

East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership

Fourth Meeting of Partners, Songdo, Republic of Korea 23 and 24 February 2010



Version 3 (see page 2): Final

AGENDA DOCUMENTS

List of Documents

Number*	Title or description	Status
1.3	Provisional Agenda for the 4 th Meeting of Partners	See Note 1
1.4	Attendance list and record of apologies	See Note 2
1.5	Minutes of the 3 rd Meeting of Partners	See Note 3
2.1	Overview reporting: Brief report from the Secretariat	See Note 4
2.2	Brief update from EAAFP Working Groups	See Note 4
3.0	Summary of Partner reports submitted to Secretariat	See Note 2
3.1	Objective 1: Develop the Flyway Site Network	See Note 4
3.2	Objective 2: Enhance communication, education and public awareness	See Note 4
3.3	Objective 3: Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, knowledge and information exchange	See Note 4
3.4	Objective 4: Build capacity to manage waterbirds and their habitats	See Note 4
3.5	Objective 5: Develop flyway-wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds	See Note 4
3.6	Reports from break-out sessions: Objective 1 through to Objective 5	See Note 2
4.1	Partner applications under consideration; potential Partners	See Note 4
4.2	Response to requests for elevating the status of the Partnership	See Note 4
5.1	Process for submission and approval of projects for Partnership funding	See Note 4
5.2	Project proposals for possible Partnership funding support	See Note 4
6.1	Review of operation of the Secretariat	See Note 5
6.2	Delegation of authority between the Chair and Chief Executive	See Note 5
6.3	Terms of Reference and appointment of the Management Committee	See Note 5
6.4	Criteria for allocating funding sponsorship to attend Meetings of Partners	See Note 5
6.5	Secretariat's Work Plan 2010: to be revised in line with meeting outcomes	See Note 5
6.6	Secretariat's Budget 2010: to be revised in line with the workplan and the meeting outcomes	See Note 5

Notes regarding Status:

1. Draft compiled with input from Partners before first circulation to all Partners on 12 January 2010, and subsequently. To be finalised and adopted at start of the 4th Meeting of Partners.
2. Part or all of this document will be compiled and presented to participants during MoP4.
3. This is the Report of the 3rd Meeting, posted on the EAAFP website in 2009.
4. Final or near final content, with the possibility that some late contributions or new information recently to hand will be provided to participants before or during MoP4.
5. To be provided following the Management Committee meeting to be held on 22 February 2010.

* includes or consists of component papers

List of changes made to version 2, now present in (final) version 3:

1. Document 3.4.1 (National Partnership workshops – Myanmar, Thailand) has now been provided.
2. Document 3.5.1 (Yellow Sea Ecoregion Collaboration) has now been provided.
3. Minor changes have been made in the following documents:
 - Monitoring: Monitoring sites 1000 (Japan) (Document 3.3.3)
 - Monitoring : East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Inventory Initiative (Doc. 3.3.5)

List of changes made to version 1, now present in versions 2 and 3:

1. Extra numbering has been added to the Agenda and to the titles of Agenda Documents.
2. Due to similarity of scope, Agenda Documents 3.2.1 and 3.2.5 have been placed adjacent in the Agenda. Document 3.2.5 will be discussed immediately after 3.2.1. Numbering of these documents remains unchanged.
3. Document 2.2.3 (report of the Anatidae Working Group) has now been provided.
4. Minor changes to text, some quite minimal, have been made in the following documents:
 - Record of Apologies (Document 1.4)
 - Brief report from the Secretariat (Document 2.1)
 - Seabird Working Group (Document 2.2.4)
 - Current status of Flyway Site Network etc (Document 3.1.1)
 - Procedure for Secretariat on new nominations etc (Document 3.1.2)
 - Translation of partnership documents etc (Document 3.2.1)
 - Further development of the Flyway Partnership website (Document 3.2.1)
 - Use of the reporting template: how to get best results (Document 3.3.7)
 - Facilitating development and activities of national partnerships (Document 3.4.2)
 - Endorsement of action plans for threatened waterbirds (Document 3.5.2)
 - International Action Plans (BirdLife – Asia report) (Document 3.5.3)
 - Process for submission and approval of projects (Document 5.1)
 - Flyway Partnership Administration (Documents 6.1 to 6.6)

1.3 Provisional Agenda for the 4th Meeting of Partners

Explanatory notes:

Some minor changes have been made since earlier versions were circulated to Partners. This document remains as draft status until adopted by the 4th Meeting (Agenda item 1.3). A version without the program/schedule can be provided by the EAAFP Secretariat. Also downloadable at www.eaaflyway.net/reports.php

Action required by Partners:

To adopt the Agenda after any final modifications permitted by the Meeting Chair.

Day One: Tuesday 23 February

1. Introductory session (9:00 – 9:30am)		
1.1	Opening speeches: Host Country and Host City	
1.2	Appointment of Meeting chairperson and rapporteurs	
1.3	Approval of the Provisional Agenda for the 4 th Meeting of Partners	Document 1.3
1.4	Welcome to Partners (existing and new) and Admittance of Observers	Document 1.4
1.5	Approval of Minutes of the 3 rd Meeting of Partners	Document 1.5
2. Overview reporting (9:30 – 10:30am)		
2.1	Brief report from the Secretariat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduce the Secretariat staff ▪ Overview of activities in 2009 including financial matters ▪ Review of matters arising from 3rd Meeting of Partners 	Document 2.1
2.2	Brief update from EAAFP Working Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crane ▪ Shorebird ▪ Anatidae ▪ Seabird ▪ Avian Influenza 	Document 2.2 & component papers 2.2.1 to 2.2.6
Morning Tea (10:30 – 11:00am) : served outside the meeting room		
3. Moving forward on Flyway Partnership activities (11:00am – 12:30pm)		
Brief reports on 2009 and focus on plans for 2010		
3.0	Summary of Partner reports submitted to Secretariat (using the template)	Document 3.0
3.1 Objective 1: Develop the Flyway Site Network		
3.1.1	Current status of Flyway Site Network and recent or proposed nominations	Doc. 3.1.1
3.1.2	Procedure for Secretariat on processing and formalising new nominations	Doc. 3.1.2
3.1.3	Improving access to information on Network sites	Doc. 3.1.3
3.2 Objective 2: Enhance communication, education and public awareness		
3.2.1	Translation of partnership documents: status and gaps	Doc. 3.2.1
3.2.5	Translation and regular dissemination of relevant scientific & other articles	Doc. 3.2.5
3.2.2	Further development of the Flyway Partnership website www.eaaflyway.net	Doc. 3.2.2
3.2.3	Proposed global workshop on waterbird flyways	Doc. 3.2.3
3.2.4	Proposed EAAFP side event at CBD CoP10, Japan	Doc. 3.2.4
Break-out session:		
Small group discussions on Objectives 1 & 2 – opportunities for 2010 (45 minutes)		
	(reporting back will be on Day 2, first session)	
Lunch (12:30 – 1:30pm): Buffet served in the hotel restaurant on the 19th Floor		

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3. (continued) Moving forward on Flyway Partnership activities (1:30 – 3:30pm)		
3.3 Objective 3: Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, knowledge and information exchange		
3.3.1	Monitoring: Asian Waterbird Census; launch of 20 Year Review	Doc. 3.3.1
3.3.2	Monitoring: Shorebirds; other groups	Doc. 3.3.2
3.3.3	Monitoring: Monitoring sites 1000 (Japan)	Doc. 3.3.3
3.3.4	Monitoring: proposed monitoring of site/habitat condition	Doc. 3.3.4
3.3.5	Monitoring : East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Inventory Initiative	Doc. 3.3.5
3.3.6	Coordination and management of waterbird marking, Flyway-wide	Doc. 3.3.6
3.3.7	Use of the reporting template: how to get best results	Doc. 3.3.7
3.4 Objective 4: Build capacity to manage waterbirds and their habitats		
3.4.1	National Partnership workshops – Myanmar, Thailand	Doc. 3.4.1
3.4.2	Facilitating development and activities of national partnerships	Doc. 3.4.2
3.5 Objective 5: Develop flyway-wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds		
3.5.1	Yellow Sea Ecoregion Collaboration	Doc. 3.5.1
3.5.2	Endorsement of action plans for threatened waterbirds: EAAFP role	Doc. 3.5.2
3.5.3	International Action Plans (BirdLife – Asia report)	Doc. 3.5.3
3.5.4	International Action Plan for Spoon-billed Sandpiper	Doc. 3.5.4
3.5.5	International Action Plan for Scaly-sided Merganser	Doc. 3.5.5
Break-out session:		
Small group discussions on Objectives 3, 4 & 5 – opportunities for 2010 (60 minutes)		
(reporting back will be on Day 2, first session)		
Afternoon Tea (3:30 – 4:00pm)		
4. Building the Partnership (4:00 – 5:00pm)		
4.1	Partner applications under consideration; potential Partners	Document 4.1
4.2	Response to requests for elevating the status of the Partnership	Document 4.2
Transfer to Secretariat Office, GetPearl Tower, Songdo (shuttle bus or by subway to Technopark)		
Opening Ceremony of the Secretariat Office (6:00 – 6:30pm): GetPearl Tower Lobby, then 19F		
Dinner (7:00 – 9:00pm): at The Terrace Restaurant, GetPearl Tower 20th Floor		

Day Two: Wednesday 24 February

3. (continued) Moving forward on Flyway Partnership activities (9:00 – 10:30am)		
6 Reports from break-out sessions		
3.6	Objective 1 through to Objective 5	Document 3.6
Morning Tea (10:30 – 11:00am)		
5. Specific proposed projects and funding required (11:00am – 12:30pm)		
5.1	Process for submission and approval of projects for Partnership funding	Document 5.1
5.2	Project proposals for possible Partnership funding support	Document 5.2
Lunch (12:30 – 1:30pm): Buffet served in the hotel restaurant on the 19th Floor		

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6. Flyway Partnership Administration (1:30 – 3:30pm)		
6.1	Review of operation of the Secretariat	Document 6.1
6.2	Delegation of authority between the Chair and Chief Executive	Document 6.2
6.3	Terms of Reference and appointment of the Management Committee	Document 6.3
6.4	Criteria for allocating funding sponsorship to attend Meetings of Partners	Document 6.4
6.5	Secretariat's Work Plan 2010: revision in line with meeting outcomes	Document 6.5
6.6	Secretariat's Budget 2010: revision in line with workplan, meeting outcomes	Document 6.6
Afternoon Tea (3:30 – 4:00pm)		
7. Other Business (4:00 – 4:30pm)		
8. Next Meeting		
9. Meeting Close (5:00pm)		

Side Events (not part of the formal Meeting of Partners):

- Monday 22 February, 12:00 – 15:00 at the Secretariat Office, GetPearl Tower, Songdo:
Management Committee of the EAAFP (closed meeting)
- Thursday 25 February, 09:00 – 15:30 departing from and returning to Songdo Park Hotel:
Field Trip to Ganghwa Island (open to all registered participants of MoP4)
- Friday 26 February, 09:00 – 12:00 (TBC) at Secretariat Office, GetPearl Tower, Songdo:
Spoon-billed Sandpiper Meeting (by invitation unless advised otherwise)

Note: this version of the document is now the version on the EAAFP website.

1.4 Attendance list and record of apologies

Explanatory note:

This document is provided to inform the participants.

Attendance List

A provisional attendance list may be provided to participants at the start of the Meeting based on those who have registered with the EAAFP Secretariat before the Meeting.

A final attendance list may be provided during the Meeting based on those who confirmed their registration during the Meeting.

This final list will be included in the Report (Minutes) of the 4th Meeting of Partners.

Record of Apologies

Notes provided by the EAAFP Secretariat

At the time of writing, apologies and best wishes had been received from five Partners:

- Singapore
- People's Republic of China
- FAO
- Wild Bird Society of Japan
- IUCN

The Scientific Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention will meet through the week of 22 February; this meeting normally involves any Ramsar Secretariat staff who would otherwise potentially represent this Partner at EAAFP MoPs. However, Ramsar will be represented at MoP4 by Dr Taej Mundkur (Wetlands International).

