

The Role of Protected Areas in the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway

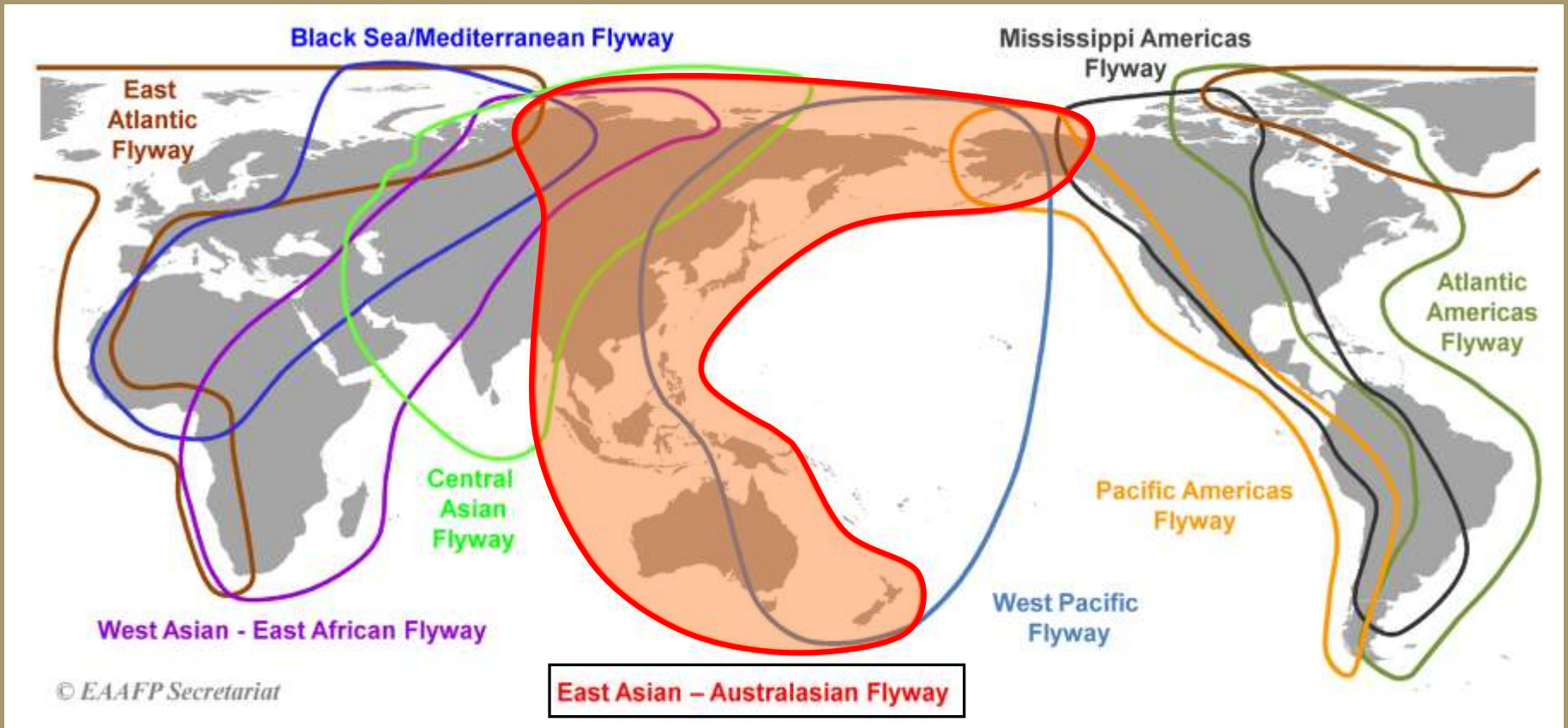


Spike Millington, Chief Executive



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A Flyway in Crisis



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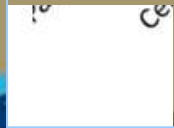
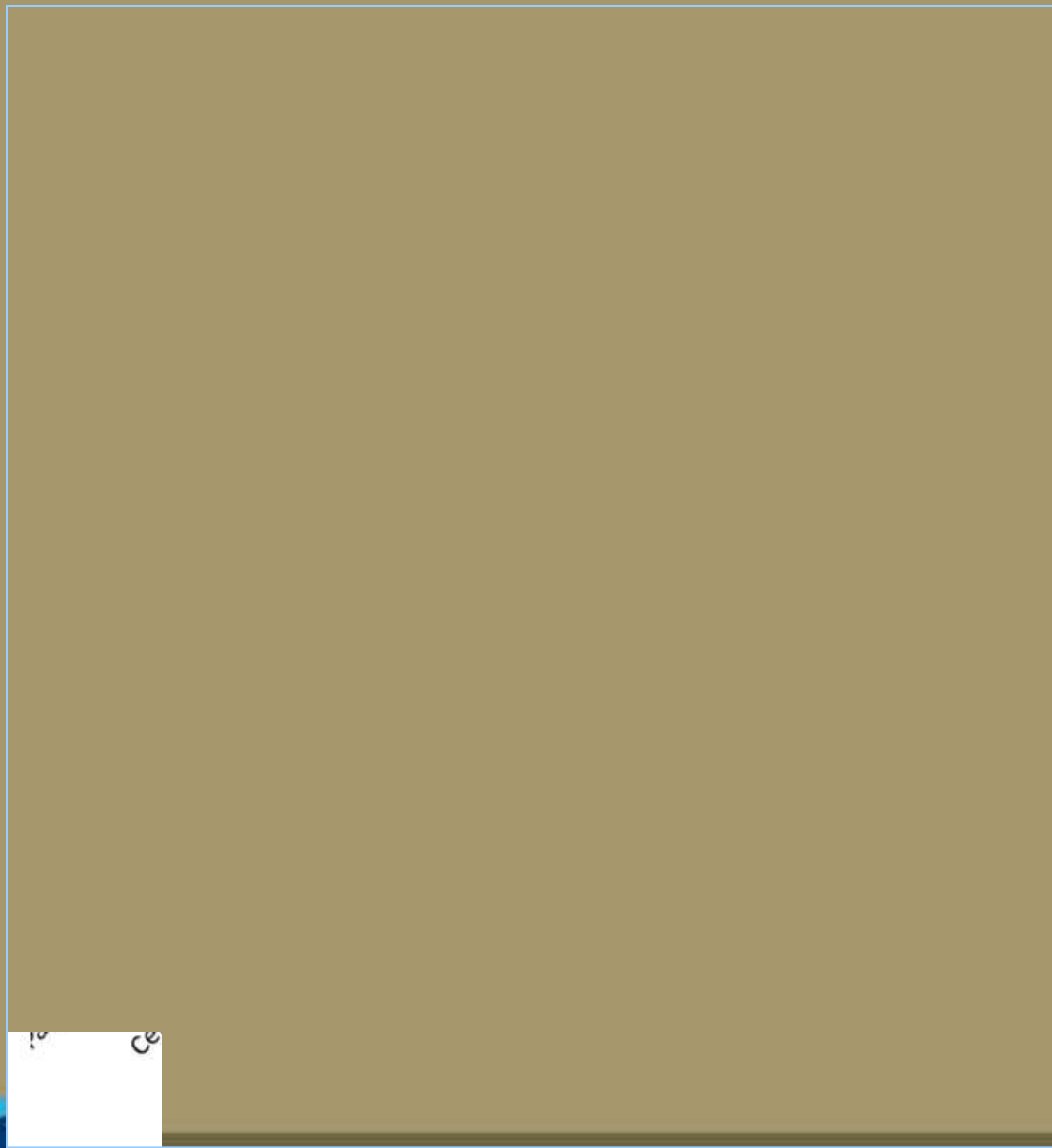
Migratory Waterbirds on the EAA Flyway

