



EAST ASIAN – AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY PARTNERSHIP

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EAAFP MoP11 Reporting Template

Dear Partner,

At EAAFP MoP 10 in Hainan, China (2018), the Partnership adopted the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028. The Paper (Decision 1) included the proposed Reporting Template for MoP11. The purpose of the Reporting Template is to assess the achievement of specific actions identified in the [EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028](#).

The “Reporting Questions” are linked to Key Result Areas to enable an assessment of progress with the implementation of each element in the Strategic Plan. Indicators have been provided to facilitate reporting and access our achievements.

The Strategic Plan has the following attributes:

- 5 Objectives (as listed in the Partnership Document),
- 23 Key Result Areas (KRAs),
- 35 Indicators.

The reporting template has headings in three colors: Red (Partnership Objectives), Green (Key Result Areas identified in the Strategic Plan) and Blue (Indicators). The wording of the Objectives, Key Result Areas and Indicators were all accepted at MoP10.

Different Partner Groups, Working Groups, Task Forces, the Technical Sub-Committee and the Secretariat have differing roles and responsibilities. As such, each question identifies the Partner groups that are requested to respond to each question. Please focus on the questions that relate to the Reporting Group you are representing.

While the total number of questions is 53, the number of questions for each Partner Group, and each mechanism of the Partnership, is shown below:

Government	46 Questions (87%)
IGO	30 Questions (57%)
INGO	40 Questions (75%)
Corporate	29 Questions (55%)
Task Forces and Working groups	29 Questions (55%)
Technical sub-Committee	11 Questions (21%)
Secretariat	15 Questions (28%)

This Reporting Template has been sent to the Focal Point of each Partner, the Chair and Vice-Chair of each Working Group and Taskforce, the Chair of the Technical sub-Committee and the Secretariat.

Thank you,

Doug Watkins, Chief Executive, EAAFP Secretariat

The EAAFP Reporting Questions

General Information

1. Name of Reporting Group	Australia – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
2. Reporting Group	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Governments (Govt) <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO) <input type="checkbox"/> International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) <input type="checkbox"/> International Corporate (Corporate) <input type="checkbox"/> Task Forces and Working Groups (TF/WG) <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Sub-Committee (TSC) <input type="checkbox"/> Secretariat (Sec.) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify:)
3-1. Designated EAAFP Focal Point	Name and title : Dr Mark Carey Affiliation : Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water P.O. Box/Street address : GPO Box 3090, Canberra, Australia Postal Code : 2601 E-mail address : mark.carey@dcceew.gov.au Telephone : +61 2 6274 1111 Website : https://www.dcceew.gov.au/
3-2. Additional Designated EAAFP Focal Point (<i>Optional</i>)	Name and title : Affiliation : P.O. Box/Street address : Postal Code : E-mail address : Telephone : Website :
3-3. Additional Designated EAAFP Focal Point (<i>Optional</i>)	Name and title : Affiliation : P.O. Box/Street address : Postal Code : E-mail address : Telephone : Website :
4. Report compiler	Name and title : As above Affiliation : P.O. Box/Street address : Postal Code : E-mail address : Telephone : Website :

Reporting on the implementation of the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022

*Note: In the Reporting Template the term “Partners” includes Government, IGO, INGO, and Corporate Partners.

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. (FNS page: <https://www.eaaflyway.net/the-flyway/flyway-site-network/>)

- Supplementary information: [EAA Flyway Network Sites Overview Report 2013](#), [EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028](#)

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 a national Protected Area.

<p>RQ1. (Govt) Do you have a publicly accessible list of internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in your country? If yes, please provide the web link or the reference in the below box. If not, would you like assistance from other Partners to develop such a list (please let us know your opinion in the box right below)?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information: Australia currently has 66 Ramsar wetlands listed as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Government’s National Report to COP14 <p>The Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (the Directory) identifies nationally important wetlands, and provides a substantial knowledge base of what defines wetlands, their variety, and the many flora and fauna species that depend on them. The Directory is at https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/wetlands/australian-wetlands-database/directory-important-wetlands. However, it has not been updated since 2006. To address this, the Australian Government is developing a National Wetlands Inventory that will document and classify Australia’s wetlands, including their condition and environmental values.</p>	

<p>RQ2. (Govt) Have any additional internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds been identified in your country? (for background, see EAA Flyway Network Sites Overview Report 2013) If yes, please provide details on these sites.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
<p>Additional information: The Australian Government funded the development of the National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat - Migratory Shorebirds - BirdLife Australia</p> <p>The National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat identifies, and guides investment into the protection and restoration of, important migratory shorebird habitat around Australia. It builds community awareness and Indigenous knowledge, helps achieve the goals of the Australian Government’s Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds and contributes to the implementation of Australia’s international obligations to the conservation and management of migratory shorebirds. It is based on thousands of field surveys by volunteers and experts, millions of bird sightings and uses rigorous methodology to identify key sites, thus</p>	

providing useful and objective guidance.

RQ3. **(Non-Government Partners)** Have you documented any additional internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in the EAAF (see [EAA Flyway Network Sites Overview Report 2013](#))?
If yes, please provide details on these sites.

- Yes
- No
- Planned

Additional information: N/A

RQ4. **(Govt)** Have high priority candidate sites been identified for potential nomination to join the Flyway Site Network?
If yes, please provide details on these sites. If not, would you like assistance from other Partners?