A record of communication (3 pages) between the Secretariat and the Partners on Apologies is available from the Chief Executive on request.

Note that the costs of many participants at MoP3 were covered or reduced due to their attendance at the Ramsar Conference immediately beforehand. This enabled quite a few additional participants, especially NGOs, to attend than perhaps normally would be the case.

Action required by Partners:

To ask the Secretariat to follow-up with absent Partners by sending the draft Report of the Meeting and offering to discuss any issues regarding ongoing involvement in EAAFP

1.5 Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of Partners

Explanatory notes:

This document is provided to inform the participants.

The document *Report of the third Meeting of Partners* as provided on the website of the EAAFP at www.eaaflyway.net/reports.php is the official record of proceedings (minutes) of the 3rd Meeting.

It comprises 13 pages, so to save paper, participants are encouraged to download and review the file. A small number of printed copies may be made available at the 4th Meeting of Partners.

The *Report of the third Meeting of Partners* remains as draft status until adopted by the 4th Meeting of Partners (Agenda item 1.5).

Action required by Partners:

To adopt the *Report of the third Meeting of Partners* as the final version of the minutes of the 3rd Meeting, after any adjustments permitted by the Chair of the Meeting

2.1 Overview reporting: Brief report from the Secretariat:

Explanatory notes:

The following report is provided to inform Partners of the activity of the Secretariat in the reporting period. It refers to the period from close of the 3rd Meeting of Partners in November 2008 until about end of January 2010, three weeks before the scheduled date of the 4th Meeting.

Action required by Partners:

To accept the report and define and decide any action arising.

Introduction to the Secretariat staff

Report prepared by Roger Jaensch, Chief Executive.

Chief Executive:	Mr Roger P. Jaensch
Deputy *:	Mr Lee Eui-yeon
Administration Officer *:	Mrs Woo Mee-hyang
Finance Officer *:	Mr Kim Hyeong-mun
Communication and Information Officer:	Ms Aram Lee
Publications Officer:	Ms Kim Min-seon
Science Officer:	Dr Choi Chang-yong (starting 18 February 2010)

* = seconded (dispatched) from Incheon City Government under the terms of the MoU.

The Secretariat staff are of Korean nationality apart from the Chief Executive (Australian). Business is principally conducted in the English language but Korean language is essential for communication with Korean government agencies, organisations and service providers.

An Opening Ceremony for the Secretariat Office is scheduled for 6 pm on 24 February and this will give participants a chance to see the Secretariat's operating premises and facilities.

Transition of Secretariat

Report prepared by Roger Jaensch, Chief Executive.

Within the reporting period, an Interim Secretariat (Ms Maki Koyama), served the EAAFP from a desk hosted by Wetlands International in Canberra, Australia. Funding for this arrangement, which ended at end of June 2009, came from the Governments of the Republic of Korea, Japan and Australia.

From 1 July 2009, a new Secretariat was established in Songdo, Incheon City, Republic of Korea with funding provided by the Incheon City Government under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Partnership and the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea.

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Overview of activities since last Meeting of Partners

*Report prepared by Maki Koyama for Wetlands International – Oceania
And Roger Jaensch, Chief Executive.*

Reporting Period: 7 November 2008 – 18 October 2009:

Hosting the Secretariat for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Migratory Waterbird Partnership

Following MoP3, Wetlands International – Oceania was funded by the Korean, Japanese and Australian Governments to provide a part time transitional Secretariat (based in Canberra, Australia) until the permanent Secretariat was established.

Tasks conducted by the Interim Secretariat were as follows:

1. Meeting report distributed to all Partners
The draft MoP3 Report, draft Actions MoP3 and MoP3 Participants List were distributed to all Partners and MoP3 participants via email. The same documents were sent to the web master for posting on the www.eaaflyway.net site.
2. Follow up actions from meeting distributed to all Partners
As stated above, the draft Actions MoP3 was distributed to all Partners and MoP3 participants together with other two documents.
3. Follow up and other actions implemented
 - Drafting of the application for Ramsar Regional Initiative was implemented (Feb-Mar 09).
 - Developed the Reporting & Planning Tool application by commissioning coding to a professional coder (Jan –Mar 09).
 - During the course of MoU establishment, additional information was distributed to all Partners (Apr 09).
 - Finalised the process of new Network Site nomination (Nakdong Estuary, Rep. of Korea) (May 09).
 - Assisted the Chair and the Management Committee to run the process of recruiting Chief Executive for the new Secretariat in Incheon (Jun-Aug 09).
 - Conducted 2-day hand-over with newly appointed Chief Executive in Canberra, Australia (Oct 09).

Funding provided:

- KRW 25 million – Ministry of Environment, Korea
- JPY 1.5 million – Ministry of Environment, Japan
- AUD12 000 – Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Australia

Reporting Period: 1 November 2009 – 5 February 2010:

The recruitment process for the Chief Executive ran from June to October 2009; Roger Jaensch (age 51) was appointed to the position on 14 October and started work in Korea on 2 November. Roger previously worked for Wetlands International (15 years) in administration, project management and field project implementation in Australia and the Pacific Islands. His earlier employment was with Asian Wetland Bureau (Malaysia) and Birds Australia. His special interests include bitterns (Ardeidae) and rails (Rallidae), waterbird breeding, and the documentation, ecology and conservation of arid zone and savanna wetlands.

The Secretariat Office in Korea was operated from July 2009 by three staff seconded in stages from Incheon City Government's Environment division. In this period, the

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Secretariat was registered as a not-for-profit business, a bank account was opened and funds for 2009 were received from Incheon City. The empty office space was fully appointed with internal fittings, furniture, workstations and computer equipment and a vehicle was rented. A fourth member of staff was appointed. The Secretariat and the Ministry of Environment assisted with the complex process of relocating the new Chief Executive and his family from Australia to Korea and securing a work permit.

On 19 October 2009 the Chair of the Partnership advised Partners that Korea would host the 4th Meeting of Partners, in Incheon, and proposed an approximate date in 2010.

Once the Chief Executive arrived, the focus through November to January was on completion of the Secretariat team and preparations for the 4th Meeting of Partners. Two staff were appointed (one to start in February); their capabilities in English communication and science complemented the strong administration capability of the four existing staff. Operating procedures were further developed and staff received some professional development through briefings on migratory waterbirds and the Partnership, visits to other organisations and field trips to Korean wetlands. Meetings were held with key Korean officials. Major tasks in preparation for the Meeting have included: negotiations on date; development of the agenda; identification and briefing of participants; arrangements for entry visas; selection of venue and accommodation for the Meeting; and preparation of agenda and information documents.

Other Secretariat activities in the period November to January included:

- Participation in the Ramsar Changwon Declaration Meeting (Korea)
- Participation in a symposium on cooperation between Flyway Network Sites (Junam, Korea and Kabukuri, Japan), held in Korea
- Support to nomination of Kejo-numa wetland, Japan, as a new Flyway Network Site.

Financial situation:

- An independent, interest-bearing bank account in the name of “EAAF” was opened with Shinhan Bank, Republic of Korea.
- Funding received into this account from Incheon City Government in 2009 (in July 2009, for the half year of operation) was KRW 377 million. This does not include amounts outlaid separately to secure the Chief’s apartment (KRW 150 million) and the Secretariat Office (KRW 49 million).
- Expenditure in 2009 was KRW 173 million, including KRW 19 million in prepayments for the 4th Meeting of Partners, leaving KRW 204 million unspent (to be returned to funder).
- Financial record management at the Secretariat for 2009 has been completed and a professional audit report on the 2009 accounts has been finalised – this will be emailed to Partners separately. The 2009 accounts operated on a single-entry basis.
- Funding received into the account from Incheon City Government in 2010 (in January, for the full year of operation) was KRW 509 million, as per the MoU.
- The Ministry of the Environment, Japan, has allocated about JPY 2.0 million (equivalent to about KRW 25 million) to the Partnership to assist with MoP4 costs for participants from developing countries. The Secretariat will manage these funds and also additional funds (about JPY 2.0 million) that Japan has allocated to production of a book on “State of the World’s Waterbirds”, by Wetlands International, for release at CBD CoP10 later in 2010.

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Review of matters arising from 3rd Meeting of Partners

Matters arising from the 3rd Meeting are distributed throughout the Report of MoP3.

The following matters are highlighted:

- Item 8: A decision on hosting of the Secretariat occupied much of the 3rd Meeting and resulted in an out-of-session decision, by applying agreed criteria. The secretariat has subsequently been established in Incheon City, Republic of Korea.
- Item 20: Terms of Reference for the five Working Groups were endorsed at MoP3 and are posted on the EAAFP website <http://www.eaaflyway.net/document-index.php>
- Item 22: Network Sites not yet transferred: see MoP4 Agenda Document 3.1.1
- Item 25: Access to Network Site information: see MoP4 Agenda Document 3.1.3
- Item 36: The Ramsar Secretariat wrote on 6 July 09 to endorse the ongoing status of the EAAFP as a Ramsar Regional Initiative. Annual reporting is due in Feb. 2010.
- Items 43 and 52-54: Tools for tracking the management of Network Sites are discussed in a proposal at MoP4 Agenda Document 3.3.4
- Item 67: Contact apparently was established with the ASEAN Working Group on Biodiversity and an invitation was issued to attend a meeting in Singapore but this was impractical because the date was before the Chief Executive's appointment.
- Items 72-73: The Secretariat requires advice and information on "promotion of the benefits and opportunities of the EAAFP for business and site managers" and on "a contact group having been established to develop a strategy on approaching the business sector".
- Item 91: The Management Committee has been established. See MoP4 Agenda Document 6.3
- Items 104-105: The Secretariat requires advice and information on "the establishment of a strategy to allocate funds to regional projects". But, the subject is discussed in MoP4 Agenda Document 5.1.
- Item 109: The new Chair (Korea) and Vice-Chair (Japan) were appointed out-of-session.

Action required by Partners:

To decide on any action required on any unfinished or outstanding business (MoP3 Report Items 72-73 and 104-105).

2.2 Brief update from EAAFP Working Groups

Explanatory notes:

The following report is provided to inform Partners of the activity of the Working Groups in the reporting period. It mainly refers to the period from close of the 3rd Meeting of Partners in November 2008 until about end of January 2010, three weeks before the scheduled date of the 4th Meeting.

Action required by Partners:

To accept the reports and define and decide any action arising

List of component papers (see following pages):

- 2.2.1 Crane Working Group
- 2.2.2 Shorebird Working Group
- 2.2.3 Anatidae Working Group
- 2.2.4 Seabird Working Group
- 2.2.5 Avian Influenza Working Group
- 2.2.6 Additional reporting on Cranes

2.2.1 Crane Working Group

Report provided by Simba Chan, BirdLife International – Asia

Reformed Working Group

The reformed Crane Working Group consists of a representative from each North East Asian country (Russia, Mongolia, China, North Korea, South Korea and Japan), a coordinator and an IUCN Crane Species Specialist Group representative. As of January 2010 the members of the Working Group are:

Chair: Yan Xun (Representing China)

Vice-chair: Kim Jin-han (Representing South Korea)

Members: Oleg Goroshko (Representing Russia); Batbayar Nyambayar (Repr. Mongolia); Pak U-il (Repr. North Korea); Yutaka Kanai (Repr. Japan); Jim Harris (IUCN Crane SSG); Simba Chan (Coordinator)

The former Chair to the Crane Working Group, Mr Wang Wei of China, has become the Honorary Chair to the Working Group.

Advisory Board

At the meeting held in Gumi, Korea on 22 October 2008, the Crane Working Group decided the ToR for the formation of an Advisory Board to the Crane Working Group:

- Each member of the Advisory Board has a three-year and renewable term.
- Each North East Asian country can nominate up to four members to the Advisory Board.
- They do not have to attend all meetings but will be consulted on relevant matters. Important decisions will be circulated to the Advisory Board for input.
- Former Working Group members normally would automatically become Advisors to the Working Group.

