

EAAFP Small Grants Fund 2020 - Application

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title: Mr Klokov Konstantin Borisovich
(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

Institution: Saint-Petersburg State University, Institute of Earth Science

Institutional address: 10 line, 33, V.O., Saint-Petersburg, Russia
Street address or GPO Box

Degree type: Prof Saint-Petersburg Russia 119178
Suburb or town State or country Postcode

+7-911-289-81-54 +7-911-289-81-54
Primary contact number Mobile phone number

Email address: k.b.klokov@gmail.com

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title: Mr Matsyna Aleksander Ivanovich
(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

Institution: Ornithological Laboratory Ecological Centre DRONT

Institutional address: P.B 631, Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia, 603001
Street address or GPO Box

Degree type: Prof Nizhniy Novgorod Russia 603001
Suburb or town State or country Postcode

+7 910 793 59 18 +7 929 042 35 50
Primary contact number Mobile phone number

Email address: OrnithoLab@mai.ru

Relevant Working Group or Task Force Chair/ - DETAILS

Please contact the EAAFP Programme Officer if additional guidance is needed in relation to this section (programme@eaaflyway.net)

Title: Dr Sunleang Srey
(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

Email address: kampongspeu@yahoo.com

Relevant Working Group or Task Force Chair/Coordinator - DETAILS

Please contact the EAAFP Programme Officer if additional guidance is needed in relation to this section (programme@eaaflyway.net)

Title: Dr Carey Mark
(Mr, Ms etc) Family name Given Name/s

Email address: mark.carey@environment.gov.au

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Title: Please provide a concise and informative title of your entire project (not just the component for which funds are sought)

Evaluation of hunting pressure on Numenius species (Curlews, Whimbrels) and other shorebirds in the Russian Far East. Stage two: surveys in Sakhalin

Part A. Project Proposal

Details of your entire project (not just the component for which funds are sought) (2.5 page maximum)

1. Objectives:

Hunting on shorebirds in the North-East of Russia (most northern part of EAAF) has negative impact on the populations of several threatened species and all shorebirds on the flyway. However, due to the lack of information we cannot evaluate how significant is impact on shorebird populations. Thus, a special survey is needed to assess the hunting press on shorebirds.

The main aim of the project is to assess the effect of illegal and unbalanced legal hunting on shorebirds in the North-East of Russia. The project will focus on EAAFP priority species of shorebirds. Special attention will be paid to Far Eastern Curlew and Whimbrel. Whimbrel is a popular species for legal hunting in the Russian Far East. In this regard, hunting press has significant influence to the population number of this species. Far Eastern Curlew is listed as globally endangered (IUCN Red List) and critically endangered in Australia. In Russia it is protected species, included in Red Data Book. But rather often Far Eastern Curlews are shot by hunters together with Whimbrels as a consequence of incorrect definition. Also it is the most desired species for shouting among all shorebird species due to its large size.

In 2019 prof. Konstantin Klovov and dr. Yuriy Gerasimov started a special project supported by EAAFP Small Grants Fund, Karl Kaus Foundation and UNEP/CMS to assess the hunting pressure on Numenius species and other shorebirds in the Russian Far East. On the first stage, they conducted the survey of shorebird hunting in Kamchatka Peninsula using informal interviews and anonymous questionnaires (see the summary of the results below). We propose the Sakhalin Island for the stage two of the project.

Project is designed to find out in Sakhalin:

- a) The main places where hunters and poachers take most of the shorebirds (first of all, priority EAAFP species);
- b) At what time of year and in what habitats, as well as by what methods shorebirds are harvested;
- c) Which social groups of the local population are engaged in legal hunting for shorebirds and poaching;
- d) Give an approximate estimate of the number of shorebirds shot;
- e) Propose further activities to manage shorebird hunting and protect Far Eastern Curlew and other threatened species;
- f) Better understand methodology for future surveys in the other parts of the Russian Far East.