- Yes
- No
- Planned

Additional information:

There are currently no planned additions to the Flyway Site Network.

RQ5. **(Govt)** Have any additional sites been nominated for the Flyway Site Network since MoP10 (December 2018)?
If yes or planned, please provide the names of these sites.

- Yes
- No
- Planned

Additional information:

There are currently no planned additions to the Flyway Site Network.

RQ6. **(INGO, Corporate)** Have you supported Government Partners with their identification of high priority candidate sites for the potential nomination of the new Flyway Site Network?
If yes, please provide details of your support and the associated sites.

- Yes
- No
- Planned

Additional information: N/A

RQ7. **(Govt)** How many additional Flyway Network Sites do you anticipate there will be in your country by 2025?

0 site(s)

Additional information:

There are currently no planned additions to the Flyway Site Network.

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.

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.

Guidelines on National and Site Partnership will be presented for adoption at MoP11. As such reporting on this KRA will start for MOP12.

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.

RQ8. (Govt) Which Flyway Network Sites (FNS) in your country have a Management Plan and when is it due to be updated?

Your Response:

In Australia, sub-national governments have the primary legislative and policy responsibility for natural resource management including management of wetlands and their associated flora and fauna. Of the 25 FNS in Australia, all have a management plan in place or are in development. Management plans are updated as required by relevant legislation and/or individual circumstances. Links to individual Management Plans can be found through the Australian Wetlands Database at: <https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/wetlands/alphablist.pl>

Indicator 1.3.2 At least 50% of Flyway Network Sites recognize the Flyway Site Network as a brand for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF.

RQ9. (Govt, INGO, IGO) Please provide examples of how the “Flyway Site Network” brand is being recognized.

Your Response:

In Australia, the Flyway Site Network is recognised through interpretive materials such as signage, brochures and other publications. One example is [Celebrating Australia’s Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats](#). This publication showcases 24 East Asian — Australasian Flyway Partnership Flyway Sites in Australia, many of which are Ramsar sites, including Roebuck Bay in north-west Western Australia, Moreton Bay in Queensland, Logan Lagoon in Tasmania and Corner Inlet in Victoria. Flyway Network Sites may be designated regardless of tenure or protected status and several Australian sites are privately managed, e.g. by Indigenous communities. Along with migratory waterbirds, the Flyway Site Network also protects many Australian endemic, threatened and migratory species and threatened ecological communities.

Indicator 1.3.3 All Partners are using and complying with International standards ([International Finance Cooperation](#) or equivalent) for development within and adjacent to FNS and other internationally important waterbird sites.

RQ10. (Govt, INGO, IGO) Have any public consultation processes been implemented when a site of international importance for migratory waterbirds could be adversely impacted by a proposed development?

If yes, please provide brief details on the site/s and if the development was approved.

- Yes
- No
- Planned
- Not known

Additional information:

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is Australia’s primary national legislation relevant to the protection of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds. The EPBC Act provides Australian Government jurisdiction in the protection of matters of national environmental significance

including listed migratory species. Any development or action that has, will have, or is likely to have a significant impact on a listed migratory species must be referred to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water and undergo an environmental assessment and approval process. This may include public consultation processes.

Unless a migratory species is listed under the EPBC Act, Australia's sub-national governments have primary responsibility for biodiversity conservation within their jurisdiction. This can also include public consultations on actions that may impact migratory species listed under sub-national legislation.

The EPBC Act public portal is available at: <https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/>

RQ11. (Govt, INGO, IGO) Please provide brief details on any sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds that may be adversely impacted by a proposed development and the assessment process that was used or is anticipated to be applied.

Your Response:

Any development or action that has, will have, or is likely to have a significant impact on a listed threatened or migratory species must be referred to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water and undergo an environmental assessment and approval process. A list of all referrals under assessment is available at: <https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/all-referrals/>

The assessment process used by the Australian Government to assess potential impacts to listed matters of national environmental significance is available at: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc/referral-and-assessment-process>

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.

RQ12. (Govt, INGO) In your country, are there examples of local communities at Flyway Network sites that are dependent on the sites natural resources to support subsistence livelihoods?

If yes, please provide details on the site/s and the use of natural resources.

- Yes
- No
- Planned
- Not known

Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to have a cultural responsibility of stewardship – making rules, administering resources and managing the environment according to Indigenous values, knowledges and practices - for environment and wildlife including many of Australia's Flyway Network Sites. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have strong connections with the natural resources of Flyway Network Sites and embed sustainability in cultural practices through traditional hunting, harvesting, and management of plants and animals.

More information on local Indigenous community relationship with Australia's natural resources is provided in Australia's State of the Environment Report 2021 at: [Indigenous](#)

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.

RQ13. (Govt, INGO, Sec.) Are you aware of any Flyway Network Sites or other sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds that are currently under threat? If yes, please provide details.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
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Australia's State of the Environment Report 2021 found that in a rapidly changing climate, with unsustainable development and use of resources, the general outlook for Australia's environment is deteriorating.

Overall, the state and trend of the environment of Australia are poor and deteriorating because of increasing pressures from climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and resource extraction. Changing environmental conditions mean that many species and ecosystems are increasingly threatened. Multiple pressures create cumulative impacts that amplify threats to our environment, and abrupt changes in ecological systems have been recorded in the past 5 years.

