Evidence-based action (Part 1): conservation status of migratory waterbirds in the EAAF

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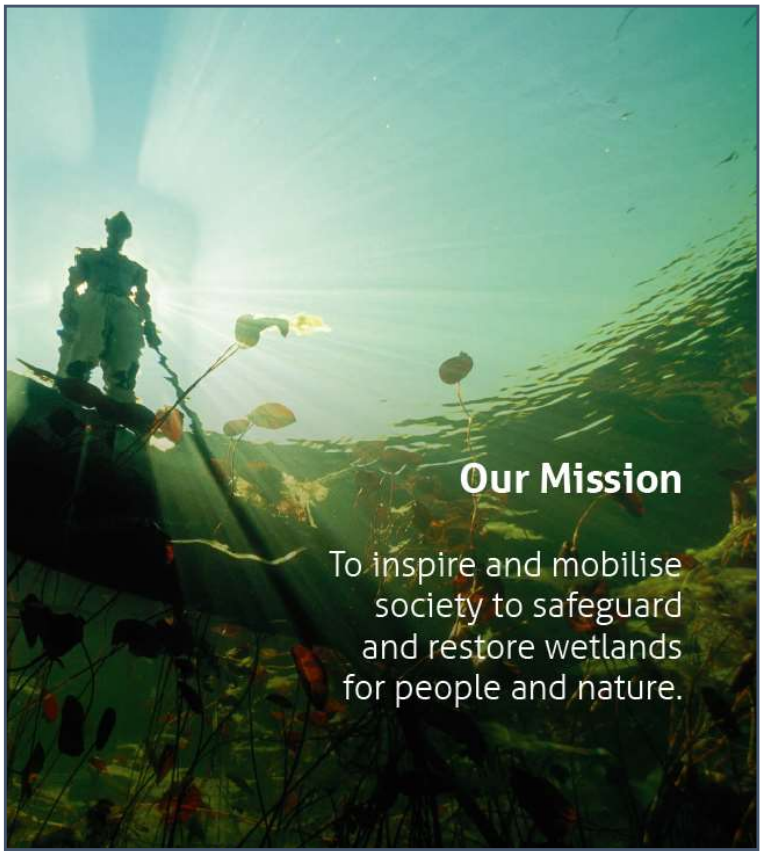
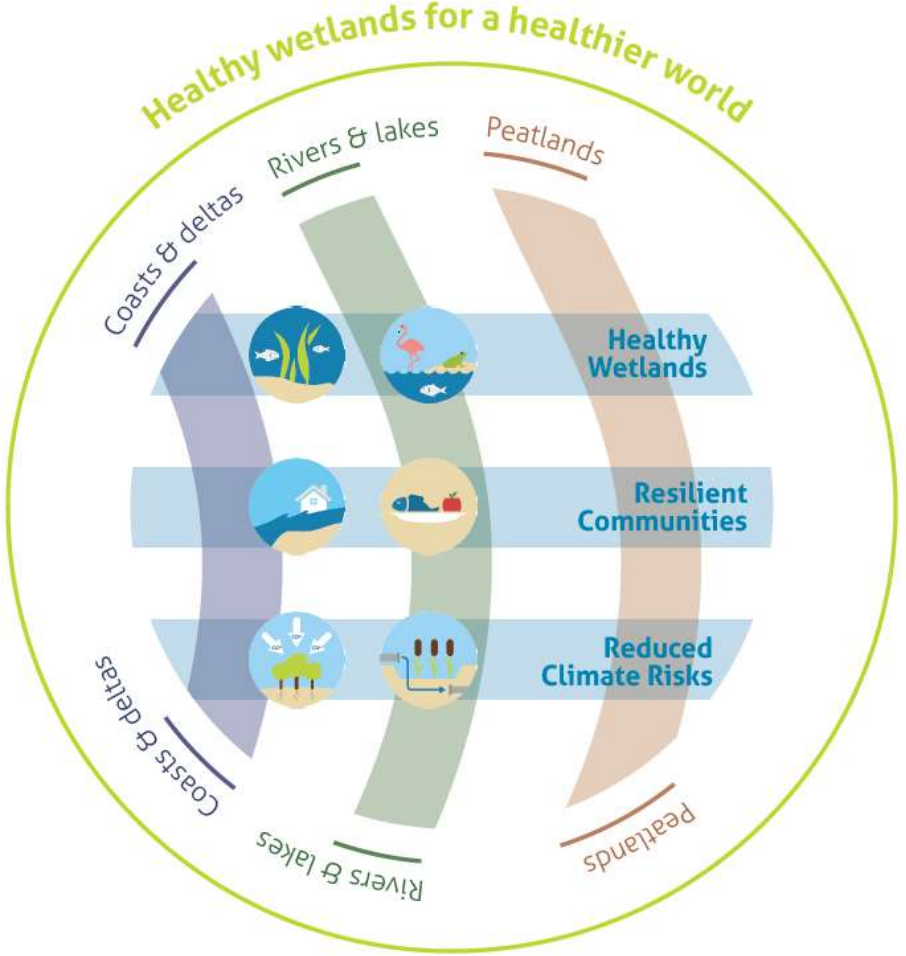
Asian Development Bank Regional Flyway Initiative Inception Workshop, 6-7 Dec 2021