2. Background:

Hunting is one of two basic factors of decline of shorebirds populations along the EAAF along with the human transformation of their habitats in the intertidal zone (Eduardo et al, to be published) However, there is almost no data on the size of shorebird legal and illegal harvest in the Russian part of the EAAF.

Only a few sources of information on waterbird hunting in North and East of Russia are available. First, a data of the special survey made by Dr. Evgeny Syroechkovskiy and Prof. Konstantin Klovov in 1999–2005 with the assessment of subsistence hunting in 22 settlements of Chukotka and Northern Yakutia (Klovov, Syroechkovsky, 2010). First ever the methodology was developed. The results of this survey showed that birds, especially, geese, ducks, and eiders still remain an important source of food for local families in hundreds of villages on the Far East of Russia. Shorebirds are harvested in a smaller, but still significant number mainly during southward migrations of young birds. All birds are perceived by local families first of all as foodstuff. The amount of harvested birds depends mainly on the geographical location of villages with regard to migratory ways of the species.

Ring recoveries as information source

Second sources is the ring recoveries data of the Bird Ringing Center of Russia, which reveals several regions where the recoveries of shorebirds' rings are more frequent. Most probably, these are areas with high hunting press, in which illegal hunting represents the greatest threat to the shorebirds. These areas include the western and eastern coasts of Kamchatka, the eastern coast of Sakhalin and the western coast of the Sea Of Okhotsk

from the Tatar Strait to the Uda estuary (in the Khabarovsk region). These are preliminary data, which need to be clarified.

Published and unpublished observations

According to the information from a few published papers and personal communications of ornithologist's main shorebirds hunting areas are located in the coastal areas (Arkhipov, 2017). The first ever attempt to evaluate hunting pressure on shorebirds was started in the Russian Far East by prof. Konstantin Klovov and dr. Yuriy Gerasimov prof. in 2019. First year the project was focused on Kamchatka and tried to get a first very general idea where, how and how many shorebirds are harvested. Special attention was given to Whimbrel – the most commonly shot shorebird and endangered Far Eastern Curlew. A new methodology has been developed, which includes analysis of ring recovery data (thanks to Russian Bird Ringing Center) to identify places of active hunting for shorebirds, anonymous social surveys of hunters as well as informal interviews with specialists of the Forestry and Wildlife Protection Agencies and leaders of hunters' societies. The first preliminary evaluation showing annual harvest of 45,000 shorebirds in Kamchatka by legal hunters, of which 37,000 were identified by hunters as Whimbrel (including young Far Eastern Curlew, which still have short bills in August and possibly other bigger shorebirds), about 1,600 of large and medium size shorebirds definitely not Whimbrels and about 6,000 small shorebirds of different species. In addition shorebirds are shot by poachers. 90% of interviewed legal hunters have difficulties with identifying of shorebird species, may shoot Bar-tailed Godwit and Far Eastern Curlew together with Whimbrel and are not aware of shorebird declines and conservation needs.

Considering that Whimbrel are also harvested elsewhere, these results suggest that flyway Whimbrel's population estimate of 55,000 birds is about 3-4 times lower than in reality. Yuriy Gerasimov migration observation of Whimbrels in Kamchatka also confirm this.

According to available information from Sakhalin ornithologists, the hunting press on shorebirds is significant including as well large and small species (poachers shoot dense clusters of small birds). In both cases, there are a large number of wounded birds, which then die, extra to killed bird. The hunt is mostly illegal, although some large shorebirds are harvested legally. Majority of hunters do not distinguish species of shorebirds, except Whimbrel. Hunters shoot all species of large shorebirds as well as all species of small shorebirds. They are shooting many endangered or vulnerable species of EAAF: Spotted Greenshank, Lesser Sand Plover, Great Knot, Red Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew Sandpiper, Eastern Curlew.