Nominations so far: China: Qian Fawen, Guo Yumin; (Vladimir Andronov, Yuri Darman, and Nikolai Germogenov of Russia, and Natsagdorjiyn Tsevenmyadag of Mongolia will automatically become members to the Advisory Board.)

Working Group Meetings held in the last two years

- 22 and 26 October 2008, Gumi, Korea: Adoption of new structure of the Working Group and the formation of the Advisory Board; approval of the action plan.
- 11 October 2009, Harbin, China: Discussion of project follow-ups and issues arising.

Main activities of the Crane Working Group:

- Avoiding over-concentration of cranes at the wintering grounds
- Supporting cooperation between nature reserve management authorities and local communities/NGOs
- Siberian Crane GEF Project
- Anbyon project: re-establishing a wintering site in North Korea
- Organize a workshop and a symposium at Gumi, Korea in October 2008
- Conservation forum with students of the North East Forestry University, China in October 2009
- Comparison of the wintering population of Red-crowned Cranes in China and the Korean Peninsula.

Note: please see additional information report on cranes in Document 2.2.6 below

Action required by Partners:

To consider the report and define and decide any action arising.

2.2.2 Shorebird Working Group

Notes provided by Ken Gosbell (Interim Chair of SWG)

Background:

The Shorebird Working Group was initially established under the previous organization of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategies (1996-2006) tasked with the implementation of the Shorebird Action Plans. This was effective in facilitating the collaboration of researchers, site managers and governments within the Flyway. A Shorebird Site Network of 48 sites was established and coordinated by a Flyway Officer. These Network sites formed a key component of the Partnership Flyway Site Network. At the Second Meeting of Partners in November 2007, the concept of Working Groups was endorsed and a template developed for the preparation of Terms of Reference for each Group. Terms of Reference for the Shorebird Working Group were developed and provided to Partners in October 2008 for endorsement at MoP3. Since that time there has been no formal appointment of Working Group members. In addition, as the interim Chair I have found the role of the Working Group within the Partnership concept to be not well defined.

Informal Collaboration:

Shorebird experts around the EAAFlyway have a loose network based on their common interest of shorebird science and conservation. This network has enabled informal collaboration in a number of important activities such as:

- . Monitoring 1000 workshop in Japan,
- . Training programs in China and other areas,
- . Participating in workshops and conferences in China, Korea, Australia etc
- . Participating in banding expeditions in Australia
- . Providing information and advice based on Shorebirds 2020 experience (Australia)
- . Encouragement and exchange of advice in regard to population monitoring.

Membership

At the last meeting, Partners were invited to nominate representatives to the Working Group. In addition it was noted that the group was looking for opportunities to provide assistance to Partners through agreed programs under the Partnership. There have been no formal nominations put forward.

Future Role

The role of the Working Group is to support the strategies and programs of the Partnership. It is a group of experts who have a range of skills that can be utilized to advise on existing programs or requested to undertake specific tasks for the Partnership. In particular it can support Objective 3 *'Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, build knowledge and promote exchange of information on waterbirds and their habitats'* but also has a role in contributing to the outcomes of *Objectives 4 and 5*.

There are several items on the Agenda for MoP4 that may benefit from the contribution from this Working Group.

Action required by Partners:

1. That Partners endorse the ongoing role of the Shorebird Working Group
2. That Partners nominate representatives to the SWG
3. That Partners consider the role of the SWG in action plans arising from agenda items at MoP4.
4. That a new Chair of the SWG be appointed.

2.2.3 Anatidae Working Group

Compiled from the annual report provided by Nobuhiko Kishimoto, BirdLife International – Asia

- An important site for Anatidae (5 species), Kejo-numa in Japan, was added to the Flyway Site Network in February 2010.
- Sister site arrangements were developed between two sites in the Network, Junam (Republic of Korea) and Kabukuri-numa (Japan), which are both important for Anatidae. This included a symposium at Changwon, Korea, in November 2009. Further events are planned for 2010.
- Management planning, including local communities, was developed at Kabukuri-numa Site.
- The China Anatidae Network was established on 13 Dec 2008. The ceremony of China Anatidae Network was held at Beijing and the survey for Dongting Lake was organized by the Chinese Government and done by Anatidae WG members.
- In the Republic of Korea and Japan, the Anatidae Working Group continued supporting the winter flooding of rice paddy project (Fuyu-mizu-tambo) to create habitats for waterfowl by keeping water in rice fields in winter and also to make profit for farming.
- A study meeting for EAAFP was held at Yonago Waterfowl Park, Japan, in May 2009 (http://nakaumi.blogspot.com/2009/05/blog-post_24.html)
- In Japan, the newsletter for Anatidae Working Group sites was published 9 times by the national coordinator.
- Also, Anatidae Working Group members supported the Monitoring Site 1000 project conducted by the Biodiversity Center, Ministry of the Environment, Japan. A technical meeting for the monitoring for Anatidae under the project will be held in the middle of February 2009 at Nakaumi.
- Information about the numbers of staging and wintering Anatidae were exchanged through the Japanese domestic e-mailing list. The e-mailing list is conducted by the Japanese domestic Anatidae Network Site Coordinator (Mr. Kaname KAMIYA).
- In China, Russia and Japan the leader of the Anatidae Working Group prepared a survey plan of the Lesser White-fronted Goose but the Group could not get funding for the project.
- The Anatidae Working Group supported the preparation of the draft resolution on Rice Paddy for CBD CoP10.
- Some Japanese ornithologists (JOGA) have been engaged in the review of Anatidae studies in the country and discussion on the perspective of future studies, along with holding an annual meeting to review and discuss their work.

Action required by Partners:

To consider the report and define and decide any action arising.

2.2.4 Seabird Working Group

No briefing notes have been received. Please check emails and the EAAFP website for updates.

On 16 January 2010, the EAAFP Secretariat received this advice from EAAFP Partner USA:
“I believe the Seabird Working Group was initiated by my predecessor, Kent Wohl with support from other EAAFP members. Upon his retirement, the momentum behind getting this group firmly established lagged. Perhaps the topic of discussion for this particular working group would be to determine if it should be continued and the objectives such a group would like to accomplish.” (Kim Trust)

Action required by Partners:

To consider the future of the Seabird Working group and the objectives such a group would like to accomplish.

2.2.5 Avian Influenza Working Group

Asia-Pacific Working Group on Migratory Waterbirds and Avian Influenza

Report provided by Taej Mundkur, Wetlands International

Background

The Asia-Pacific Working Group on Migratory Waterbirds and Avian Influenza was established under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee in early 2006. The membership is open to representatives of the EAAF Partnership, the Chairs of other Flyway Partnership Working Groups, and interested government agencies, international organisations and experts in the East Asian – Australasian and Central Asian Flyways.

The objectives of the Working Group are to, within the Asia – Pacific region:

1. Annually compile information on avian influenza surveillance activities with a focus on migratory waterbirds (Partnership Objective 3).
2. Promote sharing of information data on avian influenza surveillance of migratory waterbirds (Partnership Objective 3).
3. Promote the development and sharing of knowledge of migration strategies of priority waterbird species generated through coordinated monitoring and marking programmes (Partnership Objective 3).
4. Facilitate the development of a coordinated flyway-wide AI surveillance programme with a focus on migratory waterbirds (Partnership Objective 5).

The Working Group has invited representatives from:

- (1) countries in the Asia-Pacific region (16),
- (2) international NGOs (4),
- (3) convention secretariats and international organisations (3),
- (4) independent experts (2), and
- (5) observers (1).

Secretariat support to the Working Group is provided by Wetlands International and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

Brief update

Since the Second Meeting of the Working Group was held in Incheon in November 2008, the Working Group has communicated largely by email. The communication has focused on providing updates on incidences of avian influenza in wild birds in the region, results of surveillance in wild birds, results of research on migratory movements of waterbirds and other information.

Wild bird surveillance activities are being taken in a few countries, although there have been no reports of highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds in 2009. Some of these activities are being undertaken in conjunction with efforts to improve understanding of migration routes of waterbirds through colour marking and satellite tracking activities, particularly of ducks and geese in East and Southeast Asia.

For further information contact: Taej Mundkur, Wetlands International

Taej.mundkur@wetlands.org

Action required by Partners:

To consider the report and define and decide any action arising.

2.2.6 Additional reporting on Cranes

UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project (*Notes from Jim Harris and ICF team*)

Program Overview

In 2003 the International Crane Foundation (ICF), in collaboration with the governments of China, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Russia and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), launched the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project (SCWP). The seven-year project has focused on protecting a network of globally important wetlands in Eurasia that are of critical importance for migratory waterbirds and other wetland biodiversity. The project uses the critically endangered Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*) as a flagship species, linking activities at 16 key wetlands along the species' western and eastern flyways.

SCWP has been the first full-size flyway project funded by GEF. Its lessons have wide applicability to future projects that address conservation issues at a flyway scale. The project ended on December 31, 2009. This project has functioned at three levels:

At the site level, activities aimed to improve management effectiveness, reduce external threats and ensure necessary water flows to maintain the ecological health of wetlands. Activities included strengthening legal protection and enforcement, training nature reserve staff, involving local communities, and developing site management plans, environmental education and public awareness programs, and projects that promoted sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

At the national level, the SCWP supported monitoring, training, education and public awareness programs across sites, and applied research to inform sound management decisions, including ongoing study of seasonal waterbird movements and wetland system dynamics. SCWP also worked to improve legislation, policy and planning to support wetland and waterbird conservation. These activities were coordinated with other national wetlands initiatives to strengthen integrated wetland management through collaboration with different organizations.

At the international level, the focus has been on flyway-level conservation - the network of wetland sites along the entire migratory pathways of the cranes. SCWP has promoted cooperation among the four countries, enhanced interaction among sites and engaged communities in the management of the wetlands along the West/Central and East Asian flyways for migratory waterbirds.

Conservation actions within these flyways were coordinated with other initiatives for migratory waterbirds, including the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership and its Crane Working Group, and closely integrated with the Conservation Plans created through the CMS Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation of the Siberian Crane. Collaborative events such as international workshops were organized with these bodies.

Global Biodiversity Importance

Wetlands selected for project intervention all meet the Ramsar Convention's criteria for Wetlands of International Importance. The flyways used by the Siberian Cranes are shared by at least 27 globally threatened waterbird species. These flyway site networks sustain millions of migratory waterbirds along their migrations, which span the Asian continent. These wetlands are also of

Continued on the next page

considerable socio-economic and cultural importance, supporting the livelihoods of local communities, as well as contributing to regional development.

SCWP included the following sites for China: Poyang Lake Basin, Keerqin National Nature Reserve (NNR), Xianghai NNR, Momoge NNR, and Zhalong NNR. For far eastern Russia, sites included: Kytalyk Resource Reserve (RR) and Middle Aldan Site Complex (Chabda, Kyupsky and Kuoluma-Chappanda RRs).

Major Achievements

Monitoring of migratory cranes and other waterbirds has been significantly enhanced in both far eastern Russia and eastern China (China, for example, involved 18 organizations at 158 sites over five years).

Exchange of scientific information and researchers has enhanced international collaboration on the Siberian Crane flyways. Public education efforts created a network of committed teachers, students, and community members near key waterbird sites along the flyways.

Management and staff capacity at participating sites has been strengthened through development of management plans, community co-management committees, establishment of monitoring programs, and activities to address specific threats such as cooperation with oil and energy companies, and pilot projects to integrate community development with natural resource protection.

Water management plans have been created in response to severe water shortages at four sites in northeast China and integrated into regional and national water plans. At Zhalong, a long-term funding mechanism has been created for delivery of water to sustain wetland ecological functions, setting a national precedent. Financing has also been committed for water releases at Momoge over three years.

Research at Poyang Lake linking waterbirds, aquatic food plants and water levels has enabled the evaluation of impacts of water management proposals on waterbirds and wetlands, and supported consideration of alternative actions to integrate ecological and economic benefits of wetlands.

