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Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative
East Asian-Australasian Flyway Workshop Report

Singapore, January 8-10, 2017
CAFF Designated Agencies:
- Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim, Norway
- Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ottawa, Canada
- Faroese Museum of Natural History, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands (Kingdom of Denmark)
- Finnish Ministry of the Environment, Helsinki, Finland
- Icelandic Institute of Natural History, Reykjavik, Iceland
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greenland
- Russian Federation Ministry of Natural Resources, Moscow, Russia
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Stockholm, Sweden
- United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, Alaska

CAFF Permanent Participant Organizations:
- Aleut International Association (AIA)
- Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC)
- Gwich'in Council International (GCI)
- Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)
- Russian Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)
- Saami Council


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# Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative East Asian-Australasian Meeting, January 8-10, 2017 Singapore

## Workshop Report

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Workshop Purpose

The Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore and the Norwegian Embassy in the Singapore hosted an AMBI East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) meeting in January 2017 to accomplish:

- Discuss strategic approaches to acquire funds to implement action items identified within the EAAF as outlined in the AMBI work plan.
- Determine the roles that attending participants may play in fundraising and/or action item implementation within the EAAF as outlined in the AMBI Work Plan 2015-2019.
- Develop partnerships around specific action items identified in the AMBI Work Plan 2015-2019.
- Identify, develop and document next steps towards accomplishing action items within the AMBI Work Plan 2015-2019.
- Build consensus on the actions needed in the flyway to support an international working group to assess and consider illegal killing of birds in the EAAF.

Outcomes, Records of Decisions, Tasks and Timing of the AMBI Committees

Overall

- AMBI Steering Group decided to consider EAAF flyway suggestions as part of a larger AMBI workplan revisions planned for 2017 in light of the AMBI mid-point evaluation.
- The AMBI Steering Group will open up the AMBI work plan for revisions and suggestions to all the flyway committees for an inclusive process.
- The AMBI Steering Group will review and consider all submitted suggestions, and will prepare a revised work plan to the CAFF Board in mid-July 2017 for approval in the September board meeting of CAFF.
- A revised AMBI work plan will be submitted with the request that this revised work plan be submitted at the fall SAO meeting in Finland by the CAFF International Secretariat.
- CAFF to approach next AC Chair (Finland) to work together on encouraging Asian AC observers to help implement AMBI plan

East Asian Australasian Flyway

- CAFF to consider how to support two AMBI representatives (AMBI Chair and EAAF Coordinator) to attend the CMS COP12 in Manila, the Philippines in October 2017 to build on the outcomes from the Singapore EAAF meeting as well as the trip of AMBI Chair to Singapore in autumn 2017 and in 2018 possibly to various Asian observer countries to follow up on AMBI plan implementation
- AMBI to push for funding support for situation analysis focused on illegal hunting of migratory species in Southeast Asia; structure and baseline for this project will be based on Mediterranean situation analysis led by BirdLife International.
- AMBI chair with support from AMBI coordinator and flyway coordinator to follow up with National Parks Board, Singapore on funding from ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Project, and other ASEAN-themed funding mechanisms; CAFF to follow up with Republic of Korea (ROK) focal point on project proposals and status of review and funding.
- CAFF/AMBI to highlight Ramsar resolutions for future discussions on habitat conservation in EAAF region, especially Yellow Sea.
- During next two years (during US Chairmanship) there is a need of substantial support of the next CAFF Chair as well as when possible CAFF Board members to promote AMBI development in the region to insure successful implementation, including possible visits to Asian AC observer countries.
Proceedings of the AMBI EAAF Workshop
Note that all presentations given by the parties are available through a password secured weblink via the CAFF Secretariat.

January 8, 2017

Welcoming addresses

Opening Address Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office and Minister for Manpower, Minister of State (M.O.S.) Sam Tan
Government of Singapore
M.O.S. Sam Tan welcomed the workshop participants to Singapore, and expressed the importance for Singapore to work with international collaborators, especially through the Arctic Council platform on shared conservation priorities and issues.

Welcome by the Ambassador of Norway to Singapore
His Excellency (H.E.) Mr. Tormod C. Endresen
Norwegian Embassy in Singapore
H.E. Tormod Endresen welcomed all workshop participants to Singapore, and thanked his colleagues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore for the support and cooperation with the Norwegian Embassy on supporting this meeting. It was also stressed that ‘what happens in the Arctic, doesn’t stay in the Arctic’ and how international cooperation is the only way to move forward on shared priorities.

Welcome by the CAFF Chair
Mr. Reidar Hindrum
Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna (CAFF)
An overview of the Arctic Council and work of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) was given. The overview also covers how observer nations are active participants in initiatives under the Arctic Council, and AMBI in particular.

Overview of Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI) and overall workshop programme
Dr. Jennifer Provencher
Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna (CAFF)/AMBI Coordinator
An overview of AMBI’s objectives and actions was given, with a focus on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF). A short review of two components in the Circumpolar and Americas Flyway were also provided. A history of the work in the EAAF, the focal species and the priority actions were highlighted for each geographical region in the flyway.

East Asian-Australasian Flyway - the most threatened in the world: overview of AMBI priorities and actions under work plan
Dr. Evgeny Syroechkovskiy
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)/AMBI Chair
The status of the AMBI priority species in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) was given. The importance of the EAAF was also highlighted – for supporting the most threatened migratory shorebirds species in the world. The Spoon-billed sandpiper (Calidris pygmaea) is highlighted as one of the focal species in the flyway that is critically endangered and the focal point of intensive conservation efforts in the flyway, and in relation to AMBI objectives. Threats faced by migratory shorebirds from illegal killing are especially highlighted, and how it has driven declines for many species in the flyway. Objectives for the workshop are highlighted in relation to habitat conservation (implementation of AMBI actions in Yellow Sea, priorities for intertidal habitat conservation in Southeast Asia) and illegal killing mitigation (forming of an international working group involving different stakeholders).

Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation – A flyway approach
Dr. Christoph Zöckler
East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force
The population status and wintering distribution, threats (hunting) and conservation programs related to the Spoon-billed Sandpiper were reviewed, especially a timeline detailing conservation efforts targeted at the species starting from the establishment of an international action plan at the Bonn Convention (2008).
Outcomes of survey work in China and Myanmar was discussed, as well as ongoing results from studies tracking the migration of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Success stories of community engagement in several areas in the species stopover and wintering range (Bangladesh, Myanmar, China), have led to increased conservation efforts, especially through provision of alternative livelihoods and ecotourism promotion. This has resulted in a reduction in hunting. Even with the discussed successes, there is still a critical need for conservation actions for this species.

**Theme 1: Conserving shorebird habitat in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway – East Asian region**

**East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) Updates**

Mr. Spike Millington

*East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)*

A review was given of the habitat conservation issues in the Yellow sea, including the progress in the discussions between the Republic of Korea and China. It was highlighted that AMBI is an important part of IUCN Motion 24 that has helped recognize the need for increased cooperation between these two countries. To move things forward, there has been recognition of the need to establish a transnational committee consisting of the key stakeholders in the Yellow Sea region. The aim will be to have joint task forces targeting, (a) migratory waterbirds, (b) habitats and fisheries and, (c) the world heritage nomination that will draw different ministries together with common objectives. It is hoped that results and recommendations from the AMBI workshop will be carried forward to the EAAFP MOP9.