Hunting is a significant threat mainly to the Whimbrel. This is longstanding traditional hunting on crowberry coastal spits both subsistence and sport – very popular all over Russian Far East. It starts a week before the hunting season for ducks and geese. Whimbrels make big concentrations on the coasts of Sakhalin Island. Presumably, this hunting is a serious threat to the Far Eastern Curlew, which is a protected species, but is often shot by hunters mostly unintentionally. Also, hunting can cause significant damage to populations of Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits, and probably to Greenshanks (including Spotted Greenshank), Redshanks, Knots, large Plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, Grey-tailed Tattler and some others. However, we do not have enough objective data supporting these assumptions.

Hunting for small waders occurs mainly due to the lack of larger species. Critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpipers are clearly not shot on purpose but among other small waders in concentrations. On the background of extremely small world population (about 200 nesting pairs), the loss of even a few individuals can cause dramatic decline of the population.

It should be noted, that shorebird hunting as well as other birds hunting had increased along the Pacific coast of Russia during last 20+years. More opportunities to use of modern all-terrain vehicles enables local hunters and visitors to reach formerly inaccessible territories and there is no police and game inspectors in remote areas.

3. Project plan, timeline and methods:

Please include the proposed timing of project commencement, start and completion of fieldwork (if applicable), project completion. Please also comment on the flexibility of the timeline of the project.

In 2019 we started the project with field research on Kamchatka, since it is in this area that the most vulnerable places are located where shorebirds are hunted and logistically it is most realistic as it has active branch of BirdsRussia operating there. In 2020

we plan to continue on Sakhalin Island, and next year in Khabarovsk and Primorsky Regions. However, the methodology should be improved on the base of the results of the 2019. In Kamchatka comprehensive interviews with experts and short anonymous questionnaires distributed among local hunters in 2019 were the main ways of obtaining information. This methodology gave good results to assess the number of harvested Whimbrels as well it provided an opportunity to establish the fact of harvesting species banned for hunting but it does not allow to give quantitative estimation of the harvest. Contrary to our expectations, hunters did not mention the harvest of Far Eastern Curlew in the anonymous questionnaire and did not talk about it in the interview as they could not recognize this species. Thus, to assess the harvest of Far Eastern Curlew it is necessary to watch the hunt and in order to do this, during hunting season two or three people should go to places in different hunting area where during autumn migrations habitats of Whimbrel and Far Eastern Curlew intersect.

Field work in Sakhalin is planned for August – September, 2020. It will include, firstly, expert semi-formal interviews using detailed questionnaires with the employees of the Hunting Agency of Sakhalin and with the leaders of the hunting societies in the villages located along the sea coast, where the autumn concentrations of shorebirds take place. These people are familiar with the life of the local people and can tell a lot about who, where, when and how they hunt in the vicinity of their villages. The information received from them will make it possible to draw up a description of the situation with both legal and illegal hunting of shorebirds at a qualitative level, as well as to mark on the map the most dangerous places where the shorebirds are most persecuted by local hunters and poachers. In addition, local volunteers following the instruction of ornithologists will observe the hunting in close contacts with several local hunters to reveal if hunters really shoot Far Eastern Curlew together with Whimbrel.

Secondly, a short anonymous questionnaire will be developed. It will be distributed to local hunters in villages situated on western and eastern coasts of Sakhalin Island. This questionnaire will contain questions about the types and number of killed shorebirds. It will allow to give a rough estimate of the number of birds killed, as well as to find out to what extent Sakhalin hunters can distinguish species of shorebirds (especially protected ones).

The anonymous questionnaire will be distributed among local residents by specially hired for this purpose persons, selected from most competent representatives of the local people (employees of the hunting agency of Sakhalin, chairmen of hunting societies, local ornithologists, school biology teachers, etc.).

The field survey is expected to be completed by Dr. Aleksandr Matsina together with 1-2 ornithologists and local volunteers by the end of September 2020 and processing of materials by the end of November 2020. A report will be submitted in December 2020. Several conservationists and shorebird specialists from the Russian Far East will also be involved in the project. Trustworthy and competent people selected from local residents will take part in the fieldwork to distribute and complete the questionnaires.

