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

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A Flyway in Crisis

East Asian – Australasian Flyway

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PARTNERSHIP for the EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY
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)
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

EXTINCT BY 2020
IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN

after Zockler et al. 2010
In 1980s  est. population of 25,000 wintering to SE Asia
In 2010/11  Only 1,000 wintering in Lower Yangtze Valley
In 2012/2013  Maximum flock of 26 at Poyang Hu
Today  May number less than 100 birds
Aichi Target 5: By 2020 the rate of loss of all natural habitats is at least halved ... and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
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.
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
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
What is EAAFP?

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<th>Govments (15)</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>Indonesia</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>The Philippines</th>
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<td>Thailand</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
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Inter-Government organisations (4)

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<th>Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna</th>
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International NGOs (10)

| International Crane Foundation (2006) |
| Wetlands International (2006) |
| WWF (2006) |
| IUCN (2006) |
| BirdLife International (2006) |
| Wild Bird Society of Japan (2007) |
| Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (2010) |
| Miranda Naturalists’ Trust (2010) |

International Private Enterprise (1)

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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.

Key intertidal areas as identified by biodiversity of waterbirds depending on tidal flats. Birds, top trophic predators, were used as a convenient indicator of tidal flat biodiversity given the relative availability of data on bird numbers.

To select key areas the ornithological importance of 395 sites with significant tidal flats for all coastal East and Southeast Asian countries was assessed using three parameters:

a) globally threatened and Near Threatened wader species and other waterbirds using tidal flats at the site;
b) overall wader abundance;
c) wader populations of international importance (1% of their biogeographical population).
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
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
Thank you for your attention.