**Habitat conservation and monitoring efforts in Yellow Sea, China**

Dr. Jiang Hongxing

*National Bird Banding Center, People’s Republic of China*

An overview of the protection status of wetlands in the Yellow Sea region and a timeline of a nation-wide wetland inventories spanning the period 1995-2003, and 2009-2013 was provided. Trends in change in national-level wetlands were highlighted. Total wetland area in the People’s Republic of China is found to be in decline. In the 12th five-year plan, significant progress in wetland conservation was made, with development of various wetland administration and monitoring facilities. Up to 6.7 billion RMB was spent, with significant proportion coming from local governments. Other wetland conservation initiatives were also reviewed. This included the Blueprint Project, a national-level mapping project and a joint-initiative of various stakeholders to identify the distribution of biodiversity and threats across wetlands in China, and provide recommendations to the government, and the Yellow Sea-Bohai Region coordinated waterbird survey conducted in 2016. Two additional case studies were covered. This included a pilot project and experiment targeting the control of *Spartina* cordgrass in Yancheng national nature reserve, and a demonstration project focused on wetland zonation and adaptive management.

**Republic of Korea habitat conservation in Yellow Sea updates**

Dr. Kang Sung-Ryong

*National Institute of Ecology, Republic of Korea*

A review of the important Arctic breeding bird habitat in the ROK was given. An update of the Yellow Sea world heritage site nomination process was given as well, including additional sites that are identified as important to Arctic breeding birds in the region. Korea is currently reaching out to partners to ensure that a coordinated approach is taken when assessing shorebird habitat in the region, for example research groups in the Netherlands.

**World Heritage Promotion of Korean Tidal Flats for the Protection of Migratory Birds Habitats,**

Prof. Woo Kyung-Sik

*World Heritage Promotion Team of Korean Tidal Flats, IUCN WCPA Geoheritage Specialist Group*

Further updates on the World Heritage Site Nomination process in the Republic of Korea that is underway, and in relation to relevant WHS criteria (geological features, ecological processes and biodiversity). Comparisons were made with equivalent sites in terms of geomorphology, ecology and biodiversity between tidal flats (island-type) in Korea and in the Wadden Sea site in the Netherlands. The management plan for these sites will focus on science research, monitoring, promotion, rehabilitation and establishment of educational facilities and program. The nomination document is due for submission to UNESCO in February 2018. Presently, the current plan is for the Republic of Korea to submit their application, with future plans for a bilateral with China (Phase II). In the long term, there are plans to
extend the collaboration to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) from 2017 (Phase III) onward to develop a trilateral world heritage site.

**Discussion on implementation of AMBI actions in the Yellow Sea**
Moderator: Ms. Nicola Crockford, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Rapporteur: Vivian Fu, Hong Kong Bird Watching Society & Ms. Fion Cheung, WWF Hong Kong

**Summary of discussion items and recommendations**
- Review and selection of different sites in the Yellow Sea for World Heritage Nomination ongoing, and at different stage of progress for People’s Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; involves multiple government ministries and agencies.
- Role of WHS nominations is to raise recognition of the importance of the Yellow Sea.
- Research and long-term monitoring needed to accompany nominated sites, and ground identified priority sites on scientific research.
- While actions for habitat conservation is underway in the Luannan Coast and Yalu Jiang, there are still concerns for key sites in Jiangsu province that remain unprotected (e.g. Tiaozini, Rudong).
- Perhaps AMBI should consider focusing on this region for actions in the next two years.
- Nomination as World Heritage Sites is important, but other protection measures should also be explored (e.g. nature reserves, biosphere reserves). Consideration for these sites should not just be focused on birds.
- AMBI to consider having a meeting/workshop in Jiangsu that would help bolster support in the region from national, provincial and town-level governments (possibly in October 2018). Other roles to play by AMBI to include setting up of criteria based on long-term monitoring, and act as a platform for negotiation with different government agencies in China.
- A joint committee involving AMBI, EAAFP and various national government ministries to coordinated nominations.
- Another next step is to document actions taken in China and ROK, and to evaluate how AMBI can support and take developments to the next step.

**Theme 2: Conserving shorebird habitat in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway in the South-east Asian region**

**Conservation of coastal habitat for shorebirds in Myanmar**
Mr. Than Naing

*Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar*

Wetlands in Myanmar are protected by a number of environmental policies and legislation in place, on top of a number of national frameworks and strategies. Five sites in Myanmar are recognized for their importance to migratory waterbirds and included in the flyway site network (e.g. Inle, Indawgyi, Moeyongyi). Constraints faced in the conservation of wetlands include limited staffing, budget allocation, enforcement, weak conservation awareness in the region and the need for economic development. In the Gulf of Mottama area, illegal hunting and encroachment by farmers are issues. There is a need to match development with environmental protection, training for staff to enforce protected areas, as well as species identification training so that important habitat for species of concern can be identified. Besides raising awareness, action is needed to provide for alternative livelihoods of local people, and developmental approaches with reduced impacts.

**Monitoring and conservation of shorebirds in South East Asia**
Dr. Taej Mundkur (presented), Mr. Yus Rusila Noor

*Wetlands International*

AMBI is a great opportunity to try to enact conservation actions using a variety of different approaches. It is important to recognize that each year important sites are prioritized for monitoring and protection from a shrinking list sites are lost to development over time. The International Waterbird Census (IWC) has been in place for over 50 years and has provided a vital source of information to support conservation and management of wetlands on the world’s flyways; a new report with data from 2008-2015 has recently been released to synthesize existing information. Wetlands International has also developed a new database, WaterBird Population Estimates (WPE5), which consolidates different sources
of information to guide future conservation work targeting waterbirds in the region. While WI and other collaborators have led work to study harvest of waterbirds in East and Southeast Asia (numbers harvested for various species, socioeconomic conditions), much of these were conducted in the 1980s-1990s and future work is needed to follow up on this. In addition to projects in Asia, WI has also undertaken important work in West Africa (Inner Niger Delta, Mali) to improve livelihoods of local people and promote biodiversity conservation through provisions of small loans. These initiatives have improved wetlands condition, and improved local capacity to plan for protection of wetlands, while providing alternative livelihoods. Future work should include regular monitoring of wetlands at key sites, assessment of illegal killing impacts, filling up of geographical gaps in Southeast Asia for important wetlands, and development of local capacity to undertake monitoring work.

Indonesia Shorebird Monitoring: Case studies from Surabaya, Bali, Jogjakarta and Jakarta
Mr. Iwan Febrianto
Burung Pantai Indonesia
An overview of shorebird surveys covering 43 sites across Indonesia is presented, with a focus on four sites across Bali and Java (Wonorejo, Serangan, Trisik, Metro Marina Jakarta) and leg flag sightings records. There is habitat loss and degradation at many of these sites, driven by various housing development projects. Abundances of waterbirds surveyed have fluctuated over 2008-2013, with trends suggesting general increases in some families (e.g. plovers). While data is lacking in many areas, there is growing recognition that Indonesia is an important stopover area in the flyway for many species. Conservation NGOs in this region are working very closely with groups from Australia. Problems in the region include many local people not knowing about shorebirds, and availability of equipment for field surveys is a limiting factor. There is a need to communicate more with experts and NGOs to make sure that efforts are coordinated and data shared.

Discussion on implementation of AMBI actions on shorebird habitat conservation in Southeast Asia
Moderator: Dr. Taej Mundkur, Wetlands International
Rapporteur: Yong Ding Li, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fanna (CAFF)

Summary of discussion items and recommendations
- A list of sites was presented and the group was asked to add suggestions for important sites in the region for the AMBI focal species that would benefit from more surveys, or potentially should be considered for protection and potentially benefit from diplomatic actions or interventions (see Appendix D).
- General consensus that shorebird staging and wintering sites are not very well-known and covered in the existing network in the Philippines and Indonesia and need to be surveyed in nearest future.
- A number of potentially new sites of importance to AMBI species highlighted in Philippines (Negros) and Indonesia (Deli-Serdang Coast, Sumatra)
- Mismatch in count numbers from staging areas in eastern Asia (e.g. Jiangsu coast) with counts at known sites in Southeast Asia highlight the presence of yet discovered sites.
- Discussion highlighted the need for cooperation with researchers, including Richard Fuller/Nick Murray team at University of Queensland, to identify sites from satellite images, and followed up by ground-truthing surveys.
- Group agreed on the need for more tagging studies to identify where these undiscovered staging and wintering sites are.
- It was agreed that land-use change is also a major issue affecting shorebird wintering sites, including man-made habitats (e.g. Khok Kham salt pans in Inner Gulf of Thailand) – more follow up studies to examine the ecological role and importance of these man-made habitats; AMBI can also follow up with associated working groups with Ramsar Convention to drive forward action on such developments
- Increased involvement of corporate actors, and influence over coastal areas, including wetlands suggest need to increase engagement with the corporate sector.
- Important next step to identify key areas of importance to migratory shorebirds in Southeast Asia, Bangladesh and India (including sites currently undocumented) (see Appendix D)
- EAAF coordinator will follow up from discussion by circulating a document to seek new information on important shorebird sites in Southeast Asia, Bangladesh and eastern India.

