

#27

COMPLETE

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Page 2: General Information

Q1

Name of Reporting Group

Ministry of the Environment, Japan

Q2**National Governments (Govt)**

Reporting Group

Q3

Designated EAAFP Focal Point

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Q4**Respondent skipped this question**

Additional Designated EAAFP Focal Point (Optional)

Q5**Respondent skipped this question**

Additional Designated EAAFP Focal Point (Optional)

Q6

Report compiler

Name and title

As above

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Q7

RQ1. (Govt) Do you have a publicly accessible list of internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in your country? If yes, please provide the web link or the reference in the below box. If not, would you like assistance from other Partners to develop such a list (please let us know your opinion in the box right below)?

Yes,

Additional information:

<https://www.env.go.jp/nature/ramsar/conv/Eaafp.html>

Q8

RQ2. (Govt) Have any additional internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds been identified in your country (for background, see EAA Flyway Network Sites Overview Report 2013)? If yes, please provide details on these sites.

Yes,

Additional information::

We have designated 53 wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites) in the country to date. In addition, in 2002, Ministry of the Environment published "500 Important Wetlands in Japan," which were selected from the view point of biological diversity conservation including that of migratory waterbirds. In 2016, the list was revised as the "Important Wetlands from the Viewpoint of Biodiversity". In addition, sites that meet the FNS criteria are identified in a report of shorebird and Anatidae monitoring project, "Monitoring Sites 1000", which has been conducted by MOE.

Q9

RQ3. (Non-Government Partners) Have you documented any additional internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in the EAAF (see EAA Flyway Network Sites Overview Report 2013)? If yes, please provide details on these sites.

Respondent skipped this question**Q10**

RQ4. (Govt) Have high priority candidate sites been identified for potential nomination to join the Flyway Site Network? If yes, please provide details on these sites. If not, would you like assistance from other Partners?

Yes,

Additional information::

Of all 53 Ramsar sites, 29 sites have not been listed as EAAFP Flyway Site Network. We believe some of these non-Ramsar sites have the potential to meet the FNS criteria if the stakeholders are willing to commit to the EAAFP initiatives.

Q11

RQ5. (Govt) Have any additional sites been nominated for the Flyway Site Network since MoP10 (December 2018)? If yes or planned, please provide the names of these sites.

Yes,

Additional information::

Sarobetsu Wetland (it has officially become the FNS in 2021)

Q12

RQ6. (INGO, Corporate) Have you supported Government Partners with their identification of high priority candidate sites for the potential nomination of the new Flyway Site Network? If yes, please provide details of your support and the associated sites.

Respondent skipped this question

Q13

RQ7. (Govt) How many additional Flyway Network Sites do you anticipate there will be in your country by 2025?

The number of expected new FNS

1 site(s)

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Q14

RQ8. (Govt) Which Flyway Network Sites (FNS) in your country have a Management Plan and when is it due to be updated?

Some sites have developed their management plans, however, the details of FNSs with the Management Plan are not known.

Q15

RQ9. (Govt, INGO, IGO) Please provide examples of how the “Flyway Site Network” brand is being recognized.

FNSs recognize the value of the “Flyway Site Network” brand and have the information of EAAFP and its initiatives on their websites. For those with wetland and waterbird center facilities, they also display the overview of EAAFP, monitoring surveys and CEPA activities that are conducted onsite. MOE Japan also issues newsletters and distributes posters and other CEPA materials via the three domestic network groups (Anatidae, shorebird and crane), in order to promote the brand.

Q16

RQ10. (Govt, INGO, IGO) Have any public consultation processes been implemented when a site of international importance for migratory waterbirds could be adversely impacted by a proposed development? If yes, please provide brief details on the site/s and if the development was approved.

Yes,

Additional information::

In Japan, an environmental impact assessment is conducted by a business operator/corporation. Depending the type and scale of a proposed development, public consultation processes can be provided by national, prefectural or municipal governments. Ministry of the Environment has also established Environmental Impact Assessment Database System(EADAS), an online platform with a GIS mapping, which indicates the natural and social environment areas in the country. It enables users to understand regional characteristics of each area that might be of concern.

Q17

RQ11. (Govt, INGO, IGO) Please provide brief details on any sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds that may be adversely impacted by a proposed development and the assessment process that was used or is anticipated to be applied.

There is currently a proposed installment of wind turbines near Oyama Kami-ike and Shimo-ike Ramsar site. The environmental impact assessment is to be conducted.

Q18

RQ12. (Govt, INGO) In your country, are there examples of local communities at Flyway Network sites that are dependent on the sites natural resources to support subsistence livelihoods? If yes, please provide details on the site/s and the use of natural resources.