Australia has nearly 34 million hectares of wetlands, covering 4.4% of the continent, half of which are floodplains and swamps. These areas are important to maintain healthy population of migratory waterbirds. Wetlands are often significantly affected by changes in agricultural and urban landscapes through extensive clearing, introduction of non-native species, alteration to flows and concentrated grazing pressure. They are also vulnerable to further hydrological changes and drying under future climate change scenarios. Drought conditions, in conjunction with increased consumptive water use, result in a decrease in flows into wetlands and reduction in inundation. Several major indices for waterbirds show significant declines as drought conditions and consumptive water use result in a decrease in flows into wetlands. The 2019 Aerial Survey of Wetland Birds in Eastern Australia found that the wetland area index was the lowest since surveys began in 1983. Grazing, pests and weeds are also having a significant impact on wetland health, emphasising the need for integrated management of land-based pressures as well as inundation.

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.

Guidelines on Sister Site will be presented for adoption at MoP11. As such reporting on this KRA will start for MOP 12.

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.

RQ14. (Sec.) Please provide a list of new Partners since the last MoP (December 2018).

Your Response:

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

KRA 2.1 The achievement of the elements in the EAAFP CEPA Strategy and Action Plan (2019-2024).

Indicator 2.1.1 The CEPA Action Plan has been monitored, reviewed and updated as necessary to inform the EAAF.

RQ15. **(Partners, TF/WG)** Does your country/organisation have a CEPA Program addressing migratory waterbirds and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds?

- Yes
 No
 Planned

If yes, please provide brief details of the program.

Additional information (website links if any):

The Australian Government's Program on Communication, Capacity-building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) to support Ramsar obligations was established to help raise awareness of wetland values and functions. The CEPA Program calls for coordinated international and national wetland education, public awareness and communication. The Program also encourages the promotion of training in the fields of wetland research and management. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/wetlands/programs/communication-education-participation-awareness-program>

- [Australian Government's National Report to COP14](#)

At Ramsar COP 14, a new CEPA approach was adopted which will see the integration of CEPA activities into the next Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2025-2030. The Australian Government will be updating its national CEPA plans to reflect this new approach.

World Wetlands Day

[World Wetlands Day \(WWD\)](#) is celebrated each year on 2 February. It marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971. WWD was first celebrated in 1997. Since this time government agencies, non-government organisations and community groups across the world, including Australia, have celebrated World Wetlands Day by undertaking actions to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits and promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

For World Wetlands Day and the fortieth anniversary of the Ramsar Convention, the Australian Government produced a primary school classroom kit. This activity kit includes a unit plan, fact sheets, a DVD, origami and subject book stickers.

- [Discovering wetlands in Australia — a primary classroom resource](#)

Wetlands Australia

The Australian Government produces a publication, [Wetlands Australia - National Wetland Update](#). The magazine aims to bring attention to Australia's achievements and continuing challenges in wetland conservation and wise use.

Wetlands Education

The Australian Government has produced several resources about wetlands and their management.

- [Celebrating Australia's wetlands: A showcase of Australian Ramsar sites](#)
- [Australian National Guidelines for Ramsar Wetlands](#)
- [Issues paper: The role of wetlands in the carbon cycle](#)

Australia's amazing wetlands

- [Australia's amazing wetlands - brochure](#)
- [Australia's amazing wetlands - video](#)

Australian wetland education centres

There are many centres across Australia dedicated to wetland education or with a strong focus on wetlands. They

are associated with many types of wetlands, including Ramsar sites and range from small, non-staffed interpretation facilities to dedicated centres with trained staff. A list of Australian Wetland education centres is available at: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/wetlands/programs/education-centres>

RQ16. **(Partners, TF/WG)** Has your country/organisation made use of the EAAFP CEPA Action Plan 2019-2024 when planning and implementing the CEPA activities?

- Yes
- No
- Planned

Additional information (any example of how the Action Plan was reflected):

RQ17. **(Govt, INGO, Corporate)** What CEPA activities have taken place at Flyway Network Sites and with which groups?
If applicable (under a Sister Site agreement), please describe what have you done and who have you worked with.

- Applicable
- Not applicable
- Planned

Additional information (list of events and/or news/report links):

See response to RQ15 above and more detail provided at:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/wetlands/programs/communication-education-participation-awareness-program>

RQ18. **(Partners)** Has your country/organisation developed, and/or been implementing awareness-raising programs, particularly at Flyway Network Sites, with the following groups (check all that apply)?

- National and local governments
- Education Department/Ministry
- Site managers
- General public
- Schools/students
- Local communities
- Native/indigenous communities
- None
- Planned

Additional information (please provide a detailed description of the program(s) including target groups, aims, and major achievements):

See response to RQ15 above and more detail provided at:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/wetlands/programs/communication-education-participation-awareness-program>

RQ19. **(Partners)** Has your country/organisation hosted events for World Migratory Bird Day, World Wetlands Day or other international awareness-raising events since the last MOP (December 2018)?

