



## Conservation Efforts

The Malaysian Nature Society Kuching Branch (MNSKB) and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) have been working closely together in monitoring shorebirds and their conservation through activities including:

- annual Asian Waterbird Census
- outreach programs for schools and communities
- workshops and trainings on shorebirds
- monthly monitoring of shorebird counts
- high tide roosting surveys

Sarawak Forestry Corporation

# SHOREBIRDS OF BAKO BUNTAL BAY SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

## Bako Buntal Bay

Bako Buntal Bay (BBB) is one of the 55 Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) in Malaysia and is also the country's first Flyway Network Site (FNS) under the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP). The bay provides food and shelter to an estimated 20,000–25,000 migratory shorebirds from 32 species that overwinter here, including several globally threatened species such as Nordmann's Greenshank, Great Knot, Chinese Egret and Far Eastern Curlew.

## What are Shorebirds?

Sometimes called waders, shorebirds are a group of birds of the order Charadriiformes. They are often seen foraging for food along intertidal coastlines or mudflats. Some shorebirds, such as Common Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper and Long-toed Stint, venture further inland to roost and forage in man-made ponds.

The Far Eastern Curlew Project is supported by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) with the aim to determine the conservation status, local distribution, migration phenology and movements of the Far Eastern Curlew at Bako Buntal Bay and adjacent wetlands.



Above & cover page: Far Eastern Curlew (photos: Daniel Kong)





## An Incredible Migration

Many shorebird species breed and nest in the Arctic Tundra, Siberian Taiga or in the mountains of Central Asia in springtime. Every year at the end of spring, these birds begin their long migration journey towards the Southern Hemisphere, where they will overwinter. With over 10,000 km to travel, shorebirds will use a series of migration routes known as 'flyways'.

There are nine global flyways and Sarawak is located within the EAAF. Shorebirds will make stopovers during their migration to refuel and regain their energy. These stopover sites consist of coastal wetlands that are rich with worms, shellfish and other invertebrates that flourish in the mudflats, which serve as vital food sources for shorebirds. Once spring returns in the Northern Hemisphere, the birds will make their long journey back to their breeding grounds.

### Nordmann's Greenshank

ENDANGERED

*Tringa guttifer*

With fewer than 1,200 individuals left in the wild today, little is known of this rare, medium-sized sandpiper. It prefers to forage on soft sediments, feeding on mudskippers, crabs and shrimps. Hunting and coastal development of wintering grounds are some of the main threats faced by this sandpiper. About 10 individuals have been seen at this bay.



Batrissya Teepeol

### Spoon-billed Sandpiper

CRITICALLY  
ENDANGERED

*Calidris pygmaea*

A small wader with fine stripes on its crown and a distinct spatulate bill. With an estimate of only 420 individuals remaining in the world, a variety of conservation efforts including artificial incubation and captive rearing have been put in place to improve the survival rate of this species.



Daniel Kong

### Bar-tailed Godwit

NEAR THREATENED

*Limosa lapponica*

This medium-sized bird with a long and slightly upturned bill, holds the world record for the longest distance travelled (as far as 13,560 km) without stopping for any animal. It seeks out worms, molluscs and crustaceans by plunging its bill deep into the mud.



A group of Bar-tailed Godwits, with some individuals already sporting its breeding plumage (brick red) in preparation for the long journey back north. (photo: Daniel Kong)

### Great Knot

ENDANGERED

*Calidris tenuirostris*

A medium-sized, stocky shorebird with straight, slender bill and short olive legs. The shape of this bird's bill is adapted for rapidly probing mudflats for small clams, crabs, worms and snails.



Batrissya Teepeol

### Far Eastern Curlew

ENDANGERED

*Numenius madagascariensis*

With a long, downcurved bill and weighing at 1.2 kg, this shorebird is the largest migrating shorebird that is only found in the EAAF. It uses its long bill to probe deep into the mud for molluscs and crabs. During peak migratory season, as many as 900 individuals can be observed here.



Batrissya Teepeol