Future Action

Long-term sustainability of project results has been prepared through the increased capacity and training of staff at site and national levels, and by developing regular funding mechanisms through national programs and non-governmental organizations including ICF. Coordination of flyway scale efforts will continue via the East Asian – Australian Flyway Partnership and its working groups, and through the CMS Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation of the Siberian Crane, that involves all 11 range states for the species. Among other evolving threats, future projects will need to focus on adaptive management of wetland ecosystems to cope with climate change and often diminishing water resources for both wildlife and human populations - threats that are particularly acute in areas such as Northeast China.

More information

A PDF version of the Final Report and Project Completion Workshop Proceedings can be downloaded from the SCWP website www.scwp.info or you may request copies on CD by contacting the International Crane Foundation at scwp@savingcranes.org or by telephone at + 1-608-356-9462.

3.0 Summary of Partner reports submitted to Secretariat (using the template)

Explanatory notes:

This document will be prepared by the Chief Executive and provided to participants after reports have been submitted to the Secretariat (**due date 16 February 2010**).

Reports were requested from Partners and Potential Partners on 12 January 2010 and a Reporting Template application (executable file) was provided by the Secretariat – also downloadable from the EAAFP website at www.eaaflyway.net/reports.php.

Action required by Partners:

To consider the report and define and decide any action arising.

3.1 Objective 1: Develop the Flyway Site Network

Explanatory notes:

Separate explanatory notes and action points have been inserted in each component paper.

List of component papers (see following pages):

- 3.1.1 Current status of Flyway Site Network and recent or proposed nominations
- 3.1.2 Procedure for the Secretariat on processing and formalising new nominations
- 3.1.3 Improving access to information on Network sites

3.1.1 Current status of Flyway Site Network and recent or proposed nominations

Briefing notes provided by the EAAFP Secretariat.

Based on the document posted on the EAAFP website (<http://www.eaaflyway.net/documents/Flyway-Network-Sites-Oct-08.pdf>) and subsequent nominations, the present number of sites in the Flyway Site Network is 98. About 700 sites are known to be internationally important for migratory waterbirds in the Flyway.

Of these 98 sites, 80 have been transferred from the previous networks (Crane, Anatidae, Shorebirds) or were added since the formation of the one Flyway Site Network.

One site, Kejo-numa in Japan, was added to the Network since MoP3 (in February 2010). Kejo-numa supports four nationally threatened species of Anatidae and 1% levels of populations of White-fronted Goose and Thick-billed Bean Goose. It is also a Ramsar site.

The list of sites by country is as follows:

* indicates categories transfer under consideration, and status unknown

Russian Federation *	10	The Philippines	2
Mongolia *	5	Malaysia *	1
China	19	Indonesia	1
DPR of Korea *	2	Papua New Guinea	1
Rep of Korea	8	Singapore	1
Japan	28	Australia	17
Thailand	1	New Zealand	1

Action required by Partners:

1. Secretariat to work with Russian Federation, Mongolia, DPR Korea and Malaysia to achieve formal transfer of sites to the present Network. (Note that Mongolia, DPR Korea and Malaysia are not Partners.)
2. All Partners to strive to increase the proportion of the wetland sites known to be internationally important for waterbirds in their territory, in the Flyway Site Network. Secretariat to assist by providing the focal agencies with information to identify the relevant (not yet included) sites and support to the site nomination procedure.
3. Discuss ideas for generally raising the profile of the Flyway Site Network and identify action that should be taken.

3.1.2 Procedure for the Secretariat on processing and formalising new nominations

Briefing notes provided by the EAAFP Secretariat.

The present procedure for processing and formalising new nominations to the Network, as advised to the Chief Executive in handover discussions, is as follows:

1. The manager of the nominating site prepares a Site Information Sheet (<http://www.eaaflyway.net/document-index.php>) that includes a justification for the criteria that the site meets, and a map of the site boundary.
2. The sheet and map are forwarded to the national agency that is the focal point for the EAAFP. That agency may then write to the Secretariat (to the Chief Executive or Partnership Chair) endorsing the nomination and seeking approval for inclusion in the Network.
3. The Secretariat seeks review comments on the adequacy of the sheet and map, and the accuracy of the claims against criteria met, from relevant experts. Previously, this has been directed to the Chair of each Working Group that is applicable to the criteria met.
4. On receiving review comments and after making its own review, the Secretariat will compile a summary statement indicating the outcome of the reviews conducted. This may be sent to the Chair of the Partnership.
5. The Secretariat also prepares a Certificate of Participation, using a standard template, which indicates the name of the site and the species for which it is being nominated to the Network. This is mailed to the Chair for signing.
6. The Chair may reply in writing to the nominating Partner country to advise that the nomination has been finalised. The Chair would enclose the signed Certificate.
7. The nominating Partner will also sign the Certificate, which is dated either by the Partner or earlier by the Chair, and inform the site manager of the final outcome.
8. A ceremony may be arranged to publicly declare and celebrate the new Network Site.

As the Partnership now has a Chief Executive (since November 2009) it may be timely to review and confirm or modify the above process. This matter should be considered in the context of Agenda Item 6.2 on delegation of authority from the Chair to the Chief Executive. Also, the technical point of what date should be written on the Certificate, should be resolved.

Action required by Partners:

To review the above procedure for nominating new Network Sites and confirm or modify.

3.1.3 Improving access to information on Network sites

Briefing notes provided by the EAAFP Secretariat.

At present there is just one document on the EAAFP website (<http://www.eaaflyway.net/documents/Flyway-Network-Sites-Oct-08.pdf>), which gives information about the various Network sites. Information is limited to country, name of site, year of joining and site status. Presently it is available only in English.

It would be beneficial to many site stakeholders and to Partners generally, if information of the sort included in the Site Information Sheet could be accessed through the website. This would, however, require that Site Information Sheets all meet highest possible standards of consistency, accuracy and completeness. The site manager and applicable Partner country also would need to agree to have such details posted on the website. Consequently, a considerable investment of effort would be required from the Secretariat and Partners to review and if necessary upgrade the Site Information Sheets and reach agreement on posting.

Action required by Partners:

To identify Network Site information that should be made available on the website and what action should be taken by the Secretariat and Partners to achieve the improved access to information.

3.2 Objective 2: Enhance communication, education and public awareness

Explanatory notes:

Separate explanatory notes and action points have been inserted in each component paper.

List of component papers (see following pages):

- 3.2.1 Translation of Partnership documents: status and gaps
- 3.2.2 Further development of the Flyway Partnership website www.eaaflyway.net
- 3.2.3 Proposed global workshop on waterbird flyways
- 3.2.4 Proposed EAAFP side event at CBD CoP10, Japan
- 3.2.5 Translation and regular dissemination of relevant scientific & other articles

3.2.1 Translation of Partnership documents: status and gaps

Briefing notes provided by the EAAFP Secretariat.

The Partnership endeavours to provide Partners with access to key documents written in their official national language. This should enhance dissemination of information about the Partnership and the Flyway to the many agencies and individuals who normally do not work in English, the working language of the Partnership.

At time of writing, the status of translations as posted on the EAAFP website was as follows:

document	Language versions posted on website	Partner languages missing
Partnership Document	Chinese, English, Indonesian, Japanese, Malaysian, Russian, Thai, Vietnamese.	Khmer, Korean.
Implementation Strategy	Chinese, English, Indonesian, Japanese, Malaysian, Russian, Thai, Vietnamese.	Khmer, Korean.
Communication Strategy	Chinese, English, Indonesian, Japanese, Russian, Thai.	Khmer, Korean.
Site Information Sheet (Site Network)	Chinese, English, Indonesian, Russian, Thai.	Japanese, Khmer, Korean.
Network Benefits and Expectations	Chinese, Indonesian, Russian, Thai.	English, Japanese, Khmer, Korean.
Flyway Species Population Estimates	Chinese, Indonesian, Russian.	English, Japanese, Khmer, Korean.
Status of Flyway Network Sites	English.	Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Russian.
Report for 1 st Meeting of Partners	Chinese, English, Indonesian, Japanese, Malaysian, Russian, Thai, Vietnamese.	Khmer, Korean.
Report for 2 nd Meeting of Partners	English.	Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Russian.
Draft Report for 3 rd Meeting of Partners	English.	Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Russian.
Working Group Terms of Reference (4 documents)	English.	Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Russian.

In summary: seven documents are provided only in English; no documents are provided in Khmer or Korean; and three documents are not provided in English or Japanese (as well as Khmer and Korean).

The Secretariat advises that missing English versions can be posted at short notice and that Korean versions of several documents exist and should be posted in the near future. Therefore the major gaps requiring considerable investment of effort are Khmer versions of all documents, and language versions other than English for seven documents listed above.

Action required by Partners:

To determine highest priorities, timeframe and means of funding for document translation work to be coordinated by the EAAFP Secretariat.

3.2.2 Further development of the Flyway Partnership website www.eaaflyway.net

Briefing notes provided by the EAAFP Secretariat.

The website of the EAAFP was developed with Partner funding, under contract to professional designers, prior to the present Secretariat's establishment. In January 2010, access to and control of many aspects of the website were established by the Secretariat. Staff received training and are now successfully making updates and adjustments to existing text as needed, and uploading documents to the website.

The Chief Executive decided that, for the time being, the present website hosting arrangement – with Melbourne IT in Australia – should remain in place. This arrangement is up for renewal in March 2010. Experts based in Australia (Phil Straw of Partner AWSG, and Maki Koyama) have given very helpful guidance to the Secretariat.

Meanwhile, some of the issues concerning changes to the webhost and possibly relocating the site to a host in Korea have been discussed, with some challenges noted. It is important to have a website that can be accessed equally well in all Partner countries despite varied internet capacities.

There is certainly potential to add new features and adjust existing features but much of that work would be outside the scope of the Secretariat team capability, requiring professional fee services.

Action required by Partners:

The Meeting should advise the Secretariat on any specific action it deems necessary

3.2.3 Proposed global workshop on waterbird flyways

Briefing notes provided by the Ramsar Convention and Wetlands International.

Proposal for an international flyways workshop to promote exchange of good practice and learning

Background:

There are currently a number of initiatives for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats in the various flyways around the world. Over recent years, each of these initiatives has built up a wide range of experiences and expertise on how to use a flyway-wide approach to conserve waterbirds. As a result, there have been recent calls to find ways in which these initiatives can share their knowledge and expertise (CMS Resolution 9.2; Ramsar Resolution X.22). This proposal for an international flyways workshop is a response to those calls, to organize a workshop with representatives from each of the initiatives in order to put together examples of best practices and to develop a mechanism for the future sharing of knowledge and expertise.

Brief description:

The proposed workshop will review a number of implementation themes, and compare and contrast how the different initiatives have tackled the delivery or promotion of these within their own constraints and opportunities. Such themes might relate either to conservation policy or relate to more internal processes as to how initiatives organize and manage themselves. For each of these themes, an initial presentation might be made by one of the initiatives where there is a good story to present, with follow-up discussion identifying different models and considering constraints and opportunities more widely.

Main outputs from the workshop:

- Publication of a workshop report.
- Workshop outputs used to inform CMS SC working group, and drafting of potential information paper to AEWA MOP, and Ramsar SC *etc.*
- Development of a web-based mechanism to continue knowledge and information sharing

Participants: Minimum of 30 participants;

Proposed Date: Autumn, 2010

Duration: 3-days exclusive of travel dates

Venue: R.O. Korea (proposed)

Estimated budget: To be determined

Organisers:

BirdLife International, Convention on Migratory Species – Secretariat, Partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance – Secretariat, Wetlands International

Possible Supporting/participating Organizations

Government of the R.O. Korea, ACAP, AEWA, CAFF, European Commission/Union, Partners in Flight, Siberian Crane Flyway Coordination, WHMSI, WHSRN, WOW

Action required by Partners:

To consider the proposal, decide how EAAFP might be involved and identify next steps.

