

**Developing a Joint CEPA Project for the East-Asian Australasian Flyway in 2019 and Sharing Information on Successful CEPA Interventions**

**Day 1**

**Session I**

**1. Welcome and brief introduction to the Workshop**

**Lew Young, Chief, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership**

Welcomed the participants who had come from across the flyway to the workshop, to share their experiences and case studies so that we can learn from each other and to discuss opportunities for working closer together in future. Such cooperation could be through the development of ‘Sister School’, ‘Sister Site’ or other programs to link the people from different sites along the flyway which are already linked by the waterbirds that use them during their annual migration. He also thanked the Chair of the CEPA Working Group and SCPW for the hard work in organizing the meeting.

**Sandra Hails, Chair, EAAFP CEPA Working Group**

Reminded all participants that they had been invited here to share their experiences in using CEPA tools to advance the understanding and conservation of migratory birds. While some participants may well define themselves as more ‘technical’, the reality is that everyone has to use CEPA skills in their work. By presenting and discussing your collective successful experiences and CEPA materials at this meeting and using the Story-telling Templates we will be able share your skills and experiences to a much wider audience across the Flyway.

**2. Successful CEPA Actions**

**PPT presentations from the 10 participants** on their successful CEPA projects were shared followed by question and answer sessions.

David Lawrie, Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebirds Centre, New Zealand

 *The Flock – a nationwide activity in school and community groups*

Kim Wilson & Sharon Meredith, Peel Harvey Catchment Council, Australia

 *Wetlands and People Plan – A CEPA Action Plan for Ramsar Site 482*

Oleg Goroshko, Daursky Nature Reserve, Russia

*(i) Solution for the problem of bird electrocution in the Daurian Stepp*

*(ii) Reduction of crop depredation by cranes and geese*

Pyae Phyo Aung, BANCA, Myanmar

*CEPA activities for Ramsar Site designation of the Gulf of Mottama*

Yang Shufen, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, Singapore

*Sister Wetlands Affiliation Programme*

Casey Burns, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska, USA

*Qupaluk FNS outreach to Alaska native people*

Hiroko Okamoto, Wild Bird Society of Japan, Japan

*Green Holiday: a weekend volunteer tour for wetland conservation*

Sergei Smirenski, Muraviovka Park, Russia

 *International cooperation in bird studies*

Vivian Fu, ex Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, currently EAAFP Secretariat, South Korea

 *An animation of Spoon-billed Sandpiper*

Amy Lecciones, Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, Inc., Philippines

 *Training Farmers at Candaba Wetlands*

**Special Presentations**

Bernhard Seliger, Hans Seidel Foundation

 *The current and future work of the Hans Seidel Foundation in DPRK*

Jay Lee, Executive Director, National Geographic – Asia

*The current and future work of National Geographic-Asia*

**3. Successful CEPA Actions – participants identified key elements of their CEPA action that were important in achieving success.**

David Lawrie, *The Flock – a nationwide activity in school and community groups*

\* Good knock-on effect of the activity which went far round New Zealand and beyond

\* Simple project, wide impact, easily transferable

\* Programme had a limited budget – lack of funds is not always a barrier to success.

Casey Burns, *Qupaluk FNS outreach to Alaska native people*

\* Listening to the voices of the community

\* Having a champion to push the activity along

\* Flexibility and persistence in approach

Kim Wilson, *Wetlands and People Plan – A CEPA Action Plan for Ramsar Site 482*

\* Long-term engagement with the Ramsar initiative was important

\* Strong commitment/support from the community

\* Having a solid project framework, and having an officer closely engaged in the project

Oleg Goroshko, *Solution for the problem of bird electrocution in the Daurian Stepp*

\* An engineering fix was available and this was important in achieving our aim

\* Working closely with local communities to find a joint solution for protection of the birds

\* There was an incentive to act – through imposition of fines on power line companies when necessary

Sergei Smirenskii, *International cooperation in bird studies*

\* Needs to benefit people as well as birds

\* Lateral outcomes/drivers – water quality improvements for human health improve bird habitat

\* Need to be flexible – initially focused on cranes but then moved to Yellow-breasted bunting to achieve same result. Different story – same result.

