TENTH MEETING OF PARTNERS TO THE PARTNERSHIP FOR EAST ASIAN – AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY
Changjiang, PR China, 10-14 December 2018

Yellow Sea Task Force meeting
9 December 2018

- Time: 09:00 – 12:30, Sunday, 9 December 2018
- Place: Mingde Hall (Conference Building)
- Purpose:
  With the increasing number of initiatives for the conservation of Yellow Sea migratory waterbirds and their habitats, this meeting will allow each initiative to introduce their work and to investigate opportunities for collaboration. The meeting will also review the future role of the EAAF Yellow Sea Task Force in view of the ongoing initiatives

Time	Program item	Comments
09:00 – 09:15	Self-introduction	
09:15 – 09:20	Confirm Agenda	
09:20 – 09:30	Introduction to the Yellow Sea TF and the purpose of the meeting (Bruce McKinlay)	
09:30 – 11:15	• Working Group for the Conservation of the Yellow/West Sea intertidal and associated coastal Wetlands (IUCN) • WWF/China Flyways Program (WWF) • Paulson Institute on China Coastal Wetlands Network; • Hann's Seidel Foundation on DPRK-ROK cooperation; • Yancheng Yellow Sea Institute/Beijing Forestry University; • Flyway Bottleneck Yellow Sea project (Wetlands International). • Questions and comments	15 mins per presentation by each organization about their work in the YS + 15 for questions.
11:15 – 12:30	Discussion on opportunities for collaboration and role of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Taskforce	

- Context/Background

Background:

1. The Yellow Sea Taskforce is an intersessional committee of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership. The current terms of reference (attached) were endorsed at MOP 8 and established the following Goal:

To foster and report on the implementation of collaborative activities by EAAFP Partners around the coastal wetlands of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion to reduce the decline of migratory waterbird populations.

2. The role of the Taskforce is to:
    a) Catalyse and coordinate the development of a Collaborative Work Program of Partners around the Yellow Sea Ecoregion for migratory waterbirds;
    b) Maintain an overview of the implementation of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Work Program;
    c) Promote the development of coordination mechanisms at the national level (e.g. National Partnership as called for in the Partnership Text) in each of the three countries of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion;
    d) Assist Partners to develop in-country collaborations;
    e) Monitor and report on the implementation and the effectiveness of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Work Program.

3. In the Yellow Sea Taskforce Report to MOP 10[1] the members identified the following as successful aspects of the implementation in the period leading up to the MOP:
    a) The accession of the DPR Korea to the Partnership ensures that all the relevant Governments around the Yellow Sea are available to support conservation of migratory waterbird habitat in the Yellow Sea Eco-Region;
    b) The ongoing survey work between National Union for Conservation of Nature (DPRK) and Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust has been extremely successful in identifying key areas in the West Sea;
    c) Leadership by the Government of PR China to protect coastal wetlands through implementing the Blue Line Project and establishing further protected areas in the Bohai Sea;
    d) Leadership by the PR China and RO Korea to develop a transnational application for World Heritage status for the Yellow Sea.

4. Conversely, a lack of connection among Taskforce members was identified as the main challenges for the Taskforce in the inter sessional period.

5. Since MOP9, there has also been an increasing number of initiatives from a range of Partners and other stakeholders to progress the conservation of coastal wetland conservation in the Yellow Sea. Examples include:
    a. Working Group for the Conservation of the Yellow/West Sea intertidal and associated coastal Wetlands;
    b. WWF/China Flyways Program;
    c. Paulson Institute on China Coastal Wetlands Network;
    d. Hann's Seidel Foundation on DPRK-ROK cooperation;
    e. Yancheng Yellow Sea Institute/Beijing Forestry University;
    f. Flyway Bottleneck Yellow Sea project (Wetlands International).

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[1] https://eaaflyway.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/22.EAAFP-MOP10-Partner-Report_Yellow-Sea-Eco-Region-TF_comp.pdf

6. There will be others. This list an indication of the need for collaborative action to protect the coastal wetlands of the Yellow Sea, the habitats and populations of migratory waterbirds that rely on them and the need to protect the livelihoods of the people who live along this coastline and rely on these wetlands for their livelihoods.
7. The purpose of the Taskforce Meeting is to review these many perspectives and ensure that the Yellow Sea Taskforce of the EAAFP is best positioned to support these.

EAAFP YELLOW SEA ECOREGION TASK FORCE

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE COP8 V2

1. Goal: To foster and report on the implementation of collaborative activities by EAAFP Partners around the coastal wetlands of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion to reduce the decline of migratory waterbird populations.

2. Role
   The role of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force will be to:
   1. Catalyse and coordinate the development of a Collaborative Work Program of Partners around the Yellow Sea Ecoregion for migratory waterbirds;
   2. Maintain an overview of the implementation of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Work Program;
   3. Promote the development of coordination mechanisms at the national level (e.g. National Partnership as called for in the Partnership Text) in each of the three countries of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion;
   4. Assist Partners to develop in-country collaborations;
   5. Monitor and report on the implementation and the effectiveness of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Work Program.

3. *Term*
   The EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force will operate until the end of the 2012-2016 EAAFP Implementation Strategy and at this time its function and Terms of Reference will be reviewed.

4. Membership
   Membership of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force will be open to:
   1. EAAFP Government Partners from the countries around the Yellow Sea Ecoregion
   2. The designated representative of other EAAFP Partners
   3. The designated representative of key EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces (especially the Shorebird Working Group, Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force and Monitoring Taskforce)
   4. Representatives of national experts and conservation organisations from China, North Korea and South Korea, and
   5. Other experts as required.

5. Officers
   A Chairperson of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force will be elected amongst its members. This position should ideally be filled by an EAAFP Governmental Partner.

6. Meetings
   The EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force should aim to hold face-to-face meetings at least once a year. Other face-to-face meetings may be arranged as circumstances allow (e.g., at EAAFP MOPs). Between meetings, business will be conducted electronically such as via an appropriate Task Force

website.

7. Implementation Arrangements for the EAAFP Collaborative Yellow Sea Ecoregion Work Program
    EAAFP Partners are to have in place a suitable arrangement with a national entity, that has the appropriate approval for the collaborative activities to be implemented.

    The EAAFP Secretariat will provide assistance with communication mechanisms for the Task Force.

8. Reporting
    A report on the implementation of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Work Program will be produced for each EAAFP MoP. A draft of this report will initially be shared with the National Government Partners of the Yellow Sea Ecoregion. It will be based on the contributions from Partners and other contributors to the activities.

    At each EAAFP MoP, the Task Force Chairperson should give an overview report on the development and implementation, summarizing progress, lessons learned, challenges and any adjustments needed. Other reports will be produced by Task Forces as required by the EAAFP Secretariat or relevant EAAFP Working Group.

9. Financing
    The operations of the EAAFP Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force are to be financed primarily by its members and the organizations they represent. Efforts will also be made to fund-raise from appropriate sources.