Toward Full Recovery: EAAFP Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group's Activity Report

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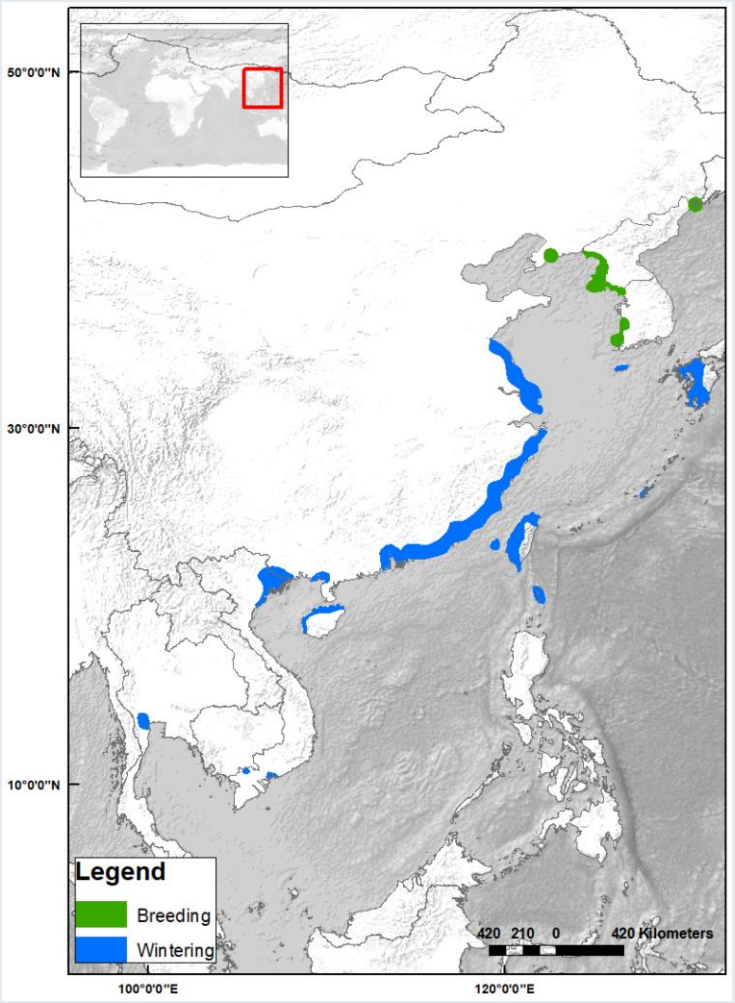
ELEVENTH MEETING OF PARTNERS TO THE PARTNERSHIP FOR EAST ASIAN – AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY
Meeanjin/Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, 12-17 March 2023

Black-faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*



- Habitat: Marshes, wet rice fields, mangroves, fish ponds, tidal mudflats and estuaries
- Breeding: NE Russia, N & S Korea, NE China
- Wintering: Japan, S China, Taiwan, Vietnam
- Conservation Status: **Endangered**
- **Threats**: Habitat loss, pollution, diseases (botulism), hunting and human disturbance.