**Theme 3: Illegal hunting of birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway**

**Introduction to illegal hunting of birds**

Dr. Evgeny Syroechkovskiy  
*Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)/ AMBI Chair*

Review of the lack of knowledge on illegal hunting of birds in the flyway, and the importance of this issue under AMBI as little work is being done on this issue in the region. While habitat is an important issue in this flyway and is the centre of a large number of international actions in the region, there is much less known about hunting in this flyway, and the potential impacts it may have on migratory bird populations.

**Subsistence bird hunting surveys in the Russian Arctic: how indigenous communities deal with Russian hunting legislation**

Prof. Konstantin Klokov  
*St. Petersburg State University*

Hunting of wildlife is widespread across Russia. A recent survey was carried out in major settlements across the Russian Arctic to assess level of take, concentration of hunting activities and species targeted. Interviews were also conducted to assess the importance of wild birds as food source to local people. Surveys show a decrease in the dependence on birds as a food source. At the same time, there is an increased use of snow mobiles and ATVs in the regions, leaving less places in the region where there is little or no hunting pressure. Waterfowl such as geese are the prime targets for hunters in the Russian Arctic. Management and regulation of hunting is inefficient, and affected by limited funding for monitoring work. In many regions the hunting regulations do not fit the local needs. Survey results show that many local people still think that it is acceptable hunt red-listed species if it is for food, so there is also a need for increased CEPA actions in the region. Economic conditions play a role in motivating local people to hunt, while enforcement is often not adequate. The hunting problem is compounded by the lack of trust of hunters towards enforcement agencies and the lack of local hunting organisations to organise and regulate hunter activities. Actions to address these problems will need to focus on the social dimensions, and should involve social and economic surveys to determine the interests of different hunters and their attitudes.

**US regulation of migratory bird sport and subsistence harvest: 100 years of experience**

Dr. Richard Lanctot  
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Region*

An overview of the history of hunting in the United States of America was given, including the drivers of fashion and sport hunting in the early 20th century. In some regions there was hunting at a commercial scale by market hunters for many species and facilitated by new technology and infrastructure, which lead to large declines, such as the Passenger pigeon and Eskimo curlew. Accompanying these overharvesting of natural resources was grounded on belief that resources were in ‘infinite supply’, and compounded by political distractions. Small community groups were the first to start conservation movements among local citizens and within the government in the early 1900s, which have evolved over the last decades (e.g. National Audubon Society). Besides establishment of new wildlife refuges, new legislation was introduced to limit illegal hunting, and set seasons for hunting. Cooperation was also started between Canada and the US to protected migratory birds in 1916. Amendments to legislation were made to include the subsistence harvest of birds by local people. In Alaska, harvest regulations are partitioned into spring-summer, and fall-winter harvest seasons with different criteria. Now in many regions bird hunting is co-managed between federal departments, state departments and indigenous groups, with positive outcome for bird conservation.

**Introduction of governmental action on illegal hunting of birds in China**

Dr. Lu Jun, Mr. Yang Liangliang  
*National Bird Banding Center, People’s Republic of China*

There is a long history of bird hunting in China, with ancient stone tablets indicating bird hunting occurring in many parts of China. Today, birds are hunted using many methods, including light traps,
mist nets, poisons (carbofurans) and shotguns (e.g. ducks). The use of mist nests to trap birds very important in regions such as Guangdong because birds are perceived to damage crops such as rice paddy. Hunting is most widespread in northern China (Bohai Sea area), and southern China (Guizhou, Hunan, Guangdong). People hunt birds for a variety of reasons, but personal use, sport and sale are the top reasons. Birds hunted illegally are often fattened, before being transported to the provinces to be sold in markets for various uses. Documentation of these hunting activities by journalists has triggered strong responses on social media. More recently there have been documentaries and television reports of large scale hunting in China of migratory birds, thus increasing social awareness of this issue. A new law came into force in 2017 that made killing bird species by some methods illegal. The State Forestry Administration (SFA), together with other ministries has taken drastic action to remove mist nets, tackle illegal hunting and investigate hunting incidents across the country. Other actions include expanding the national key protection bird list to include more species, and establishing reserves specifically for protecting birds. There is also an increase in public events that promote bird conservation, including the “Love birds week”. More cooperation with mainstream media has also been an important tool to communication hunting regulations. Recently there has been a provincial hotline for reporting illegal hunting to streamline documentation and action. The New Hope is an initiative that is being set up in different regions that will provide an ecological assessment system that will include reports on hunting.

Illegal harvesting of birds - successes of the end of 21st century and experiences from the Republic of Korea
Dr. Kim Baek-Jun
National Institute of Ecology, Republic of Korea
Biodiversity in the Republic of Korea is high, with approximately 45,295 species, of which 1,961 are vertebrates and 522 are birds. There are 61 endangered bird species that have drastically declined and are now listed in the Korean Red List. The number of endangered wild species has also increased to 246, from 92 in 1989. There are several legal instruments for protected species in Korea through various government agencies such as the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Cultural Heritage Administration and the Korean Forest Service. The main legal instrument is the Wildlife Protection and Management Act 2012, which carry with it various actions to protect wildlife through habitat protection, establishment of measures, conducting of surveys and endangered species restoration projects. Starting in 1992 circular harvesting was allowed in various provinces and cities, but there are several problems with management of harvest. There is still some illegal harvest of wildlife, but there are efforts in place (e.g. inspection system) to reduce this. This has shown signs of success as illegal hunting cases have dropped. Other threats to birds include non-bird friendly bird watching activities, entanglement in discarded fishing gear and feral cats.

Conservation of Shorebirds in Japan
Ms. Kaori Tsujita
Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
An overview of the legal framework for nature conservation and hunting issues in Japan was given, including legislation administered at the prefectural and national level. Laws such as the Wildlife Protection, Control and Hunting Management Act enforces protection of habitats in protected areas through the National government, as well as address hunting and permitted capture of wildlife in Japan through licensing schemes at the prefectural level. These regulate the scale of hunting and possession of hunting gear that is allowed, which has been very effective to minimize poaching. There are prohibitions to keeping and transferring wildlife taken or imported illegally, which allows enforcement along the chain of possession. In wildlife protection areas which cover 10% of Japan’s land area, hunting of wildlife is strictly prohibited. A critical step is to involve citizen groups in species identification training to help people distinguish between species that can be legally harvested and those that are fully protected. An initiative called Monitoring sites 1000 involve numerous sites across different ecosystems where birds are surveyed yearly by researchers and citizen scientists; this initiative has revealed long-term population trends of many migratory shorebirds. There is a request from Japanese researchers to colleagues in Russia for more data on the rates of breeding success and data on breeding sites that would allow researchers to assess the effects of climate change on migratory birds.
Best practices, successes and challenges of intergovernmental cooperation in mitigation of illegal killing of birds in the Mediterranean region under the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS)