3.2.4 Proposed EAAFP side event at CBD CoP10, Japan

Briefing notes provided by Japan.

Proposed EAAFP Side Event at CBD COP10

Objective

The Side Event will promote better understanding of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership and its importance for biodiversity conservation during the period of 10th Conference of the Parties to the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10)* in Aichi - Nagoya, Japan. It will also demonstrate the significant challenges faced in conserving migratory waterbirds and their habitats in this region.

Date and Venue

One day during CBD COP10 (18 to 29 October, 2010) at Nagoya City, Aichi, Japan

Action required by Partners:

To consider the proposal and identify follow-up action by EAAFP

3.2.5 Translation and regular dissemination of relevant scientific & other articles

Briefing notes provided by Australia.

Annual translation of documents relevant to Flyway Partners, and placement on the EAAFP website.

Summary

Every year there are documents prepared about migratory waterbirds and their habitat in the EAAF. Most of these documents are only ever produced in one language, and therefore of limited availability to other Partners or interested parties. It would be helpful to have a selection of the most important information translated and made available on the EAAFP website, on an annual basis.

Background

There is much information produced annually about the Flyway that is only ever available in the country and language of origin. Often this information is of strong interest to other Partners. Examples include reports produced in Australia on population status of migratory shorebird species, or of research projects involving marked birds that would benefit from broader dissemination throughout the Flyway.

Increased availability of such information in languages of Partner countries would increase knowledge transfer and participation. Making a selection of such papers and reports available on the EAAFP website would encourage greater use and increase the effectiveness of the site. It is proposed that the selection of papers, translation, and uploading to the EAAFP website need only occur on an annual basis.

It is envisaged that the EAAFP Secretariat would manage the process, have the discretion to include or reject subject matter based on relevance, and have the discretion to proceed or not proceed subject to sufficient resources being available.

Action required by Partners:

1. Partners adopt the proposal for annual submission of appropriately peer reviewed papers and reports to the Secretariat for consideration to be translated and made available through the EAAFP website.
2. Further, that Partners agree to develop a set of principles on which information can be provided and selected for publication. This will lessen the need for the Secretariat to be as rigorous in its scrutiny of submitted work.

3.3 Objective 3: Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, knowledge and information exchange

Explanatory notes:

Separate explanatory notes and action points have been inserted in each component paper.

List of component papers (see following pages):

- 3.3.1 Monitoring: Asian Waterbird Census; launch of 20 Year Review
- 3.3.2 Monitoring: Shorebirds
- 3.3.3 Monitoring: Monitoring sites 1000 (Japan)
- 3.3.4 Monitoring: proposed monitoring of site/habitat condition
- 3.3.5 Monitoring : East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Inventory Initiative
- 3.3.6 Coordination and management of waterbird marking, Flyway-wide
- 3.3.7 Use of the reporting template: how to get best results

3.3.1 Monitoring: Asian Waterbird Census; launch of 20 Year Review*Notes provided by Wetlands International*

The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC), conducted each year in January, is a waterbird and wetland monitoring programme initiated in 1987 within the framework of the International Waterbird Census. The AWC takes place annually, during the second and third weeks of January, and is carried out by volunteers interested in collecting information on waterbirds and wetlands as a basis for contributing to their conservation.

The latest report entitled *Status of Waterbirds in Asia - Results of the Asian Waterbird Census: 1987-2007* summarises the results of the AWC from 1987 to 2007, comprising counts at 6,705 sites in 27 countries. A total of 1,387 sites met at least one of two criteria of internationally important sites according to the Ramsar Convention. Of these, 312 sites were reported to support more than 20,000 waterbirds, and 1,382 sites recorded more than 1% of the biogeographic population of at least one species of waterbird.

In the most recent five years (from 2003-2007), a total of 2,963 sites was counted and 673 were identified as internationally important sites. A total of 671 sites recorded more than 1% of the biogeographic population of at least one species of waterbird, and 137 supported more than 20,000 waterbirds. Totals of 349 waterbird species and 74 wetland-dependent species were recorded during this period. Brief status accounts, accompanied by 328 maps, are presented for 396 species, including 52 Globally Threatened species and 24 Near Threatened species.

Of the sites covered, 116 were Ramsar sites, nine were World Heritage sites, eight were Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) heritage sites, nine were Man And Biosphere (MAB) reserves, 502 were IBAs, 55 were East Asian –Australasian Flyway Network sites and 417 were nationally protected areas.

Preliminary trend analyses using the statistical package TRIM suggest that four of the eight most numerous dabbling duck species in East Asia are in decline. Example trend graphs suggest that four of them (Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*, Common Teal *Anas crecca* and Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*) decreased between 1998 and 2007, while three are stable (Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* and Gadwall *Anas strepera*), and only one, Baikal Teal *Anas formosa*, increased in this period. The species which appears to be in strongest decline in this region is the Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, but caution is necessary when interpreting this finding because trends in adjoining regions are not yet sufficiently well known. The trend analyses also confirmed the pattern of increase for the Globally Threatened Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*.

The publication is available from the Natural History Book Service www.nhbs.co.uk and can be downloaded from the Wetlands International website www.wetlands.org

Full title: Li, Z.W.D., Bloem, A., Delany S., Martakis G. and Quintero J. O. 2009. *Status of Waterbirds in Asia - Results of the Asian Waterbird Census: 1987-2007*. Wetlands International, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. ISBN: 978-90-5882-012-9

For further information contact: Wetlands International post@wetlands.org

Action required by Partners:

To consider the report and identify any follow-up action required.

3.3.2 Monitoring: Shorebirds

Report on Shorebird Research and Monitoring in Australasia (*Notes by Ken Gosbell, AWSG*)

Scope:

This report summarises some of the important activities in regard to research and monitoring of shorebirds in the Flyway with emphasis on Australasia. This is not necessarily complete but provides an overview of important developments and gaps.

Background

There is overwhelming evidence from a range of population studies showing the critical decline of a large proportion of shorebirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. In order to obtain a better understanding of the problems and possible solutions there is an urgent need to gather information on habitat change and shorebird use of important sites throughout the Flyway. Australia and New Zealand, being the major areas for migratory birds in the non-breeding period, have an important role in monitoring overall abundance and the detection of any significant trends in population numbers and survival rates of species.

Shorebirds 2020 Program

The objective of this program initiated and managed by Birds Australia and AWSG is to collect data that increases our ability to confidently report on changes in shorebird populations in a manner which can be utilised to aid their conservation and management. It was established as a 5 year (minimum) program and built on the 26 years of data collected by the AWSG at 30 key sites in Australia.

Key elements to the Shorebirds 2020 program include:

1. The Development of an improved method for counting shorebirds and the production of a shorebird counters toolkit
2. The identification and mapping of shorebird sites to include in the national monitoring program
3. Volunteer recruitment & training
4. Database development and web-based data entry.
5. Coordination of a national monitoring program
6. Analysis and publication of the data.

Recent outcomes include:

- In the summer 2008/09 some 700 volunteers surveyed shorebirds at 155 shorebird areas. In addition to counts, surveys included data collected on disturbance, threats and habitat change.
- Counter training and capacity building workshops held together with community awareness activities.
- Survey and mapping of shorebird areas and distribution.
- Improved database and development of an online data entry interface.
- Power analysis undertaken to assess data requirements for detection of long-term population changes in shorebird species.
- Analysis was conducted on shorebird data to investigate the declining abundance of shorebirds in southern Australia. A comparison of counts from the 1980's compared to 2008/09 summer count totals suggest that in southern Australia shorebird numbers have decreased by up to 80% for some species.
- Provision of data to the Asian Waterbird Census.

Future plans include the refinement of count areas, mapping and threat assessments and habitat descriptions. In addition it is anticipated that more reliable information on population trends in key species will be possible.

Continued on the next page

Monitoring Yellow Sea Migrants in Australia Program (MYSMA)

The Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) has been carrying out shorebird surveys at selected sites in north-western Australia for many years. Survey effort there has increased since the launch of the MYSMA project in 2004, with counts being carried out by an experienced team twice each austral summer, and once each austral winter, at Roebuck Bay, Bush Point and Eighty-mile Beach. The core objective of the counts is to monitor changes in shorebird numbers over reasonably short time-frames, not only for local management purposes, but because the surveys serve as a barometer of shorebird numbers in the flyway. Outcomes reported in 2009 include:

- shorebird numbers have declined on Eighty-mile Beach since the last complete summer surveys were carried out there in 1999 and 2001,
- The scale of the declines is deeply worrying: of the 15 most common coastal shorebird species in the region, 12 have undergone detectable declines, and for some of these species, the declines are considerable: at Eighty-mile Beach, for example, four species have declined by more than 50% in the last 7-9 years.
- data demonstrate that Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* numbers in the north-western Australia study area declined significantly after closure of the Saemangeum sea-wall .

Banding and Movement Studies

Between 5 and 12,000 shorebirds are banded in Australia each year with the objective of learning more about population dynamics including movements, breeding success and survival rates. In 2009 some trial studies were undertaken using geolocators on Ruddy Turnstone in Victoria; initial findings are encouraging.

New Zealand activities

Long term monitoring of shorebird numbers throughout the country has been undertaken since 1983. These are currently under review and will be modified to ensure all nationally and internationally important sites are covered twice a year (summer and winter). Following this review, the integration with Australian counts will be examined.

Action required by Partners (Future Needs for Consideration by the Partnership):

1. The importance of ongoing scientifically rigorous monitoring programs in Australasia should be recognized as a key source of data for the assessment of trends in some shorebird species.
2. Partners to coordinate local and national shorebird monitoring programs to identify internationally important coastal and inland wetlands.
3. Review all existing data available from national and international databases in the Flyway to identify and map all important shorebird areas and identify gaps.
4. Provide a mechanism to enable collaboration between countries in the flyway with the objective of ensuring that Partners have access to rigorous data to assist them in the future planning and management of important sites.
5. Provide a mechanism to enable the transfer of monitoring, mapping, habitat and threat assessment techniques and systems between countries in the Flyway.
6. Undertake an assessment of needs in regard to training and systems design and consider appropriate strategies.

3.3.3 Monitoring: Monitoring sites 1000 (Japan)*Notes provided by Japan*Monitoring Sites 1000 Project

Objectives

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan is conducting the Monitoring Sites 1000 Project in order to monitor the ecosystem and wildlife status on a long-term basis at 1000 fixed sites set up as representatives of various types of ecosystems across the country in cooperation with researchers, local experts and NGOs. The project aims at collecting basic information on ecosystems for taking measures for biodiversity conservation. The number of shorebirds and Anatidae are counted in this project as indicators of tidal flat and lakes. We would like to report the results of shorebirds in the present report.

Results

The winter censuses for shorebirds, the Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders' Gull and Common Shelduck were carried out annually at about 100 sites. The total numbers (species) of shorebirds counted in winter 2007, 2008 and 2009 were 50,148 (40), 48,541 (42) and 49,079 (43), respectively. The Dunlin *Calidris alpina* was the largest among shorebird species counted in the census and the number shared more than three-fifth of a total number of shorebird. The Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* was the second largest species. There was no marked reduction in number of each shorebird species from 2007 to 2009.

Population Census Survey of Anatidae in Japan

Objectives

This survey aims at determining the winter population of Anatidae in Japan and identifying information necessary for relevant wildlife protection management. The 'Population Census Survey of Anatidae' aims at investigating the total number of wintering population of Anatidae at about 9,000 sites in mid-January in Japan, while the Anatidae survey under 'Monitoring Sites 1000' aims at monitoring the status of the population of Anatidae and Swans at each site as an indicator of the wetland ecosystem, lakes and marshes.

Results

The number of Anatidae counted in 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the population census survey was 2,080,344, 2,132,445 and 1,958,544, respectively. The total number of swans counted was on a declining trend from 2007 to 2009 and has increased about 10,000 from the number in 1996 (61,027). The number of geese for the last three years (2007-2009) was about three times more than that in 1996 (37,107). The number of ducks counted in the last ten years from 1999 to 2009 was stable from 1,700,000 to 1,910,000.