In 2020 we are planning 6 steps of the project:

- 1) Discussion at the round table on the result of the first stage of the project in Kamchatka in 2019 (March, 2020);
- 2) Evaluation of main concentrations of shorebirds along Sakhalin coasts to identify priority villages and coastal areas to be visited based on published papers, unpublished reports and expert interviews;
- 3) Development of toolkit for expert interviews and for anonymous questioning of hunters during fieldwork in Sakhalin (April - May, 2020);
- 4) Fieldwork in Sakhalin: expert interviews and anonymous questionnaires among hunters and hunt observation (August – September, 2020);
- 5) Data processing, preparation of the report and articles for publication (October – December, 2020); an article assessing the situation of illegal and legal hunting of shorebirds in Far East of Russia based on the result of the project is going to be drafted in the beginning of 2021.
- 6) Planning of further stages of the project and sending next round of applications.

<p>4. Likely benefit to conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitat / or key research outputs:</p>	<p><i>In addressing this question, please also identify which EAAFP Key Result Areas the project will contribute to (see the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019 – 2028).</i></p> <p>This project supports the implementation of Key Result Area 5.4 and 5.2 of the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019 – 2028. This project also supports the implementation on the Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Far Eastern Curlew.</p> <p>Project data could be used for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To advise decision-making bodies on how to ensure shorebird sustainable use and conservation taking into account the interests of major user groups; 2) Preparation draft regulations on the use of hunting resources for Sakhalin; 3) Development mechanism for coordinating the interests of local people and biodiversity conservation and to motivation of local hunters for sustainable use, including awareness raising work; 4) To develop a concept for the monitoring of the shorebird harvesting (incl. legal and illegal shooting) along the Northern part of EAAF; <p>In addition, we will collect data on the terms of migration of shorebirds and most important staging places; the level of education of hunters in the direction of determining the shorebird species and knowledge of protected species. We will also conduct educational work with hunters and other members of local community (including schoolchildren) on the protection of shorebirds.</p>
<p>5. Alignment with EAAFP priorities:</p>	<p><i>Please indicate which of the EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces priorities are addressed in this project.</i></p> <p>This project supports the EAAFP Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds Task Force, the Far Eastern Curlew Task Force and the Shorebird Working Group's priorities and 2019 – 2020 work plan.</p> <p>The project is going to provide data for planning oncoming activities to decrease legal hunting pressure and prevent poaching of shorebirds in Sakhalin and further on the Pacific coast of Russia, first of all, for EAAFP priorities species, including Grey Plover, Lesser Sand Plover, Spotted Greenshank, Grey-tailed Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Great Knot, Red Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Dunlin, Far Eastern Curlew, Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit.</p> <p>As well, it contributes to the implementation of the Action Plan for Far Eastern Curlew adopted at EAAFP MOP9 and supports the implementation of Objectives 3 and 4 of the plan relating to the direct take of Far Eastern Curlew.</p>
<p>6. Explain the part of your project for which you are seeking funds in this application:</p>	<p>As the subject of shorebird hunting was never systematically studied in the Russian Far East we need to aim to study it as a whole. Knowing that Far-Eastern Curlew is priority species for Australia we suggest to focus the section co-funded by Australia on evaluation of genus <i>Numenius</i> hunting, but it would contribute to overall shorebird hunting evaluation picture.</p> <p>Russian Far East is very big and impossible to cover in one year. In 2019 the survey has been done in Kamchatka Peninsula and in 2020 we plan to conduct it in Sakhalin Island. The research we are seeking funds in 2020 in this application includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparing and conducting a series of interviews in Sakhalin with members of local hunting societies and employees of the hunting agency (August – September, 2020), 2. Sending and collecting anonymous questionnaires among hunters in villages located on the coast of Sakhalin (August – September, 2020). <p>We are going to seek for additional financing from other sources and, first of all, from Karl Kaus Foundation which supported the first stage of the project in Kamchatka in 2019.</p>
<p>7. Scientific References cited in the application:</p>	<p><i>Arkhipov, V. Yu.</i> Hunting of local people on shorebirds in the Shelikhov Bay, Sea of Okhotsk. Russian Ornithological Journal 2017, Volume 26, Express issue 1439: 1759-1761. In Russian.</p> <p><i>Eduardo, Gallo-Cajiao, et al.</i> Hunting of migratory shorebirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (to be published).</p> <p><i>Klokov, K.B. & E.E. Syroechkovsky.</i> Using the survey method to study the effect of hunting on waterfowl in the Russian Arctic. In Casarca. Bull. of the goose, swan and duck study group of Northern Eurasia. V.13. Moscow, 2010. Pp. 76-103. In Russian.</p>