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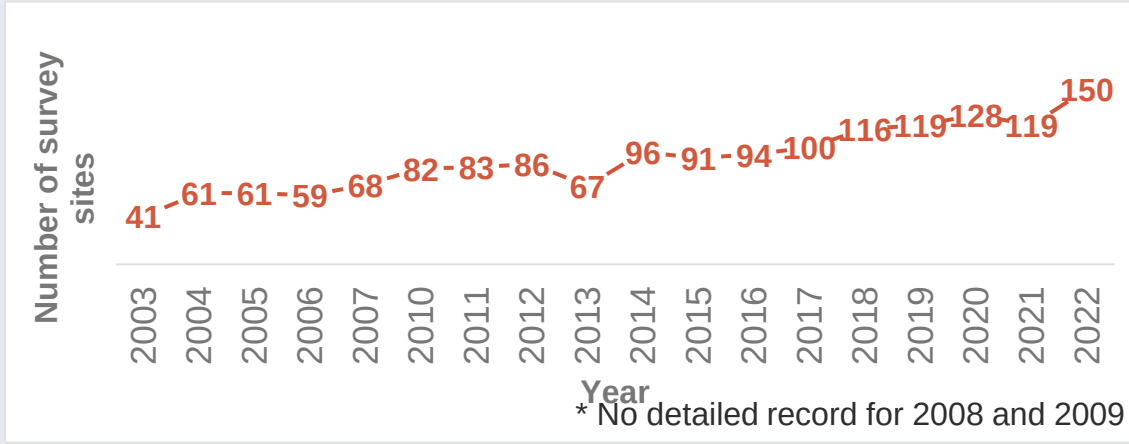
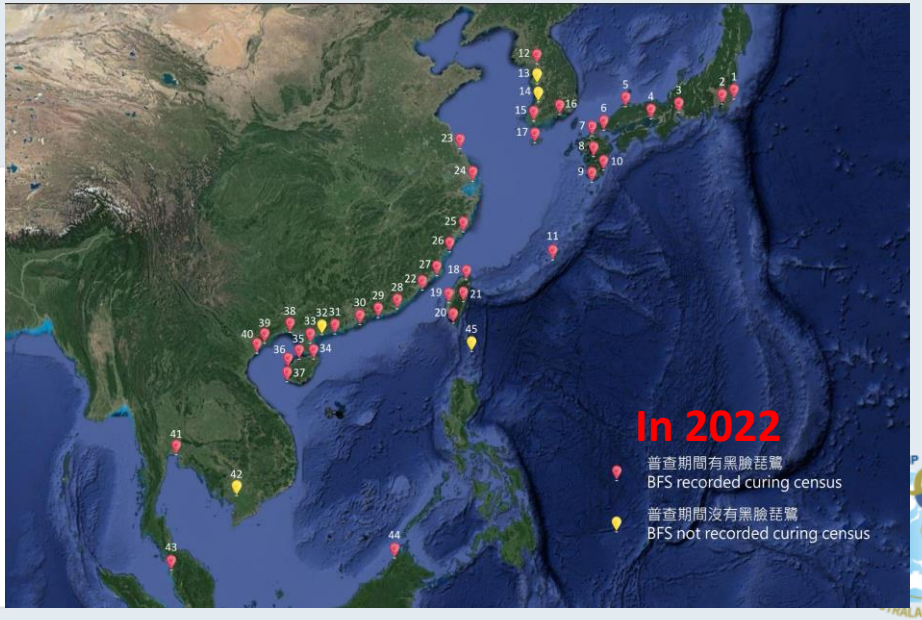
International Black-faced Spoonbill Census

- Synchronous count in mid-winter (January) across different Asian countries and regions
- 41 survey sites in 2003
- Increased to 150 survey sites in 9 countries and regions in 2022 (Cambodia, China, Hong Kong and Shenzhen, Japan, Macao, Malaysia, Philippine, Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam)
- Joint efforts across borders