- Yes
- No
- Planned

Additional information (list of events and any news/report links):

See response to RQ15 above and more detail provided at:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/wetlands/programs/communication-education-participation-awareness-program>

<p>RQ20. (Partners, TF/WG) Has your organisation/group been engaging the public regularly through any media channels, including social media, to promote the conservation of migratory waterbirds and the wetlands they use? If yes, please specify the type of media channels by marking boxes that apply.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Website of your organization/group <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter of your organization/group <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Weibo, YouTube, and others) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contribution to EAAFP eNewsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify:) <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Additional information (links to media channels of your organization/group, the number of posts, and the number of views): See response to RQ15 above and more detail provided at: https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/wetlands/programs/communication-education-participation-awareness-program</p>	

<p>RQ21. (Govt, INGO, TF/WG) Has there been any training or capacity building delivered to stakeholders involved in the conservation of migratory birds and wetlands? If yes, please specify the audience/participants by marking the boxes that apply.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site managers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government officers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educators <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify:) <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Additional information (please provide the number of events and participants, and describe any materials or other resources about the capacity building):

The Australian Government provided funding to Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) to deliver an innovative project engaging communities along the east coast of Australia in conserving the critically endangered Far Eastern Curlew, the largest shorebird in the world. Titled *Community Conservation of Far Eastern Curlew*, the project includes habitat restoration, monitoring, and education. The project has made significant progress in building community understanding and conservation of Eastern Curlew and other migratory shorebirds. CVA has engaged volunteers in habitat restoration at the five project locations in Towra Point Nature Reserve (Sydney, New South Wales), Moreton Bay and the Broadwater (South East Queensland), Hunter Estuary (Newcastle, New South Wales), Shoalhaven Heads (Nowra, New South Wales), and Casuarina Coastal Reserve (Darwin, Northern Territory). Key achievements in the first year include:

- Engaging 419 individuals in the project, including 15 Indigenous Australians, with 320 people participating more than once.
- Undertaking 20 community shorebird surveys, adding 2,376 bird observation records to the Australian Living Atlas covering 107 species.
- Hosting community awareness events at each location and connecting with local partner organizations
- Completing 55 on-ground team days over the five locations, controlling weeds and mangroves and removing 2 tonnes of marine debris.

Other types of training and capacity building activities are managed by each sub-national jurisdiction. For example, through the Queensland Wetlands Program, the Department of Environment and Science support adoption of best practice wetland management, by building capacity, developing resources, and providing technical support. In October 2020, an Applied Hydrology workshop delivered to 30 extension and NRM officers working in Great Barrier Reef catchments, increasing participants’ skills and knowledge in hydrology. The workshop was tailored to field staff to build knowledge and skills in understanding water dynamics in the landscape to help in planning and undertaking on-ground works. Topics covered included:

- Case studies and demonstrations of applying hydrological understanding to site assessment and planning
- Hydrology and hydrodynamics
- Geospatial tools
- Remote sensing
- Future considerations for ecosystem restoration

RQ22. **(Govt, INGO, TF/WG)** Please add below if your country/organisation has any other information regarding CEPA to report.

Your Response: N/A

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

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.

RQ23. **(Govt)** Is there a program in your country to monitor migratory waterbird numbers?

If yes, please provide details on the program, the role of volunteer counters and the monitoring efforts since MoP10 (December 2018).

- Yes
 No
 Planned

Additional information:

Birdlife Australia coordinates national monitoring of migratory waterbirds, see <https://birdlife.org.au/programs/migratory-shorebirds/>

RQ24. **(INGO)** In what countries is your organisation involved in migratory waterbird and/or site monitoring (select all that apply)? Please provide details on the monitoring program(s) and monitoring efforts since MoP10 (December 2018).

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australia | <input type="checkbox"/> Cambodia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indonesia | <input type="checkbox"/> China |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Japan | <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladesh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philippines | <input type="checkbox"/> Thailand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Republic of Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> Mongolia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic People's Republic of Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Russia | <input type="checkbox"/> Malaysia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singapore | <input type="checkbox"/> Myanmar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> United States of America | <input type="checkbox"/> Viet Nam |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> None |

Additional information:

Indicator 3.1.2 All country partners have nationally-coordinated monitoring programs in place.

KRA 3.2 Conservation status reviews for waterbird populations are produced and updated to set and adapt priorities for action.

Indicator 3.2.1 Data describing waterbird population estimates, trends and distributions are available to the Partnership.

RQ25. **(Govt, INGO, TF/WG, Sec.)** Please report briefly on data management in relation to migratory waterbird population estimates, trends and distributions.

Your Response:

The Australian Government's Species Profile and Threats Database - <https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl> is designed to provide information about species and ecological communities listed under Australia's national environment law, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The database provides information on what the species looks like, its population and distribution, habitat, movements, feeding, reproduction and taxonomic comments. Information included in the database has been drawn from a range of sources and contributors including:

- Atlas of Living Australia - <https://www.ala.org.au/>
- Australian Shorebird Monitoring - <https://birdlife.org.au/programs/migratory-shorebirds/>

Indicator 3.2.2 Two updates of waterbird population estimates have been produced and published.

RQ26. **(Partners, TF/WG, Sec.)** Please report on your contribution to the migratory waterbird Conservation Status Review.

Your Response:

See Australian Shorebird Monitoring at - <https://birdlife.org.au/programs/migratory-shorebirds/>

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.

RQ27. **(Partners, Monitoring TF, Sec.)** If you are aware of significant new information on internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds, please provide brief details.