**At least 50 million waterbirds
of more than 200 species**

**Highest Number of Threatened
Species: 33 globally
threatened**

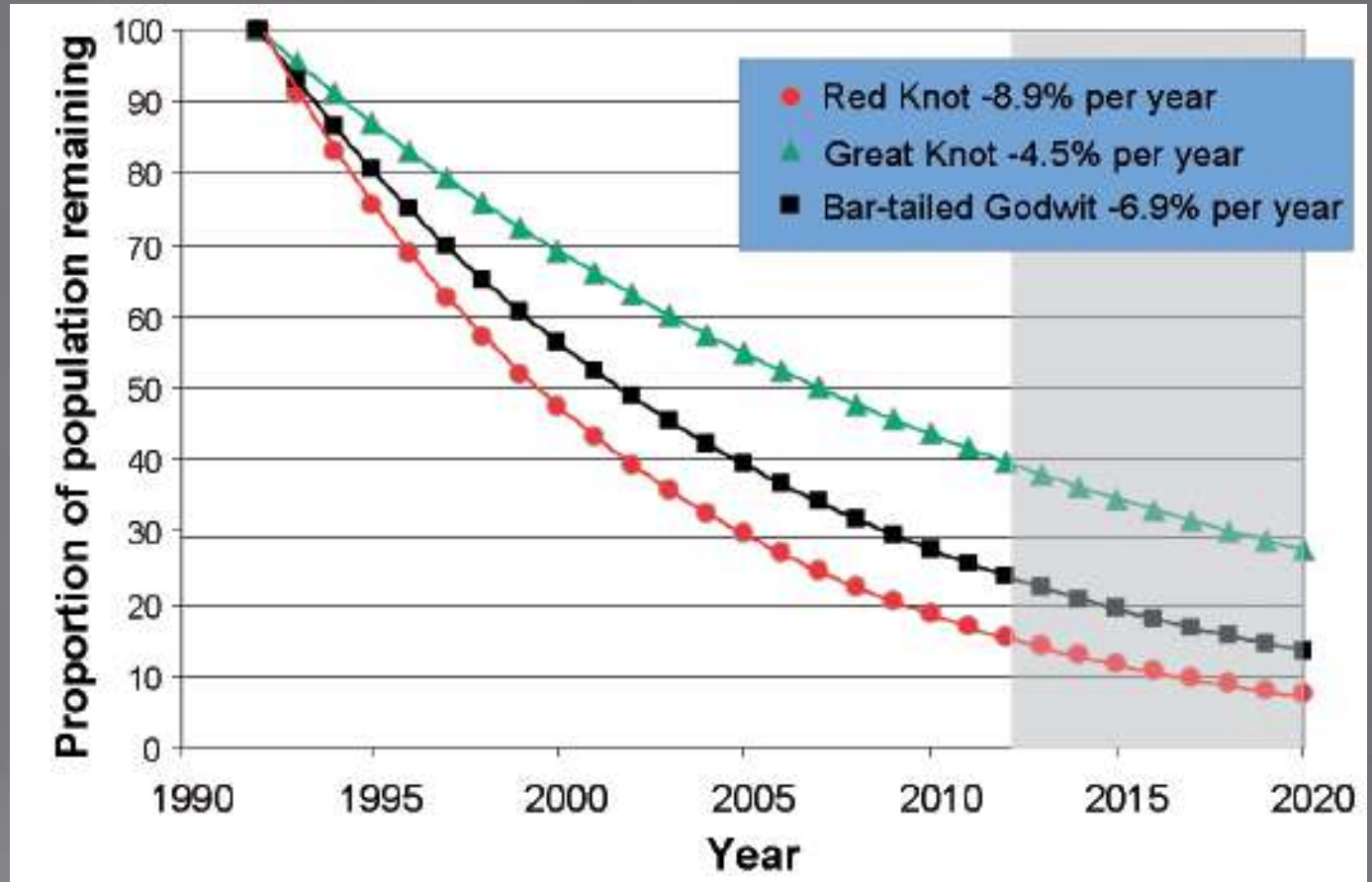
**Highest number of declining
species (annual declines of 9%
for some shorebirds)**





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Projected population losses of three shorebird species given current rates of decline of 5-9% per year



Population time to extinction in Spoon-billed Sandpiper given current rate of decline of 26.4% per year



after Zockler *et al.* 2010

Slipping Away ..