Yes,

Additional information::

At Biwa-ko (EAAF047), traditional fishing methods are still practiced to catch fresh water clams, and laver aquaculture is undertaken at Arao-higata (EAAF113). In both cases, local communities rely on the natural resources for the living. There are several similar cases in Japan.

Q19

RQ13. (Govt, INGO, Sec.) Are you aware of any Flyway Network Sites or other sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds that are currently under threat? If yes, please provide details.

No

Q20

RQ14. (Sec.) Please provide a list of new Partners since the last MoP (December 2018).

Respondent skipped this question

Q21

RQ15. (Partners, TF/WG) Does your country/organisation have a CEPA Program addressing migratory waterbirds and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds? If yes, please provide brief details of the program.

Yes,

Additional information (website links if any)::

We promote WMBD and WWD through SNS and websites. Posters and leaflets are produced and distributed. These are conducted with reference to the EAAFP CEPA Action Plan.

Q22

RQ16. (Partners, TF/WG) Has your country/organisation made use of the EAAFP CEPA Action Plan 2019-2024 when planning and implementing the CEPA activities?

Yes,

Additional information (any example of how the Action Plan was reflected)::

As mentioned above. In addition, we promote the CEPA AP to site managers and NGOs in training workshops and national flyway site meetings.

Q23

RQ17. (Govt, INGO, Corporate) What CEPA activities have taken place at Flyway Network Sites and with which groups? If applicable (under a Sister Site agreement), please describe what have you done and who have you worked with.

Applicable,

Additional information (list of events and/or news/report links)::

The idea of promoting environmental education is incorporated in most of the implementation plans that are based on the Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration for nature restoration projects for wetlands such as rivers, moors and tidal flats, including Kushiro-Shitsugen marsh. *The content of CEPA is incorporated in the respective management plans of the following wetlands: Yatsu Tidal Flats, Sakata, Fujimae-higata, Kabukuri-numa, Kejo-numa, Arao-higata, Kashima Shingomori, Higashiyoka-higata, etc.

Q24

RQ18. (Partners) Has your country/organisation developed, and/or been implementing awareness-raising programs, particularly at Flyway Network Sites, with the following groups (check all that apply)?

National and local governments,

Additional information (please provide a detailed description of the program(s) including target groups, aims, and major achievements)::

The National Flyway Meeting, an annual opportunity for stakeholders including site managers to participate and obtain information about EAAF and exchange each other. Past two years the meetings were held online, but this year it was held at an FNS.

Q25

RQ19. (Partners) Has your country/organisation hosted events for World Migratory Bird Day, World Wetlands Day or other international awareness-raising events since the last MOP (December 2018)?

Yes,

Additional information (list of events and any news/report links)::

For WWD 2023, there have been 18 events registered on Ramsar Convention's websites from Japan. MOE hosted a 'Migratory Waterfowl National Flyway Meeting' at Yatsu Tidal Flats for two days
(https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/display-event?p_p_id=eventDisplay&eventEntryId=1169997&redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.worldwetlandsday.org%2Fevents%23event1169997), and a symposium with Wetland International Japan and United Nations University
(<https://jp.unu.edu/events/archive/symposium/world-wetlands-day-2023-its-time-for-wetland-restoration.html>).

Q26

RQ20. (Partners, TF/WG) Has your organisation/group been engaging the public regularly through any media channels, including social media, to promote the conservation of migratory waterbirds and the wetlands they use? If yes, please specify the type of media channels by marking boxes that apply.

Website of your organization/group,

Additional information (links to media channels of your organization/group, the number of posts, and the number of views)::

In addition to "Website of your organization/group", we chose "Newsletter of your organization/group", "Social media" and "Contribution to EAAFP eNewsletter".

Q27

RQ21. (Govt, INGO, TF/WG) Has there been any training or capacity building delivered to stakeholders involved in the conservation of migratory birds and wetlands? If yes, please specify the audience/participants by marking the boxes that apply.

Site managers,

Additional information (please provide the number of events and participants, and describe any materials or other resources about the capacity building)::

MOE has provided trainings on the conservation of migratory birds and wetlands for the FNS site managers since 2013. The government has been collecting feedbacks on each training session to improve its content. The National Flyway Meeting also serves as a capacity building opportunity through presentations and networking.

Q28

RQ22. (Govt, INGO, TF/WG) Please add below if your country/organisation has any other information regarding CEPA to report.

In Japan, more than 40 municipalities have incorporated lessons on wetlands and migratory birds into the educational programs. For example, these programs include classes on the wetland environment, wildlife surveys, observations, clean-ups, internships, and introducing Ramsar Sites in educational material.

Q29

RQ23. (Govt) Is there a program in your country to monitor migratory waterbird numbers? If yes, please provide details on the program, the role of volunteer counters and the monitoring efforts since MoP10 (December 2018).