Your Response:

The National Directory of Important Migratory Shorebird Habitat - <https://birdlife.org.au/programs/migratory-shorebirds/> identifies, and guides investment into the protection and restoration of, important migratory shorebird habitat around Australia. It builds community awareness and Indigenous knowledge, helps achieve the goals of the Australian Government's Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds and contributes to the implementation of Australia's international obligations to the conservation and management of migratory shorebirds. It is based on thousands of field surveys by volunteers and experts, millions of bird sightings and uses rigorous methodology to identify key sites, thus providing useful and objective guidance. The Directory also provides a starting point for more comprehensive assessment of habitat, prioritization of sites according to current or future threats and more targeted conservation action.

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.

RQ28. **(Partners, TsC, TF/WG)** Please provide details on key research on climate change impacts on migratory waterbirds and wetlands in the EAAF, published since MoP 10 (December 2018).

Your Response (please provide the web links if available online or reference for relevant publications):

A range of contemporary information on climate change impacts on migratory waterbirds and wetlands is available at: <https://www.dceew.gov.au/water/wetlands/climate-change-resources>

Australia's National Environmental Science Program [Climate Systems Hub](#) is undertaking research to advance the understanding of Australia's climate, its extremes and associated drivers, including the fundamental drivers of rainfall, drought and bushfires, to inform climate adaptation solutions for Australia. The Climate Systems Hub is:

- maintaining Australia's world-class capability in multidisciplinary Earth-system science and modelling
- advancing understanding of Australia's climate variability, extremes and associated drivers, including the fundamental drivers of bushfires, drought and rainfall in the Australian region
- developing applied decision-making tools and information to inform policy and programs to prepare Australia to manage emerging risks and opportunities.

The [Resilient Landscapes Hub](#) is also undertaking research to inform management of Australia's terrestrial and freshwater habitats to promote resilience and sustainability.

- applied research to support management of Australia's terrestrial and freshwater habitats, including a focus on bushfire recovery, feral animals and invasive species impacts, and accessible science to assist land managers develop and maintain resilient, sustainable and productive landscapes
- targeted biodiversity and taxonomy products to support efficient system monitoring
- environmental monitoring systems and decision-support tools.

The hub is also driving coordinated research across all 4 new hubs under NESP's 'threatened and migratory species and threatened ecological communities' cross-cutting initiative. This research is supporting policy development, program management and regulatory processes aimed at protecting Australia's environmental assets in terrestrial, Ramsar and marine environments.

The [Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020](#) - <https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/7905/> is the most comprehensive review of the status of Australia's avifauna including migratory waterbird species. It is the latest in a series of action plans for Australian birds that have been produced every decade since 1992 and is authored by more than 300 bird experts. The Action Plan documents the increasing impact of climate change on avifauna, and direct and indirect impacts such as bushfires. Profiles of 15 migratory shorebirds are included in the Action Plan which includes information on their threatened status, threats such as climate change and management actions to support their recovery. The Action Plan also includes accounts of over 60 taxa that are no longer considered threatened due to sustained conservation action over decades.

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.

RQ29. **(Partners, TsC, TF/WG)** Please provide brief information on areas of research programs since the last MoP (2018) about improving conservation and sustainable management outcomes at internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds.

Your Response:

Australia's National Environmental Science Program (NESP) funds environment and climate research, including a range of research programs that are aimed at conservation and sustainable management outcomes for

internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds. The first phase invested \$145 million (2014-15 to 2020-21) into 6 research hubs. The second phase is investing \$149 million (2020-21 to 2026-27) into 4 new research hubs. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/science-research/nesp>

During phase 1 of the program there was a specific project that supported the conservation of Far Eastern Curlew and its habitat. The Far Eastern Curlew has experienced one of the most acute declines of any Australian shorebird species. Currently little is known about its exact feeding and roosting habitat requirements. While coastal development can negatively impact populations, it is known to use some artificial habitat for roosting. This project provided the knowledge needed to develop strategic guidelines for Far Eastern Curlew conservation in the context of potential development and associated offsetting. Outcomes of the NESP project can be found at: <https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/projects/strategic-planning-for-the-far-eastern-curlew>

Two recent programs of specific relevance are Project 1.21 Australia's coastal shorebirds: trends and prospects (<https://www.nespmarinecoastal.edu.au/project-1-21-2/>) and Project 1.3 Scoping for an Australian Wetlands Inventory: identifying knowledge gaps and solutions for mapping marine and coastal wetlands (<https://www.nespmarinecoastal.edu.au/project-1-5-2/>).

Indicator 3.5.2 Knowledge generated is being applied in at least 50% of internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds.

RQ30. **(Partners, TsC, TF/WG)** Please give examples of how knowledge generated through research programs on improving conservation and sustainable management outcomes is being applied at internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds.

Your Response:

NESP research is supporting the development of migratory species policy in each Australian state and territory. These projects show how NESP research is informing land and sea country management across a range of management areas, including the World Heritage management, land and sea country management and protection of our coastal reefs and marine biodiversity, including migratory shorebirds and seabirds.

At Shark Bay World Heritage Area, scientists and traditional owners are working together to assist the recovery of seagrasses from marine heatwaves. Shark Bay is an important area for migratory shorebirds and seabirds. On the World Heritage-listed Macquarie Island, new data about the eradication of feral cats, rats, mice and rabbits is helping protect and recover threatened species such as migratory seabirds.

<https://publish.viostream.com/play/bgoo5gydb85hrb>

Full NESP outcomes report here: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/nesp-outcomes.pdf>

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 EAAPF website.