Dr. Borja Heredia
UNEP/Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

An overview of the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) was given, with attention drawn to the next Conference of the Parties in Manilla in October 2017. In 2014 at CMS COP11, resolution 11.16 was adopted on the illegal killing of birds, which recognized that this as an important issue in all major flyways. This resolution led to the convening of a task force to address illegal killing, taking and trade (MIKT). The resolution also recognized that there were priority areas where action was needed, and the Mediterranean region was identified for designation as a pilot project. The first meeting in Cairo convened under the task force led to the development of a workplan that addressed a variety of issues including legislation, monitoring, communication and awareness building. The MIKT has since received funding from the European Union Commission for a coordinator that will help facilitate the project. Members of the MIKT include state governments in the Mediterranean region, as well as observers that include countries that are not parties to CMS, but which participate on equal footing. The start of the work for the MIKT was the situation analysis, but this is still lacking in other regions. There is a case study from Italy where forest rangers have been upgraded within the police force which has given this team increased power and resources to prosecute people illegally killing migratory birds. Significant progress has also been made in Malta, which is the only country that still allows spring hunting, including the trapping of Golden Plovers. The baseline data supported by this group is critical to understanding the problem, as well as the motivation behind illegal killing, and the international cooperation as the crime component is increasing within the illegal killing and trade of birds. Ultimately, to tackle illegal killing of birds, there is a need to understand the socioeconomic factors driving it, and in parallel with enforcement, international cooperation and capacity building.

Discussion on terminology, scope and identification of priorities to control illegal hunting of migratory shorebirds in eastern Asia

Moderator: Dr. Borja Heredia, UNEP/Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
Rapporteur: Dr. Jennifer Provencher, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna

Discussion points
- Discussion was had on the appropriate terminology for taking of migratory birds in this region.
- Voiced that in most places harvest and poaching are not good terms.
- Depending on terms used, there were connotations of legality and knowledge of animal numbers (when the reality is that numbers of animal populations not very clearly understood)
- Need to include egg collecting and taking birds for the caged bird trade also needed to be considered.
- Focusing on illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory birds was the name agreed upon for working group.

End of Workshop Day 1 (January 8th, 2017)
January 9, 2017

Overview of the day’s programme
Dr. Jennifer Provencher
AMB Coordinator, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
A brief overview of the breakout group objectives, tasks and the expectations of the day was provided. Outcomes of the group discussions will lead to the developing of the recommendations which would then be presented to the EAAFP MOP9, which directly follows this workshop.

Recap of sessions covered on Day one
Mr. Reidar Hindrum
Chair, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
The importance of international cooperation as highlighted by Minister Tan and Ambassador Endresen was revisited, and its relevance to the context of migratory birds. A flyway approach is need to better conserve migratory birds and although this concept is new to some audience, it is still very important to emphasize at every level the need to make explicit the connections along the flyways as migratory birds connect often very distant regions. The diverse sessions thus far highlighted the story of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper which was not the most uplifting given its rapid decline, but there are successes and positive work for this species in several parts of the region that need to be recognized, as well as progress made in recognising sites in the Yellow Sea as world heritage sites in the Republic of Korea. Good discussions made on the habitat in Southeast Asia during the workshop was possible because of the availability of many experts from across the region. The focus for the day will be on the actions are needed to tackle the illegal hunting of birds in the region, and the need for better coordination of conservation activities. It is hoped that AMBI can continue to work with partners to help secure funding for coordinator positions in each AMBI flyway.

Harvesting of birds in Southeast Asia: causes and challenges for conservation
Mr. Yong Ding Li
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), The Australian National University
A review of bird harvesting in Southeast Asia was given, with explicit reference to migratory birds. Recent information that is becoming increasingly available on social media was highlighted, as are the motivations that drive harvesting of wild birds, most notably for food, the pet trade and religious releases. To a lesser extent, birds are also hunted for sport. Overall, it appears that hunting and collecting of birds in Southeast Asia is underestimated, and there are few studies in recent year to document the magnitude of bird hunting in the region. Conservation efforts targeting migratory birds are also overshadowed by work on native, endemic wildlife species.

Mitigation of illegal harvest of shorebirds and alternative livelihood project in Myanmar
Mr. Pyae Phyo Aung
Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)
Myanmar is a stronghold for wintering Spoon-billed Sandpiper (180-220 birds). The environments where the SBS are found are extremely dynamic and productive regions of the coast, especially in the Irrawaddy delta and on the Gulf of Mottama, and are also important areas for fisheries and agriculture. Hunting of birds occurs here, the most important drivers being hunting for food as coastal communities are often very poor. Hunting techniques include the use of mist nets, chemicals, pesticide and snares. Surveys of bird hunters have examined the drivers for hunting, and showed there are professional, opportunistic ad occasional hunters. Alternative livelihood programs for ex-poachers are being developed; these include fishing, livestock, boats, and making of nets for fishing. There is also monitoring systems in place and educational events are organised, involving religious groups, NGOs, governments. Increased efforts involve engagement with local communities to empower local conservation actions. Currently there is work to promote another RAMSAR site in Myanmar at the Gulf of Mottama, which is critical for shorebirds. The state government are working to obtain baseline data for another SBS site, and will need full support from the Ministry of Environment before they can move forward.

Monitoring of shorebirds in Sumatra and the shorebird hunting problem in Indonesia
Mr. Muhammad Iqbal
South Sumatra Bird Society (KBP-SOS)
The eastern coastline of Sumatra host numerous coastal wetlands important to migratory shorebirds, including four recognised as Important Bird Areas and one as a Ramsar site. Monitoring effort of waterbirds in Sumatra come mostly from the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) and other activities (e.g. World Migratory Bird Day) but is otherwise limited. There are several sites for waterbirds across Sumatra (e.g. Langsa, Percut, Berkey, Cemara, Sembilang, Way Kambas coast) but not all are regularly covered. Facebook and other forms of social media are important tools for documenting birds in some parts of Sumatra. With government support, regular monitoring is only carried out in Sembilang-Berbak but most other initiatives are by local birdwatchers and conservation NGOs. There are several parts of Sumatra where waterbird hunting has been reported (e.g. South Sumatra) but detailed information is limited. Shorebirds, rails and ducks are mostly targeted, as well as passerines such as thrushes. Some sites have more than 5,000 birds reported taken per year. Hunting is the standard term for bird take in the region. Motivation for hunting birds among local people in Sumatra is mostly sale of birds as food in restaurants, and also for personal consumption. Law enforcement and generating conservation awareness are the two major challenges. For guns and mist nets, permits are currently needed. The Great Knot (Calidris tenuirostris) is protected in the region, but the Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) and the Red Knot are not.

Haribon's Migratory bird monitoring and conservation in the Philippines
Mr. Josiah David Quimpo1, Mr. Kahlil B. Panopio2 (presented), Mr. Anson Tagtag2

1Haribon Foundation
2Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines (DENR)

Extensive waterbird monitoring is conducted in the Philippines through the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) and other citizen science initiatives (e.g. “Welcome to the Birds”). Many key sites for water bird conservation are recognised as IBAs, while one (Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands) became a Ramsar site recently. However, these sites face various threats. Manila Bay IBA is threatened by agriculture, reclamation and dumping of waste. At Candaba swamp, illegal collection of wildlife using snares and air guns by hunting enthusiasts is an issue. Unregulated fish corals and electrofishing is a problem at some sites, beside habitat conversion issues. Buguey Wetlands is a new site in 2015 and bird surveys have now been carried out. Across the Philippines, outreach and engagement with schools is being carried out on biodiversity and conservation by Haribon while the DENR has led monitoring work. Overall, hunting of birds is under-reported in the Philippines. Wildlife is protected by the Wildlife Protection and Conservation Act and thus hunting is general illegal, but indigenous people can hunt in recognition of their cultural rights. Facebook is a large source of information on hunting of birds, and initial reviews of the information suggest that ducks are the targeted bird of most hunting in the Philippines. Snipes are also a major target of hunting. Conservation gaps currently include inadequate studies on hunting pressures on water birds and wildlife, management mechanisms for some important wetlands, and inadequate trained people to manage local resources like wildlife.

