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# **Challenges and Opportunities for Waterbird and Wetland Conservation and the Work of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)**

**Doug Watkins, EAAFP Secretariat**

# Migratory Waterbird Flyways of the World

Black Sea/Mediterranean Flyway

Central Americas

Flyway

East  
Atlantic  
Flyway

Atlantic  
Americas  
Flyway

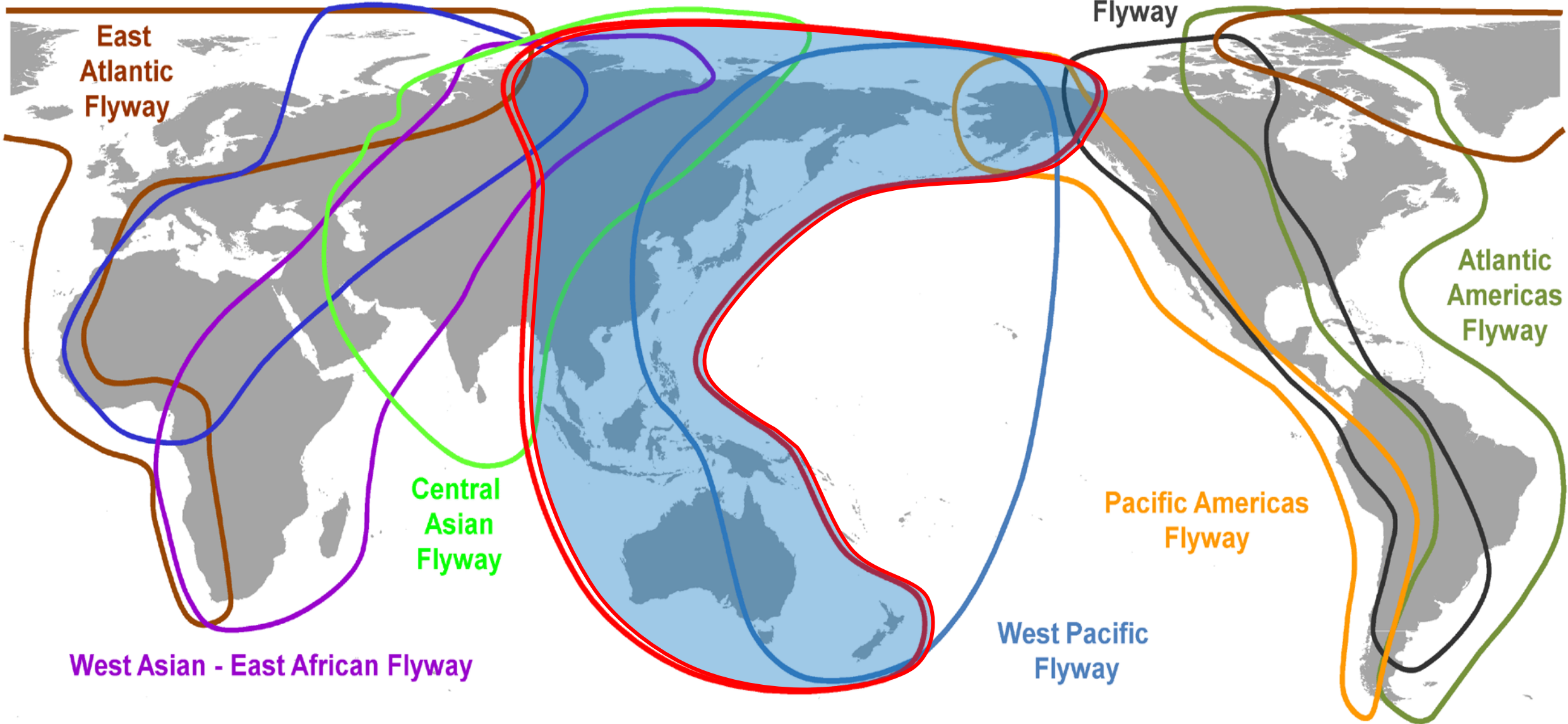