RQ31. **(Partners, TsC, TF/WG)** Please provide brief details on the development and application of best practice guidelines for waterbird and habitat conservation, including the application of traditional knowledge, published/made available since MoP10 (December 2018)?

Your Response:

The Australian Government has developed [National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife Including Marine Turtles, Seabirds and Migratory Shorebirds](#). The guidelines raise awareness of the impacts of artificial light on wildlife. They can help safeguard Australia's threatened wildlife. The guidelines provide:

- a framework for how to assess and manage the light pollution impacts on protected wildlife
- detailed guidance for how to manage artificial light
- specific advice on how to protect marine turtles, seabirds and migratory shorebirds.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals endorsed these guidelines in February 2020 during the 13th Conference of Parties.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/publications/national-light-pollution-guidelines-wildlife>

The Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub ran from 2014-15 to 2020-21. Its research delivered new knowledge, practical tools and on-ground partnerships to support the sustainable development of the region's natural and cultural environments. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/science-research/nesp/hub-northern-australia-environmental-resources>

The Tropical Water Quality Hub ran from 2014-15 to 2020-21. Its research provided innovative research for practical solutions to maintain and improve tropical water quality from catchment to coast.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/science-research/nesp/hub-tropical-water-quality>

Threatened Species Recovery Hub research ran from 2014-15 to 2020-21. Its research informed on-ground responses to reduce threats and promote recovery of threatened species, and build a better understanding of their status, threats and management options. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/science-research/nesp/hub-threatened-species-recovery>

The Marine Biodiversity Hub ran from 2014-15 to 2020-21 and provided scientific research and information to support evidence-based decision making about:

- marine species
- marine protected areas
- pressures on the marine environment.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/science-research/nesp/hub-marine-biodiversity>

RQ32. (Sec.) What are the best practice guidelines that are available on the EAAFP website?

Your Response:

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

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.

RQ33. (Sec.) Please provide updates on identifying/developing internet-based approaches for capacity building for migratory waterbird conservation.

Your Response:

RQ34. **(Partners, TsC, TF/WG, Sec.)** Have you been involved in identifying/developing capacity building materials and opportunities?

If yes, please provide some details.

- Yes
 No
 Planned

Additional information:

See response to RQ15

RQ35. **(Partners, TsC, TF/WG, Sec.)** Have you implemented activities to share skills building, tools and experience?

If yes, please provide some details.

- Yes
 No
 Planned

Additional information:

See response to RQ15

RQ36. **(Partners, TsC, TF/WG, Sec.)** Please provide feedback on the use you have made of capacity building materials and activities for migratory waterbirds and the management of their habitat?

Your Response:

See response to RQ15.

Indicator 4.1.2 Partners and the Secretariat include capacity building assessment in project proposals.

RQ37. **(Partners, TsC, TF/WG, Sec.)** Have you considered a training needs assessment in projects you have developed, funded, and/or implemented since MoP10 (December 2018)?

If yes, please provide some additional information.

- Yes
 No
 Not applicable
 Planned

Additional information:

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.

RQ38. **(Partners, TsC, TF/WG, Sec.)** Have you used the [EAAFP online technical training materials](#) for Flyway Site management? Please provide some additional information on the usefulness of materials.

- Yes
 No
 Planned

Additional information:

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.

Indicator 4.2.2 At least one meeting of Partner Focal Points, including site managers, is held per annum.

RQ39. (Partners, TsC, TF/WG, Sec.) Have you been able to participate in any Meetings of Partner Focal Points? If yes, have any new collaborations with other Partners been developed from the meeting/s? Please provide details.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Planned
Additional information: Partners Workshop – 1-5 August 2022	

Indicator 4.2.3 All Partner Focal Points are submitting their Partner reports prior to each MoP.

RQ40. (Partners, TsC, TF/WG, Sec.) Have you been able to prepare your Partner report for the MoP? Have you found any difficulties in producing your report?
Your Response: Yes. The Partner Reporting template would benefit from simplification, including deletion of replicated questions.

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.

RQ41. (Partners, TF/WG) Please provide details you have on corporate engagement at internationally important sites and in programs to develop positive outcomes for migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
Your Response: N/A

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

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.

RQ42. (Partners, TF/WG) Please provide brief details on your transboundary involvement in international collaborative initiatives for threatened migratory waterbirds.
Your Response: Australia is involved in transboundary collaboration to conserve migratory birds through bilateral migratory bird agreements with Japan in 1974, China in 1986 and the Republic of Korea in 2007. Each of these bilateral agreements provides for the protection and conservation of migratory birds and their important habitats, protection from take or trade except under limited circumstances, the exchange of information, and building cooperative relationships. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement• China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement• Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

Birds listed on the annexes to these three bilateral agreements, together with those on Appendices I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) are required to be included on the migratory species list of Australia's national environment law, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Australia also contributes to transboundary protection of threatened migratory waterbirds through the Ramsar Convention and CMS.

- [Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals](#)
 - [Australian Government's National Report to COP13](#)
- [Ramsar Convention on Wetlands](#)
 - [Australian Government's National Report to COP14](#)
- [Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels \(ACAP\)](#)

RQ43. **(Partners, TF/WG)** What do you consider to be the key innovative and/or improved approaches to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats since MoP10 (December 2018)?

Your Response:

N/A

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.

RQ44. **(INGO, TF/WG, Sec.)** Please provide information on the development of a list of threatened migratory waterbird populations in the EAAF in which you have been involved.