Pyae Phyo Aung, *CEPA activities for Ramsar Site designation of the Gulf of Mottama*

\* Community involvement was effective and essential

\* Successful engagement with key government decision-makers

Yang Shufen, *Sister Wetlands Affiliation Programme*

\* Skill, Timeline, & Good resources important

\* Longevity and continuity for sustainability

Hiroko Okamoto, *Green Holiday: a weekend volunteer tour for wetland conservation*

\* Local Taiwanese coordinator identified

\* Good connection with Taiwanese university -→youth connection

\* Financial support through a private company (Toyota) important

Vivienne Fu, *An animation of Spoon-billed Sandpiper*

\* Collaboration with a range of partners

\* Keep it simple – so that language and having many partners are not barriers

\* Make use of networks e.g. EAAFP network

Amy Lecciones, *Training Farmers at Candaba Wetlands*

\* Support of local communities as well as Government offices/partners important

\* Local economic incentive essential = tour guiding by farmers

Overall - participants concluded that flexibility and persistence are what counts!!

**Session II**

**1. CEPA Materials.** Presentation of materials by participants with Q and A session. This is a résumé of the diversity of materials shared.

**Casey Burns**

Written materials produced for farmers and ranchers on benefits of raptors on farmland in Utah; handouts on Wintering Raptors and Attracting Wildlife for Pest Control distributed at meetings and on web sites used by farmers; [Whimbrels on the Wing](https://manometinc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=32f5ed26c89140dd96ae360844625551), an online animation from Manomet targeting the general public.

**Kim Wilson**

Many CEPA Materials are available on our Website, including for example, Citizen Science projects with local communities; Shorebird identity training workshops; Art for advocacy and awareness (with artist David Rennie); Youth engagement project focussed around litter and behaviour change; *Wetlands from Above* feature film.

**Sergei Smirenski**

Materials to raise awareness of wildlife for people with no knowledge and little skill: T-shirts in four languages for teens and adults; Mugs; Tours for blind people; Festivals e.g. for choirs etc.; Bird cards.

**David Lawrie**

Week course on photography; Wader ID courses; Art and Nature courses; Booklet on the Flyway; monthly Magazine.

**Pyae Phyo Aung**

Conducted a ‘Let’s Save the Shorebirds’ campaign for local communities with: T-shirts and brochures; Leaflets and poster in the national language; Video on Spoon-billed Sandpiper.

**Hiroko Okamoto**

Barn swallow studies for primary schools (jointly with Ecotourism Taiwan): the Barn Swallows Observation Guide is a teaching kit that provides a simple swallow survey method to help young children learn how to observe nature in their environment; the Spoonbilled Sandpiper (SBS) Teaching Kit (jointly with Vivian Fu, formerly with the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society): a teaching kit that includes easy-to-use activities with basic information on wetlands and SBS life; Paper-theatre(*Kamishibai*): a form of story-telling originated in Japan that can be used easily within a class (translation into other languages possible).

**Oleg Goroshko**

Leaflets for local people; Calendars; Posters; Drawing competition for children (around 2000 submissions; books and calendars produced using the drawings); Joint international research and monitoring activities between Russia and Mongolia; Monitoring network involving 250 plots and carried out 6 times per year; Working group of 15 people from 3 countries meets 1-3 times per year (funded by the Government).

**Vivian Fu**

Card game for understanding Critically Endangered Chinese Crested Tern, which includes elements of threats and conservation actions; Spoonbill Sandpiper Teaching Kit to be used by schoolteachers on school grounds (a project developed with Hiroko and delivered in respective countries and languages)

**Yand Shufen**

Special web page with for 25 years of Sungei Buloh plus many diverse resources online for schools.

**Note:**

Vivian Fu, Flyway Communications Officer, will contact participants on their materials to seek out what can be done to follow-up and share these through the Flyway newsletter and Facebook page. In some cases, the design files may be made available to others upon request to facilitate the uptake and further use of successful materials.

**Day 2**

**Session III**

1. Morning Field trip to the Ramsar Site Las Piñas–Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area with our guide Justin de Ramos of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Capital Region. Participants had a fine walk in the coastal forest with some interesting birds and plants but were also made painfully aware of the problem of plastic waste on the shore line that requires frequent clean-up work by Amy Lecciones and her colleagues. The problem of plastic waste is addressed in education activities with children at the site.

