



Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation Update

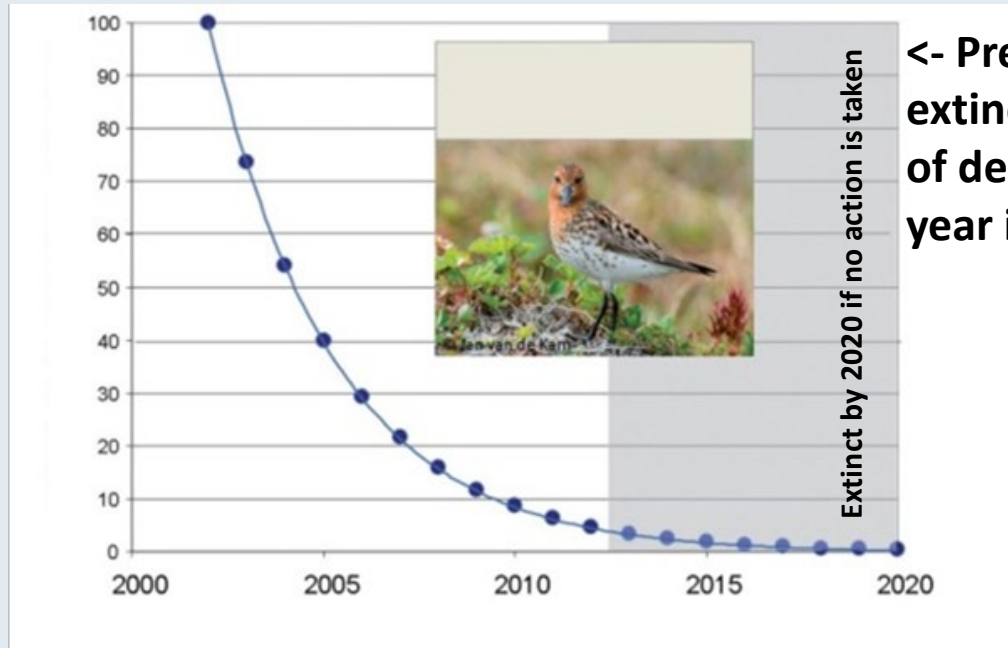
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CHRISTOPH ZÖCKLER

Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force



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

Spoon-billed Sandpiper



<- Predicted time of extinction given the rate of decline of 26.4% per year in 2011



- Declined over 90% in less than 40 years;
- Still declining;
- Real risk of extinction in 15-20 years

Weight 35-40 g;

Migrating 6-8,000 km annually

Endemic to the EAAF

One of the 100 most threatened leaving beings on the planet

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What was happening

1. Habitat loss in the non-breeding grounds;
2. Hunting/trapping in the non-breeding grounds;
3. Limitations restricting incubation/fledging success in the breeding grounds;

