

The need for A site Manager's Network Training Program for the East Asian Australasian Flyway.

EAAFP MOP!11
12 March 2023

PASSENGERS, WELCOME ABOARD! THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN, WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT. I'M SORRY, I CAN'T TELL YOU IF WE'LL REACH OUR DESTINATION AS PER SCHEDULE. EXPECT SOME TURBULENCE, LARGE SCALE HABITAT DESTRUCTION, MASS HUNTING & CLIMATE CHANGE ON OUR PATH. ENJOY THE FLIGHT, & THANKS FOR CHOOSING THE EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY, THE WORLD'S MOST ENDANGERED FLYWAY!

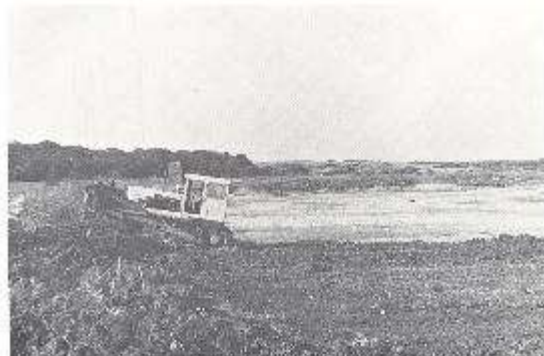


A bit of history to illustrate:

Manual of Wetland Management



Fig. 4. 'The Swamp', from 200 m, April 1971. Areas partly raised by a sluiceway in the previous autumn, are now in the bottom half of the water, but also water feeding ponds (a sea mussel, in the right (bottom) corner, Fig. 5) showing further work completed by the 1972 sluiceway.



Manual of Wetland Management



Fig. 5. An early-made wooden sluiceway to restrict the flow of water from a series of drainage canals (the Sluiceway) to the water level in the Swamp at a certain point, to allow the water to be used for the Swamp. (Photo: M. J. Axell)



The appointment of [Bert Axell](#) as warden of the RSPB Minsmere Nature Reserve in the UK led to major changes in reserve management, which were in due course also adopted elsewhere.

Including pre-EAA Flyway
Mai Po Wetland Park Hong Kong (1980s)



Fig. 6. Minsmere 18 April 1964, 'The Swamp' looking SW. The sluiceway in the foreground made to be lowered to allow it to be covered by mudflats.

Minsmere 1971



Fig. 7. Minsmere 18 April 1964, 'The Swamp' looking SW. The sluiceway in the foreground made to be lowered to allow it to be covered by mudflats.

Minsmere 1971



Fig. 9. The Swamp, looking SW, May 1971.

Minsmere 1971

Bert Axell was asked to provide a proposal for a management plan for the Mai Po marshes during his visit in the early 1980s along the style of his wader scrape in the UK.

The proposal worked very well with a 'phenomenal' increase in the numbers of migratory shorebirds.

However, without an experienced site manager to follow through with appropriate management the numbers of migratory shorebirds declined.

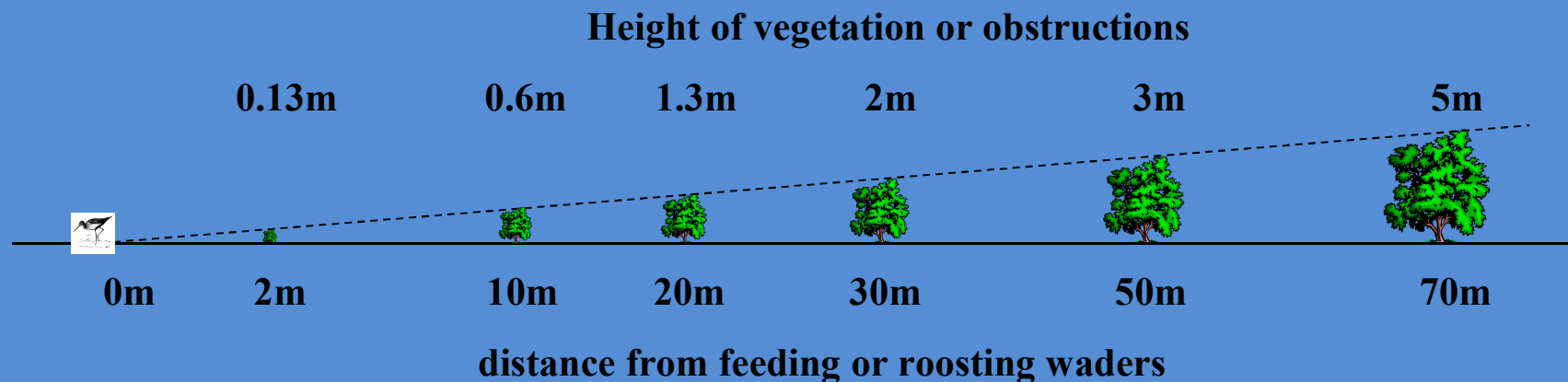
When Lew Young took over management at Mai Po he asked me when I could visit to provide an explanation. The answer was the increase in vegetation across the scrape and the surrounding earth banks.