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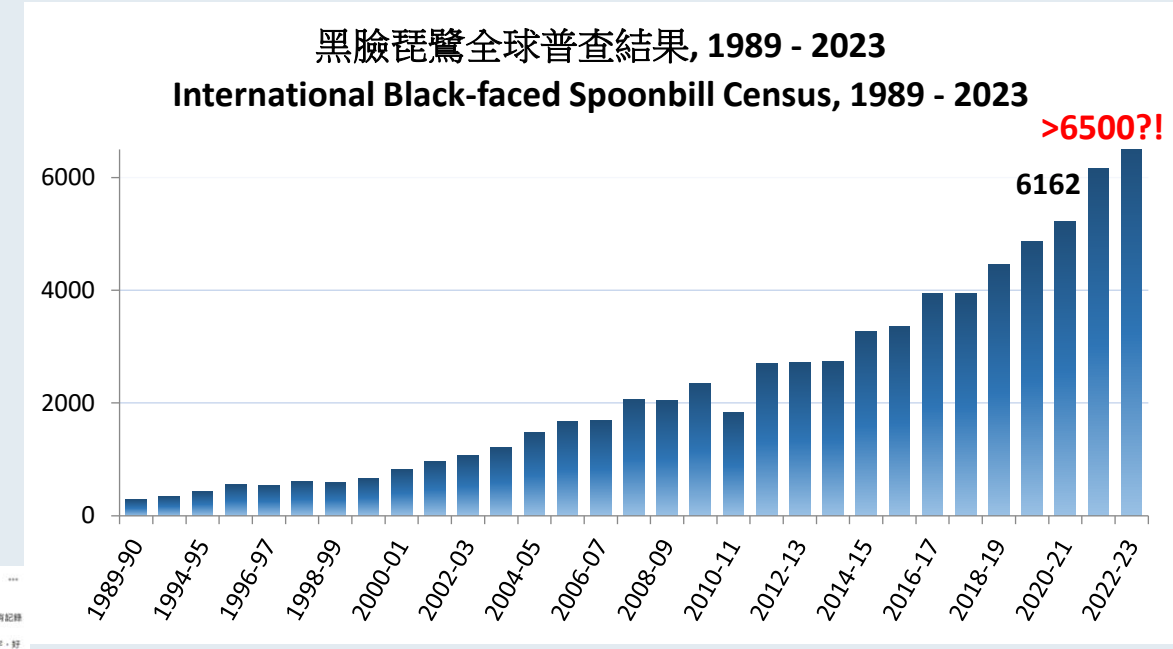
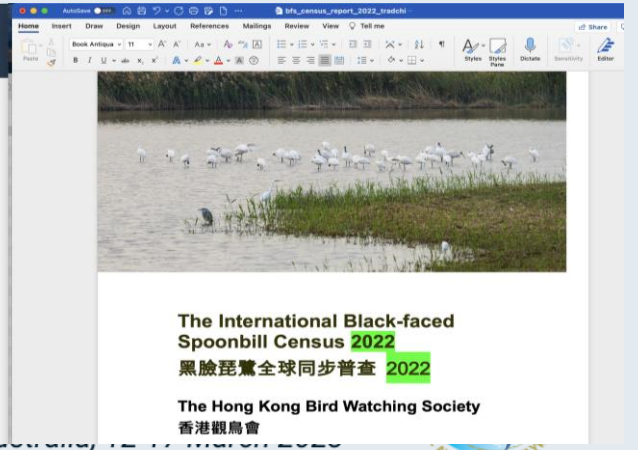
International Black-faced Spoonbill Census

- 90s: <300 individuals
- 2022: 6,162 wintering Black-faced Spoonbill, a new record high figure
- **Genuine increase** since the commencement of this annual census
- 2023: **>6,500 ?**
- Media coverage
- Publishing the annual report





