



East Asian – Australasian Flyway Conservation Status Review 1

Session 2 – Engagement and contributing to the CSR1

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Webinar on EAAF CSR1. 8 April 2021



Proposed actions

1. Prepare a 1st EAAF Conservation Status Review derived from the up-to-date information on waterbird population estimates, trends and 1% thresholds, supported by individual population boundary polygons;
 - a. assess population delimitations
 - b. estimate population sizes and derive 1% population thresholds
 - c. calculate / estimate population trends
2. Undertake its preparation in coordination with the EAAF Partnership and in close consultation with the Technical Sub-Committee, Science Unit of the Secretariat, Partners, Working Groups, Task Forces and other experts;
3. Coordinate with the EAAFP Secretariat to ensure that the output of the periodic EAAF Conservation Status Review feed into the next global WPE update.
4. Present draft decision on CSR at MoP11, including final results and plans for next CSRs

Provisional timeline for development & delivery of 1st EAAF-CSR

		2021				2022	
Main Action		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
1	EAAFP Webinar - introduce & encourage participation		X				
2	Consultation on population size estimates & trends		X	X			
3	Consultation on waterbird biogeographic pops (maps)		X	X			
4	EAAFP CSR1 summary report (incl. identification of Gaps and Priorities for Future CSRs)			X			
	-Drafting report			X			
	-Review of draft report by Partners			X			
	-Finalisation of report				X		
5	Review and approval by Tech SC & upload estimates, trends and boundaries on Waterbird Portal				X		
6	Submission of CSR1 paper to EAAFP MOP				X		
7	Presentation of CSR1 at EAAFP MOP11					X	
8	Submission of final CSR1 to EAAFP (post MOP feedback from Parties, final review and approval by Tech SC & Management Comm)						X

Overview of coverage of taxonomic groups of waterbirds included in CSR1

Taxonomic Group	English Name	Working Groups or Task Forces	Indicative no. of EAAFP populations
Gaviidae	Divers/Loons	Seabird Working Group	2
Podicipedidae	Grebes	None	5
Phalacrocoracidae	Cormorants	Seabird Working Group	4
Pelecanidae	Pelicans	Dalmatian Pelican TF	2
Ardeidae	Herons, Egrets and Bitterns	None	27
Ciconiidae	Storks	None	5
Threskiornithidae	Ibises and Spoonbills	None	6
Anatidae	Swans, Geese and Ducks	Anatidae Working Group	60
Gruidae	Cranes	Crane Working Group	12
Rallidae	Rails, Gallinules and Coots	None	16
Heliornithidae	Finfoots	None	1
Jacaniidae	Jacanas	None	1
Haematopodidae	Oystercatcher	Shorebird Working Group	1
Recurvirostridae	Stilts and Avocet	Shorebird Working Group	3
Glareolidae	Pratincoles	Shorebird Working Group	2
Charadriidae	Plovers	Shorebird Working Group	16
Scolopacidae	Sandpipers	Shorebird Working Group	46
Laridae	Gulls, Terns and Skimmers	Seabird Working Group	45
Total			254

Biogeographic populations of Alcidae (Auks, murres and puffins), Oceanitidae (Austral Storm Petrels), Procellariidae (Shearwaters & petrels), Stercorariidae (Skuas and jaegers), Phaethontidae (Tropicbirds), Hydrobatidae (Northern storm petrels), Sulidae (Gannets and boobies), Fregatidae (Frigatebirds) need to be defined by the Seabird Working Group and adopted by the Partnership. These populations should be included in future CSR editions

Taxonomic standards of the EAAFP CSR1

The WPE adopts :