Modification of the site to address the issue soon resulted in the return of large populations of migratory shorebirds.

To avoid a repeat of impacts on shorebirds Lew produced a **site manager's manual**, still in effect until now

Very basic rules for shorebird habitat management

Clearance required between a wader roost and visual obstructions (after Lawler)



Maximum height tolerance of vegetation

An Example of a well produced training manual (kit) A good foundation, with approval of the AEWA team, for the EAAFP model:

“The flyway approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands: A Training Kit” stems from the capacity building programme of the UNEP-GEF “African-Eurasian Flyways Project” (also known as “Wings Over Wetlands”, or WOW). This training package is designed to provide a flexible common platform to support flyway training programmes across diverse regions. It also provides a basis for the enhanced understanding, application and dissemination of the “flyway-level” approach for conservation of migratory waterbirds and the critical habitats on which they depend.

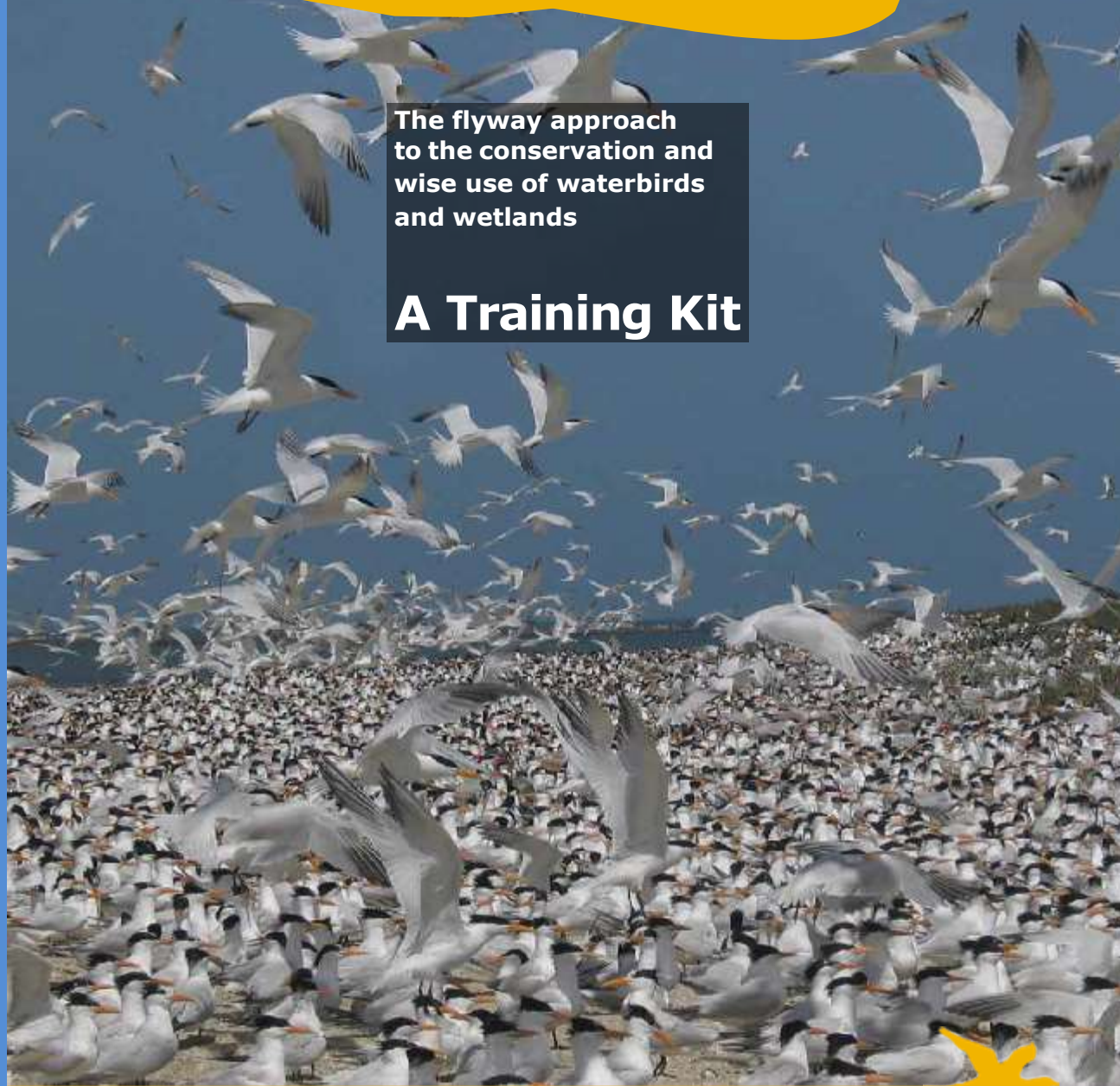
wings over wetlands

The UNEP-GEF African Birds of Flyways Project



**The flyway approach
to the conservation and
wise use of waterbirds
and wetlands**

A Training Kit



Module 1: Understanding the Flyway Approach to Conservation

Session Plans

Tim Dodman

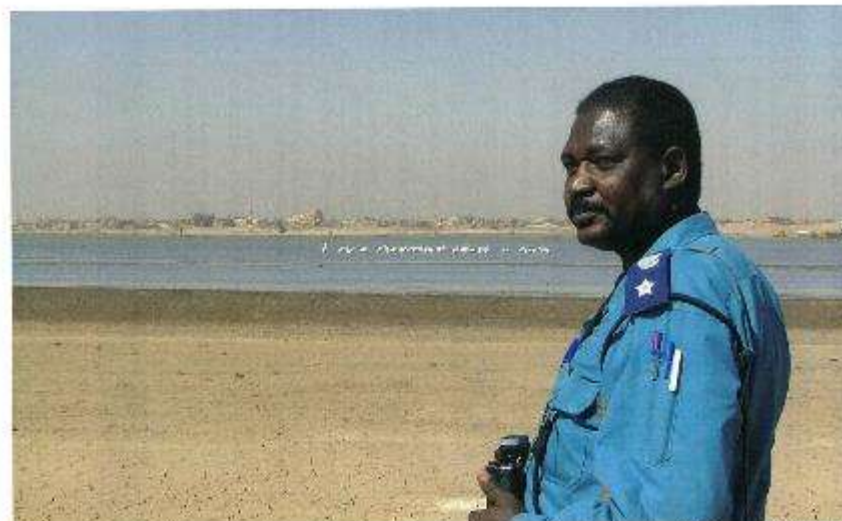


Ghanaian participants during a WCU workshop with their new binoculars (photo: Tim Dodman).

Module 2: Applying the Flyway Approach to Conservation

Session Plans

Tim Dodman



A participant from Sudan's Wildlife Conservation Administration about to count pelicans on the Nile River near Khartoum during a training course (photo: Tim Dodman).