**Session IV**

1. Presentation by Jay Lee, Executive Director, National Geographical Society – Asia

The presentation covered the Nat Geo grant system, including the key themes of Changing Planet, Wildlife and The Human Journey; the Nat Geo Lab working on technology for scientific research; Grants in Asia; Year of the Birds (2018); University of Washington collaboration on building a map of migrating birds in Asia; possible project in collaboration with the Flyway on tagged migrating birds.

2. Presentation by Kim Jong Ok (Ministry of Land and Environment Protection, DPRK)

The presentation covered: National activities for Wetland Conservation to raise awareness about the value and importance of wetlands and migratory birds; joint surveys; updating the 2nd Edition of the National Inventory of Wetlands; International cooperation including overseas training and participation in meetings; designation of Mundok and Eason as a Ramsar Site and FNS site earlier this year; various public awareness activities and materials (field guides, desk calendars, leaflets, multimedia materials).

3. Planned activities by participants in 2019 and beyond:

**EAAFP Secretariat – Vivian Fu**

Production of the EAAFP newsletter;

Moving the EAAFP website to new host (need CEPA WG to suggest improvement);

Promoting FNS designations (achieving better branding of the name – perhaps small grant to support celebration events at new sites).

**Australia – Kim Wilson**

*Stints are Rad*, a broad-ranging school programme with diverse activities. In 2019 and beyond we plan:

High-school students becoming citizen scientists for a day, learning basic shorebird identification and participating in shorebird monitoring;

Wetland Yarns and Aboriginal names panel;

Students will follow Amelia Formby on her Microlight flight in 2022 ([www.wingthreads.com](https://wingthreads.com/))following satellite-tagged migratory birds; school visits by Amelia where she stops;

Ramsar Festival planned Sept-Nov 2019 (or Spring 2019 to coincide with WBMD);

Microplastics investigations with students to help understand the level of contamination especially within shoreline sands and mudflats.

**Russia – Sergei Smirenski**

Develop/extend facilities for adults and student camps in English for students from East Asia in the staging area for Yellow-breasted Buntings; banding of these birds with students; focus not just on science but also on communication;

Translocation of Red-crowned Cranes and their young to raise within the Park; organising a Crane Festival;

Invite people from DPRK to go to the reserves.

**New Zealand** – **David Lawrie**

Strategic Planning process has commenced and will continue – this will include a CEPA Plan;

Migratory Bird Days in March and October – organise farewell and welcome public events;

Support WWD activities at other sites.

**Russia – Oleg Goroshko**

Study migration using loggers and geo-locators with a focus on key local, most endangered species such as Cranes;

Establish new Protected Areas;

Continue power line project to reduce kills;

Campaign to stop spring hunting – this is a big issue;

International drawing competition and summer camp for children;

Publish book on children’s drawings of cranes and organise a Crane Festival;

Establish international cooperation with Chinese counterparts.

**RRC- East Asia – Suh Seung-Oh**

Annual technical training of wetland managers (2 people from 18 countries annually) looking at management tools, wetland planning techniques, information exchange;

Sub-regional training on transboundary issues (Yellow sea; Lower Mekong IBBRI);

National wetland technical training events in national languages;

Promote WWD – perhaps working with baseball team as before;

School visits to talk about wetlands;

WLI-Asia Conference in Guangdhu – maybe with 50 wetland centres (2019).

**Alaska, USA – Casey Burns**

Most of the waterbird activity is focussed along the American Flyways, not the EAAF. May Bird Festivals take place for arriving birds – we will highlight the EAAF and education components;

Will look at Sister Sites relationships and even Triple Sister Sites (breeding, staging and wintering);

Share the flyway work with local communities;

Provide a newsletter story and include Flyway information in a March 2019 Science Centre presentation;

Trivia Night for awareness and fund-raising, hopefully with Agency Funding next time; attracted 20 teams of 4 people, donation of $140 per team, with prizes for the first three.