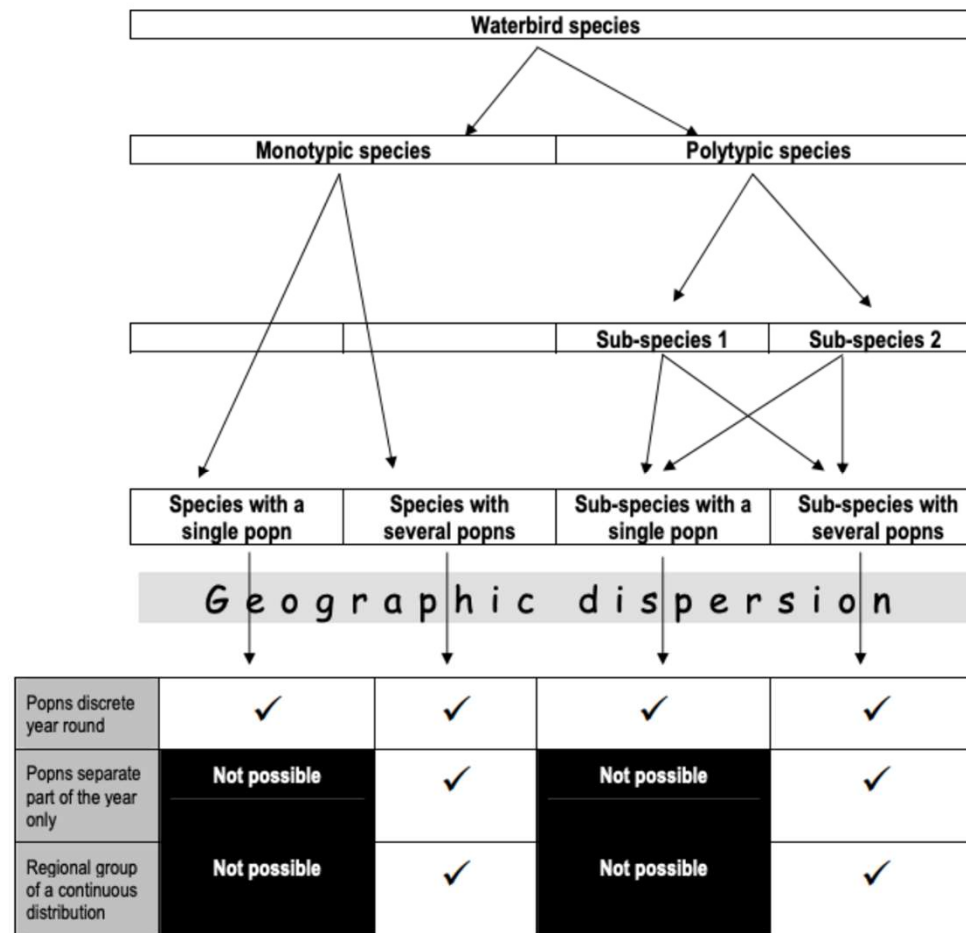
- **A standard reference for bird taxonomy and nomenclature, in line with EAAFP Decision 10.10** : Handbook of the Birds of the World/BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World, Volume 1: Non-passerines, by Josep del Hoyo, Nigel J. Collar, David A. Christie, Andrew Elliot and Lincoln D.C. Fishpool (2014)
- **A standard reference for subspecies** : Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International (2020). Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International digital checklist of the birds of the world. Version 5.

Available at: http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/Species/Taxonomy/HBW-BirdLife_Checklist_v5_Dec20.zip

- **Biogeographic populations**: follows concept adopted by the Ramsar Convention (2012) and benefits from a review and simplification by the Technical Committee of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.

A waterbird biogeographical population is a population of a species or a sub-species that is either geographically discrete from other populations at all times of the year, or at sometimes of the year only, or is a specified part of a continuous distribution so defined for the purposes of conservation management.

Identification of biogeographic populations



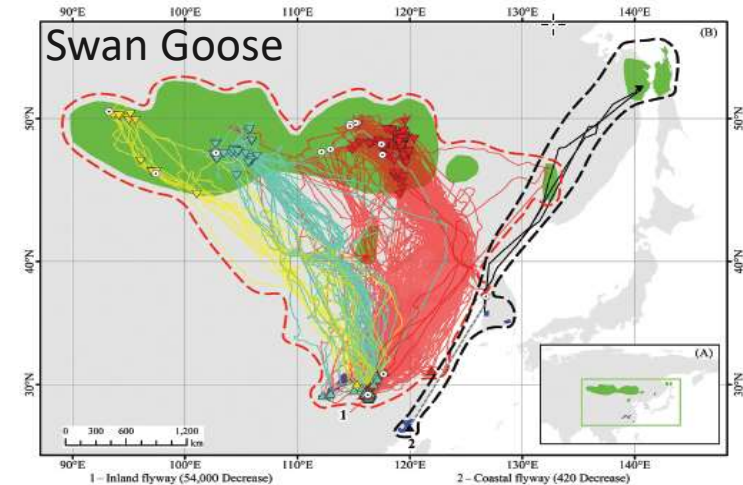
Nagy, S. 2020. Defining waterbird populations and delineating them. Internal guidance for regional coordinators reviewing population estimates, trends and defining population boundaries. Wetlands International.