International Collaboration Programme in Monitoring Sites 1000 for Analyzing Waterbird Migration in Asia

Objectives

In order to understand the long term fluctuations in the migrations of shorebirds and Anatidae in Japan, not only is it indispensable to conduct data analysis in Japan, but also comparative data analysis among the range states. The objectives of this programme is to analyze data on waterbirds from Asian Waterbird Census

Continued on the next page

(AWC) and other available programmes in the range states, identify the fluctuations in waterbird migrations not only in Japan but also in surrounding regions, and identify problems and solutions to understand the waterbird migrations in the region more accurately, in cooperation with relevant countries and organizations.

Activities in FY2008-9

1) Analysis of the results on waterbird census, AWC and other available census programmes

Comparative analysis on fluctuation and its factors in the migrations of shorebirds and Anatidae between Japan and other Asian regions was conducted. The results show it was not easy to understand the consequences of the fluctuation in the number of waterbirds between Japan and range states because of the lack of information on survey accuracy and frequency. Several improvement plans were proposed including:

- Accurate recording of the survey information and information sharing of the site name and number between countries;
- Recording of the survey method including targeted species, period and region
- Information sharing of editable digital survey data for each site in the region

2) International Symposium

An International Symposium was held on January 31, 2009 at Fukuoka Convention Center, Fukuoka, Japan in order to understand waterbird migrations and their fluctuations in Asia and find problems and solutions for a more accurate waterbird census and information sharing. The AWC Secretariat (WI) and experts from Korea, China, Australia, Russia and two experts from Japan gave a talk and ran a panel.

Action required by Partners:

To consider the reports and identify and follow-up action required.

3.3.4 Monitoring: proposed monitoring of site/habitat condition

Notes prepared by: Wetlands International and Australian Wader Studies Group/Birds Australia

Developing and maintaining a Decision Support Tool
to inform Sustainable Development in relation to Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats

Background:

There is overwhelming evidence from a range of population studies showing the critical decline of a large proportion of the migratory waterbirds in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway. Although the underlying reasons for this are not fully understood there is evidence that one of the major contributing factors is the change in habitat in the stopover areas (such as the coastal wetlands of the Yellow Sea).

Several Partners are already involved in active national waterbird count programs. Some of this data is being collating by Wetlands International into the Asian Waterbird Census and further worked up to contribute to new editions of “Waterbird Population Estimates” (used by the Ramsar Convention, Convention on Migratory Species and other global and regional biodiversity conventions/agreements). However, systematic information on the threats to the internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds is very limited. The exceptions are the site information collected for the Asian Waterbird Census and on Important Bird Areas (BirdLife).

Need:

Fundamental to the achieving the goal of the Partnership is to enhance, and provide access to, key information on the status of migratory birds and the habitats they use. This information is critical to inform decision making to achieve sustainable development.

The development of the “Decision Support Tool” provides the Flyway Partnership with the mechanism to deliver directly on three of the Outcomes detailed in the Implementation Strategy:

- Outcome 7: Scientifically sound information is available on the Flyway wide status and trends of waterbird populations and their habitats.
- Outcome 8: Information is available on the internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in all countries of the Flyway.
- Outcome 9: Threats to internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds have been assessed and recommendations for appropriate management actions developed.

The “Decision Support Tool” will provide key information support achievement of three additional Outcomes of the Implementation Strategy:

- Outcome 1: The Flyway Site Network has developed to include at least 200 sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds.
- Outcome 3: The Flyway Site Network is demonstrating sound integration of wetland biodiversity conservation and sustainable development that benefits local communities.
- Outcome 4: The ecological, social and economic values of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds are recognized in development and impact assessment processes.

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Proposal:

That the Partnership commits to:

1. Enhance existing national and flyway waterbird monitoring programs.
2. Develop new activities to assess the threats to Flyway Network sites and other international important sites for migratory waterbirds.
3. Enhance access to flyway level analysis of waterbird and habitat data through the development of the “Decision Support Tool”.
4. Provide flyway-level support for capacity development in collect, collate and analysis monitoring data.

Strategies:

Key strategies that could be employed:

- Enhance existing national and flyway waterbird and habitat monitoring programs
- Develop additional guidance and training materials to promote more consistent data collection
- Develop and promote guidance on assessment of threats to important sites.
- Promote the mapping of important areas (include feeding, roosting and nesting areas).
- Develop data sharing arrangements.
- Develop a web based “Decision Support Tool” that would make available the up-to-date information on the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

Key existing mechanisms and activities that could be utilized and strengthened include:

1. National Partnerships.
2. The existing Flyway Site Network (approx. 100 sites).
3. Ramsar Sites, World Heritage Sites and national Protected Areas
4. Current national and international monitoring programs in: Japan (Monitoring 1000), Australia (Shorebirds 2020, Ramsar Site Rolling Review), New Zealand, China (Coastal Waterbird Census) as well as the overarching Asian Waterbird Census and IBA program.

Resources:

It is anticipated that Partners would arrange their own national networks and partnerships and would, where possible, be the custodians of the count and site data. Partners would develop a data sharing agreement to enable a collation of the Flyway overview.

It is envisaged that the Partnership Secretariat could provide an important coordination role. This may include:

1. Liaison with Partners on waterbird monitoring and assessment of threats.
2. Providing technical advice and support to Partners.
3. Collating key data provided by the Partners.
4. Work with Partners to design and implement a waterbird and site “Decision Support Tool”.

Action required by Partners (Next Steps):

With the endorsement of the Partnership, it is proposed that a Planning Workshop be scheduled as soon as possible. The task of this workshop would be to establish principles and mechanisms for the design of a Decision Support Tool including such aspects as utilising and enhancing existing data sets, threat assessment models, capacity building, analytical tools etc.

3.3.5 Monitoring : East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Inventory Initiative

Notes provided by Japan

East and South East Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative (ESABII)

Goal

Under the participation of East and Southeast Asian countries and relevant organizations, ESABII contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through developing biodiversity information systems applicable for policy/decision making at the global, regional and national levels and promoting taxonomic capacity building needed for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Participant countries and organizations

Countries:

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Organizations and networks:

Secretariat of the CBD (*ex-officio*), the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), Natural Geography In Shore Areas (NaGISA), the Asia-Pacific Biodiversity Observation Network (AP-BON) and BioNET-INTERNATIONAL.

Planned Activities

1. Development of Biodiversity Information

- Identifying and prioritizing biodiversity information needs for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in fulfilment of the CBD and other environmental agreements.
- Developing the ESABII website to provide biodiversity information for relevant organizations and the public
- Identifying available data resources, research institutes and organizations to explore and share the biodiversity information
- Developing biodiversity information based on the available data sets
Examples: Information on migratory waterbirds, Red Data Book (detailed data and information on threatened species), etc.
- Providing the biodiversity information for policy/decision makers and the public through the internet.

2. Taxonomy Capacity Building

- Identifying and prioritizing needs on taxonomic capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
- According to the needs assessment, developing regional action plan for taxonomic capacity building in compliance with GTI Programme of Work.
- Carrying out taxonomic capacity building programmes, including biodiversity monitoring and law enforcement (CITES, IAS etc.).
- Developing a regional database of human resources for taxonomy
- Developing and disseminating products for taxonomic capacity building such as guides for species identification

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Progress and schedule

2009	Jan.	International Symposium and Meeting (Tokyo, Japan), Discussion on ESABII Strategy
	May	ASEAN+3 GTI Workshop (Los Banos, Philippines), Needs assessment
	Oct.	ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity (Singapore), Discussion on draft ESABII Strategy
	Dec.	Intergovernmental Meeting (Tokyo, Japan), Adoption of ESABII Strategy
2010	May	14 th SBSTTA (Nairobi).
	Oct.	10 th Conference of the Parties, CBD (Nagoya Japan).

Action required by Partners:

To consider the report and identify and follow-up action required.

3.3.6 Coordination and management of waterbird marking, Flyway-wide

Briefing notes provided by Australia.

Review of waterbird colour marking protocols throughout the EAAF.

Summary

Waterbird colour marking used in the EAAF needs review, and should include recommendations for on-going coordination of colour marking schemes.

Background

At the first Meeting of Partners in Bogor, Indonesia on 6–9 November 2006, it was recognised that marking protocols for species in the Flyway should be reviewed. Guidance for this project proposal comes from Objective 3, Outcome 10 of the Partnership Implementation Strategy:

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

Outcome 10: Knowledge of the ecology and migratory strategies of waterbirds is enhanced to support conservation action.

- 10.1 International collaborative migration projects are implemented for priority species.
- 10.2 Migratory Waterbird Marking Protocols are developed for most migratory waterbirds.
- 10.3 There is a high level of coordination between bird banding/ ringing/ schemes on migratory waterbird marking projects.
- 10.4 There is a high level of coordination on band return and flag re-sighting reports.
- 10.5 Analyses of waterbird migration data are completed and widely communicated.
- 10.6 Activities incorporate appropriate capacity development components.

It is proposed a review of waterbird marking protocols be confined to colour marking schemes, and not include metal bands. This is because the use of metal bands is comparatively well controlled by national banding schemes, and metal bands are unique entities anyway.

Currently, coordination of waterbird colour marking protocols varies between bird groups. For example, colour marking of shorebirds and seabirds in the Flyway is coordinated by the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Schemes and Wetlands International – Oceania, in line with an established shorebird leg-flagging protocol. This occurred largely by default, because large scale colour marking of these waterbird groups began in Australia. Colour marking for other waterbird groups such as Anatidae and Gruidae is concentrated in the northern hemisphere.

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The most efficient and inclusive way of dealing with this issue may be to establish a short-term working group. Considerations for this working group could include, but not be restricted to:

- Identification of the most appropriate authority to coordinate colour marking systems throughout the Flyway (for example, could this be an EAAFP Secretariat function?);
- On-going management of the existing shorebird leg-flagging database;
- Review output from existing projects, and establish clear waterbird conservation outcomes and priorities to rationalise future colour marking projects in the Flyway;
- Consideration of animal ethics associated with various marking protocols;
- Investigating the need for continuing some existing marking systems and projects, given the introduction of new marking technologies such as Engraved Leg Flags (ELFs) and Geolocators;
- Establishment of funding sources for procurement and distribution of priority waterbird marking technologies.

Action required by Partners:

Partners to adopt the proposed approach of establishing a short-term working group to review waterbird colour marking protocols, and make recommendations regarding long-term coordination of colour marking systems used throughout the Flyway .

3.3.7 Use of the reporting template: how to get best results

Briefing notes provided by the EAAFP Secretariat.

This item was included in the Agenda for MoP3. The Secretariat distributed the Reporting Template application and instructions (prepared by Maki Koyama under the Interim Secretariat hosting arrangement with Wetlands International) to all international invitees to MoP4.

Action required by Partners:

Given that this tool is still relatively new, the Meeting may decide to solicit further guidance on its use from the Partners and experts who have successfully used the Reporting Template. This could assist users in the lead up to MoP5.

3.4 Objective 4: Build capacity to manage waterbirds and their habitats

Explanatory notes:

Separate explanatory notes and action points have been inserted in each component paper.

List of component papers (see following pages):

3.4.1 National Partnership workshops – Myanmar, Thailand

3.4.2 Facilitating development and activities of national partnerships: examples

3.4.1 National Partnership workshops – Myanmar, Thailand

Prepared by Wetlands International

In 2009, the Australian Government continued its support for the promotion of the Flyway Partnership to potential Government Partners in South-east Asia. With funding from the Australian Government, Wetlands International – Oceania implemented workshops to promote the Flyway Partnership in Thailand in (July 2009) and Myanmar (August 2009).