Migratory bird conservation and monitoring efforts in Vietnam
Mr. Lê Trọng Trái
Viet Nature Conservation Centre

Viet Nature is a national NGO that is also the BirdLife International country partner. The Red River Delta and Mekong River Delta are two important habitat areas for migratory waterbirds. Vietnam joined the EAAFP in 2014 to contribute to the flyway level conservation work and is currently proposing two sites as Partnerships sites. Until the BirdLife Vietnam program transferred to Viet Nature, much has been done to identify wetland sites for conservation, especially IBAs in the Mekong and Red River Delta area although not all are protected. Seven IBAs in Vietnam are Ramsar sites. At IBA sites such as Xuan Thuy, site support groups has been established to carry out training and community activities. Monitoring work of Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Black-faced Spoonbill (Platalea minor) has also been carried out. As there are few birdwatchers in the region, censuses rely on few active volunteers to survey birds. Migratory waterbirds in Vietnam are threatened mainly by hunting and conversion of habitat to shrimp farms and other uses. Hunting is carried out with guns and fish/mist nets to capture birds for food, and is prevalent in the Red River Delta area. From a terminology perspective, hunting tends to be illegal, while collecting can be perceived as illegal or legal. To date there is no study looking specifically on how people using nets to catch birds. However, wetland habitat conversion is a biggest problem in country.
Shorebird hunting mitigation on Sonadia Island, Bangladesh
Mr. Sayam U. Chowdhury
EAAFP Spoon-billed EAAFP Sandpiper Task Force, Bangladesh Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation Project
Spoon-billed Sandpipers are impacted by various threats in the flyway, and hunting and trapping are issues in Bangladesh. From 2009 structured efforts to survey Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Bangladesh were carried out where little work had been done previously. The goal was to assess sites in Bangladesh for SBS during the winter, including the main stopover site at Sonadia. These survey efforts revealed shorebird hunting, and although mostly targeted at larger birds some people claim to have trapped SBS. Of 53 hunters interviewed, 30 were identified as professionals. There was support from the EAAFP SBS task force to intervene and engage with the local communities to examine trends and reduce hunting. This involved working with local communities to support them with alternatives livelihood in exchange for ceasing hunting of birds, and especially shorebirds, while they would monitor the SBS sites once weekly. Village conservation groups were established and worked with the international conservation community. Part of the agreement was that the community would contribute a portion of the profits of their new businesses which then used for conservation campaigns. Hunting mitigation on Sonadia was thus achieved using three approaches – conservation agreement with alternative livelihood support, enforcement by education and involvement of the government, and large scale outreach to target local leaders.

End destination: Migratory bird species observed in trade in Southeast Asia
Ms. Serene Chng
TRAFFIC Southeast Asia
TRAFFIC has conducted monitoring surveys of the wildlife trade in Southeast Asia, especially where there is reported high densities of trade. There has been no concerted effort to look specifically at migratory birds or shorebirds, so all data was incidentally collected through other surveys. Wild bird meat is a major driver of trade in birds, a comment from Myanmar suggested 'consuming wild birds is healthier than domesticated birds'. Peak hunting season lasted from December to February when there are large numbers of migratory birds. Nets, lime and poisonous bait is used. Migratory species traded included ducks and various shorebirds like Wood Sandpiper (Calidris glareola). Trapping for birds appears to be largely indiscriminate, i.e. trappers will keep, consume or sell anything they trap. Hunters and middlemen have reported lower catches in recent years. Demand for caged birds is also a major driver of the bird trade. Market inventories are part of a TRAFFIC project on trade that is aiming to record all species that are traded. While data covers mostly non-migratory species, the surveys were done in July which is does not overlap with the main season for migratory birds in the region. Surveys in Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore shows that migratory species are from a whole range of taxa, particularly passerines and raptors, rather than shorebirds. Targeted hunting efforts on migratory species for bush meat are higher because of the larger densities for birds in the migratory period, whereas trapping for the cage bird trade seems to lack a focal season. Recently TRAFFIC has initiated a songbird crisis summit to identify priorities for the region, and a report is available online.

Lessons from the Guangzhou meeting – updates and how it can inform AMBI Implementation
Mr. Simba Chan
BirdLife International (Asia)
The Yellow-breasted Bunting (Emberiza aureola) is fast becoming an icon for illegal hunting. The breeding range once stretched from Japan to Finland, and it was a superabundant species breeder in subarctic areas. A 94.7% decline occurred between 1980 and 2013. By 2012 the Yellow-breasted Bunting was virtually extinct in Europe, Russia, west, and central Siberia, and Kazakhstan. Unsustainable hunting for food in its wintering range is probably the main cause of decline. BirdLife International recently held an international workshop in Guangzhou to discuss this problem. The workshop focused on priorities to better understanding the status of the species, the development of a conservation strategy for the hunting and other migratory passerines, and to promote cooperation in range states for migratory passerines through a landbird monitoring scheme. Research priorities include studies on migration of the bunting through various methods, surveys at trapping sites, better sharing of data between range states and exploring the feasibility of restoring populations in the Hokkaido region. Conservation priorities include establishing of protected areas for key migration sites, establishment of a task force on Yellow-breasted hunting, increased legal protection, development of national action plans for the species and capacity
building. There is also a need to promote better education and awareness through various campaigns, advocacy and information means. One step that has been taken was to produce posters for restaurants and public areas in China to create better awareness of this problem. Given that many buntings are in decline, there is a need to work with partners across the region to establish standardized monitoring land bird populations.

Breakout group sessions
Based on priorities agreed on earlier sessions, breakout groups (by region) will discuss and work towards consensus on AMBI actions needed to tackle hunting of migratory birds, habitat conservation across the flyway and better coordination of regional efforts.

Breakout group: Habitat Conservation in the northern part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway
Facilitators: Ms. Nicola Crockford, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds/ Dr. Richard Lantctot, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Rapporteur – Dr. Jennifer Provencher, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna

Updates were given on the different regions with reference to the AMBI Work Plan. Besides these updates, a discussion was developed along what future steps will be needed from AMBI. The group was attended by 17 participants representing different countries in this part of the flyway (USA, Russia, China, Republic of Korea, Japan), international organizations and NGOs.

Updates from Russian Federation
- Explore with Russia what actions are needed with partners in the region, Japan and US, to increase communication on the importance on habitat, and ensuring that migratory birds are on the agenda for bilateral meetings.
- Explore the possibility of Russia and local governments about re-establishing protected areas in official Ramsar sites targeting shorebirds in Kamchatka.

Updates from the United States of America
- Follow-up with studies that is tracking shorebirds and ongoing studies on godwits
- There have been exchanges between the US and Russia for training exercises, and there are discussions on supporting more of these opportunities.

Updates from People’s Republic of China
- Jiangsu coast - Work with China to host an AMBI meeting in autumn 2018 in Jiangsu province, consider holding this workshop in conjunction with the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, and within the framework on any joint committee of any IUCN discussions. Potential agenda items that could be covered was Spartina management, best practices for mixed use practices, and working wetlands.
- Luannan and Yalu Jiang - Reach out to NZ/China to explore how AMBI could support work in the Yellow Sea.
- Reach out to the EAAFP task forces and working groups to see how AMBI can support Yellow Sea EAAFP objectives.

Update from Republic of Korea
- AMBI to consider in the future writing a letter to Korea encouraging them to expand areas that include regions that are important to AMBI species, and to consider multiple types of protection.

Group Recommendations for AMBI to pursue
- Support a meeting in China in 2018 focused around Yellow Sea habitat protection and with focus on Tiaozini.
- This should be done in cooperation with the EAAFP Yellow Sea Task Force, Bruce McKinlay (New Zealand)
- Will work together to have meeting sooner, but aim for autumn 2018.