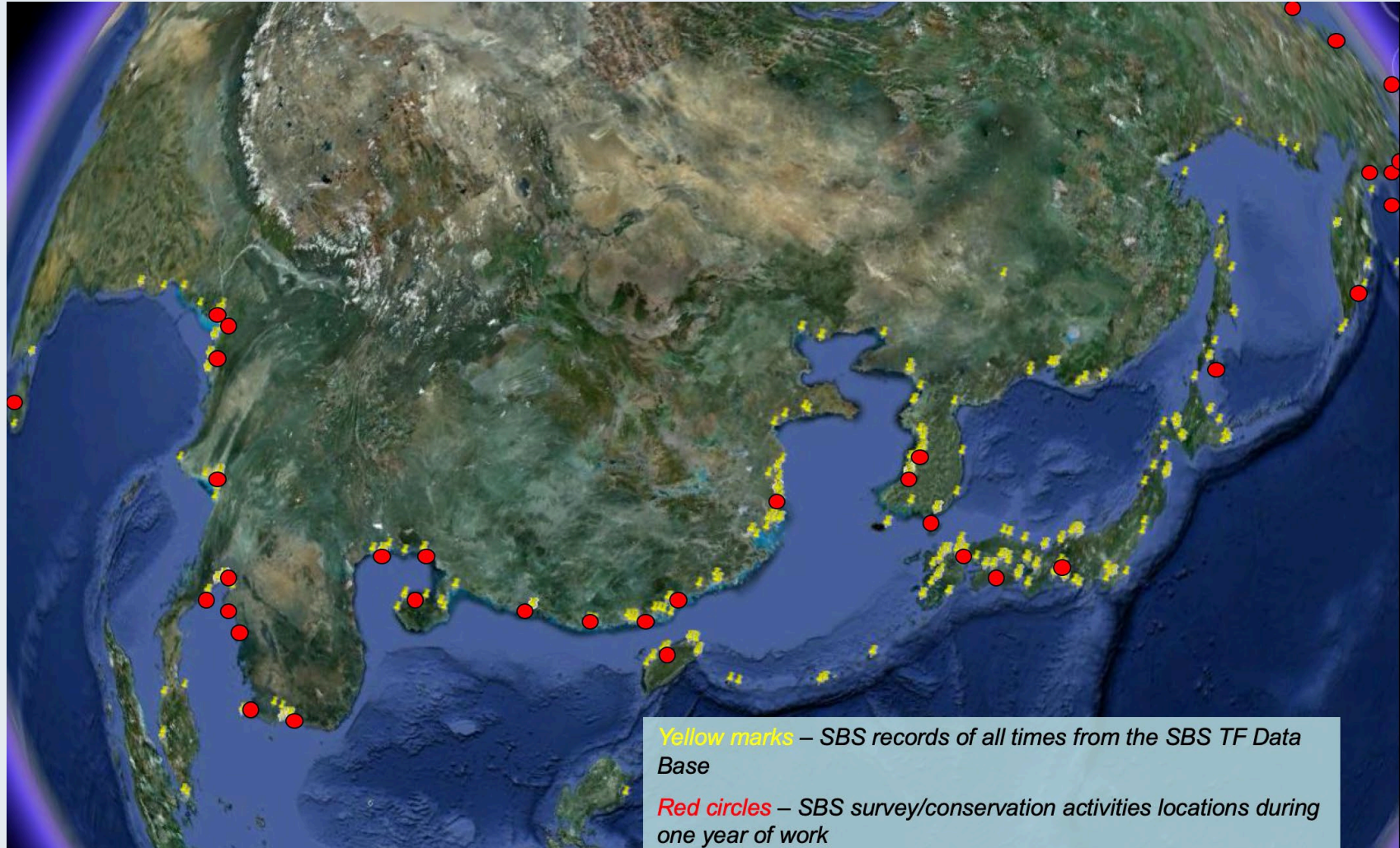


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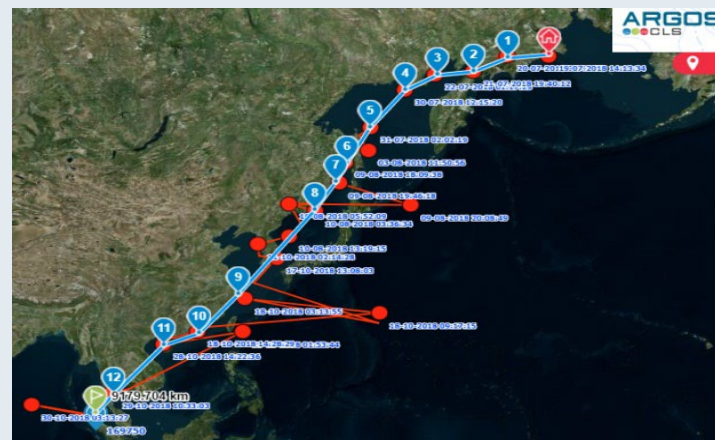
Conservation Work Across the Flyway

- Currently we are working on a new Action Plan to tackle new threats and continue ongoing interventions



Work in Russia

- Monitoring of the key breeding sites,
- Studies on breeding biology, productivity/survival, habitat use etc.
- Colour flagging, genetics and satellite tracking programs;
- Head Starting programs (cooperation with WWT & RSPB);
- Surveys of the unknown breeding grounds including Koryak coast surveys with Heritage expeditions
- Planning of protected areas in the breeding grounds