Part B. FOR CONFERENCE APPLICANTS ONLY

Conference Title:	Location:	Date:
Presentation Abstract (250 word maximum):		

Part C. FOR ALL APPLICANTS

Experience Relevant to Project:

0.5 page maximum

The main work will be done by two experts. The leading investigator is professor at St. Petersburg University Dr Konstantin Klokov. He has extensive experience studying the traditional economy of the indigenous population of the North of Russia, including research of illegal waterbird hunting made in cooperation with BirdsRussia and other ornithological institutions in Russia. In particular, he conducted the assessment of subsistence hunting in 22 settlements of Chukotka and Northern Yakutia in 1999 – 2005 already mentioned above.

In 2019 he led the project “Evaluation of hunting pressure on Numenius species (Curlews, Whimbrels) and other shorebirds in the Russian Far East, Stage one: surveys in Kamchatka” with Dr. Yuri Gerasimov.

The organization and coordination of field work in Sakhalin as well as some fieldwork will be done by Dr. Aleksander Matsyna, the head of Working Group on Waders of Northern Eurasia.

Several conservationists and shorebird specialists from the Russian Far East will also be involved in the project. Trustworthy and competent people selected from local residents will take part in the fieldwork to distribute and complete the questionnaires.

Please **also** attach a maximum 2-page CV or list non-academic research experience and experience with migratory waterbirds/conservation e.g. work experience, volunteer experience, bird banding, birdwatching.

PROJECT BUDGET (please outline your entire project, not just the component for which funds are being sought)

	Item (Please list)	\$ Budget (in USD)	Current support / Requested Support (source and amount)	Requested support from EAAFP (source and amount)
Equipment: (details)	Expedition field equipment	1300	BirdsRussia 900 Regional game management authorities support 400	
Consumable items	Expedition field supplies	1500	BirdsRussia 400 Karl Kaus Foundation grant 900	
Travel and accommodation	Travel and accommodation to Sakhalin	3800	Karl Kaus Foundation grant 1200 Possible support from Japan 1000	1600
	Local travel (flights, ship, bus) within Sakhalin region (travel and accommodation and food - 4 persons)	5200	BirdsRussia 1200 Karl Kaus Foundation grant 1800 Possible support from Japan 1000	1200
	Hire of local transport (car, boat) and petrol in Sakhalin	4500	Regional game management authorities support 2000 Possible support from Japan 1000 Karl Kaus Foundation grant 800	700
Computing & clerical		400	BirdsRussia 200 (100) Karl Kaus Foundation grant 200	
Other	Communication costs	150	Karl Kaus Foundation grant 100	50

Experts labor cost compensation inc. report preparation, translations	3450	BirdsRussia 2300 (in kind) Karl Kaus Foundation grant 1000	150
Hire local peoples to distribute an anonymous questionnaire and to interview hunters	3600	Regional game management authorities support 1400 (in kind) Possible support from Japan 1000	1200
Management and financial management of the project, book keeping, etc.	3000	BirdsRussia 2500 (in kind) Karl Kaus Foundation grant 500	
Miscellaneous and unforeseen	400	Karl Kaus Foundation grant 200 BirdsRussia 200	
Total amount requested from Small Grants Fund: (All amounts in USD)			5000

Budget justification: Please provide brief description and justification of all major budgetary items requested, indicating any that are essential to the project and/or conference for which you are applying (250 word maximum):