**Breakout group: Habitat Conservation in the Southeast Asia region of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway**

Facilitators – Dr. Barend van Gemerden, BirdLife International/ Dr. Taej Mundkur, Wetlands International
Rapporteur – Mr. Sayam Chowdhury, EAAFP Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force

The list of existing initiatives and frameworks for shorebird conservation was reviewed by the group (Ramsar, CMS, Bilateral agreements, ASEAN Heritage Park programme, IBA/KBA, EAAFP, Marine Protected Areas, ASAP), in relation to AMBI’s role in facilitating these initiatives. A list of short-, mid- and long-term steps were identified for the Southeast Asian region, with some key recommendations. The group was attended by 27 participants representing different Southeast Asian countries (Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh), international organizations and national NGOs.

**Existing Conservation Initiatives and frameworks**

- Most powerful instruments to encourage the governments to designate an important shorebird site as a protected area: RAMSAR, ASEAN Heritage Park, IBA (Philippines), EAAFP sites, Marine Protected Area
- It’s important to designate a site a national protected area which could be further strengthen through international designations such as RAMSAR.

**AMBI’s role to facilitate these initiatives**

- International experts and higher level officials can support local NGOs in setting up new PAs though visits and meetings with the governments, this could be also done through local embassies.
- Weak enforcement in Vietnam
- In case of Thailand (Pak Tale) BCST is still talking to the local salt pan owners to rent or buy the land. Total cost of the land is USD 300k

**Short-term first steps that need to be taken within 1 year**

**The public**

- Education and awareness on intertidal habitats
- Encourage embassies to observe internationally recognized days such as World Wetland Day, World Migratory Bird Day
- Site-based campaign through AMBI
- Produce films, leaflets, brochures etc. to strengthen public awareness and support

**Conservation NGOs/Academia**

- Identify key sites based on evidence
- Capacity building of local NGOs through various trainings and workshops on survey methods, data analysis, statistics through AMBI expertise

**Government**

- International recognition of intertidal habitats bought to the governments by higher level international delegates through AMBI

**Short-term first steps that need to be taken within 1-5 year**

**The public**
- Education and awareness on intertidal habitats
- Encourage embassies to observe internationally recognized days such as World Wetland Day, World Migratory Bird Day
- Site-based campaign through AMBI
- Produce films, leaflets, brochures etc. to strengthen public awareness and support

**Conservation NGOs/Academia**
- Determine economic value of migratory shorebirds
- Ecosystem services of intertidal mudflats
- Capacity building of local NGOs through various trainings and workshops on survey methods, data analysis, statistics through AMBI expertise
- Improved data sharing between government and NGOs

**Government**
- National partnership / national committees on intertidal mudflat conservation
- Using national red list to implement site or species based conservation

**Steps that need to be taken beyond 5 year**

**The public**
- Education and awareness on intertidal habitats
- Encourage embassies to observe internationally recognized days such as World Wetland Day, World Migratory Bird Day
- Site-based campaign through AMBI
- Produce films, leaflets, brochures etc. to strengthen public awareness and support

**Conservation NGOs/Academia**
- Determine economic value of migratory shorebirds
- Ecosystem services of intertidal mudflats
- Capacity building of local NGOs through various trainings and workshops on survey methods, data analysis, statistics through AMBI expertise
- Improved data sharing between government and NGOs

**Government**
- Mainstream the wetland management plans
- International recognition of intertidal mudflats facilitated by international bodies (e.g. AMBI)
- Building awareness and education of intertidal mudflats

**Country-based site protections and actions needed**

**Bangladesh**
- Designating Sonadia Island as a RAMSAR site
- Designating Sandwip as a nationally protected area

**Thailand**
- Help BCST to generate funding in order to buy off Pak Thale with a cost of USD 300k

**Vietnam**
- NGOs sharing data with government
- Improved an enhanced enforcement

**Recommendations during discussion**
- Urgently developing a list of priority sites that need to be protected
**Breakout group: Illegal hunting, taking and trade in the flyway**

Facilitators – Mr. Simba Chan, *BirdLife International (Asia)/ Dr. Borja Heredia, Convention for Migratory Species (CMS)*

Rapporteur – Ms. Vivian Fu, *Hong Kong Bird Watching Society*

The discussion highlighted the need for a dedicated working group to look into the issue of illegal hunting, take and trade. Further discussions clarified the terminology, scope and geographic region for such a working group. The various terminology that denote bird take, the associated connotations and implications were discussed and reviewed by breakout group members and a provisional name for this working group focussed on this was agreed upon by all members. (See Appendix B for draft terms of reference written by this group. See Appendix C for the revised version with the larger EAAFP partners for submission to the EAAFP MOP9). The group was attended by 25 participants representing different countries, international organizations and NGOs.

- Terminology:
  - It was agreed to name the issue of illegal killing of birds as
    - “Illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory birds (IHB)”

- It was considered that the issue of illegal hunting of birds had a significant impact on the populations of the species affected

- The groups of species recognized as being affected by illegal hunting are
  - shorebirds
  - waterbirds
  - landbirds
  - raptors

- Scope
  - The group recommend the establishment of a working group on illegal hunting of waterbirds under the EAAFP

- Composition
  - The group should be integrated by representatives of governments, international organizations, NGOs and hunting organizations

- Geographic scope
  - EAAF with the possibility to invite South Asian countries as observers to the group

- Name
  - The group agreed to name this body as “**Working group on illegal hunting of Birds**”

- Proposed activities of the working group:
  - Undertake a situation analysis on IHB in the region
  - Undertake an analysis of national and international legislation
  - Socio-economic studies on the drivers of hunting
  - Propose alternative livelihoods
  - ASEAN cooperation
  - Resource mobilization
  - Awareness raising
  - Experience sharing

- The group acknowledged the existence of the Asian Trade Songbird specialist group under IUCN
- The group acknowledged organizations such as CMS and IUCN as key players in the field of IHB, in particular to cover other taxonomic groups such as landbirds and raptors.

**Closing address by CAFF, Mr. Reidar Hindrum**

*Chair, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF),*

**Closing address by National Parks Board, Mr. Wong Tuan Wah**

*Group director for conservation, National Parks Board, Singapore*
## Appendix A - List of participants attending the AMBI-EAAF workshop (by order of last name)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Given Name</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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Proposed TERMS OF REFERENCE for an International TASK FORCE to address ILLEGAL HUNTING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY BIRDS in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway

1. Background and purpose

A key recommendation of the Arctic Council Working Group on the Conservation Arctic Flora and Fauna’s (CAFF) Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI) workshop in Singapore (96 participants from 25 countries) was to establish an international working group to consider illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory waterbirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Workshop participants included many of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership’s (EAAFP) Partners including the governments of: Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Russia and the USA, as well as CMS, BirdLife International, Wetlands International, WCS, WWT and WWF.

It was noted at the AMBI meeting that many countries in the region have experience in significantly reducing illegal hunting, while other countries are becoming active in addressing this issue. Hence, there is an opportunity for the exchange of experience and knowledge in the region that will address shared priorities related to eliminating illegal mortality of migratory bird species.

The creation of such a task force assists with the implementation of the EAAFP decision 7.9 of its 8th Meeting of Partners in 2015 as well as meeting objectives under the AMBI work plan 2015-2019, of which EAAFP is a project partner, as approved by the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials. It is also in line with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Resolution 11.16 on “The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds” adopted in 2014 by the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP).

2. Goal

To provide a platform for partners to work together, and to exchange experience and knowledge with the ultimate goal of taking action to significantly reduce the impact of illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory waterbirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

3. Role

The role of the Task Force are to:

- Facilitate exchange of experience and knowledge, and coordinate efforts aimed towards combating illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory waterbirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.
- Work with partners to develop guidelines, action plans and other recommendations to respond to illegal hunting, taking and trade issues within the flyway, and other specific problems as necessary, as well as encourage its implementation on the flyway.