**Hong Kong, China – Vivian Fu**

Citizen Science programmeand monthly bird surveys along the China coast, sponsored by the Swire Trust to promote wetlands - reports are published and help attract more monitoring members;

Find small grants to support SbS conservation in Myanmar and southern China;

Provide training for University students who have to work in villages during their summer holidays.

**Hans Seidler Foundation – Bernard Seliger**

Continue working with partners in DPRK with publications such as bird guides;

Celebrating WWD and WBMD festivals at the FNS.

**DPRK – Kim Ji Hwang**

Publish more guidelines about wetlands and migratory birds;

Celebrate National Bird Day;

Start organising Wetland/Bird and Swan/Geese Festivals;

Develop ecotourism that is science-based on the border with Russia;

Develop a National CEPA Strategy;

Work to improve livelihoods of people at sites.

**Singapore – Yang Shufen**

Bring science to the people – we have 11 satellite trackers on birds, 5 birds are supplying data. Data transmitted to the public using infographics (flyway map). Working with local collaborators to help showcase the flyway map;

Developing Sister Sites using web conferencing with visitor centre lab as well as animation and art projects;

Developing further the ASEAN Flyway Network – moving to Phase 2 which will have more CEPA activities including training for site staff;

In October for WBMD we will use the ‘Flock’ idea from New Zealand.

**Philippines – Justin de Ramos** (Department of Environment and Natural Resources – NCR)

Revisit the CEPA Plan to include the whole of Manila Bay;

Develop community-based eco-guiding programme for LPPCHEA;

Local policy-maker advocacy to support the programme through discussion and engagement with local village officials;

Comms team will develop social and digital media programme (more cost effective than printed material);

Open Visitor Centre by 1st November.

**Japan – Hiroko Okamoto**

Encourage the use of Spoon-billed Sandpiper teaching kit, for example, developing a training workshop for teachers/educators.

Hopefully, develop an International training workshop to collaborate with other SBS sites/countries in the future.

We have a FNS Wetland Park in Tokyo Port established by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and managed by the Wild Bird Society of Japan. I will share the information of this workshop with co-workers who work for the Tokyo Port Wild Bird Park and talk about the possibility of our future work.

**Myanmar – Pyae Phyo Aung**

Baer’s Pochard survey in freshwater;

Training planned for Gulf of Mottama Site Managers, including study visits to neighbouring countries;

Preparing new Flyway Network Site designations under the Japan-Asean Fund;

Collaborating with the Forest Department on site management;

Government will improve site management planning and develop a strategy for Ramsar Site designation;

Under the new Ramsar Regional Initiative we will be cooperating in the development of an Indo-Burma Wetland Strategy.

**DPRK – Kim Jong Ok**

Publish awareness materials about migratory birds and wetland conservation;

Prepare multimedia materials on wetland migratory birds and wetland reserves;

Continue training management staff and local people on wetland management and bird survey skills;

Work with local communities to help improve livelihoods;

Conduct clean cities campaign;

Strengthen international collaboration.

**National Geographic – Jay Lee**

Developing a 3 Year budgeted workplan (Oct 2018-2021) that includes achieving 1 million data points for species, sites, researchers/experts and citizens;

Launching a Nat-Geotech lab through academics and/ or Governments that will have two full-time staff, starting with two labs in Asia and developing the necessary technology for citizen science products;

Hoping to have 14 fellows from several countries to become National Geographic Fellows;

In December, 2018 will have a 4-day citizen science training workshop in Hong Kong.

**4. Introducing the EAAFP Strategic Plan and the CEPA Strategy and Action Plan for the Flyway**

**Brief Introduction by Lew Young on the** [**draft EAAFP Strategic Plan**](https://eaaflyway.net/about-us/the-partnership/partners/meetings-of-partners/10th-meeting-of-partners-mop-10/) **to be considered at MOP10**

**of specific relevance to the Flyway and CEPA**

* The EAAFP is recognised by the Ramsar Convention as one of the Convention’s Ramsar Regional Initiatives and FNS sites are at the same level of importance as Ramsar Sites (some sites carry both designations)
* Under Indicator (Key Result Area) 1.6.1, *At least 5 new EAAFP Sister Site relationships have been developed* (NB the Flyway Secretariat has prepared guidelines for the development of Sister Sites)
* Under Indicator 2.2.2 *The EAAFP newsletter is being published monthly*; it encourages regular update materials from Partners, Working Groups and Task Forces
* Under Indicator 2.4.1 Partners should *Encourage Education Departments/Ministries to include the concept of migratory birds and conservation of their habitats in the school curriculum*
* Note that ALL elements under Objective 2 are CEPA-related
* The CEPA Strategy and Action Plan should be adopted at MOP10 and should include measurable outputs and outcomes.