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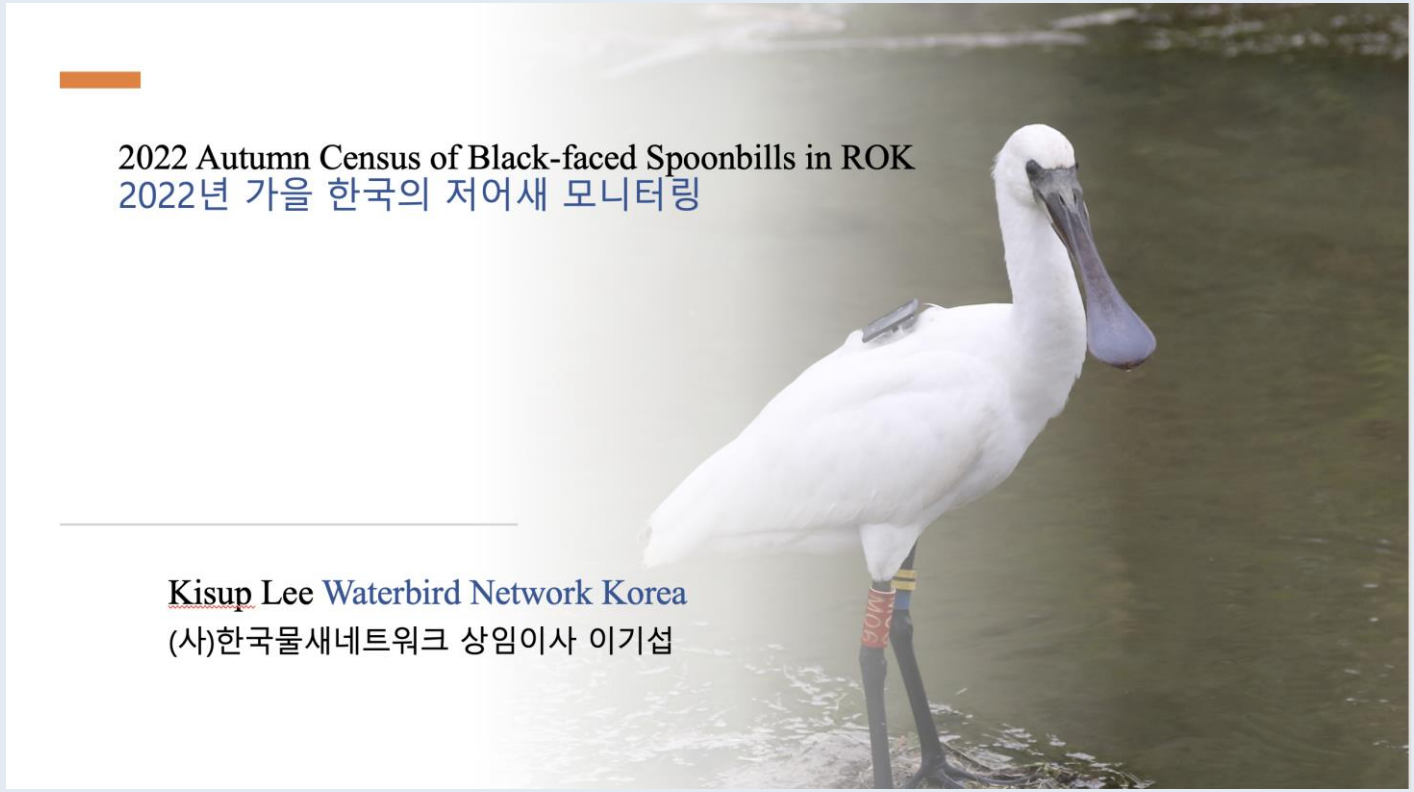
National Monitoring