4. Scope

- The Task Force will cover all migratory bird taxa and the geographic region as covered by the EAAFP.
- The task force will explore with CMS and other frameworks to extend the scope to other migratory bird species and geographic regions. Cooperation with CMS would be valuable, noting that 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.
5. Remit

The Task Force will:

a) Support and guide a review on the status of hunting regulations related to migratory birds in the EAAF;

b) Support and guide a situation analysis on illegal hunting, taking and trade in the flyway, building on the existing work in the Mediterranean, Europe and the Middle East;

c) Stimulate internal and external communication and exchange of information, experience and best practices;

d) Promote and facilitate implementation of relevant decisions and plans adopted in the framework of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) or other frameworks, especially the CMS, AMBI (under CAFF) and Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements;

e) Set priorities for its actions and facilitate implementation;

f) Assist in resource mobilization for priority actions including cooperation with ASEAN;

g) Monitor the implementation of the relevant decisions and plans and their effectiveness and regularly submit progress reports to the governing bodies of participating MEAs, including via an intergovernmental ‘scoreboard’ to indicate progress on eliminating illegal hunting, taking and trade of birds;

h) Strengthen regional and international networks with experience on illegal take and trade of wildlife (ex. ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network); and

i) Liaise and share experience with the CMS Mediterranean Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade Task Force (MIKT).

6. Membership

The Task Force membership will be comprised of representatives of EAAFP partners with interest in the work of the task force. This includes relevant government institutions in the field of environment, game management, law enforcement and judiciary in the EAAF. The task force can also involve observers from the Secretariats of the participating MEAs and frameworks.

The following representatives will also be invited to contribute to the Task Force:

a) Representatives of Governments and relevant organizations elsewhere in the EAAF and beyond that wish to support the work of the Task Force;

b) Representatives of the AEWA, CMS Mediterranean Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade Task Force (MIKT), CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group and Flyways Working Group, and other groups with relevant experience;

c) Representatives from relevant Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements;

d) Representatives from Relevant IUCN specialist groups;

e) Academic institutions, the hunting community, NGOs and other stakeholders, as relevant; and

f) Relevant independent experts.

7. Governance

• An interim chair, vice-chair and steering group will be formed from the consultation group during the EAAFP MOP9.

• Ultimately, the Task Force will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from amongst its members.

• The Task Force will operate by seeking consensus, as much as possible, among the group.

• The Task Force will operate in accordance with a modus operandi, which shall be established once the Task Force has been convened.

8. Operation

Funding permitting, a coordinator will be appointed by the Task Force with the following functions:

• Organize the meetings of the Task Force and prepare the background documents;
• Maintain and moderate the Task Force communication platform (website and intranet);
• Facilitate implementation of decisions of the Task Force;
• Facilitate fundraising and resource mobilization in coordination with the EAAFP finance Committee;
• Maintain an online workspace within the Task Force’s website; and
• Facilitate engagement with stakeholders within and beyond the Task Force.

Meetings of the Task Force will be convened at appropriate intervals, as considered necessary and funding permitting.

The Task Force, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, subject to the availability of funds, will organize regional workshops in areas found to have high levels of illegal hunting to assist in developing appropriate local or regional solutions.
Appendix C – Terms of Reference for an interim Task Force to address illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory waterbirds in the EAAFP proposed to the EAAFP during the MOP 9 and accepted by the parties.

The following terms of reference were adapted from the AMBI EAAFP workshop recommendations (January 8-9, 2017) through consultation with EAAFP partners. The interim task force was approved by the EAAFP on January 15, 2017.

http://www.eaaflyway.net/wordpress/new/thepartnership/partners/meetingofpartners/MoP9/EAAFP_MOP9_Agenda.5_TOR_Task-Force_Illegal_Hunting_adopted.pdf

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The Task Force membership will be comprised of representatives of EAAFP partners with interest in the work of the task force. This includes relevant government institutions in the field of environment, game management, law enforcement and judiciary in the EAAF. The task force can also involve observers from the Secretariats of the participating MEAs and frameworks.

The following representatives will also be invited to contribute to the Task Force:

a) Representatives of Governments and relevant organizations elsewhere in the EAAF and beyond that wish to support the work of the Task Force;

b) Representatives of the AEWA, CMS Mediterranean Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade Task Force (MIKT), CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group and Flyways Working Group, and other groups with relevant experience;

c) Representatives from relevant Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements;

d) Representatives from Relevant IUCN specialist groups;

e) Academic institutions, the hunting community, NGOs and other stakeholders, as relevant; and

f) Relevant independent experts.

7. Governance

- An interim chair, vice-chair and steering group will be formed from the consultation group during the EAAFP MOP9.

- Ultimately, the Task Force will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from amongst its members.

- The Task Force will operate by seeking consensus, as much as possible, among the group.
• The Task Force will operate in accordance with a modus operandi, which shall be established once the Task Force has been convened.

8. Operation

Funding permitting, a coordinator will be appointed by the Task Force with the following functions:
• Organize the meetings of the Task Force and prepare the background documents;
• Maintain and moderate the Task Force communication platform (website and intranet);
• Facilitate implementation of decisions of the Task Force;
• Facilitate fundraising and resource mobilization in coordination with the EAAFP finance Committee;
• Maintain an online workspace within the Task Force’s website; and
• Facilitate engagement with stakeholders within and beyond the Task Force.

Meetings of the Task Force will be convened at appropriate intervals, as considered necessary and funding permitting.

The Task Force, in collaboration with Parties and relevant international organizations, subject to the availability of funds, will organize regional workshops in areas found to have high levels of illegal hunting to assist in developing appropriate local or regional solutions.
Appendix D - List of Southeast Asian and South China sites of known importance to AMBI-listed priority species