Your Response:

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is Australia's primary national legislation that provides protections through listing of threatened species including migratory waterbirds. The EPBC Act provides an annual cycle for nominating and assessing species for listing as threatened. Any person may nominate a native species, ecological community or threatening process for listing under the EPBC Act. An independent Threatened Species Scientific Committee provides advice on listing assessments to the federal Minister for the Environment who makes the final decision on which species are listed under the Act.

The EPBC Act list of threatened fauna can be found here: <https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=fauna>

RQ45. **(Govt)** Which populations of threatened migratory waterbirds are protected under legislation in your country?

Your Response:

The EPBC Act list of threatened fauna can be found here: <https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=fauna>. Relevant threatened migratory waterbirds that are listed under the EPBC Act include:

Critically Endangered

- Curlew Sandpiper
- Great Knot
- Northern Siberian Bar-tailed Godwit
- Far Eastern Curlew
- Herald Petrel

Endangered

- Red Knot
- Lesser Sand Plover
- Christmas Island Frigatebird
- Abbott's Booby
- Christmas Island White-tailed Tropicbird
- Gould's Petrel
- New Zealand Antarctic Tern

Vulnerable

- Australian Lesser Noddy
- Greater Sand Plover
- White-bellied Storm-Petrel (Tasman Sea)
- Blue Petrel
- Western Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit
- Fairy Prion (southern)
- Soft-plumaged Petrel
- Kermadec Petrel (western)
- Antarctic Tern (Indian Ocean)

RQ46. **(Partners, TF/WG)** Has your organization been involved in taking actions to reduce direct threats to migratory waterbirds?
If yes, please provide some examples.

- Yes
 No
 Planned

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is Australia's primary national legislation relevant to the protection of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds. The EPBC Act provides Australian Government jurisdiction in the protection of matters of national environmental significance including listed migratory species. Any development or action that has, will have, or is likely to have a significant impact on a listed migratory species must be referred to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water and undergo an environmental assessment and approval process.

The EPBC Act provides for the identification and listing of key threatening processes and the development and implementation of threat abatement plans. These plans help to guide and coordinate Australia's response to key threatening processes. A threatening process is defined as a key threatening process if it threatens or may threaten the survival, abundance or evolutionary development of a native species or ecological community. For example, incidental catch (or bycatch) of seabirds during oceanic longline fishing operations' is listed as a key threatening process as it threatens albatross, petrels and shearwaters in Australian waters where the fishing practice is undertaken. Other relevant listed key threatening processes include:

- Injury and fatality to vertebrate marine life caused by ingestion of, or entanglement in, harmful marine debris

- Loss and degradation of native plant and animal habitat by invasion of escaped garden plants, including aquatic plants
- Predation by feral cats
- Predation by exotic rats on Australian offshore islands of less than 1000 km² (100,000 ha)

A full list of listed key threatening processes can be found at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicgetkeythreats.pl>

A full list of approved threat abatement plans can be found at:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/threat-abatement-plans/approved>

Indicator 5.2.2 Single Species Action Plans are developed and implemented for threatened migratory waterbird species in the EAAF.

RQ47. **(Partners, TF/WG)** Please outline the contribution you have made to the development and implementation of Threatened Species Action Plans.

Your Response:

A Single Species Action Plan for the Far Eastern Curlew has been prepared, and Australia is supporting implementation of the Action Plan through funding of surveys in Malaysia and research into the level of take in the Russian Far East, as well as domestic research on the species, see:

<https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/projects/strategic-planning-for-the-far-eastern-curlew>

A Single Species Action Plan for the Christmas Island Frigatebird is in preparation and will be presented to MOP11 for endorsement.

The Australian Government also develops and implements domestic conservation planning documents for threatened and migratory species. Recovery plans and conservation advice provide for recovery actions to support the survival of threatened species, such as [Far Eastern Curlew](#) and [Christmas Island Frigatebird](#). Wildlife conservation plans provide a national framework to support research and management of listed migratory species. Two wildlife conservation plans exist under the EPBC Act that are relevant to the EAAFP, the [Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds](#) (35 species) and the [Wildlife Conservation Plan for Seabirds](#) (76 species).

Indicator 5.2.3 Populations of threatened migratory waterbirds are either stable or increasing.

RQ48. **(Partners, TF/WG)** Has your organization been involved in any program(s) to assess changes in the status of populations of threatened waterbirds?

If yes, please provide details.

Yes

No

Planned

Additional information:

Nineteen listed marine or migratory birds are currently under assessment under the EPBC Act to determine changes in their population status. These assessments have been informed by the release of The Action Plan for Australian Birds 2020. The species under assessment include:

- Seabirds: Sooty Shearwater, Christmas Island White-tailed Tropicbird, Red-tailed Tropicbird (Indian Ocean), Little Tern
- Shorebirds: Ruddy Turnstone, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Red Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Great Knot, Greater Sand Plover, Latham's Snipe, Asian Dowitcher, Western Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit, Northern Siberian Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Far Eastern Curlew, Grey Plover, Common Greenshank, Terek Sandpiper

The current Finalised Priority Assessment lists is available at:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/threatened/assessments/fpal>

The EPBC Act list of threatened fauna can be found here: <https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl?wanted=fauna>

KRA 5.3 Regional Action Plans are developed and implemented for priority geographic regions of the EAAF.

Indicator 5.3.1 Development and implementation of Regional Action Plans for geographical regions with common critical threats in the EAAF.