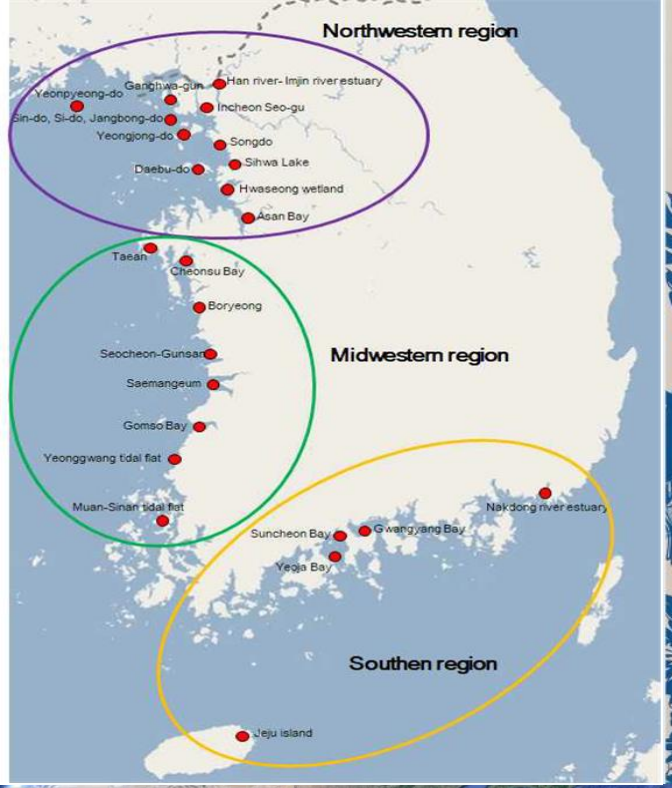


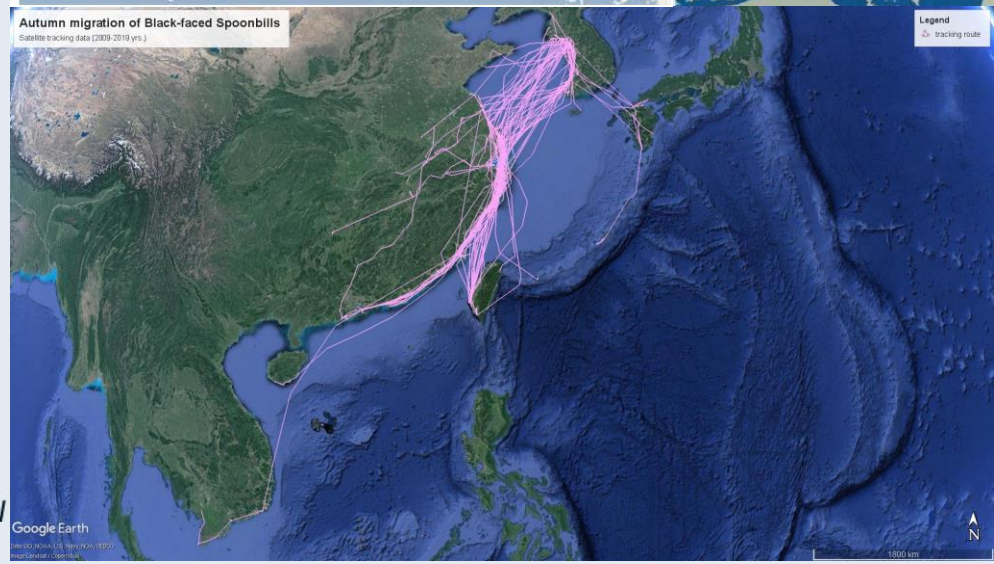
2022 Autumn Census of Black-faced Spoonbills in ROK

2022년 가을 한국의 저어새 모니터링

Kisup Lee Waterbird Network Korea

(사)한국물새네트워크 상임이사 이기섭





CEPA activity

2022 Black-faced Spoonbill Birthday Party in Namdong Reservoir, Ro Korea

POSTED ON JUNE 14, 2022 CATEGORIES: ALL NEWS

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Congratulatory remarks from EAAFP Chief Executive Mr. Doug Watkins/ ©EAAFP Secretariat

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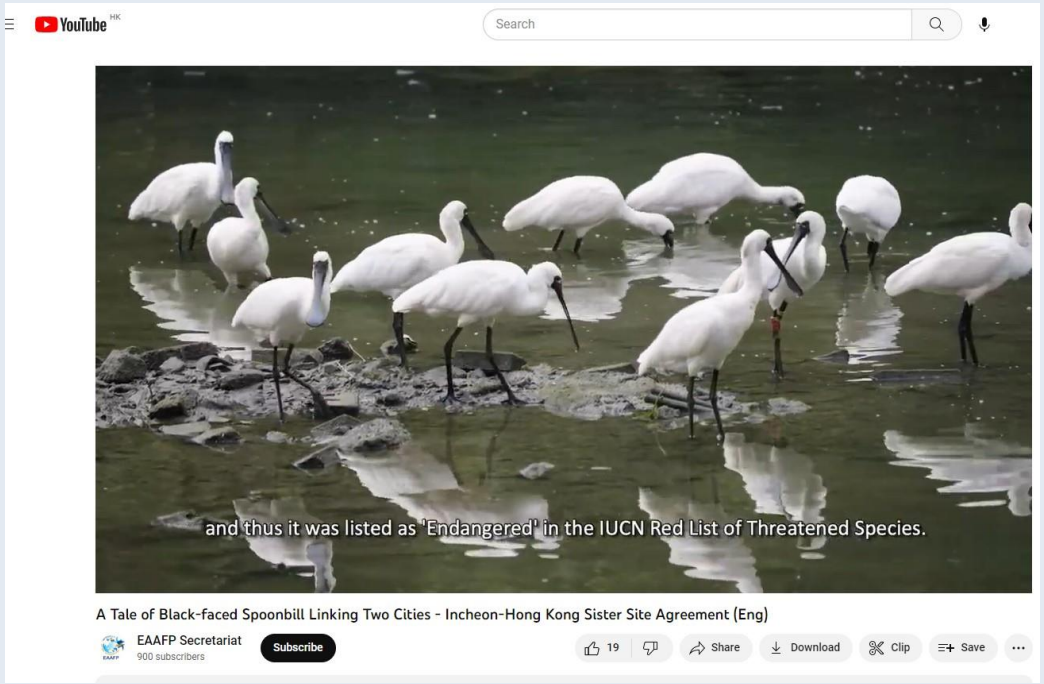
Awareness raising

https://youtu.be/ceydWSHFxYs



Meetings

With the supports from birdwatchers and conservationists in different Asian countries:

- BFS population increased from a few hundreds to over 6000 individuals in 30 years;
- International synchronous count provides annual and comparable data for assessing the BFS population;
- With data, information and awareness, forums and workshops had been organised to further promote BFS conservation activities;
- Strengthen the conservation network in Asia.

2006 International Symposium on research and conservation of BFS

Future actions

- Increase in number = habitat quality has been improved ?
- Habitat management along the BFS wintering range must be carried on, e.g. Fishponds for Flyway
- Ensure enough capacity is guaranteed for the increased population
- Further promotion of international collaboration:
  - More sister sites
  - Coordinated breeding population census

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Reversing Decline

diversity

MDPI

Review

Reversing the Decline in a Threatened Species: The Black-Faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*

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2 Department of Biology, University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 3SZ, UK
3 The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, 532 Castle Peak Road, Lai Chi Kok, Kowloon, Hong Kong
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Abstract: The black-faced spoonbill *Platalea minor* is a species endemic to the coastal fringes and archipelagos of East Asia. The global population was fewer than 300 individuals in the late 1980s. Since then, two international action plans (1995 and 2010–2020) have been implemented, and the global population has increased to more than 6000 individuals in 2021–2022; the species was down-listed from "Critically Endangered (CR)" to "Endangered (EN)" in 2000. To examine the basis for this success, we reviewed the implementation of the action plans in light of the IUCN Species Conservation Cycle (Assess–Plan–Act–Network–Communicate) framework, using publicly available information documenting the planned activity or policy outcome. Additionally, we used the IUCN Green Status of Species framework to assess the impact of this conservation effort on the black-faced spoonbill's recovery to date and recovery potential. We found that the action plans for the black-faced spoonbill contain activities across all SCC framework components, though the number of activities implemented differed among countries. Our preliminary Green Status assessment indicates that the black-faced spoonbill is currently Largely Depleted, with a Species Recovery Score of 35%; however, without past conservation actions, we estimate that its score would be only 15% today (Critically Depleted), and that it is biologically possible for the species to fully recover (100%) in the next 100 years, if ambitious actions are taken. This provides further evidence that premeditated, evidence-based conservation interventions can reverse biodiversity loss.

Keywords: *Platalea minor*; Species Conservation Cycle of Assess–Plan–Act–Network–Communicate; Green Status of Species; species action plan

check for updates

Citation: Cano-Alonso, L.S.; Grace, M.K.; Yu, Y.-t.; Chan, S. Reversing the Decline in a Threatened Species: The Black-Faced Spoonbill *Platalea minor*. *Diversity* **2023**, *15*, 217. https://doi.org/10.3390/d15020217

Table 1. Number of activities planned in the black-faced spoonbill single-action plan 2010–2020 compared to those documented by published papers and publicly available information as being implemented. The details of all planned activities are given in Tables S2 and S3.

Objectives in Action Plan (2010–2020)	Total Activities Planned	Activities Documented by Published Papers and Publicly Available Information	Percentage of Plan Activities Covered
International Objectives (attributed to more than one county)	50	28	56%
Regional/national Objectives			
Russian Federation	5	3	60%
Mainland China	29	21	84%
Taiwan	5	2	40%
Macao	10	3	30%
Hong Kong	2	2	100%
South Korea	9	8	89%
Japan	3	2	66%
Vietnam	9	1	11%
Others	5	1	20%

"Our preliminary Green Status assessment indicates that the black-faced spoonbill is currently Largely Depleted, …and that is biologically possible for the species to fully recover (100%) in the next 100 years, if ambitious actions are taken."

Thank you very much!

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