Memorandum to CAFF Board 2*/8/2018*

**AMBI Meeting**

***3-8 December 2018 (Hainan, China)***

*(including a meeting of the EAAFP Spoon-billed Sandpiper Taskforce)*

**Draft Programme**

**Meeting Objectives:**

* Share success stories for the conservation of Arctic breeding birds, with a particular focus on the tidal mudflats of the Yellow Sea
* Share experience across the three flyway regions of the world
* Strengthening international collaboration to improve the status and long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory birds.
* Report and plan for the ongoing program to restore a healthy population of the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper

**Overview of Program**

* Dec. 3rd Day 1 Arrival of participants; Spoon-billed Sandpiper TF internal discussions
* Dec. 4th Day 2 AMBI Meeting - Spoon-billed Sandpiper Focus/SBS TF Meeting
* Dec. 5th Day 3 AMBI Meeting – other technical reports and discussions
* Dec. 6th Day 4 AMBI Meeting – workshops and AMBI 2.0 planning
* Dec. 7th Day 5 Excursion; AMBI Steering Committee Meeting
* Dec. 8th Day 6 AMBI Meeting Report Back and VIP session

**Meeting Themes**

1. Opening Addresses

* China & CAFF
* Arctic Country statements: 10 minutes
* Arctic Council Observer Country statements: 10 minutes

2. Conservation work in the Arctic breeding grounds

3. Successes and challenges of intertidal habitat conservation of the Yellow Sea through designation of World Heritage Sites: case studies of key AMBI focal areas Nanpu, Yalujiang and southern Jiangsu.

4. Successes and challenges in the mitigation of poaching and illegal take of migratory birds.

5. Working on model species to demonstrate successes in the AMBI – including the work for the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper

6. Co-operation and co-ordination across Flyways (*How AMBI can support cooperation for conservation of Arctic birds in Flyways*)

7. Planning of further activities of AMBI *(AMBI 2.0 plan should be ready to be send to the CAFF board for consideration in 3 weeks after the end of this event)*

**Room Needs**

* On day 1 and 2 we will need a room that can fit 30-40 people for the SBS task force meeting
* On Day 3, 4 and 6, most of the sessions will be held in one large room that needs to accommodate 120-150 people
* On Day 3, 4 and 6, we will also need some smaller breakout rooms nearby that we can use for smaller group discussions

**Draft Agenda**

Note – as we confirm presenters and participants a more detailed agenda will become available

**DAY 1** (estimated 30-40 people)

* **Arrival and registration**
* Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force internal meetings – preparation of the next day

**DAY 2** (estimated 30-40 people)

* **Mini-opening the event** (short introductions by CAFF and SFA)
* Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force meeting with focus on AMBI related priority in SBS conservation

**DAY 3** (estimated 120-150 people)

**Formal Opening Addresses**

* Statements from China and CAFF
* Arctic Country statements: 10 minutes
* Arctic Council Observer Country statements: 10 minutes

**Overview of AMBI and meeting structure**

**1. Conservation work in the Arctic breeding grounds**

* Mitigation of threats for Arctic birds in the North of the Flyway: sharing experience in Beringia;
* Russian Far East - breeding areas and migration sites
* Alaskan breeding and staging areas

**2. Successes and challenges in intertidal habitat conservation**

* Successes and challenges of intertidal habitat conservation of the Yellow Sea
* Status of key areas identified in the AMBI Work plan: Nanpu (Hebei), Yalu Jiang National Reserve (Liaoning); the Yancheng and Nantong tidal flats (Jiangsu) and Yancheng World Heritage nomination
* International collaboration for the Geum Estuary (RoK)
* Spartina eradication – using best world practices to eradicate invasive plants
* Involvement of local communities: awareness raising and education and cooperation of all stakeholders in Asian coastal areas
* Shellfish and other intertidal production certification as an incentive for local conservation.
* [Global Tidal Flat Mapping Tool](https://murrayensis.org/2018/04/05/nature-toolbox-interview-with-nick-murray/)
* Social and economic benefits of protected areas
* South East Asian Wetland and Waterbirds Program coordinated by Singapore with significant financing from Japan.

**3. Status of hunting, poaching, legal & illegal take of migratory birds along the flyway and its impact**

* EAAF Illegal Bird Killing, Taking and Trade Taskforce
* Poaching mitigation: development of an Action Plan for South-East Asia; the situation in North Asia – reporting of success stories and challenges
* Use of social media in providing insights into poaching & illegal take of migratory birds.
* Breakouts - application of successes/challenges from other Flyways

**Opening Dinner**

**DAY 4** (estimated 120-150 people) **\***

**4. Work on model species to illustrate successes in AMBI plan**

* Spoon-billed Sandpiper: successes and challenges in conservation of AMBI flagship from tundra to tropics
* Lesser White-fronted Goose in Asian under threat: planning of conservation of sharply declining species as part of AMBI plan
* Other flyways?
* Breakouts - lessons from Species focused actions in AMBI and other international initiatives

**5. Cooperation and coordination along the flyway** (How could AMBI support cooperation for conservation of Arctic birds in flyways)

* EAAFP Partnership Strategic Planning
* Sharing AMBI experience from different flyways
* Migratory waterbird monitoring in the EAAF
* China Coastal Waterbird Census
* Other Flyways?
* Breakouts - strengthening flyway mechanisms

**6. Planning of further activities of AMBI 2.0**

* Workshops

**DAY 5**

* Excursion
* AMBI Steering Committee Meetingafter excursion

**Day 6** am \*\* (estimated 120-150 people)

**7. Conclusion of the Meeting**

* Report Back on the AMBI meeting
* Concluding statements from Arctic Countries and Arctic Council Observer Countries: 10 minutes
* Completion of the Meeting
* Closing dinner including VIPs