1. Travel and accommodation to Sakhalin for Dr. Matsina :
Air ticket Moscow-Yuzhno- Sakhalinsk – 1000 USD
Accommodation in Sakhalin 30 days x 20 USD= 600 USD
2. Local travel (train, bus) within Sakhalin region (travel and accommodation and food) for 3 persons (Dr Mastyna + two local expert) – 400 USD x 3 persons = 1200 USD
3. Hire local peoples to distribute an anonymous questionnaire and to interview hunters (4 persons x 300 USD)– 1200
4. We need to hire local boat and to provide boat's motor by gasoline to reach remote villages and fishermen camps to take interviews with local hunters and distribute anonymous questionnaires – 700 USD
5. Communication coast in Sakhalin region – 50 USD
6. Labor cost compensation to GIS cartographer and translators when preparing final report – 150 USD

DECLARATION

I have discussed the contents of this application with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of relevant Working Group and/or Task Forces and I certify that to the best of my knowledge all documentation and information submitted or made available by me is true, accurate and complete.

By ticking the following box you are agreeing to the above statement:

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

All relevant sections of this application have been completed.	<u>Yes</u>	No
Full payment details have been provided on the final page.	<u>Yes</u>	No
Application is being submitted electronically as one single document.	<u>Yes</u>	No
Application is being submitted in MS Word format.	<u>Yes</u>	No
Application has been discussed with the relevant Chair/s and Coordinator/s of relevant working Group and/or Task Forces and these have been carbon copied (cc) to this application submission as evidence they have seen and approved this application.	<u>Yes</u>	No

Applications that do not comply with these guidelines will be returned to the applicant.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Please email your application as a single document to:
secretariat@eaaflyway.net

EAAFP will acknowledge the receipt of your application.

Applications close at 5pm (Seoul Time) on 3 February 2020
Results will be announced on 3 March 2020

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Decision: _____

Authorised: __ / __ / __ _____

Entered: __ / __ / __ _____

Comments: _____

Lead Investigator Advised: __ / __ / __ _____

PLEASE COMPLETE PAYMENT DETAILS ON FINAL PAGE

PAYMENT DETAILS

To ensure prompt payment of successful applications please complete the following details and submit with your application.

PREFERRED PAYMENT METHOD

Electronic funds transfer (EFT)

GRANT CONDITIONS

In accordance with the application criteria, the following conditions must be met:

- Funds are to be strictly exempt from organisational administration charges.
- You are required to submit one copy by email of the final report within 3 months of the completion of the project.
- You are required to acknowledge the EAAFP and the Small Grant Fund in any presentations, publications, reports or promotional material arising from this work. Please email secretariat@eaaflyway.net in order to obtain an electronic copy of EAAFP logo for use on any display material you will be preparing.
- You may be requested to write a brief article for the EAAFP newsletter.
- You are required to provide EAAFP with an electronic copy of your final report at the completion of your project, as well as a copy of any publications that result from your grant.

NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

1. Applications should be targeted towards EAAFP key species or habitats, regions, or emerging threats or other specified Partnership objectives. All applications should demonstrate how the project will contribute to the implementation of the [EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028](#).
2. The maximum amount annually provided by the Small Grants Fund to an applicant or for a specific project is \$5,000 (USD). If the project budget exceeds this amount, then the supporting funds and funders need to be identified in the Application.
3. Funds are limited and not all applications may be funded.
4. Applications with in-kind contributions and other matching financial are preferred.
5. Grants are awarded on the strict understanding that funds will be exempt from institutional administration charges, unless Partner government law so requires.
6. Conference attendance will be supported to a maximum of \$1,000 (USD) and is only for Task Force or Working Group members delivering their own work as a presentation, paper or poster.
7. Applications must be reviewed by the relevant EAAFP Working Group or Task Force Chair or Coordinator, who will provide a statement of the relative merit of the application against the assessment criteria, prior to submission.
8. EAAFP Working Groups and Task Forces are eligible for funding to go towards meetings, research, monitoring, site management, training and CEPA events and materials.
9. Students, with the support of the relevant Working Group or Task Force, are only eligible for funding toward studies being undertaken at a research institution or travel to a conference to present original research.
10. Lead investigators are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits from government authorities, indigenous communities, ethics committees etc., to undertake approved research or monitoring studies.
11. Project completion is required within 18 months of the close of the Application period.
12. Successful applicants will be required to provide a short write up of their project outcomes for the EAAFP newsletter and website and to report to the relevant Working Group or Task Force. They are also strongly encouraged to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals.