<http://wpp-review.wetlands.org/downloads/WaterbirdPopulationsGuidance.pdf>

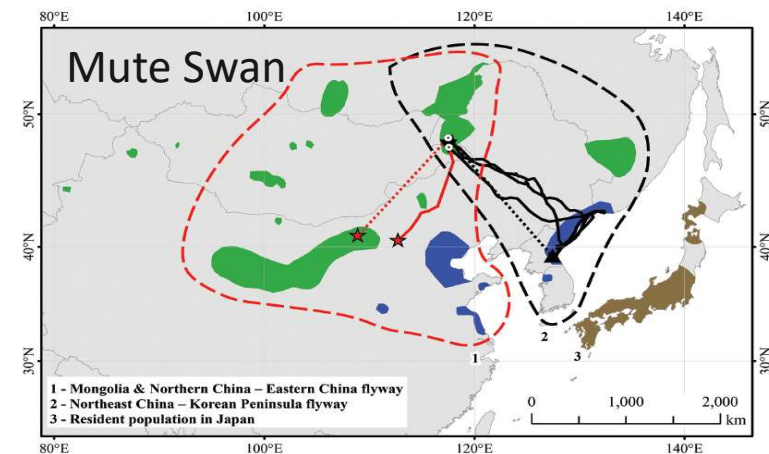
CSR 1 – biogeographic population definitions and boundaries

Preparation of a EAAF list of populations for CSR review:

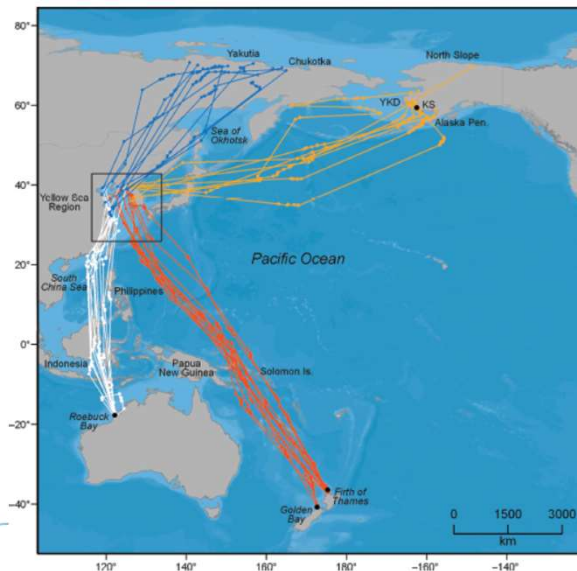
- Alignment with latest taxonomy and subspecies, deal with subspecies that are no longer recognised
- biogeographic population merged based on new information
- biogeographic population splits based on new information
- **Swan Goose** – one species divided into two biogeographic populations
- **Mute Swan** in East Asia – one subspecies divided into three biogeographic populations (**2 migratory & 1 resident**)
- **Bar-tailed Godwit** – split of menzbieri & anadyrensis into two biogeographic populations