Yes,

Additional information::

Biodiversity Center of Japan of Ministry of the Environment, Japan, has been conducting the Monitoring Sites 1000 Project on the long-term basis since 2003 in order to monitor ecosystem and wildlife status at about 1000 fixed sites across the country in cooperation with researchers, local experts and NPOs. This project aims at collecting basic information on ecosystems including quantitative data on indicator species and other key components to detect signs of changes in ecosystems and contribute to decision-making of appropriate measures for biodiversity conservation. Results of the monitoring surveys of shorebirds, Anatidae, seabirds and terrestrial birds are reported.

Q30

RQ24. (INGO) In what countries is your organisation involved in migratory waterbird and/or site monitoring (select all that apply)? Please provide details on the monitoring program(s) and monitoring efforts since MoP10 (December 2018).

Respondent skipped this question

Q31

RQ25. (Govt, INGO, TF/WG, Sec.) Please report briefly on data management in relation to migratory waterbird population estimates, trends and distributions.

Surveys results of shorebirds and Anatidae in the country are to be reported to the AWC. Monitoring on shorebirds (including other waterbirds like White Spoonbill, the Black-faced Spoonbill, Saunders's Gull and Common Shelduck, which are considered as endangered species) has been conducted every year at approximately 140 fixed sites during periods of April-May, August-September, and December-February. Monitoring on Anatidae has been conducted every year at about 80 fixed sites, at least once in each of the three periods of September-November, December-January and February-May.

Q32

RQ26. (Partners, TF/WG, Sec.) Please report on your contribution to the migratory waterbird Conservation Status Review.

Same as above (RQ25.)

Q33

RQ27. (Partners, Monitoring TF, Sec.) If you are aware of significant new information on internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds, please provide brief details.

Respondent skipped this question

Q34

RQ28. (Partners, TsC, TF/WG) Please provide details on key research on climate change impacts on migratory waterbirds and wetlands in the EAAF, published since MoP 10 (December 2018). (Please provide the web links if available online or reference for relevant publications)

As indicated and suggested in KRA3.4, Ministry of the Environment Japan, in collaboration with experts and FNSs has collected data from the three EAAFP FNSs (Yatsu Tidal Flats, Miyajima-numa and Otomo-numa) in order to research the impact of climate change on their migration pathway. From 2020, MOE has organized six meetings to discuss this matter and the summary of the research is to be made available to the public by April 2023.

Q35**Respondent skipped this question**

RQ29. (Partners, TsC, TF/WG) Please provide brief information on areas of research programs since the last MoP (2018) about improving conservation and sustainable management outcomes at internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds.

Q36**Respondent skipped this question**

RQ30. (Partners, TsC, TF/WG) Please give examples of how knowledge generated through research programs on improving conservation and sustainable management outcomes is being applied at internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds.

Q37**Respondent skipped this question**

RQ31. (Partners, TsC, TF/WG) Please provide brief details on the development and application of best practice guidelines for waterbird and habitat conservation, including the application of traditional knowledge, published/made available since MoP10 (December 2018)?

Q38**Respondent skipped this question**

RQ32. (Sec.) What are the best practice guidelines that are available on the EAAFP website?

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Q39**Respondent skipped this question**

RQ33. (Sec.) Please provide updates on identifying/developing internet-based approaches for capacity building for migratory waterbird conservation.

Q40

RQ34. (Partners, TsC, TFWG, Sec.) Have you been involved in identifying/developing capacity building materials and opportunities? If yes, please provide some details.

Yes,

Additional information::

Presentation materials to introduce EAAFP and its Implementation Strategy 2019-2028 were developed for site managers and other stakeholders. Useful materials and events were shared through email lists of national flyway networks.

Q41

RQ35. (Partners, TsC, TFWG, Sec.) Have you implemented activities to share skills building, tools and experience?

No,

Additional information::

National Flyway Meeting serves as an opportunity for experience sharing and introducing new tools.

Q42

RQ36. (Partners, TsC, TFWG, Sec.) Please provide feedback on the use you have made of capacity building materials and activities for migratory waterbirds and the management of their habitat?

Respondent skipped this question

Q43

RQ37. (Partners, TsC, TFWG, Sec.) Have you considered a training needs assessment in projects you have developed, funded, and/or implemented since MoP10 (December 2018)? If yes, please provide some additional information.

Yes,

Additional information::

After site managers training, we ask for feedback for needs and improvements.

Q44

RQ38. (Partners, TsC, TFWG, Sec.) Have you used the EAAFP online technical training materials for Flyway Site management? Please provide some additional information on the usefulness of the materials.