In 1980s

In 2010/11

In 2012/2013

Today

est. population of 25,000 wintering to SE Asia

Only 1,000 wintering in Lower Yangtze Valley

Maximum flock of 26 at Poyang Hu

May number less than 100 birds



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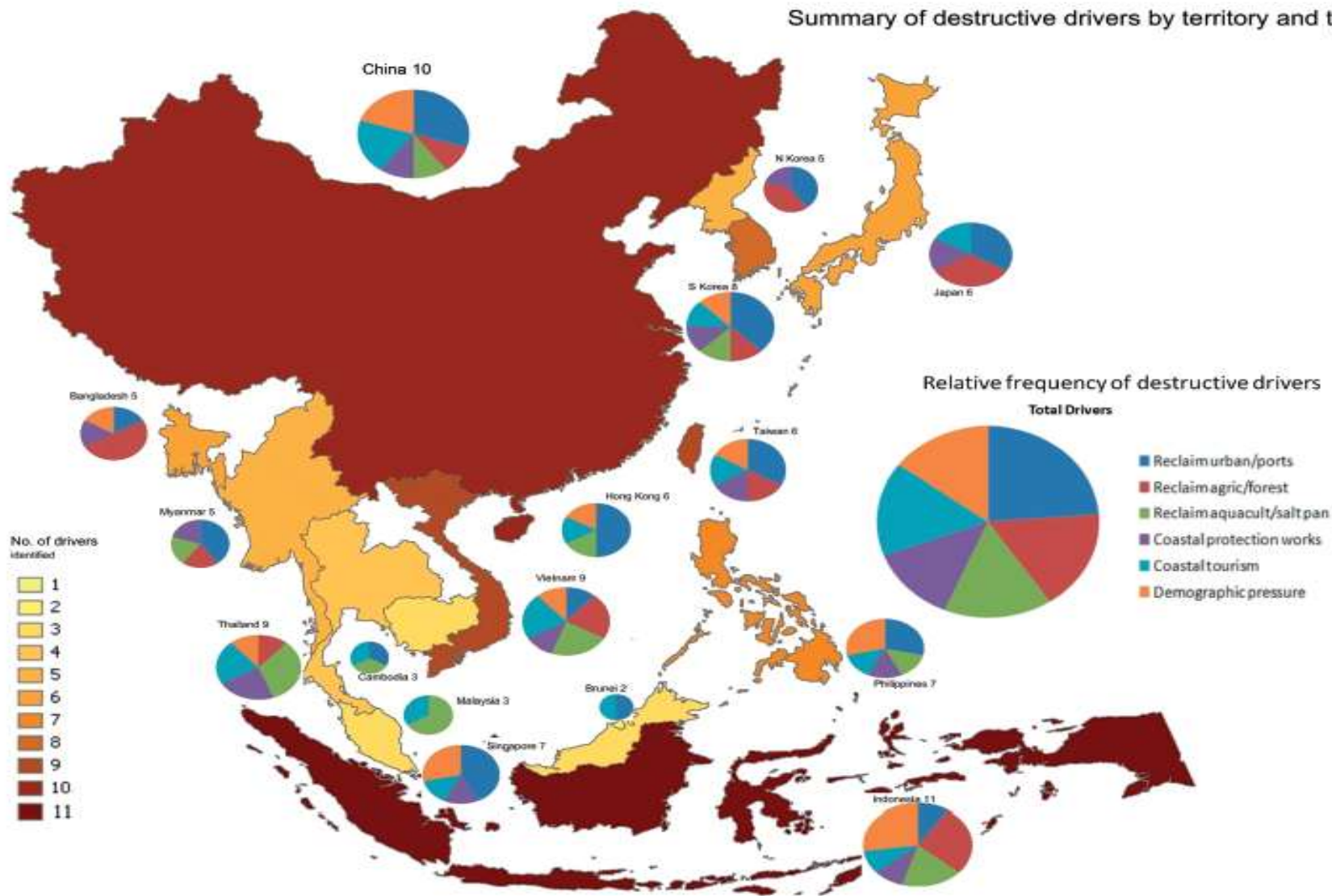
Aichi Target 5: By 2020 the rate of loss of all natural habitats is at least halved ... and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced