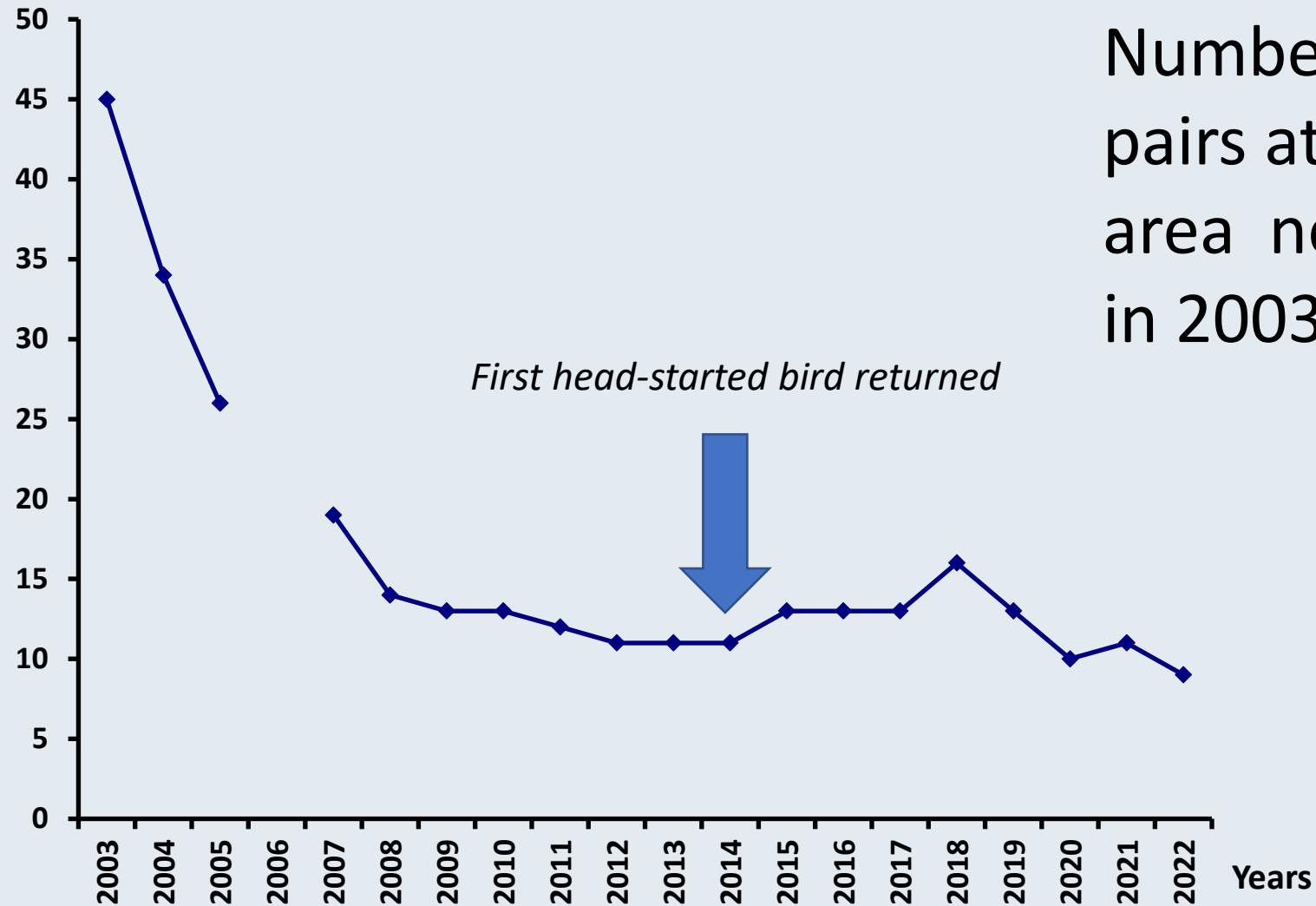


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Work in Russia

Number of breeding pairs at the monitoring area near Meinypilgyno in 2003–2022



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Work in Russia: Head-starting project steps

