

Speakers Biodata

(in order of speaking appearance after

DG James P. Lynch and DG Ramesh Subramaniam)

Patricia Zurita



Patricia Zurita is the Chief Executive Officer of BirdLife International, the world's largest nature conservation partnership, bringing together over 115 organisations worldwide to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainable use of natural resources. Patricia is also the first woman from a developing country (Ecuador) to become CEO of an international conservation organisation. Prior to BirdLife, Patricia was the Executive Director of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, and led the Conservation Stewards Program in Conservation International. She previously worked for the Ecuadorian Government and holds a Masters in Natural Resource Economics from Duke University, USA.

Title of Speech: Opening Remarks to the Webinar.

Doug Watkins



Mr. Doug Watkins has worked extensively on migratory waterbird conservation since 1995, initially on the development of an East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) network of sites for migratory shorebirds, which was launched in 1996 at Ramsar COP 6 in Brisbane, Australia. He supported the Australian and Japanese Governments to conduct three Flyway workshops to develop the EAAF Partnership and its launch in Indonesia in 2006.

Since the formation of the EAAFP, Mr. Watkins has participated in each Meeting of Partners, initially as a delegate of Wetlands International and later as a delegate of the Australasian Wader Studies Group. He has been a member of the EAAFP Monitoring Taskforce, Yellow Sea Working Group, Avian Influenza Task Force, Illegal Hunting Taskforce, Strategic Plan Taskforce and the EAAFP Management Committee.

In the last decade, Mr. Watkins has taken on a range of wetland consulting projects in Australia and China. This has included work as a sub-consultant on wetland ecology in two ADB loan projects in China.

In 2018-19, Mr. Watkins was based in Singapore as the EAAF coordinator for the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway.

In October 2019, Mr. Watkins was appointed as the Chief Executive of the EAAFP Secretariat.

Title of Speech: Regional Overview: Challenges and Opportunities for Water bird and Wetland Conservation; and the Work of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).

Lu Cai

Deputy Director, Center for East Asia-Australasian Flyway Studies (CEAAF), Beijing Forestry University



Dr. Lu has been working for nature conservation for 20 years and is specialized in wetland ecology and biodiversity conservation. He is involved in various conservation and management associated initiatives at both national and international level, including the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, EAAFP, IUCN, GEO BON, and UNESCAP and NEASPEC projects. His main research interests are wetland ecosystem change and drivers, biodiversity dynamics and conservation biology, endangered migratory waterbirds and habitat, and mechanisms for transboundary cooperation in the EAAF. Key research areas cover the Yangtze River, Yellow Sea Ecoregion, Northeast Asia and now aim at extending to ASEAN region at EAAF scale.

He is a member expert of the IUCN WCPA, GEO BON Freshwater BON and Asia Wetland Symposium steering committee. He actively contributes to national and international conservation policy and practice in EAAF.

Title of Speech: Waterbird and Wetland Conservation in the People's Republic of China.

David Stroud



David Stroud worked for UK government's statutory nature conservation advisory body until 2019 where he was Senior Ornithologist. He has had long involvement with EU and multiple other international organisations and multilateral environmental agreements, and has chaired the scientific and technical subsidiary bodies of the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA), and the Ramsar Convention. He currently represents the European region on Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Panel. David has experience with protected site networks at multiple scales, and has coordinated three national reviews of the UK's network of EU Special Protection Areas (<https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/special-protection-areas-overview/#spa-reviews>) as well as advising government on the process of site classification and management for a range of site designations. He has published widely about these issues. On behalf of UK government, and for over 30 years, he has helped manage and steer many of the UK's bird monitoring programmes, working with a range of NGO partner organisations.

Title of Speech: Lessons learned from establishing protected site networks in the East Atlantic Flyway

Xiaoting Jin



JIN Xiaoting is Senior Project Officer of French Development Agency (AFD). She is the focal point of "biodiversity" and "innovation" of AFD in China. She joined AFD in 2008 and has developed and managed over 800 million EUR of Official Development Aid (ODA) projects covering biodiversity conservation, sustainable urban and rural development, natural and cultural heritage protection, energy efficiency, district energy and divers areas. She is also responsible for policy dialogue with Chinese authorities on environment and biodiversity related topics. Ms. JIN graduated from Sciences Po Paris with a master degree on environmental studies.

Title of Speech: Agence Française de Développement and Wetland Conservation in the People's Republic of China.

Wolfram Erhardt



Based in Beijing, Dr. Wolfram Erhardt is Country Director China of KfW Development Bank. From 2014 to 2017 he headed the origination unit in the field of Structured Trade & Export Finance at UniCredit Bank AG in Munich, Germany and was in charge of structuring ECA-covered export finance transactions worldwide. In his position as Head of Finance of the Nabucco Gas Pipeline Project in Vienna, Austria, from 2009 to 2013, Wolfram Erhardt oversaw the project financing and established all budgeting, accounting, treasury, tax, and controlling functions of headquarters and five subsidiaries across Eastern Europe. Former roles in KfW from 2000 to 2008 included Country Director Turkey and Vice President at KfW IPEX-Bank, KfW's commercial export and project finance arm. Wolfram Erhardt holds a doctoral and a master's degree in Business Economics from Hohenheim University, Stuttgart, Germany.