**Brief Introduction by Sandra Hails-Downie of the** [**draft CEPA Strategy and Action Plan**](https://eaaflyway.net/about-us/the-partnership/partners/meetings-of-partners/10th-meeting-of-partners-mop-10/) **to be considered at MOP10**

* The current CEPA document replaces a very generic CEPA Strategy that was perhaps too generic to really attract any attention by implementers.
* This draft document is detailed, making sure that all Flyway implementers can ‘find’ themselves in the Plan.
* To assist implementers in finding their way around the detailed document we have used a colour coding system for implementer groups
* Implementer groups include EAAFP Secretariat, Governments (essentially a Government Focal Point), Inter-Governmental Organisations (IGO), International NGOs (INGO), Site Managers and Visitor Centre Managers, CEPA WG, Other Working Groups and Task Forces
* Element of concern is that because of the formal structure of the Flyway, only INGOs are considered ‘Partners’ and are recognised in the CEPA Plan. It is hoped that the many NGOs working for the Flyway can still ‘see themselves’ in the document and will continue to contribute towards implementation.

**Day 3**

**Session V**

**1.** **Bernard Seliger** presented a video on the Cranes at Ambyon where decoy cranes successfully attracted 6 cranes to the area.

**2.** **Developing a joint CEPA activity** **from this group of implementers**

(a) Bilateral discussions among some participants identified two specific joint CEPA activities that they will further develop:

**Singapore (Shufen) and Australia (Sharon/Kim)** discussed working together on a joint project on Citizen Science and art that would link with the Amelia Formby Microlight project following migratory birds. Using the Microlight website, online tracking, web conferencing etc. students from different countries could work together.

**New Zealand (David) and Alaska (Casey)** discussed working together to link indigenous people with an exchange activity – perhaps even a triple-sister relationship – with their local indigenous communities.

(b) Participants were divided into two groups to brainstorm a joint CEPA activity for the whole group of implementers present at this meeting:

**Sarus Crane Group**

* Need species that ‘speak’ to people. Suggest 1-5 species are identified to cover the Flyway – should be ‘signature’ species (e.g. Bar-tailed Godwit, Yellow-breasted Bunting, Black-faced Spoonbill) that can carry the message of the Flyway
* Theme should highlight some of the challenges e.g. litter/plastics, hunting, development etc. noting that there will be different challenges across the Flyway
* Once we have identified species, use effective media tools - such as teleconferences, videos, animations, art competitions, interactive maps, ‘flock’ ideas for ‘fun’ festivals, interactive maps to link people – will help local people see the global perspective of what they are doing and the global problems
* Suitable platforms would include iNaturalist, Facebook etc.
* Need to identify the key stakeholders: farmers, business people, teachers etc. Could highlight the stresses and pressures at different sites (showing how actions on-the-ground impact species across the Flyway)
* Should work at different Flyway levels – regional (e.g. Yellow Sea, ASEAN etc.) and at bilateral level (e.g. with Sister Sites)
* Should work at various levels – scientific work, monitoring, awareness
* Need a key project that uses good science, good collaborative partnership, and good communication
* A good cross-cutting theme might be ‘Culture and Connections’ or ‘Science and Collaboration’

**Red Knot Group**

* ‘Culture’ could be the theme – relevant for everyone
* Song, dance, art involving community leaders and young people/students
* Above groups could create short videos (2-3 minutes) which could be stitched together and uploaded for sharing across the Flyway
* A theme for 2020 could be ‘migratory birds and livelihoods’ talking about practices on rice fields, fish ponds, wheat fields etc.
* Other ideas include awards on WBMD, film project, Sister Sites linking traditional people and how they look after the land, using people as connectors between sites, instilling community pride, showing how the site can create jobs and why it should be protected
* Website used as a hub with photos and materials that can be downloaded and shared etc.
* Awards that can be given at the MOP and can also be made at national or local levels

