terms of reference
 - b. Planning committee
 - c. Website
4. Holding meeting in conjunction with MoPs could be politically problematic – this approach might limit the opportunity to invite people from outside of the partnership.

Approach

1. Hold meeting every 2 years to allow regional meetings and the EAAF MoP in between.
2. Meetings will be modeled after the International Wader Study Group Meetings, such that attending the meetings will be low cost (e.g., staying in university dormitories or other cheap housing), have a low registration fee, and all (or most) participants will cover their own costs