Title of Speech: KfW and Wetland Conservation in the PRC: Case Study – Hengshui Lake.

Niu Zhiming



Niu Zhiming is responsible for managing and implementing projects for the environment, natural resources, and agriculture sectors at ADB People's Republic of China Resident Mission. He is also the resident mission's focal for Global Environment Facility programs as well as biodiversity and climate change. He holds a PhD in watershed management and earned an executive MBA degree from CEIBS in Shanghai.

Title of Speech: Asian Development Bank and Wetland Conservation in the People's Republic of China: Case Study – Jiangsu Yancheng Project.

Duncan Lang



Duncan is a Senior Environment Specialist at ADB in the Safeguards Division and Environment Thematic Group Unit of SDCC where he provides advisory and compliance support to operational departments as well as working on thought leadership work within the environment sector. His current work involves development of ADB's long-term strategy to further mainstream biodiversity at the bank amongst other things. With an academic background in ecology Duncan started off his career as a researcher studying bats in Thailand, before in 2005 embarking on his professional career in the UK as an ornithologist in the burgeoning wind industry. From here his career moved to focus on wetland bird survey and assessment as well as general ecology before broadening to wider environmental issues. From starting off his career in the UK he has gained a wide variety of experience across a range of sectors and has worked in multiple countries across Asia and Europe including Georgia, Armenia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei and Nepal amongst others.

Duncan is a keen birder and volunteered as a Wetland Birds Surveyor (WeBS) in the UK for six years, helping to provide wetland bird count data for a sector within the Firth of Forth Estuary SPA Natura Site in Scotland as part of the national recording system. He is also a member of both the Scottish and Oriental Bird Clubs.

Vinayagan Dharmarajah



Mr. Vinayagan Dharmarajah (Vina) has been the Regional Director (Asia) of BirdLife International since January 2017 and has been on its Asia Board since 2012. In his role, Vina provides strategic oversight in relation to BirdLife’s flyways work in Asia, including on the East Asian Australasian Flyway, the Central Asian Flyway, the illegal killing of migratory birds and the impact of energy infrastructure. He also manages all governmental, institutional and partner relations on behalf of BirdLife in Asia.

Prior to joining BirdLife as its Regional Director, Vina worked for the graduate business school INSEAD for 6 years as its Legal Counsel in Asia. Vina obtained a Bachelors (LL.B. Hons) degree in law from the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom. He also has a BA. Hons degree (History) from the National University of Singapore and a Masters (LLM) in International Business Law from the Sorbonne-Assas (Paris II) International Law School. Vina is a member of the of the Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Law in Singapore.

Title of Speech: Introduction to the proposed East Asian-Australasian Regional Flyway Program.

Gary Allport



Gary Allport, PhD., is Senior Adviser to the CEO of BirdLife International. Originally from the UK he now lives in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Gary undertook fieldwork on bird conservation in Kenya, Malaysia/ Indonesia (for Interwader), Sierra Leone and Korea, and completed a Ph.D. on grassland management for geese at University of East Anglia (UK). He worked for the International Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB – forerunner of Wetlands International) and has worked for BirdLife since 1990, initially on a corporate program funded by BP but then as Head of BirdLife’s programs in Africa and the Pacific regions. For the last 15 years he has developed strategic relationships for BirdLife in Europe and then in Washington DC, working closely with multi-lateral development banks and development agencies.

Title of Speech: Introduction to the proposed East Asian-Australasian Regional Flyway Program.

Hu Yuanhui



Mr. Hu Yuanhui is the Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, People's Republic of China. He holds two Master Degrees, in Forestry Economics (Beijing Forestry University) and Nature Resources Management (University of Melbourne). He has worked at the Weihe Forestry Bureau, Heilongjiang Province; the Department of Forestry Industry, Ministry of Forestry; the International Forestry Cooperation Center, State Forestry Administration; and Department of International Cooperation, China National Forestry and Grassland Administration, as Deputy Head. His early career was focused on forest management including the drafting of policy documents. Since then, his work has focused on international cooperation projects. This has included implementation and liaison for the China-German Afforestation Programme (Liaoning and Hunan Provinces), ITTO and UNDP projects in forest products trade and forest conservation, and coordination with international non-governmental organizations. He participated in development of the *China Wetlands Conservation Plan* and other wetland documents and was a Steering Committee member for the GEF-funded Project of Wetland and Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in China.

Title of Speech: Towards a Regional Flyway Program – Perspective from the People's Republic of China.

Shufen Yang



Yang Shufen had prior experience conducting habitat surveys, restoration projects and impact assessments. She is currently managing the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, an EAAFP Flyway Network Site, as well as a variety of wetlands in Singapore, forming the Sungei Buloh Nature Park Network. Her core work involves conservation management, research and outreach both locally and regionally.