During the meeting the sites of SE Asian were discussed in a workshop breakout group. During the workshop it was also agreed that the meeting notes should include sites in South China. This is because many of the sites in Southern Chain are not in the Yellow Sea, nor SE Asia, and thus dropped out in the current framework of AMBI discussions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Names of site (refer to WWF prioritisation report)</th>
<th>AMBI priority species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Delta, Barisal Division</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hakaluki Haors, Sylhet Division</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hasher Char, Chittagong Division</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sonadia &amp; Moheshkali Island, Chittagong Division</td>
<td>Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teknaf Coast, Chittagong Division</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Koh Kong (Kaoh Kapik), Koh Kong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Banyasin Delta South Sumatra</td>
<td>Present</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Benoa Bay, Bali</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kuala Tungal – Tanjung Djabung Coast, Jambi</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pesisir Timur Pantai Sumatera Utara North Sumatra</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pulau Komolom, Papua</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sekopong Bay, Lampung</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sungai Cemara Beach, Jambi</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ujung Pangkah, Java East</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wasur National Park, Papua</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Bako-Buntal Bay Kuching, Sarawak</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baton, Belawai Mukah, Sarawak</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kuala Sadong – Kuala Lapor Samarahan, Sarawak</td>
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<td>Kuala Samarahan – Kuala Sadong Samarahan, Sarawak</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mersing Estuary/Mersing Bay Johor, Peninsula</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North-central Selangor Coast Selangor, Peninsula</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pulau Bruit Mukah, Sarawak</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sejinkat Ashponds Kuching, Sarawak</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sungai Nibong, Pulau Pinang Perak, Peninsula</td>
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<td>Tanjung Situngkat Temburong, Sarawak</td>
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<td>Tanjung Tokong Mudflats Perak, Peninsula</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Teluk Air Tawar-Kuala Muda Coast Perak, Peninsula</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>Inner Gulf of Martaban Yangon, Bago</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Irrawaddy Delta, Ayeyarwady</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Moyingyi Bird Sanctuary, Bago</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papua New</td>
<td>Bensbach-Bula Coast Western</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>Kikori Delta Gulf</td>
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<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Cebu-Mactan Cebu</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Manila Bay Luzon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Olango Island Cebu</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Bo Muang/Tha Maprao, Krabi</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inner Gulf of Thailand Central</td>
<td>Present</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mouth of the Prasae River, Rayong</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pattani Bay, Pattani</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Can Gio, Ho Chi Minh City</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hoa Trinh, Ben Tre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nghia Hung, Nam Dinh</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tan Thanh/Go Cong, Tien Giang</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thai Thuy, Thai Binh</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tien Lang District, Hai Phong</td>
<td>Present</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Xuan Thuy Ramsar Site, Thai Binh</td>
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<tr>
<td>South China¹</td>
<td>Minjiang Estuary, Fujian</td>
<td>Present</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quanzhou Bay, Fujian Province</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay, Hong Kong</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Xitou, Guangdong Province</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Leizhou, Guangdong Province</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Beihai, Guangxi Province</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beilun Estuary, Guangxi Province</td>
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¹ The sites in South China were added after the workshop as this region was recognized as a gap in geography in the AMBI workplan during the workshop discussions. These sites were recommended for consideration by BirdLife International and the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society based on the 2013-2016 data from the China Coastal Waterbird Census.
### Appendix E - Titles of accepted posters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors and Affiliations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1   | Mapping the Global Environmental Governance Framework for Conserving Migratory Shorebirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway | Eduardo Gallo-Cajiao\(^1, 2\), Tiffany Morrison\(^3\), Pedro Fidelman\(^4\) and Richard Fuller\(^1\)  
\(^1\) Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Queensland, Australia  
\(^2\) School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management, The University of Queensland, Australia  
\(^3\) Australia Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, James Cook University, Townsville, QLD 4811, Australia  
\(^4\) School of Government and International Relations, Griffith University, QLD, Australia |
| 2   | Tracking spoon-billed sandpiper migration using the world's smallest satellite tag | Nigel Clark\(^1\), Guy Anderson\(^2\), Rhys Green\(^3\), Baz Hughes\(^3\), Rebecca Lee\(^1\), Qing Chang\(^4\), J Li\(^5\), David Melville\(^6\), E Weston\(^2\), K Leung\(^7\), Evgeny Syroechkovskiy\(^8\) and Christoph Zöckler\(^9\)  
\(^1\) British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, UK  
\(^2\) RSPB Centre for Conservation Science, RSPB, Sandy, Bedfordshire, UK  
\(^3\) Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, UK  
\(^4\) School of Biology, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing, China  
\(^5\) SBS in China, Shanghai, China  
\(^6\) The Ornithological Society of New Zealand, PO Box 834, Nelson 7040, New Zealand  
\(^7\) WWF Hong Kong, Mai Po Nature Reserve, Hong Kong, China  
\(^8\) All-Russian Institute for Ecology, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of Russian Federation, Moscow, Russia, and Birds Russia, Moscow, Russia  
\(^9\) Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, c/o ArcCona Consulting, Cambridge, UK |
| 3   | The weakest link in the chain? : Conserving intertidal migratory shorebird wintering/staging sites in Peninsular Malaysia | Yeap Chin Aik\(^1\), Balu Perumal\(^1\) and Sonny Wong\(^1\)  
\(^1\) Malaysian Nature Society, JKR 641 Jalan Kelantan, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| 4   | Conservation of migratory waterbirds along EAAF: All started from Mai Po, Hong Kong | Xianji Wen\(^1\) and Fion Cheung\(^1\)  
\(^1\) World Wildlife Fund Hong Kong, Kwai Chung, New Territories, Hong Kong SAR, China |
| 5   | Efforts by the United States and Russia to implement the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative’s EAAF Plan Objectives | Richard Lanctot\(^1\), Laura Phillips\(^2\), Casey Burns\(^3\), Dan Ruthrauff\(^4\), Jim Johnson\(^1\), Benjamin Lagasse\(^5\), Rebecca Bentzen\(^6\), Joe Liebezeit\(^6\), Steve Zack\(^6\), Martin Robards\(^6\), Steve Kendall\(^7\), Chris Latty\(^7\), Stephen Brown\(^8\), Lilli Naves\(^9\), Alexei Dondua\(^10\), Pavel Tomkovich\(^11\), Diana Solovyeva\(^12\) and Olga Valchuk\(^13\)  
\(^1\) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management, Anchorage, Alaska, USA  
\(^2\) National Park Service, Denali National Park and Preserve, Denali Park, Alaska, USA  
\(^3\) Bureau of Land Management, Renewable Resources Branch, Anchorage, Alaska, USA  
\(^4\) U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center, Anchorage, Alaska, USA  
\(^5\) University of Colorado Denver, Denver, Colorado, USA  
\(^6\) Wildlife Conservation Society, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA  
\(^7\) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA  
\(^8\) Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, Manomet, Massachusetts, USA  
\(^9\) Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, Anchorage, Alaska, USA  
\(^10\) Beringia National Park, Providenia, Russia  
\(^11\) Zoological Museum, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia  
\(^12\) Institute of Biological Problems of the North, Magadan, Portovaya Str., Russia  
\(^13\) Institute of Biology and Soil Science, Russian Academy of Science, Vladivostok, Russia |
<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wildlife Conservation Society: Arctic Beringia and Russia programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Jonathan Slaght¹, Martin Robards¹, Rebecca Bentzen¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>¹Wildlife Conservation Society (Russia Program), Bronx, NY 10460, USA</td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-breeding site fidelity and migratory connectivity of <em>arcticola</em> Dunlin revealed by band resightings</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Benjamin Lagasse¹, Richard Lanctot², Chung-Yu Chiang³, Yoshimitsu Shigeta⁴ and Mike Wunder¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>¹Department of Integrative Biology, University of Colorado Denver, Denver, CO 80204; <a href="mailto:benjamin.lagasse@ucdenver.edu">benjamin.lagasse@ucdenver.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>²United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, AK 99503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>³Taiwan Wader Study Group, Taichung City, Taiwan 40767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>⁴Yamashina Institute for Ornithology, Abiko, Japan 270-1145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Save Spoon-billed Sandpiper Project: Secure habitat for Spoon-billed Sandpiper and other migratory shorebirds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ayuwat Jearwattanakanok¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>¹Bird Conservation Society of Thailand, Bangkhen, Muang, Nonthaburi 11000, Thailand</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Capacity building of local civil society organizations and collaboration with government to tackle illegal hunting problem in South China</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Vivian Fu¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>¹The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Cheung Sha Wan, Hong Kong SAR, China</td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Activities on implementation of AMBI in Russia: Updates from the north of the Flyway</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Yury Gerasimov¹, Evgeny Syroechkovskiy², Vladimir Yakovlev³, Nikolai Yakushev³, Vladimir V. Pronkevich⁴, Alexander Matsyna⁵, Sofia Rozenfeld⁶</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>¹Kamchatka Branch of Pacific Institute of Geography, Petropavlovsk Kamchatski, Kamchatskaya Oblast', Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>²Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), Akureyri, Iceland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>³Birds Russia, Moscow, Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>⁴Institute of Water and Ecological Problems, Khabarovsk, 680063, Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>⁵Ecological Center “Dront”, Nizhni Novgorod, Russia</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>⁶A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Moscow, 117071, Russia</td>
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Appendix F - Save the date for the AMBI EAAF Workshop

Conserving Arctic-breeding migratory birds in the East Asian Australasian Flyway

You are invited to join the Arctic Council's Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) East Asian-Australasian Flyway group including representatives from Arctic Council and observer states, partners and invited experts, to discuss:

- AMBI workplan implementation,
- mitigation of unsustainable hunting,
- identification and conservation of important habitats,
- especially as they pertain to the Spoon-billed Sandpiper

January 8-10, 2017
Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve
Republic of Singapore

More information to come. Contact: Ding Li Yang, DingLiYang
AMBI East Asian-Australasian coordinator