Central  
Asian  
Flyway

Pacific Americas  
Flyway

West Asian - East African Flyway

West Pacific  
Flyway

East Asian – Australasian Flyway

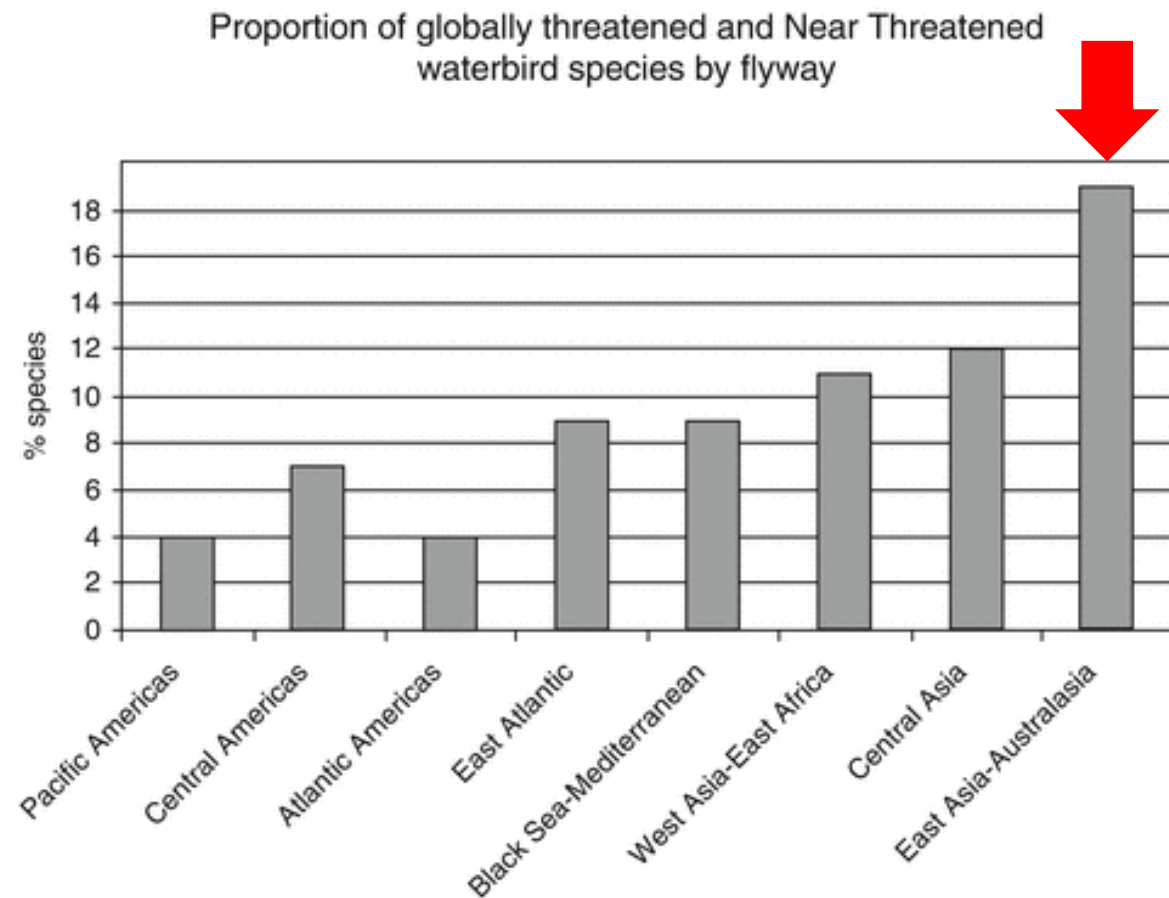






# Migratory Waterbirds of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway

**50 million** migratory waterbirds  
**250+** populations  
**36** globally threatened  
**9%** annual declining rate of some shorebirds