RQ49. **(Partners, TF/WG)** What has been your involvement in the development and implementation of Regional Action Plans?

Your Response:

Australia participated in regional workshops held by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to support the conservation and management of threatened and migratory marine species. Seabirds in Pacific Islands region are highly threatened with 11 of the 40 breeding species threatened with extinction, but knowledge of the location, distribution and populations of many remain unknown. Workshops resulted in SPREP developing strategic guidance for the migratory marine species, including migratory seabirds, in the [Regional Marine Species Programme and Action Plans](#).

Australia participated in consultative meeting of the Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA), the China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA) and the Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA) between 31 October and 2 November 2022.

For 40 years Australia has played an important role in international cooperation to conserve migratory birds in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway, entering into bilateral migratory bird agreements with Japan in 1974, China in 1986 and the Republic of Korea in 2007. Each of these legally-binding agreements provide for the protection and conservation of migratory birds and their important habitats, protection from take or trade, information exchange and cooperation in research and management action. Birds listed under these three bilateral agreements, together with those listed under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), must also be included in the migratory species list under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and are therefore Matters of National Environmental Significance.

The three bilateral meetings were very successful – the commitment to collaborative and practical action on protection of shared migratory birds in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway was clear in the very enthusiastic dialogue. Updates on new and innovative research conducted since the last meetings in 2018 were discussed. Threats and management actions for high priority species (e.g., Far Eastern Curlew and Black-tailed Godwit) were explored and a joint workplan for 2022-2024 was agreed.

KRA 5.4 Measures to reduce and, as far as possible eliminate, illegal hunting, take and trade of migratory waterbirds are developed and implemented.

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.

RQ50. **(Govt, TF on Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds)** What mechanisms are in place to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate, illegal hunting, take and trade of migratory waterbirds?

Your Response:

Australia is providing support to the CMS Secretariat for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, with its terms of reference calling for collaboration with the EAAFP.

This Intergovernmental Task Force will complement the Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds in the EAAF. Noting that the EAAFP task force focuses only on waterbirds, the MOP10 decision mandated the task force to explore with CMS and other frameworks to extend the scope to other migratory bird species and geographic regions, particularly noting that cooperation with CMS would be valuable, as CMS covers a wider variety of taxonomic groups of birds such as landbirds and raptors, which are currently outside of the scope of the EAAFP.

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.

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.

RQ51. **(Govt)** In your country, what are the current key national legislation and policy instruments that have provisions that cover the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats?

Your Response:

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is Australia's primary national legislation relevant to the protection of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds. The EPBC Act provides Australian Government jurisdiction in the protection of matters of national environmental significance including listed migratory species and Ramsar listed wetlands. The EPBC Act protects Australia's native species and ecological communities by providing for:

- identification and listing of species and ecological communities as threatened
- development of conservation advice and recovery plans for listed species and ecological communities
- development of a register of critical habitat
- recognition of key threatening processes
- where appropriate, reducing the impacts of these processes through threat abatement plans and non-statutory threat abatement advices

The [Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032](#) maps a pathway to protect, manage and restore Australia's threatened species and important natural places. The Action Plan 2022-2032 builds on the Action Plan 2021-2026 which was developed with input from experts, the community, natural resource managers, scientists, conservation groups, and First Nations peoples. The critically endangered Far Eastern Curlew is listed as a priority species. Other focus areas to reflect increased ambition and respond to some of the challenges identified in the 2022 State of the Environment report include:

- An objective to prevent new extinctions
- 14 new priority places announced in addition to six islands
- Commitment to protect and conserve more than 30% of Australia's land mass
- Increased participation of First Nations Peoples in the management and recovery of threatened species and threatened ecological communities

- Contemporary fit for purpose conservation planning approaches.

Actions identified in Plan that can most benefit threatened species include:

- Tackling the impacts of feral cats, foxes and gamba grass as key threats to many threatened species
- Educating and empowering the community to participate and lead on recovery efforts
- Improving the resilience and adaptive capacity of priority species to climate change.

KRA 5.6 The conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats is integrated into relevant multilateral and bilateral agreements and other regional mechanisms.

Indicator 5.6.1 Relevant environmental agreements recognise the EAAFP as an effective regional framework to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

RQ52. **(Govt)** In your country, what are the current multilateral regional and bilateral agreements and other regional mechanisms that include provisions on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats?

Your Response:

Australia's current commitment to multilateral regional and bilateral agreements and other regional mechanisms that include provisions on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats include bilateral migratory bird agreements with Japan in 1974, China in 1986 and the Republic of Korea in 2007. Each of these bilateral agreements provides for the protection and conservation of migratory birds and their important habitats, protection from take or trade except under limited circumstances, the exchange of information, and building cooperative relationships.

- [Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement](#)
- [China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement](#)
- [Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement](#)

Australia also contributes to transboundary protection of threatened migratory waterbirds and their habitats through the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species.

- [Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals](#)
 - [Australian Government's National Report to COP13](#)
- [Ramsar Convention on Wetlands](#)
 - [Australian Government's National Report to COP14](#)

[Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels \(ACAP\)](#)

RQ53. **(Partners, TF/WG)** Please provide any suggestions you have on how existing multilateral regional and bilateral agreements, and other regional mechanisms, could be strengthened to deliver better outcomes for migratory waterbirds.

Your Response: N/A