STEP 1

- Egg collection



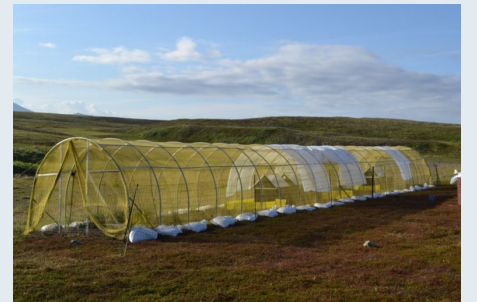
STEP 2

- Incubation



STEP 3

- Chick rearing



STEP 4

- Release & post-release monitoring



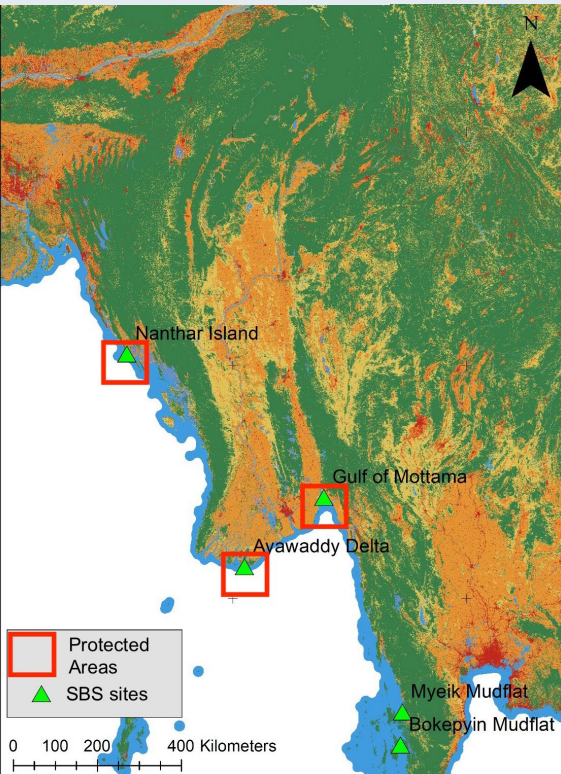
Work in Russia: Head-starting success

Year	No. of eggs collected	No. of chicks hatched	Young released		No. of birds returned = 29 in total								
			No.	% of eggs	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
2012	17	10	9	70.3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2013	20	17	16	75.0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014	32	27	26	83.9	-	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
2015	33	29	28	84.8	-	-	1	4	1	1	1	1	0
2016	35	31	30	85.7	-	-	-	2	3	2	2	1	1
2017	38	30	30	83.3	-	-	-	-	0	1	1	2	2
2018	35	25	22	62.8	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	1	0
2019	38	26	23	60.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	5	2
2020	30	27	22	73.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2
2021	38	29	28	73.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
2022	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	278	251	234	84.2	1	5	5	8	6	6	3	10	7

Numbers of HS SBS released in 2012–2021 and returned in 2014–2022 to the natal area in subsequent year(s).



Work in Myanmar



- Monitoring of five wintering sites in Myanmar
- Ayeyarwady Delta designated as Ramsar site in 2016
- Gulf of Mottama designated as Ramsar site in 2017
- Nan Thar Island designated as Ramsar site in 2020
- Spoon-billed Sandpiper National Action Plan & CEPA in 2017-2020
- Hunting Mitigation, Alternative livelihoods and Outreach continues
- National Action Plan developed



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Work in Myanmar: SBS TF meeting & survey in 2023

- Gulf of Mottama survey conducted by 20 surveyors from China, Russia, Thailand, Germany, US and Myanmar in January 2023 and only 19 SBS were estimated
- Followed by the survey, SBS TF Meeting 2023 took place in Yangon, Myanmar



Work in China: overall

- SBS winter census and waterbirds survey in key habitats, flagging, tracking and re-sighting
- SBS Conservation Network since 2019
- SBS Ambassadors
- Bird Loving Week National Nature Journal Relay



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Work in China

Tiaozini wetlands was once threatened by development -- now a **World Heritage Site!**

More than 50% of the world's Spoon-billed Sandpipers forage, moult and depend on this site for up to 3 months



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Work in China

- Nature-based Solutions for coastal wetlands in Leizhou peninsula, Guangdong province
- Balance between mangroves and waterbirds habitat
- Local community, indigenous people and climate resilience