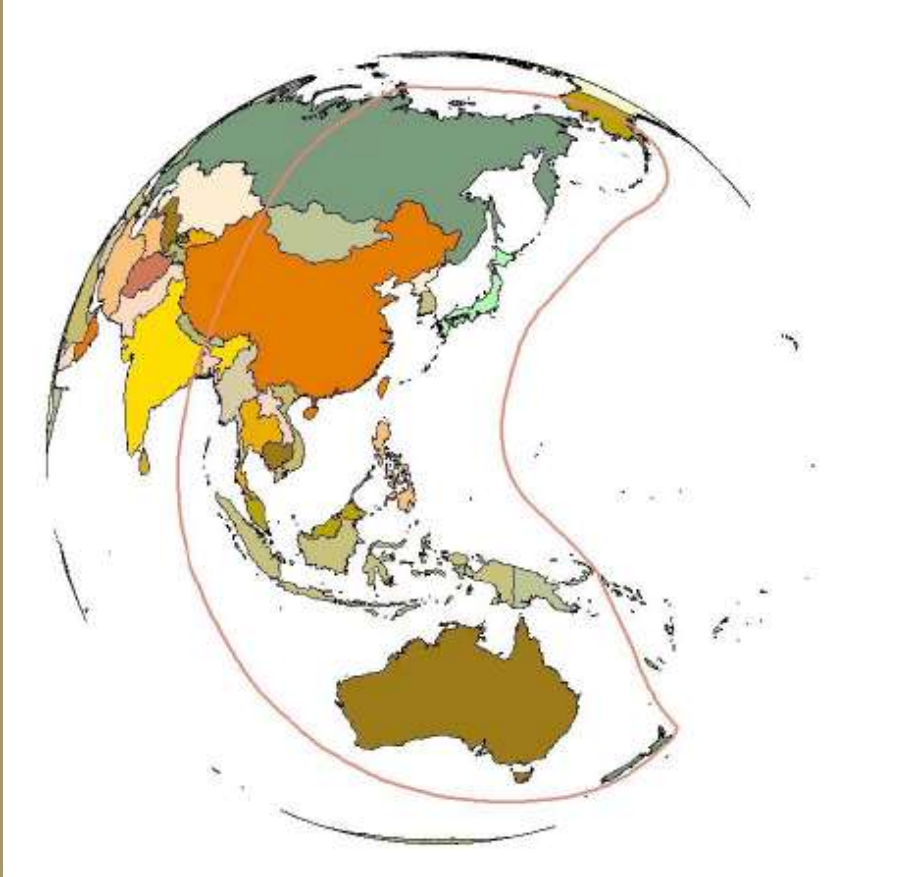
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Figure 12. Summary of the drivers of intertidal habitat loss by country or territory showing the number of drivers identified (indicated by number and size of circle) and the proportions of the various types of drivers (see pie chart legend). For source data and references see Appendix 5.

Summary of destructive drivers by territory and type



A transboundary issue requiring an international response



Russia
USA (Alaska)
Mongolia
China
North Korea
South Korea
Japan
Philippines
Bangladesh
Thailand
Cambodia
Indonesia
Laos
Myanmar
Vietnam
Malaysia
Singapore
Brunei Darussalam
East Timor
Papua New Guinea
Australia
New Zealand



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EAA Flyway Partnership

Conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats
for the benefit of people and biodiversity

Launched in Indonesia in Nov. 2006

- **Voluntary (non-binding)** arrangement
- Open to Governments, international non-government and intergovernmental organisations, private sector
- Ramsar Regional Initiative
- Secretariat based in Incheon, Korea







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What is EAAFP?

Govments (15)							
Country	Australia	Indonesia	Japan	The Philippines	R.of Korea	Russia	Singapore
							
USA	Cambodia	China	Bangladesh	Thailand	Mongolia	New Zealand	Malaysia

Inter-Government organisations (4)

			
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna	Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat	Ramsar Convention Secretariat	Food & Agriculture Organisation UN

International NGOs (10)



International Private Enterprise (1)



The Partnership's Objectives

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



Flyway Site Network



Network Sites
(113 sites)



Important Sites
(> 950 sites)



Ramsar Sites
(235 sites)