Damba et al 2020. Wildfowl Special Issue 6: 97–123



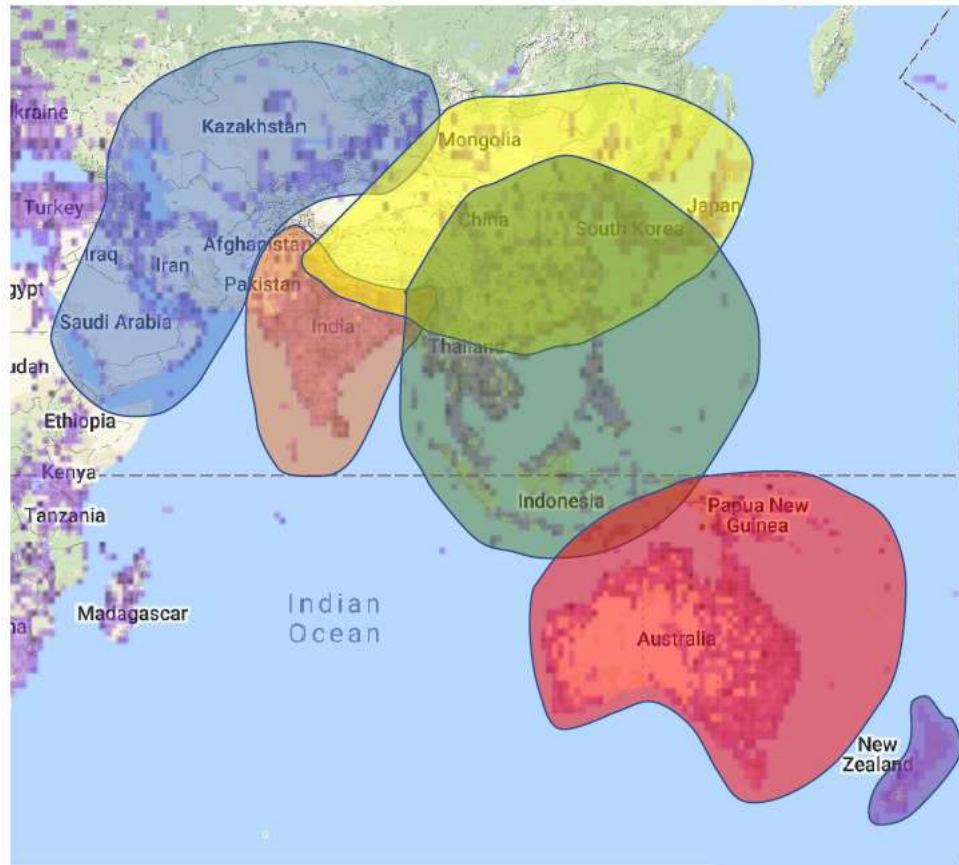
Meng et al 2020. Wildfowl Special Issue 6: 73–96



Battley et al 2012. Journal of Avian Biology 43: 21–32

Great Egret *Ardea alba* in EAAF

– proposed biogeographic populations and boundaries



The following populations are proposed:

1. ***alba*, Western Asia/South-west Asia**: expand the boundaries of the breeding range of the existing population to the E to include Xinjiang, W Mongolia and the Altai and Tuva Republics in Russia.
2. ***alba*, East Asia (bre)**: the breeding range of this population would include SE Russia E from Tuva, Central and E Mongolia and Heilongjiang in China. The non-breeding range is highly uncertain, but includes E Asia, S China and S Tibet.
3. ***modesta*, South Asia**: mainly resident birds breeding in South Asia. In non-breeding period, they might be supplemented with birds from other populations.
4. ***modesta*, E & SE Asia (bre)**: a partially migratory population breeding in E Asia and SE Asia. During the non-breeding period, it might be supplemented with birds from other populations.
5. ***modesta*, Australia, New Guinea and W Pacific islands E to Vanuatu**.
6. ***modesta*, New Zealand**

Defining EAAFP biogeographic populations

- Based on WPE 5 and updated with latest HBW & BirdLife 2020 digital checklist
- Basic biogeographic boundaries created for populations based on BirdLife International species maps, eBird and AWC. Further improvements based on research publications on migration.
- Challenges faced
 - lack of sufficient knowledge on species and population distribution in breeding and non-breeding ranges
 - multiple biogeographic populations can occur in a country – difficult to differentiate in field
 - migration/tracking studies may cover only part of the population, often from single/limited locations and limited number of individuals, may create a bias.
 - Field monitoring information variable with geographic gaps in SE Asia
 - Possibility of missing information not available on the net / published in languages other than English
- Recognition that CSR1 is a first attempt to create boundaries and will set a baseline. With new information, we can improve and refine biogeographic boundaries in future CSRs

Focus of consultation - review of size estimates, trends & boundaries

1. Population size estimates

- provision of new publications on size estimates for species or subspecies.
- provision of new count results for a country or region, that contribute to the overall population estimate review.
- sharing information in non-English publications

2. Population trends

- review of the draft trend analysis for selected populations provided based on AWC analysis
- provision of new publications on trends for species or subspecies.
- provision of new count results for a country or region, that contribute to the overall population trend review.