Thailand

In Thailand, the workshop was organized in collaboration with the Bird Conservation Society of Thailand and Wetlands International - Thailand. A total of 24 participants attended the workshop included representatives from Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Mahidol University, Prince of Songkla University, Nong Bong Kai Non-Hunting Area, Krabi Provincial Administrative Organisation, WWF- Thailand, Bird Conservation Society of Thailand, Chiang San Bird Conservation Club and Wetlands International.

The workshop included presentations on:

- Status and conservation of waterbirds in Thailand by Dr. Phil Round, Committee of Bird Conservation Society of Thailand.
- Partnership for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and the Sustainable Use of their Habitats in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway” by Ms. Nirawan Pipitsombat (Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and planning).

This was followed by a general discussion on the Flyway Partnership, the steps involved in getting formal approval from the Government to join the Partnership and specific consideration of potential Flyway Network Sites in Thailand.

Myanmar

In Myanmar, Wetlands International assisted the Forestry Department to conduct a two day workshop at National Kawdawgyi Gardens in Pyin Oo Lwin. Approximately 35 people participated in the workshop, including representatives from the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (Forestry Department), Zoological Department, University of Yangon, Myanmar Birds & Nature Society, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and key wetland Protected Areas.

The workshop developed a 12 point Action List of potential activities that participants were keen to have developed to support the Implementation Strategy of the Partnership in Myanmar.

Action required by Partners:

1. Note this brief report on the project.
2. Consider how Partners could support Partnership activities in Thailand and Myanmar.

3.4.2 Facilitating development and activities of national partnerships

Briefing notes provided by the EAAFP Secretariat.

This item was included in the Agenda for MoP3. The term “national meetings” was suggested as an alternative description.

National partnerships, involving national organisations (governmental and non-governmental) and experts that cooperate to support the Government Partner, are a foundation element of the Partnership. They also provide an indirect means for national and local NGOs to be actively involved in the work of the Partnership because normally such organisations are not eligible to become Partners. In some countries, national partnerships are well established and successful but that is not the case in others.

Action required by Partners:

To decide if this subject requires further discussion at MoP4 and identify any action.

3.5 Objective 5: Develop flyway-wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds

Explanatory notes:

Separate explanatory notes and action points have been inserted in each component paper.

List of component papers (see following pages):

- 3.5.1 Yellow Sea Ecoregion Collaboration
- 3.5.2 Endorsement of action plans for threatened waterbirds: EAAFP role
- 3.5.3 International Action Plans (BirdLife – Asia report)
- 3.5.4 International Action Plan for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper
- 3.5.5 International Action Plan for the Scaly-sided Merganser

3.5.1 Yellow Sea Ecoregion Collaboration

Prepared by Wetlands International and AWSG

At the 2008 Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreement meeting, Australia proposed to China, the Republic of Korea and Japan the development of collaborative activities for the conservation of migratory birds in the Yellow Sea Ecoregion. It was not possible to progress discussion on this proposal at MoP3 because the crucial Government Partners were occupied with ongoing discussions on the hosting of the Secretariat.

To move forward with activities, in 2009 – 2010, the Australian Government has provided funding to Wetlands International – Oceania (WI-O) and the Australasian Wader Studies Group (AWSG) to develop collaborative activities to promote the conservation of migratory shorebirds in China and the Republic of Korea. In developing and implementing activities in the Yellow Sea Ecoregion, WI-O and AWSG have agreed to engage with the Ministry of Environment in Korea and State Forestry Administration in China on the activities.

The 2009-2010 project involves three components:

1. Collating existing information on sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds in the Yellow Sea Ecoregion in China and the Republic of Korea and preparing Site Information Forms.
2. Supporting the development of a “national partnership” mechanism in China and the Republic of Korea
3. Conducting small workshops to raise awareness with selected local governments in China and the Republic of Korea.

The project to date has progressed approximately 30% in China and 10% in the Republic of Korea.

In China a Steering Committee has been formed involving State Forestry Administration, Ministry of Environmental Protection and State Oceanographic Administration, Academy of Science and Wetlands International. This Committee has met on two occasions. Information has been collated for approximately 50% of the sites around the Yellow Sea Ecoregion in China. Wetlands International (China and Oceania staff) and AWSG have conducted awareness raising activities at Hangzhou, Yalu Jiang and Panjin. Plans are being developed for a series of workshops and meetings to be conducted over several days at Yalu Jiang in early May. These activities would bring together key local government officials from the northern coast of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion, Chinese scientists, relevant government agencies and some international participants. The two proposed key objectives are:

1. to raise awareness of the need for sustainable development and
2. to discuss options for a “national partnership” for exchange of information on waterbird and habitat conservation activities in China.

In the Republic of Korea, implementation has not progressed as quickly. Initial discussions with the Ministry of Environment have provided endorsement for the proposed activities. A follow-up meeting was conducted at NIBR in late 2009 involving key NIBR staff (on behalf of the Ministry of Environment), key staff of the Partnership Secretariat and Wetlands International. At this meeting some preliminary options for the development of a “national partnership” in Korea were discussed.

Action required by Partners:

1. Note progress to date with the project.
2. Consider how more Partners could be part of a larger collaborative program of activities of the Partnership in the Yellow Sea Ecoregion.

3.5.2 Endorsement of action plans for threatened waterbirds: EAAFP role

Briefing notes provided by the EAAFP Secretariat.

Outcome 14 under Objective 5 states that “Collaborative Flyway-wide actions for waterbird species and habitats have improved the conservation status of priority species.” Clearly, international action plans for threatened waterbirds are a subject fully consistent with the Implementation Strategy of the Partnership.

Until recently, (as the Chief Executive understands) no action plans of this type for the Flyway had developed to the point of being put into practice. However:

- Late in 2009, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, which leads in developing an international action plan for the threatened Scaly-sided Merganser, asked the Secretariat if its proposed upcoming workshop and action plan could be held/published under the framework and branding of the EAAFP
- And in February 2010 the coalition that is developing an international action plan for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (led by Dr Christoph Zoeckler), raised a request for the EAAFP to consider establishing a special Working Group for that species.

Details are in separate documents below.

Issues to be considered include, but are not limited to:

- How such endorsement/branding might enhance conservation outcomes
- Benefits and costs to both the proposer and the Partnership

Accordingly, the Secretariat seeks guidance and any necessary procedural steps for responding to this kind of approach.

Action required by Partners:

To confirm the place of international action plans for threatened species within the Partnership and define for the Secretariat any procedures to follow in giving formal endorsement and branding.

3.5.3 International Action Plans (BirdLife International – Asia report)

The CMS International Action Plans for three globally threatened migratory waterbird species: Black-faced Spoonbill, Chinese Crested Tern and Spoon-billed Sandpiper

Report provided by Simba Chan, BirdLife International – Asia

Milestones in the production of the three action plans:

- Inclusion of the Black-faced Spoonbill, Chinese Crested Tern and Spoon-billed Sandpiper in the CMS Appendix I by the CMS 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, September 2002, Bonn, Germany
- Endorsement of the draft ISSAP by the CMS 15th Meeting of the Scientific Council, December 2008, Rome, Italy
- Adoption of the draft ISSAP by the CMS 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, December 2008, Rome, Italy

Brief report on actions taken in implementation of the action plans:

Black-faced Spoonbill:

- Regional census and colour-marking scheme
- International workshop to be held in Fukuoka, Japan, 4-7 March 2010.

Chinese Crested Tern:

- Survey for possible new breeding grounds
- School and public education programmes
- Supporting law enforcement
- Coordination workshop for both sides of the Taiwanese Strait
- Training course on management of seabird breeding islands to be held in Zhejiang, China in June 2010.
- Promotion project to potential wintering countries, especially Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia

Spoon-billed Sandpiper:

- Survey for wintering grounds in Myanmar, Vietnam etc.
- Study at the breeding ground in Russia
- Education and awareness programme
- Protection of important sites to the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (e.g. Inner Gulf of Thailand, coastal sites in Myanmar, Min Jaing Estuary in China)

Action required by Partners:

To consider the report and identify and action required.

3.5.4 International Action Plan for the Spoon-billed Sandpiper

Briefing notes provided by Christoph Zoeckler.

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper is globally critically endangered with a rapid declining population estimated at 130-250 pairs by the end of 2009. The species is a long distance migrant passing through 12 range countries of the EAAFP regularly facing a range of threats, ranging from habitat loss and change, climate change, pollution and coastal zone management to hunting and trapping.

The species action plan was drafted in 2006 and 2007 listing a huge range of actions on

1. Species protection
2. Habitat protection
3. Site management
4. Habitat and site restoration
5. Awareness Raising and Education
6. Capacity Building
7. Research & Monitoring

There is an urgent need, through implementation of the Action Plan, to achieve better recognition for the rapidly deteriorating status not only of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, but also the coastal ecosystems on which it and people depend; swifter, more effective and comprehensive action in support of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and the sustainable use of its habitats is essential if this species is to avoid extinction.

Recent research in Russia, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Vietnam fostered our understanding on the wintering of the species and the main threats in the wintering area. It showed that hunting and trapping is of major concern and require urgent addressing. Coastal habitat conversion in Korea, China and Bangladesh add further threats. Based on recent updated information an addendum to the action plan is proposed that lists, prioritises and costs a range of activities by country and /or region.

The SBS Recovery Team has been active since 2004 and is coordinating the conservation activities for the species since. The SBS RT has also been responsible for drafting the action plan. It is proposed that the SBS RT can continue to coordinate the implementation of the action plan under the umbrella of the EAAFP as a species working group of the Flyway Partnership. A drafted ToR will be circulated for discussion and approval.

Action required by Partners:

To consider the report and draft Terms of Reference and identify other action required

3.5.5 International Action Plan for the Scaly-sided Merganser

Report produced by Dr. Baz Hughes, Head of Species Conservation Department, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Glos. GL2 7BT, United Kingdom; with assistance from Dr. Diana Solovieva and Peiqi Liu. 20 January 2010

SCALY-SIDED MERGANSER CONSERVATION, 2008-2009

The Scaly-sided Merganser is recognised as globally threatened by IUCN due to its small, declining population. Habitat loss, illegal hunting and disturbance have caused this decline and it is predicted that a global population decline will continue in the near future. The species has therefore been highlighted for conservation action by BirdLife International, the IUCN-SSC/Wetlands International Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group (TWSG) and under the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership.

In 2009, the long term conservation project for the Scaly-sided Merganser in Far East Russia conducted by Dr. Diana Solovieva continued. This has involved breeding surveys, studying breeding biology, constructing and erecting nest boxes, and catching birds, as well as assessing factors affecting survival (e.g. drowning in gill nets, hunting pressure) and productivity (e.g. egg predation by snakes, human disturbance, availability of nest sites, both artificial and natural). Diana and her team have built up considerable public support for the Scaly-sided Merganser conservation programme – with over 50 people now involved from a variety of backgrounds (local people and schoolchildren, environmentalists, hunters, and professional ornithologists). This work has built into an integrated conservation programme for the Scaly-sided Merganser, which involves official collaboration between the Wrangel Island State Reserve and the Lazo State Reserve, both governmental agencies under the Ministry for Nature Resources, and the first example of such collaboration between State Reserves in Russia.

The main results in 2009 were:

- 200km of the Avvakumovka, Kievka, Krivaya, Lazovka, Margaritovka and Partizanskaya Rivers were surveyed for breeding Scaly-sided Mergansers finding a total of 186 birds. The highest densities of breeding pairs were found on the Kievka (0.61 pairs/km) and Krivaya Rivers (0.56 pairs/km).
- Autumn surveys found high densities of Scaly-sided Mergansers on the Pavlovka (200-250 birds) and Zhuravlevka Rivers (400 birds). This is the first time that such high numbers have been found on Far East Russian rivers in autumn.
- 15 Scaly-sided Merganser nests were found, thirteen of which hatched successfully, one was abandoned, with the other female probably killed when off the nest.
- The main sources of mortality were (as usual) poaching and drowning in salmon fishing nets.
- A total of 29 geolocating loggers have been attached to nesting females since 2006. These will help locate the previously unknown staging and wintering areas of these birds. Initial data suggest that birds stage in the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, and northern China, and winter in southern China.
- A total of 180 artificial nests were built and erected along 11 rivers in the South and Central Primorye between 2001 and 2008. This has increased the breeding population in the Kievka basin from 11-17 to 50-70 pairs. Nest success in artificial nests (88%) has been higher than natural cavities (81%). Nest box occupation rate has been significantly higher along logged than along un-logged rivers suggesting that tree hole nest sites are limiting along logged rivers.