Planned

Q45

RQ39. (Partners, TsC, TFWG, Sec.) Have you been able to participate in any Meetings of Partner Focal Points? If yes, have any new collaborations with other Partners been developed from the meeting/s? Please provide details.

Yes,

Additional information::

Nationally we have the annual National Liaison Meeting to share information and discuss implementation with experts and the representatives of site managers.

Q46

RQ40. (Partners, TsC, TFWG, Sec.) Have you been able to prepare your Partner report for the MoP? Have you found any difficulties in producing your report?

Since NFP changes frequently in some countries, call for reporting shall be clearly announced and guidance shall be provided at early time in the future.

Q47

Respondent skipped this question

RQ41. (Partners, TFWG) Please provide details you have on corporate engagement at internationally important sites and in programs to develop positive outcomes for migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

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Q48

RQ42. (Partners, TFWG) Please provide brief details on your transboundary involvement in international collaborative initiatives for threatened migratory waterbirds.

A meeting on Dunlin conservation was held in January 2020 by inviting experts from Japan, the US, and Russia. A symposium on the conservation of Dunlin was held in the 1st EAAF Shorebird Science Meeting in November 2020. Several meetings on Dunlin conservation were held in Japan in 2021 and 2022 to discuss the activity plan to promote the conservation of Dunlin. They are also to support the implementation of the AMBI Workplan.

Q49

RQ43. (Partners, TFWG) What do you consider to be the key innovative and/or improved approaches to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats since MoP10 (December 2018)?

Annual national flyway meeting has been held since 2021 to provide stakeholders an opportunity to exchange information on their monitoring results and various CEPA activities online/on-site. All the FNSs in the country (34) are invited to the meeting and it has been an innovative challenge to strengthen the collaboration and cooperation between FNSs without much budget. The meeting is conducted for two days and a field trip to a FNS was also carried out.

Q50

Respondent skipped this question

RQ44. (INGO, TFWG, Sec.) Please provide information on the development of a list of threatened migratory waterbird populations in the EAAF in which you have been involved.

Q51

RQ45. (Govt) Which populations of threatened migratory waterbirds are protected under legislation in your country?

To promote the conservation of endangered species across the country, "Strategy for Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" was formulated in April 2014. It includes to proceed with additional designation of domestic endangered species of wild fauna and flora respecting the scientific knowledge, with 300 species by 2020 as the target. Based on this conservation strategy, from 2014 to 2020, 309 species were additionally designated as domestic endangered species of wild fauna and flora. An additional 32 species were designated in FY2021, and 427 species, including 45 bird species, are currently designated. The government also issues and updates the Japanese National Red Data Book, in order to summarize the ecological and conservation status of threatened migratory waterbirds.

Q52

RQ46. (Partners, TFWG) Has your organization been involved in taking actions to reduce direct threats to migratory waterbirds? If yes, please provide some examples.

Yes,

Additional information::

We have relevant laws and legislations in place (the Wildlife Protection, Control, and Hunting Management Act (amended in 2014 and effective in 2015: WPCMA) and the Act for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1992: ACES), in order to protect migratory birds and their habitats.

Q53

RQ47. (Partners, TFWG) Please outline the contribution you have made to the development and implementation of Threatened Species Action Plans.

Spoon-billed sandpiper and Black-faced spoonbill have been listed as endangered species under the Act for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Q54

RQ48. (Partners, TFWG) Has your organization been involved in any program(s) to assess changes in the status of populations of threatened waterbirds? If yes, please provide details.

Planned

Q55

RQ49. (Partners, TFWG) What has been your involvement in the development and implementation of Regional Action Plans?

Contributed to the development and implementation of AMBI EAAF Workplan.

Q56

RQ50. (Govt, TF on Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds) What mechanisms are in place to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate, illegal hunting, take and trade of migratory waterbirds?

We have the Wildlife Protection, Control, and Hunting Management Act (amended in 2014 and effective in 2015: WPCHMA) in place, regulating the possession and the use of mist net.

Q57

RQ51. (Govt) In your country, what are the current key national legislation and policy instruments that have provisions that cover the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats?

Act for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Wildlife Protection, Control, and Hunting Management Act, Natural Park Act, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Invasive Alien Species Act.

Q58

RQ52. (Govt) In your country, what are the current multilateral regional and bilateral agreements and other regional mechanisms that include provisions on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats?

U.S.A, Russia, Australia, the People's Republic of China and Republic of Korea (Agreement for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Their Habitats)

Q59

Respondent skipped this question

RQ53. (Partners, TF/WG) Please provide any suggestions you have on how existing multilateral regional and bilateral agreements, and other regional mechanisms, could be strengthened to deliver better outcomes for migratory waterbirds.