Migration of Bar-tailed Godwit

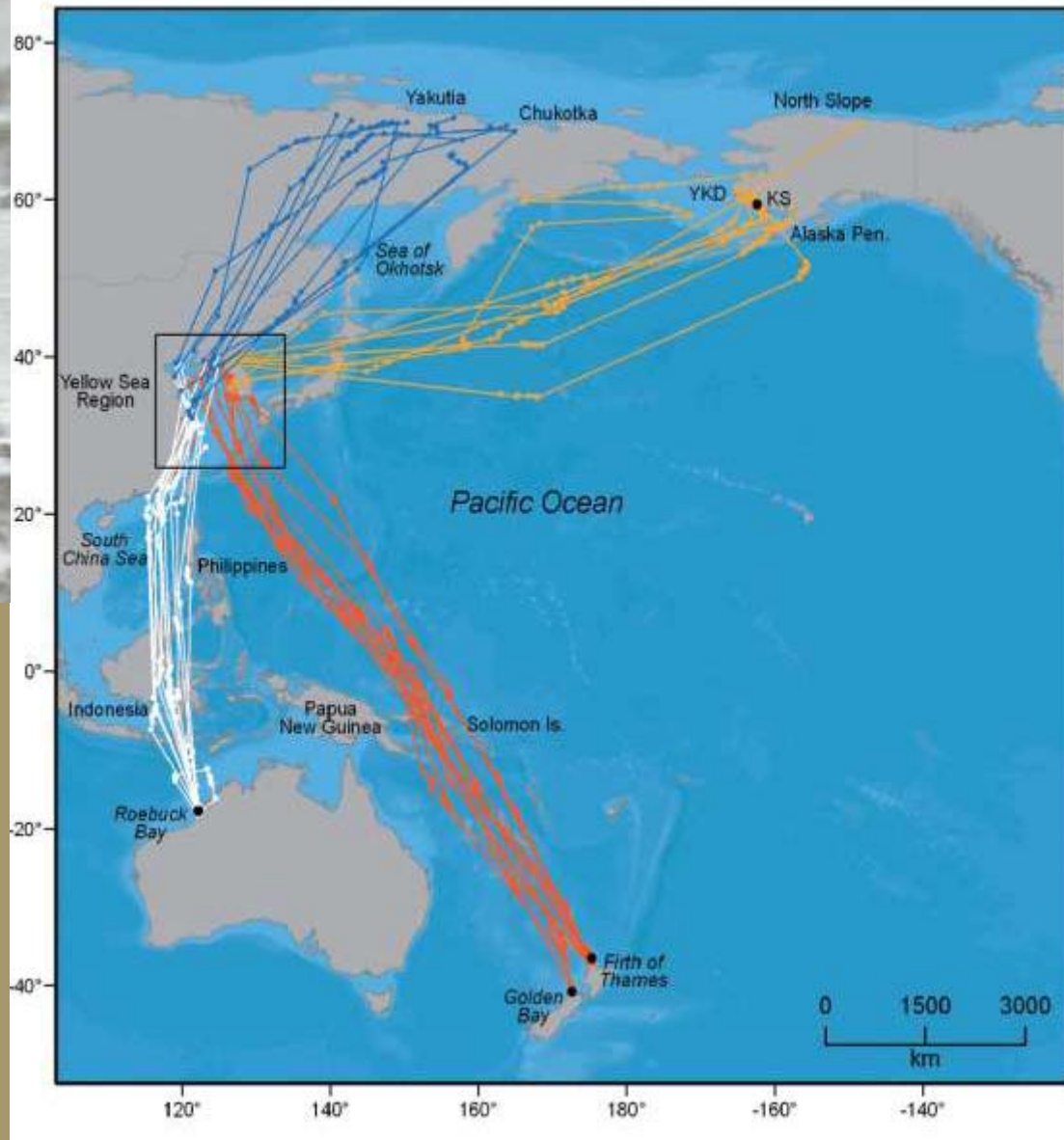