Call for proposal opens on 3 January. Applications close at 5pm (Seoul Time) on 3 February annually. Announcements of funding will be made by 3 March.

A follow-up application process may be available 6 months later should funds remain.



2020 APPLICATION FORM

Small Grants Fund for Working Groups & Task Forces

For office use only

Application received	
Application assessed	

Guidance to Applicants

1. Eligibility of Projects

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|
| 1.1 The focus of the project is migratory waterbirds and their habitats. | <u>Yes</u> | No |
| 1.2 The project will improve the understanding of factors important for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF. | <u>Yes</u> | No |
| 1.3 The applicant agrees to provide a final report within 3 months of the completion of the project. | <u>Yes</u> | No |
| 1.4 The applicant agrees to submit 1-2-page article and photographs for inclusion on EAAFP's website and/or write a brief article for the EAAFP's newsletter. Photographers will be acknowledged. | <u>Yes</u> | No |
| 1.5 The applicant will acknowledge the support of the EAAFP in any publications, presentations and reports arising from this work. | <u>Yes</u> | No |

2. Project Assessment Criteria

- 2.1 The contribution the project is anticipated to make to the Key Result Areas listed in the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028.
- 2.2 The alignment of the project with priority Single Species Action Plans or overall Working Group and Task Force objectives. Applications are encouraged to contact the relevant Working Group and Task Force Chair or Coordinator to brief them on the Project Proposal. Please contact the EAAFP Programme Officer if additional information is needed (programme@eaaflyway.net).
- 2.3 The justification for the grant funds requested relative to the overall budget of the project.
- 2.4 Leveraging of in-kind contributions and other matching financial.
- 2.5 The track record of the lead investigator and the likelihood of the project achieving its objectives.

3. Project Assessment Process (for information)

- 3.1 Following initial Secretariat and WG/TF screening and review, the Technical Sub-Committee (TsC) will select at least 1 reviewer per 5 applications (e.g. 4 reviewers for 20 applications). Reviewers should be TsC members or other persons with appropriate expertise and a flyway-wide perspective. Considerations for reviewer selection will include geographic and technical expertise diversity. A lead reviewer will be identified to coordinate the process for each application.
- 3.2 Reviews should ensure calibration on the ranking definitions and scoring criteria prior to beginning reviews.
- 3.3 Ensure that each application is reviewed by a minimum of 2 reviewers, with an offset system so pairs of reviewers are rotated in different combinations (for example, with 20 applications, Reviewer A gets applications 1-10, B gets 6-15, C gets 11-20, D gets 16-5). Reviews are encouraged to review as many additional projects as possible.
- 3.4 Reviewers are to recuse themselves from reviewing any application where there is a conflict of interest. These applications will be assigned to another reviewer.

- 3.5 Conduct independent reviews, including reading the application, scoring, ranking, and notes. Submit reviews to lead reviewer for compilation in a table. Note that all applications should be read prior to scoring to increase perspective. Submit to the lead reviewer, who will share tallied results back with the other reviewers.
- 3.6 Discuss the merits of all applications as a group.
- 3.7 Provide for an opportunity to reach out to applicants with questions, recommendation, or requests for more information. Communicate with the WG/TF Chairs/Coordinators if necessary.
- 3.8 Strive for consensus on overall applications ranking and recommendations on funding.
- 3.9 If there are numerous projects that are scored/ranked closely near the "funding line", then all reviewers should review those projects prior to a final recommendation.
- 3.10 The lead reviewer will compile and deliver the final recommendations for funding to the Secretariat.
- 3.11 Review Team and the Secretariat should examine the process and recommend changes for the next cycle.