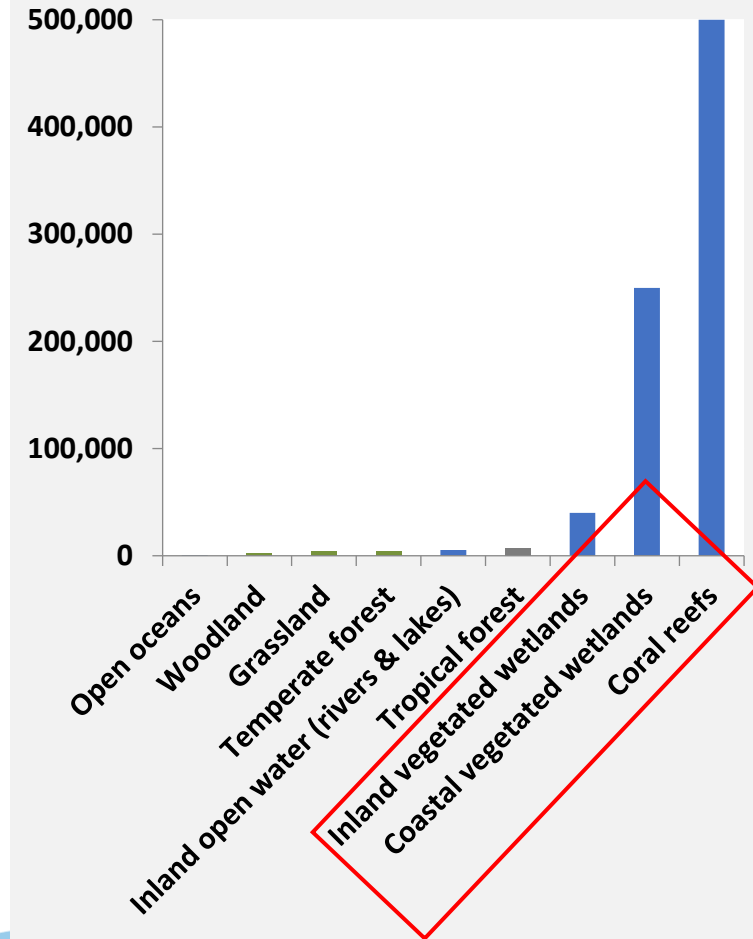


# Key Challenges

1. **Building a Flyway network of internationally important wetland sites** that are sustainably managed to maintain migratory waterbird populations and their broader ecosystem services.
2. **Increasing awareness of the range of ecosystem services** that are provided by these important wetlands, in particular related to **livelihoods, carbon storage** and opportunities to **mitigate some impacts of climate change**.
3. Increasing the required **technical skills, capacity and resources of site management staff** to enable sound wetland management and engagement with local communities.

## Value of wetlands & other ecosystems

(average \$/ha - derived from de Groot *et al.* Global estimates of the value of ecosystems and their services in monetary units 2012)





## Key Challenges (continued)

4. **Addressing poor socio-economic conditions** that are resulting in unsustainable use of natural resources.
5. Maintaining and enhancing the **knowledge base** that is essential to inform **sound policy development and planning** for the management of a **Flyway Network of Sites**.
6. **Increasing cooperation, support and resources** to address these key challenges!



# Key Opportunities

1. **Utilise existing frameworks for National, Regional and Flyway collaborations** between National Governments, Intergovernmental Organisations, international Non-Government Organisations and the Corporate Sector in the 22 countries of the Flyway for the **sustainable management of key sites** for migratory waterbirds.
2. Ensuring **national workplans for multilateral environmental agreements** (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Convention on Migratory Species, Convention on Biological Diversity and the work of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity) **address the need for a Flyway approach** to the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their key sites.
3. Increasing cooperation among **governments, research institutions, NGOs and “citizen scientists”** on the monitoring of migratory waterbirds and contributing to the understanding of their life history and migration strategies.



## Key Opportunities (continued)

4. Develop **Preparatory Support Programs** that enable country-driven initiatives, within a Flyway approach, to strengthen institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, and to develop programs, at scale, for the conservation of migratory birds and the internationally important sites they depend on.
5. Enhance the **implementation of existing Flyway and National Plans for maintaining key sites** used by migratory waterbirds through the development of new financing mechanisms.





# The East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)

- Established in 2002 – as a Type II initiative at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It built on 8 years of Flyway experience from the “Kushiro Initiative”.
- EAAFP is a network of Partners in a non-legally binding Partnership.
- Also recognised as a Regional Initiative under the Ramsar Convention.
- The EAAFP has a Secretariat hosted by Incheon Metropolitan City and the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea.





# 39 PARTNERS OF EAAFP



## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS (18)

## INTERNATIONAL NGOs (13)

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (6)

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION (1)

## PRIVATE SECTOR (1)

RioTinto





# Objectives of the EAAF Partnership Strategic Plan 2019-28 (adopted EAAFP MoP10)

1. Development of the **Network of sites of international importance** for the conservation of migratory waterbirds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.
2. **Enhance communication, education and public awareness** of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
3. **Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities**, build **knowledge and promote exchange of information** on waterbirds and their habitats.
4. Build the **habitat and waterbird management capacity** of **natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders**.
5. Develop, especially for priority species and habitats, **flyway wide approaches** to **enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds**.

Under these five Objectives the **Strategic Plan identifies 23 Key Result Areas**.

# Working Groups and Taskforces



Anatidae Working Group



Avian Influenza Working



Crane Working Group



Seabird Working Group



Shorebird Working Group



Black-faced Spoonbill Working Group



CEPA Working Group



Monitoring of waterbird populations and sites Task



Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force



Scaly-sided Merganser Task Force



Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force



Amur-Heilong Basin Task Force



Baer's Pochard Task Force



Far Eastern Curlew Task Force



Dalmatian Pelican



# Building the Flyway Site Network

## Currently - 147 Flyway Network Sites

- Sustainably managed network of internationally important sites to maintain migratory waterbird populations.
- Sites nominated by National Government
- Engagement of Local Communities
- Maintaining ecosystem services
- 1000+ Internationally Important sites for migratory waterbirds