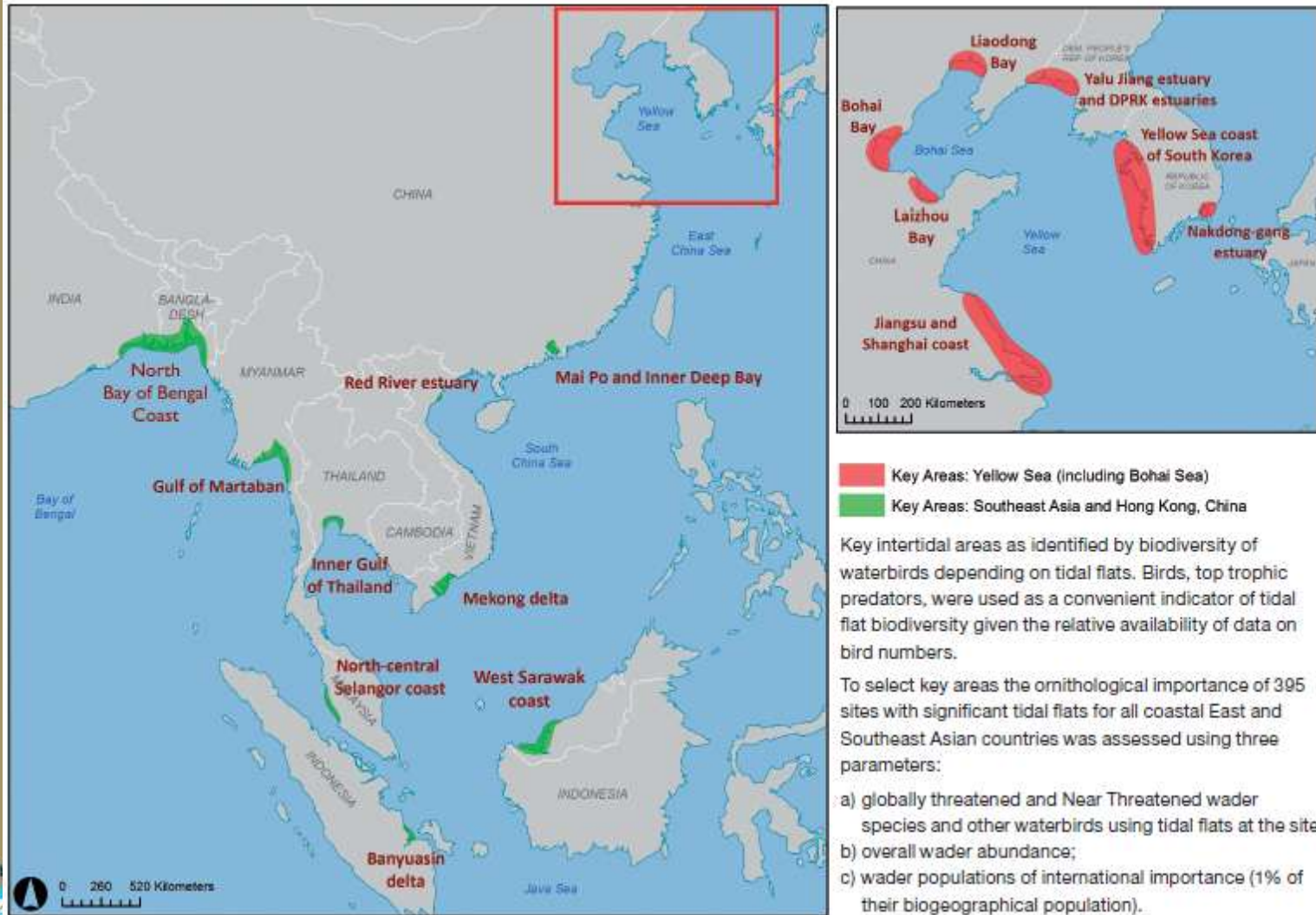