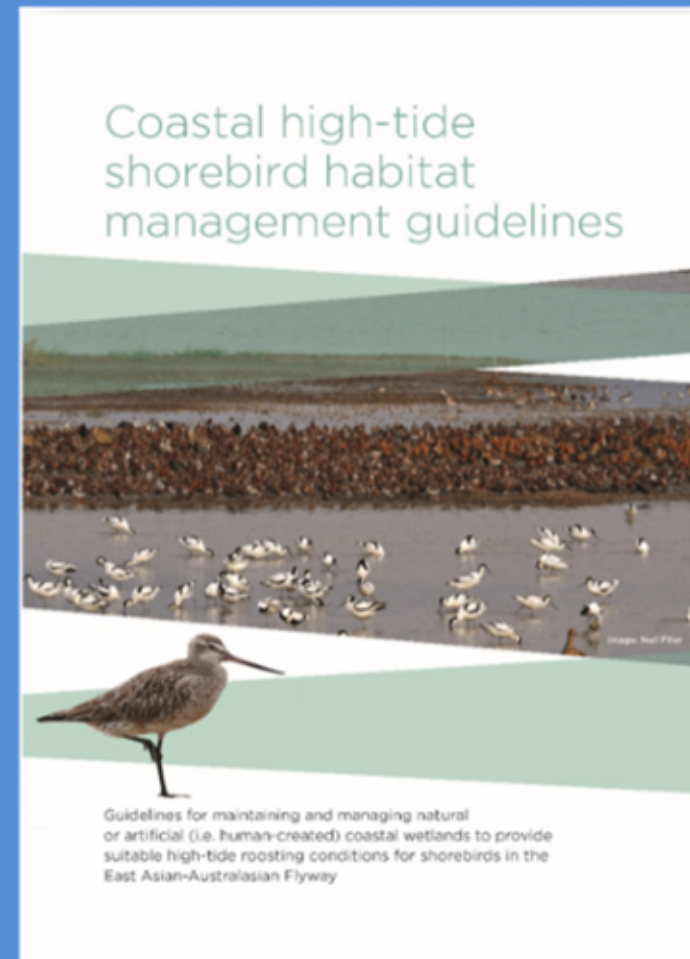
Module 3: Communicating the Flyway Approach to Conservation

Session Plans



A junior ornithology club in Tunisia at a World Migratory Bird Day event organised by AAO (photo: Richard Azaroff)

The first EAAFP Training Module has been produced in 7 Flyway languages:
an essential requirement for the EAA Flyway



To be successful we need to establish a steering committee to produce and maintain an EAAFP site managers training manual.

We already have an impressive list of experts in the form EAAFP Key Species, Working Groups and Task Forces.

Establish a steering committee comprising of one representative from each EAAFP **Working Group** and **Task Forces**. Also, **Technical Sub-Committee**

Anatidae WG

Avian Influenza WG

Black-faced Spoonbill WG

CEPA WG

Crane WG

Seabird WG

Shorebird WG

Task Forces:

Amur Heilong Basin

Baer's Pochard

Far Eastern Curlew

Monitoring of waterbird populations and sites

Scaly-sided Merganser

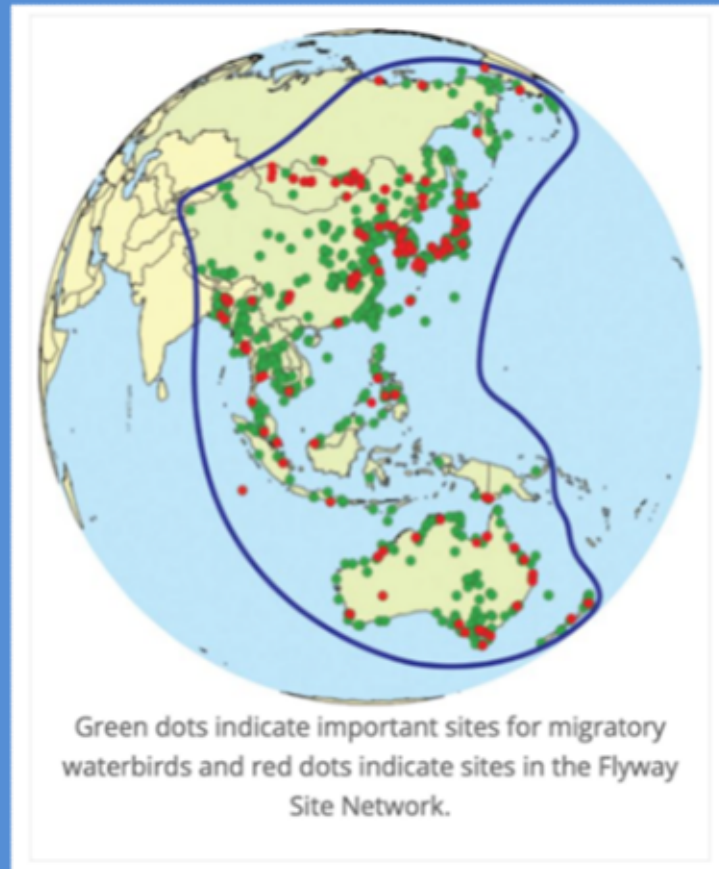
Spoon-billed Sandpiper

Yellow Sea Ecoregion

Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds

Dalmatian Pelican

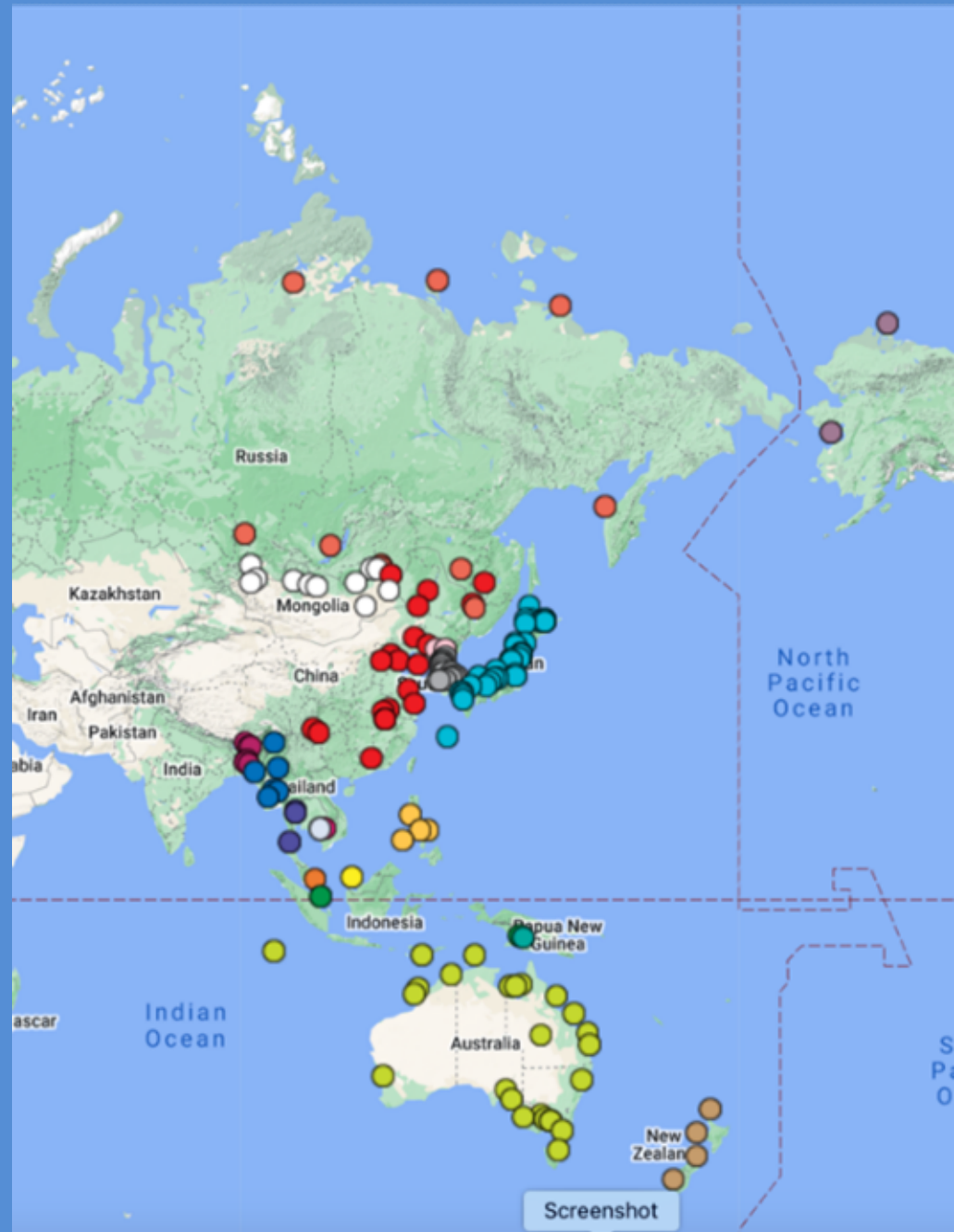
Task Force Coordinator



950 Important sites for migratory
waterbirds
151 EAAF Network sites
we still have a long way to go

EAAF sites per country:

Australia	25
Bangladesh	6
Cambodia	1
China	20
DPRK	2
Indonesia	2
Japan	34
Malaysia	1
Mongolia	11
Myanmar	6
New Zealand	4
Papua New Guinea	1
Philippines	4
ROK	17
Russia	10
Singapore	1
Thailand	3
USA	2
Vietnam	1



Communication Education Participation & Awareness
(CEPA)
Field training programs