She represents Singapore as the country lead for the ASEAN Flyway Network and coordinates the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund project on Improving Biodiversity Conservation of Wetlands and Migratory Waterbirds in the ASEAN Region – Phase 1.

Title of Speech: Towards a Regional Flyway Program – Perspective from ASEAN Flyway Network.

Yoeung Visal



Mr. Yoeung Visal is the Deputy Chief of Office, Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation, of the General Directorate of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia. After graduating with a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering and Management at the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand (2015), he is serving as a technical officer for the Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation of the General Directorate of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection, Ministry of Environment. In this position he is responsible for (1) formulating a technical guidance for freshwater wetlands management plan, (2) Ramsar designation, (3) zonation of Wetlands, and other assigned tasks. He is also involved in project coordination and implementation.

Title of Speech: Towards a Regional Flyway Program – Perspective from Cambodia.

Spike Millington



Spike Millington is Vice President of International Programs and Director of Asia for the International Crane Foundation, based in Wisconsin, USA. Previously, he was Chief Executive of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership from 2012 to 2017, bringing together 35 representatives of country governments, inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the 22 countries of the Flyway. In 2011, he assisted USAID in developing its global biodiversity policy. From 2006 – 2010, Spike was UNDP Chief Technical Advisor on the EU-China Biodiversity Program, EU's largest biodiversity program outside the EU. He advised on strategic planning, institutional and policy development, as well as technical support to 18 field projects. Prior to this, he worked at the Asian Development Bank, developing the China-GEF Controlling Land Degradation in Dryland Areas of Western China (OP13) Program. Spike spent 13 years in Africa, including as IUCN Senior Policy Advisor in Ethiopia, and as Program Coordinator for USAID helping Madagascar implement its pioneer Environmental Action Plan.

Title of Speech: Towards a Regional Flyway Program – International and regional perspective – wetlands and waterbirds.

Taej Mundkur



Dr. Taej Mundkur works as a senior Technical Officer with [Wetlands International](#), in its Global Office in the Netherlands. He is responsible for development of waterbird conservation programmes worldwide, in partnership with conventions, governments, NGOs, corporate sector and others. He has a doctorate in waterbird ecology and a master's degree in microbiology from India.

He started with Wetlands International in Malaysia (then Asian Wetland Bureau) in 1990 and was responsible for development of the Asian Waterbird Census and various flyway projects. He coordinates the global [International Waterbird Census](#) and the global Waterbird Population Estimates production. He chairs Convention on Migratory Species Flyways Working Group in advising the Convention on priorities for conservation for migratory birds globally and regionally.

He spearheaded development and coordination of the largest international cooperation framework for migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the Asia-Pacific between 1996 and 2006, implemented through three international site networks for shorebirds, cranes and Anatidae. He advised development of the [East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership](#) launched in 2006 and serves on its technical sub-committee. He represents Wetlands International in this Partnership.

Title of Speech: Towards a Regional Flyway Program – International and regional perspective – wetlands and waterbirds.

Jianbin Shi



Dr. Jianbin Shi is an Advisor and Director of Conservation Program with the Paulson Institute, responsible for development and management of a high-impact portfolio of wetland conservation and restoration projects in China. Before joining the Institute in March 2016, Jianbin was the Head of TRAFFIC China Programme from May 2011 to September 2014, a Program Manager of UNDP China for EU-China Biodiversity Program from August 2006 to May 2011, and a Program Coordinator of TNC China Office from September 2004 to August 2006.

Jianbin started his professional career as a Project Officer with the Foreign Economy Cooperation Office (FECO) of the former State Environmental Protection Administration where he worked from June 1994 to February 1999.

Jianbin is also an Associate Professor of Beijing Normal University where he is teaching both graduate and undergraduate courses and conducting researches in conservation biology and wildlife ecology. He obtained his PhD from the University of Liverpool in 2004.

Jianbin believes that, by working together, we can make difference and can create a better world for co-existence of the nature and human-beings.

Title of Speech: Blueprint for Coastal Wetland Conservation and Management in the PRC.

Warren Evans



James Warren Evans is ADB's **Special Project Facilitator**.

Warren has more than 40 years of work experience as a staff member in multilateral development banks and other international organizations. He worked for more than 15 years at ADB, beginning March 1988, where he progressed through various levels of responsibility primarily within the environment sector. This included serving as ADB's first Director for Environment and Social Safeguards. He joined the World Bank in July 2003 as Environment Director and Senior Advisor, where he led the team that established the Climate Investment Funds and initiated several natural resource management and biodiversity conservation initiatives. Warren has advised international organizations that include the Global Green Growth Institute, Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research, International Fund for Agricultural Development, and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies -specializing in biodiversity conservation, environment, climate investment policy, and strategy development. He has served on the Birdlife International Advisory Group since 2016.

Title of Speech: Closing Remarks for the Webinar.