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- A dedicated programme of community involvement has been conducted comprising: a) talks to local people, especially schoolchildren, b) involving local people, especially schoolchildren, in fieldwork erecting nest boxes, c) information dissemination and a poster campaign to hunters and fishermen regarding the threats from illegal hunting and drowning in fishing nets.
- A total of 41 mitochondrial DNA samples have been collected over a large area of the entire Primorye region. Initial results indicate a high degree of breeding site fidelity in females and a high level of natal site fidelity. Genetic diversity is low in the species considering that the Primorye breeding population represents about half of the world population. A paper "Conservation genetics of the Scaly-sided Merganser (*Mergus squamatus*) in relation to other sawbills from Eurasia and North America" is under preparation for the journal Conservation Genetics.
- The total breeding population of Scaly-sided Mergansers in the Primorye is now estimated at 1,200-1,300 pairs.
- A stable isotope study is also being conducted to identify the main moulting areas. Three well distinguished moulting areas have been found for females: all on freshwater in Southern China, the Kievka basin, and an area north and inland of the Kievka River. Males appear moult in marine waters, mainly further north than females.
- Building of a Scaly-sided Merganser field station and visitor centre in Kishinevka village began.

In 2008, Peiqi Liu started a similar conservation programme for the Scaly-sided Merganser in the other main breeding area for the species - the Changbai Mountains in north east China. This has initially focused on surveys of breeding pairs in spring and broods in summer. In 2008 and 2009, surveys were conducted over a total of 1,553 km of 17 river stretches in four different river systems (Yalujiang, Songhuajiang, Tumenjiang and Mudanjaing): 1,354 Scaly-sided Mergansers were counted in total over both years, the breeding density averaged 0.26 pairs/km and was highest on the Fuerhe (0.92 pairs/km), Toudaosonghuajiang (0.62 pairs/km) and Songjiang Rivers (0.54 pairs/km). The breeding population of the Changbai Mountains was estimated at 170 breeding pairs. Initial discussions have been held with Chinese government officials regarding the creation of special protected areas for the species in the Changbai Mountains.

In 2009, planning began for a Scaly-sided Merganser Action Planning Workshop to be held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 27 April – 3 May 2010, in collaboration with the Lazovskiy State Nature Reserve and the IUCN-SSC/Wetlands International Threatened Waterfowl Specialist Group. Invitations were sent out in December along with logistical information and a draft agenda for the workshop.

In 2010, we plan to continue the conservation programmes in Russia and China, continue construction of the field station and visitor centre, hold the action planning workshop and produce a first draft of the action plan.

Action required by Partners:

1. We would like to hold the workshop, and publish the action plan, under the framework and branding of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership. We request Partners at MOP4 to endorse this approach.
2. We request for partners in key range states to agree, in principle, to implement the action plan in their countries.

Document 3.6

3.6 Moving forward on Flyway Partnership activities: Reports from break-out sessions Objective 1 through to Objective 5

Explanatory notes:

These reports will be provided to the Meeting after the break-out sessions have concluded.

Action required by Partners:

To consider the reports from break-out sessions, note any recommendations, and take account of these in the record of actions to be taken.

4.1 Partner applications under consideration; potential Partners

Briefing notes provided by EAAFP Secretariat.

1. The **Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust** applied to become a Partner of the EAAFP in a letter to the Chair on 21 January 2010. The Trust met the requirements under Paragraph 8 of the Partnership Document in regard to endorsing the text of the Partnership and supporting the objectives and actions under the Partnership. It has operated in eight Flyway countries in the last few years.

Accordingly, the Chief Executive advised all Partners of the application by email on 22 January. Therefore, if there are no objections raised, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust will become the 21st Partner of EAAFP on 23 February 2010.

Action required by Partners:

1. Partners to officially record and welcome Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust as a new Partner.
 2. Secretariat to inform Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust of the result and modify key Partnership documents (website included) accordingly.
2. A number of Potential Partners will participate in the 4th Meeting of Partners. These include national governments that have been observers at previous Meetings as well as some attending for the first time.

Action required by Partners:

Secretariat to undertake appropriate follow-up with Potential Partners that show strong interest and use appropriate means, including in-country visitations where necessary, to secure them as new Partners.

4.2 Response to requests for elevating the status of the Partnership

Briefing notes provided by EAAFP Secretariat.

From time to time the Secretariat is asked directly or indirectly why the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership does not have similar status as the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and/or a closer tie to the United Nations.

While it is possible to address such questions on a case-by-case basis, it would be advantageous if the Partners could develop an agreed statement on this issue. This need not be lengthy; perhaps only several paragraphs. The statement could then be posted on the EAAFP website and inquirers could be referred to that information source.

Rather than consume a lot of time crafting words during the present Meeting, perhaps a temporary working group could be appointed by the Partners to develop brief text that could be circulated out of session.

Action required by Partners:

To decide the merit of the Partnership preparing a statement on this issue and establish a course of action for its development and approval by the Partners.

5.1 Process for submission and approval of projects for Partnership funding

Briefing notes provided by EAAFP Secretariat.

In the main, cooperative projects in the Flyway will be undertaken by one or more Partners with one Partner administering the funding. The Secretariat's role will be to provide support where Partners cannot undertake a particular aspect of the project.

However, within the annual funding provided by Korea to the Partnership under the MoU there is a budget line "Partnership Activities" of KRW100million. A substantial portion will be used to cover the costs of the Meeting of Partners but it is expected that more than half will remain available for other activities. Whereas a portion of that will be needed to cover specific EAAFP Secretariat commitments that may arise during the year, a portion may remain available for cooperative projects in the Flyway.

Meanwhile, from time to time the Partnership receives funds from Partners or other sources, which are marked to be used at the Partnership's discretion. Consequently, a significant amount of funding may sometimes exist in the Secretariat account, which could be directed to cooperative projects in the Flyway.

The timing of availability of such funds would be unpredictable. Therefore, the Secretariat wishes to identify a process by which these funds can be allocated to worthy projects, outside of the annual Meetings of Partners.

A possible mechanism could work as follows:

- Chief Executive announces availability of funding to all Partners and provides an application form
- Partners submit funding proposals within (say) three weeks, for the Chief Executive to review
- Chief Executive applies selection criteria based on generic criteria approved by the Meetings of Partners and taking account of the present circumstances
- Chief Executive presents recommendations to the Management Committee, which will identify its own decision-making process in relation to these recommendations
- Secretariat acts on the Management Committee's decision and undertakes any necessary project administration that is not to be done by a Partner.
- If project management is to be done mainly by the Secretariat, then the Secretariat will report to the funding body and to the next Meeting of Partners, after conclusion of the project.

To minimise administration work for the Secretariat, perhaps the Chief Executive could be authorised by the Partners to make decisions without Management Committee approval, for funding of projects up to a certain low amount, say KRW10million.

Action required by Partners:

1. to identify a mechanism for allocation of Partnership funding to cooperative Flyway projects outside the annual Meeting process
2. to define general selection criteria and thresholds for use within the mechanism

5.2 Project proposals for possible Partnership funding support

Briefing notes provided by EAAFP Secretariat.

Further to the context set in Document 5.1, the Secretariat wishes to advise that it expects in the order of KRW25million, possibly more, to be available for cooperative projects in the Flyway in calendar year 2010.

Several proposals were raised at earlier Meetings of Partners but the Secretariat is not aware of the proponents' intentions.

No project proposals have been placed before the Chief Executive specifically seeking Partnership funding in 2010. However, some relevant proposals will be directly or indirectly mentioned in the course of the 4th Meeting of Partners. For example, there is a need to have more documents translated to Flyway languages other than English and consultants would be required for that work.

As the year 2010 is already well advanced it would be best to resolve funding allocations as soon as possible but probably not within the very short timeframe offered by the present Meeting.

Action required by Partners:

The Partners should identify any worthy project concepts or proposals arising from the Meeting's deliberations and set a timeframe for specific Partners and/or the Secretariat to develop these into full project proposals ready for assessment.

6. Flyway Partnership Administration

Explanatory Note:

Documents related to Flyway Partnership administration may contain some sensitive material and/or more detail than is appropriate or practical for the (widely circulated) MoP agenda documents. It is intended that they will be discussed in detail by the EAAFP Management Committee at its meeting on 22 February 2010, with specific recommendations prepared for the Meeting to consider. After any necessary revisions by the Secretariat, some if not all of the material may be provided to the Meeting for discussion under Item 6. Hopefully, the documents will be disseminated at least 24 hours before they are due to be discussed.

Document 6.1

6.1 Review of operation of the Secretariat

The Chief Executive will report to the Management Committee on the staffing and the systems operating in the Secretariat, advising any challenges that need to be resolved at this time. Some matters may be more appropriate for this closed meeting rather than for the main (open) Meeting. Also, professional audit of the financial records of the Korea-based Secretariat for 2009 has been commissioned and if completed on time the audit report will be presented to the Meeting. These matters will be reported to the Meeting of Partners, as appropriate.

Document 6.2

6.2 Delegation of authority between the Chair and Chief Executive

The Chief Executive requires authorisation as to which decisions he can make and instruction on decisions that must be made instead by the Chair. Informal arrangements have been applied so far but it would be desirable for the Meeting to endorse an arrangement that has first been discussed by the Management Committee.

Document 6.3

6.3 Terms of Reference and appointment of the Management Committee

The EAAFP Management Committee has played a valuable support and advisory role to the Chief Executive. Terms of Reference for the Committee were developed as a result of MoP3, especially in relation to settling the hosting of the Secretariat. Some Committee members have requested that the process for appointment to the Committee be reviewed. Therefore the Committee will review the Terms and if necessary prepare a proposal with revised Terms of Reference and rules for appointment, to present to the Meeting of Partners for consideration.

Document 6.4

6.4 Criteria for allocating funding sponsorship to attend Meetings of Partners

The Secretariat developed a brief rationale for allocation of sponsorship funding to participants attending MoP4. This document will be considered by the Management Committee with a proposal to present to the Meeting of Partners for consideration.

Document 6.5

6.5 Secretariat's Work Plan 2010: to be revised in line with meeting outcomes

The Chief Executive has given consideration to a provisional program of actions that the Secretariat should conduct in 2010. This includes both administrative matters and outcomes under the Implementation Plan. The Meeting of Partners is the forum at which the Partners can jointly assemble an annual work plan for the Partnership. Accordingly, the planned activities and new activities identified and endorsed during MoP4 will be merged into a revised EAAFP Work Plan for 2010.

Document 6.6

6.6 Secretariat's Budget 2010: to be revised in line with the workplan and the meeting outcomes

The Chief Executive and his staff have prepared an operational budget for 2010, based on the basic budget specified in the MoU with the Korean Government. Much of this expenditure is predetermined and needs little further discussion.

However, a significant reallocation of existing amounts between two budget lines requires discussion. This mainly relates to the higher-than-expected (monthly) cost of office rental, which was a commitment made after the MoU was signed but before the Chief Executive was appointed. Meanwhile, the need for using the budget's Office Equipment allocation is greatly reduced now that the office has been set up. Subject to the conclusions of the Management Committee, the Meeting may be requested to endorse this adjustment between budget lines.

A significant portion of the MoU funding is expected to remain available after MoP4 costs have been settled. Together with any additional funding provided by Partners but without specific purpose, this creates opportunity for the Partnership to undertake new collaborative activities in the Flyway. Such activities may have been discussed under Agenda item 5, with priorities agreed. Therefore it remains for the Meeting to give any specific further instruction to the Secretariat in regard to its Budget for 2010.