**3. Discussion on the improvement of the EAAFP website**

Ideas/comments from an open discussion on improving the website include:

* Noted that there is a relatively low number of users – the Flyway is likely just not well enough known to attract many visitors?
* There are website tools available to help with marketing the website; perhaps also need to think of the website as the ‘official’ channel with Facebook and Twitter more about using social media to reach out to the public
* Carry out a review of users on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat to compare with website users – likely to be serving contrasting purposes/users?
* The Website should be the more ‘official’ source of information on the Flyway
* More detailed information about Flyway Sites may be useful to attract visitors
* Use WBMD for promoting the website on that day
* Make the website a source of news
* Package Sister-Site activities/projects that match the theme (so as to connect projects at local level within the Flyway umbrella)
* Staff of PHCC have offered to help with suggested improvements to the website
* Provide clickable information on the partner page
* Noted that the newsletter is sent to 400 people; it goes out every two months

**4. What are you taking away with you from this workshop?**

**David Lawrie, New Zealand**. There was value in having a small group, thinking ahead and strategically planning in the longer-term. Am encouraged to go back to my CEPA group with new ideas.

**Sergei Smirenski, Russia**. Learned a lot from others at the meeting, face-to face meeting is stimulating, very helpful and cannot be replaced by modern technology.

**Sharon Meredith, Australia**. Hearing about projects, sharing inspiring ideas – it’s the connection between people that drives things and inspires us to develop new projects. Hope to continue with new relationships from here.

**Kim Wilson, Australia**. The amount of knowledge gained here has been enormous and very helpful to have addressed common issues/challenges as well as understanding how it fits into Ramsar (we would like to be a Site partner). Face-to face is very important and effective in developing relationships. Would have been good to know names, countries, and sites for participants at the beginning of the meeting.

**Kim Ji Hwang, DPRK**. This is the first time to join in such a workshop and a good chance to gain knowledge and information. Confidence is now more than before.

**Kim Jong Ok, DPRK**. Very satisfied with the workshop, useful for us and other countries.

**Bernard Seliger, Hans Seidler Foundation**. Working in a small office it is important and nice to share information with others.

**Jay Lee, National Geographic-Asia**. Connecting through people is key. Keep in touch and let’s have more collaboration.

**Pyae Phyo Aung, Myanmar**. Good to feel that we are like other NGOs and that we see that NGOs need to be a part of implementation.

**Hiroko Okamoto, Japan**. We have very few opportunities to work at this international level – I am inspired by the materials and discussions here and will talk to others about this when I return home. Japan has 30+ FNS.

**Caloy Quintos, Philippines**. My mind is now running with ideas! The workshop has inspired me and surprised me with the breadth of ideas and implementation approaches and the willingness of people here to share their experiences.

**Vivian Fu, EAAFP**. The meeting has surprised and inspired me with the breadth of ideas and implementation approaches. Great willingness to share by people here.

**Amy Lecciones, Philippines**. Heart-warming and inspiring to hear the case studies; very inspiring and giving me ideas about further actions.

**Casey Burns, Alaska, USA**. I want to share and feedback to other partners about the workshop. Enjoyed sharing and working with you all – it was a good demonstration of the importance of getting together and sharing such experiences. The Bar-tailed Godwit and Pacific Golden Plover joint work has been inspiring and I will follow up on this.

**Suh Seung-Oh, Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia**. This is my first EAAFP meeting and am happy to have heard all the activities. Have learned a lot and hope to join in with more collaborative work.

**Oleg Goroshko, Russia**. Very good and useful to hear other experiences and get new ideas, meet new and old friends. Good that we are not alone and that others also have problems and solutions that are relevant. Useful for future cooperation.

**End of the Meeting**

**Post – Meeting Actions**

Working with the EAAFP Secretariat, CEPA WG will ensure that

* a report on the workshop, the activities and outcomes, is made available to participants. Using the Flyway website and other channels this will also be made available more broadly
* the PPT presentations by participants are made available in PDF format on the EAAFP website;
* the Story-telling Templates provided by participants are finalised and made available to the Flyway and beyond through the Flyway website and other relevant channels