3. Population boundaries (maps)

- feedback based on evidence to update the boundary - including confirmed observations and records of movements e.g. from surveys, colour marking, metal band/ring movements, telemetry studies or stable isotope studies.

Calculating one percent thresholds

Proposed action for CSR1

Wetlands International will calculate the 1% threshold for all biogeographic populations based on the final population estimate, following established WPE rules

Background on calculation of 1% thresholds

- Until WPE4, virtually all estimates given as a single figure or numerical range, used a 1% threshold equal to 1% of the estimate or 1% of the mid-point of the range.
- In WPE5 the **geometric mean** has been used instead of arithmetic mean to calculate 1% thresholds, which is usually a smaller value than the arithmetic mean.
Using the geometric mean provides a less biased estimation of the 1% threshold than the arithmetic mean when the population size estimate is available as a maximum and minimum size range. This method of calculating a 1% threshold follows the standard practices in AEWA and elsewhere such as the European Bird Atlas, Birds in Europe 2 and the CMS Aquatic Warbler Action Plan.
- For populations with coded range data (up to WPE4) that have been converted into minimum and maximum estimate in WPE5, the geometric mean is not used to generate the 1%. Instead, the 1% is based on the 1% of the maximum estimate.
- Where the upper estimate is expressed as >1 million individuals, the 1% threshold is set at 20,000 individuals.

Changes to the 1% threshold of a population estimate will only be proposed when a change of the 1% threshold equals or exceeds 10%.

Consultation on population size estimates and trends review of waterbird populations – proposed timeline

Main actions in 2021	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Upload draft population size estimates and trends in consultation module of WPE portal http://wpe.wetlands.org	X								
Upload draft trend info (based on IWC report cards, publications) on WPE portal consultation module	X								
Consultation on population size estimates and trends with Partners, Working Groups, Task Forces, Technical Sub-Committee, experts	X	X	X	X					
Finalise population size estimates and trends with new information (based on feedback)					X				
Seek feedback on proposed CSR1 estimates, trends & 1% thresholds from all experts					X	X			
Technical Sub-Committee review						X			
Finalisation based on TSC review						X			
Upload CSR1 size estimates, trends, 1% on the WP Portal for public access							X	X	

Consultation on population boundaries & CSR1 Summary report – proposed timeline

Main actions in 2021	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Delineation of waterbird biogeographic populations (maps)									
Share population boundaries on consultation site http://wpp-review.wetlands.org/	X								
Consultation on population boundary delineations with experts	X	X	X	X					
Finalise boundaries					X	X			
Technical Sub Committee Review						X			
Upload boundary maps into new WP Portal for public access							X		
EAAFP CSR1 summary report (incl. identification of Gaps and Priorities for Future CSRs)									
Summary report draft preparation					X	X			
Estimates and trends, species					X	X			
Information needs of future CSRs					X	X			
Consultation on draft report with Partners, Working Groups, Task Forces, Technical Sub-Committee							X	X	
Finalisation with input on draft report								X	
Sign off on final CSR1 by Chair TSC & Management Committee								X	

Confirmation of input for CSR1 Development

2021

- Agreement on consultation process and proposed time line with all stakeholders
- Review of proposed population estimates and trends - provision of feedback and literature
- Review of population boundaries - provision of feedback and publications/literature
- Review of draft CSR Summary Report

Acknowledgements

- EAAFP Secretariat and the Norwegian Government
- EAAFP Science Unit
- EAAFP Partners, Working Groups and Task Forces
- Specialist Groups, AWC Coordinators and Experts
- Chair and Members of the Technical Sub-Committee
- Interns and volunteers in preparing population boundaries



See separate presentations on consultation

- Guidance on providing feedback on population size estimates and trends :
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UCsYcCPtPoM8l3RH5a2loRuQb57TrKZ/view?usp=sharing>
- Guidance on providing feedback on population boundaries:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qKATubvFjMsut8EKlm-Jl0cozQfgJKLK/view?usp=sharing>

Feedback Session