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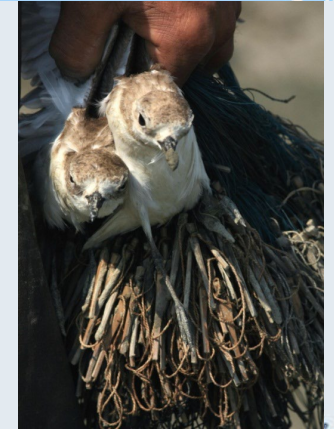
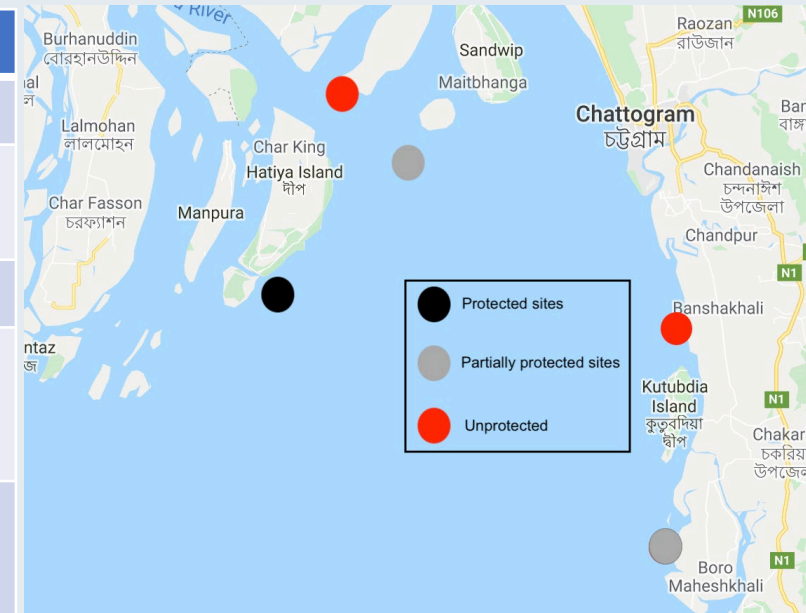
Work in China

- Our local partners continue work on mis-net removal in Leizhou Peninsula and Zhanjiang
- A total of 110 illegal mist-nets (4,300 meters in length) were removed between Oct 2018 and Sept 2019 by reporting to the forest police -- 90% reduction compare to the situation in 2013



Work in Bangladesh

Sites	Threats	Mitigation / Protection / Challenges
Sonadia Island	Hunting	95% mitigated but needs reassessment
	Legal Protection	Ecological Critical Area but still threatened by tourism/small-scale development
	Development	Produced many papers/reports
Ganguirar Char	Mangrove plantation	Now a Flyway Network Site! Needs national PA designation
Nijhum Dwip National Park	Mangrove plantation	National Park and Marine Reserve



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Work in Thailand



Pak Thale salt pan was purchase in 2020 and Thale Nature Reserve was created

BCST
มูลนิธิอนุรักษ์นก
และธรรมชาติแห่งประเทศไทย

BirdLife International
PARTNER

Khok Kham
2 unflagged birds
(Lime 05 disappeared)

Khlong Tamru
1 bird (legs not seen)

Pak Thale
5 birds; including White P7 & Lime 77

Laem Phak Bia
1 unflagged bird

SPOON-BILLED SANDPIPER
Winter 2020-2021

Photo Credit Suebsawat Sawat-chuto, Aroon Meechai & Thanakrit Khamsanon

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Work in Thailand

Pak Thale is a key wintering ground for more than **10,000** shorebirds, and **more 150** bird species