Figure 5. The 16 key areas for intertidal waterbird biodiversity in the East Asian-Australian Flyway. See Appendix 2 for detailed information on internationally important shorebird sites covered by the key areas and data on biodiversity values and threats.



How to Create a Resilient Network of Sites

- Need to protect species and sites at vulnerable stages of migratory cycle
- Need to identify and protect key resources at sites important during different stages of migratory cycle
- Need to manage for key species requirements
- Presents opportunities for international cooperation
- Target capacity-building and awareness-raising
- Promote sustainability of site protection and management, e.g. through local stakeholder involvement
- Improved monitoring



Migration of Spoon-billed Sandpiper



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Criteria for Ramsar Sites



- Representative, rare or unique wetland type
- Supports endangered species/communities
- Supports species populations important for biodiversity
- Supports species at critical stages of life cycle
- **Supports 20,000 waterbirds**
- **Supports waterbird populations at 1% level**
- Supports important levels of fish populations
- Supports fish populations at critical stages of life-cycle
- Supports 1% of the population on non-avian animal species



Criteria for Flyway Network Sites

1. Ramsar criteria adapted for *migratory* waterbirds
2. A staging site should be considered internationally important if it :
 - regularly supports 0.25% of individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbirds on migration.
 - regularly supports 5,000 or more waterbirds at one time during migration.



Benefits of Ramsar & Flyway Network Sites

- **International recognition of site (certification)**
- **Share information on migratory waterbirds and shared biodiversity**
- **International cooperation throughout Flyway, e.g. monitoring, CEPA**
- **Capacity building through site managers training and workshops**





Bako Buntal Bay, Malaysia



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Thank you for your attention.



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image: available light

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The Partnership

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The Partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway

Launched in November 2006, the Partnership is an informal and voluntary initiative, aimed at protecting migratory waterbirds, their habitat and the livelihoods of people dependent upon them.

There are currently 25 partners including 13 countries, 3 intergovernmental agencies and 9 international non-government organisations.