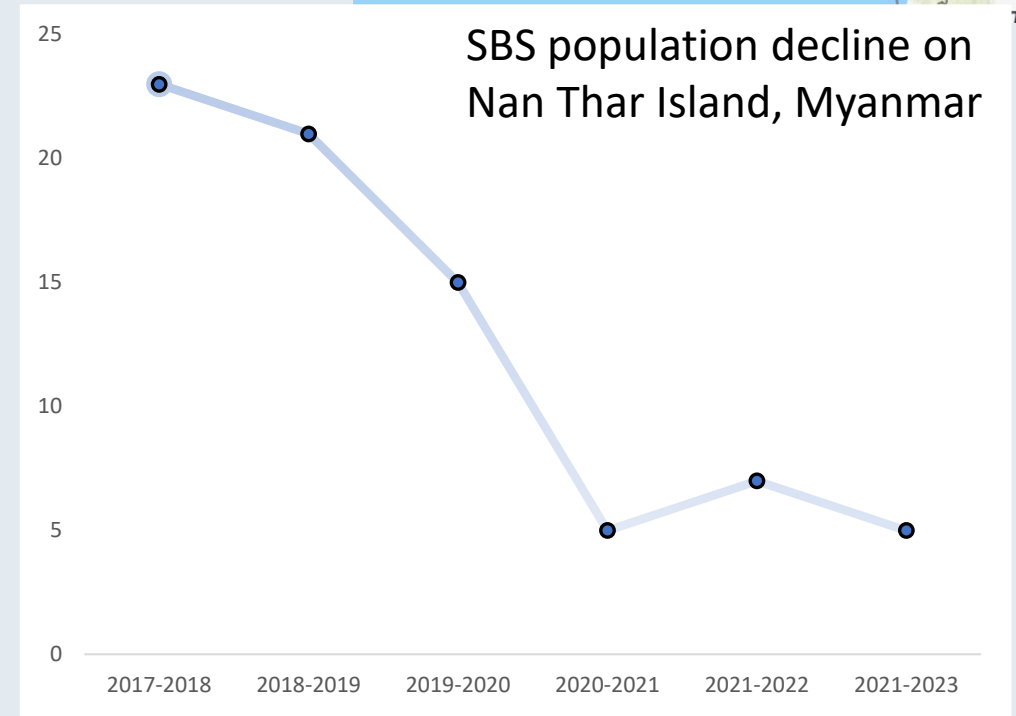
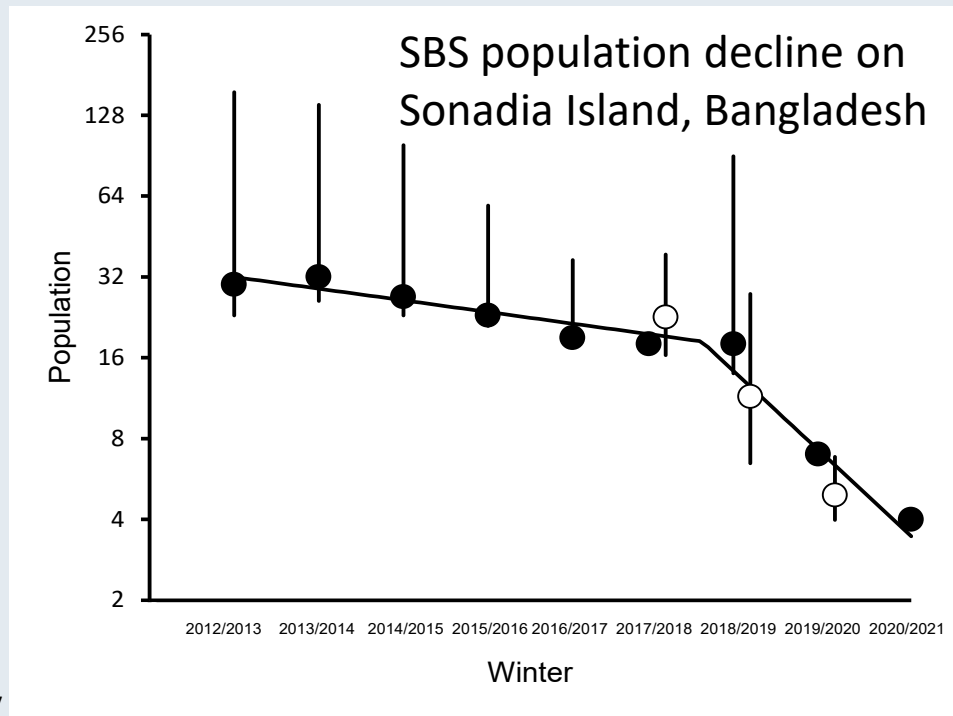
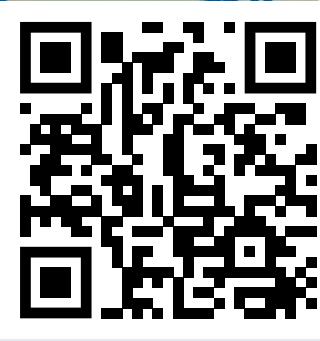
Work in Vietnam

- Regular monthly monitoring of Mekong Delta sites since 2019 over migratory period. Red River Delta since 2021.
- Support Vietnam government on development of Directive 04/CT-TTg urgent tasks and solutions to conserve wild and migratory birds, passed in 2022
- Removal of mist-nets in 3 Mekong Delta sites
- World migratory bird day activities since 2021 – including ‘Tạm biệt chim di cư’ in March 2022.
- Stakeholder workshop on wetlands important for migratory shorebirds in Mekong Delta in 2022
- Two new papers published over 2021-2022.



World population & ongoing decline

- The world population is about 200 to 600 individuals of all ages based on various population estimates
- There has been a sharp decline in recent times and reasons are still unclear



SBS TF

SBS Task Force Chair: Ms. Sun Lili

SBS Task Force Coordinator: Dr. Christoph Zöckler

Scientific Advisors: Dr. Nigel Clark & Prof Fyodor Kondrashov

40 members from almost all range countries

Please join our side meeting to learn more SBS conservation & challenges

Date: 17 March 2023
Time: 12:30 - 14:00
Venue: Catalina Room
EAAFP MoP11

Thanks to our many donors & partners