Wetlands International - mission and focus





- International not-for-project organisation
- Global office in the Netherlands
- Network offices in India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, & in Africa, Europe, Americas

https://www.wetlands.org/our-strategy/

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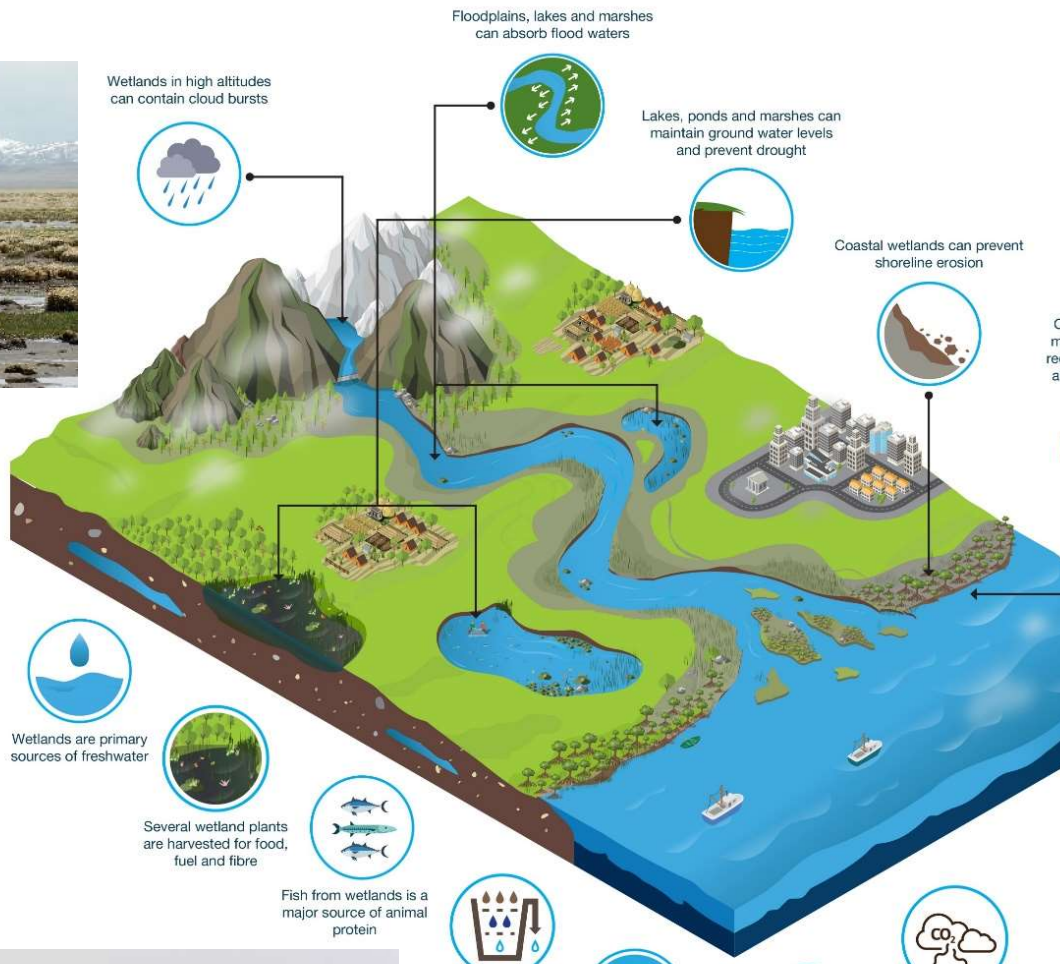
Wetlands play vital roles in all landscapes



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Identification of priority sites/landscapes across the EAAF

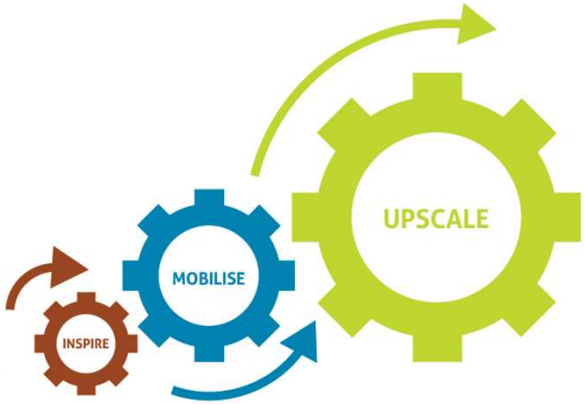
- **Waterbird data** (e.g. Asian Waterbird Census)
- **Threat levels** for sites and waterbird populations (possible to develop a scoring system for different threats, incl. infrastructure development, land subsidence, direct killing, unsustainable tourism, etc.)
- **Investability** willingness and opportunity for participating countries to invest;
- Opportunities to **connect investments** in conservation and restoration to other investments for infrastructure and wetland management

Source: East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership

A new approach to waterbird and wetland conservation

- Conservation and restoration of internationally important waterbird sites to be considered in a **broader development and engineering context**
- Integrate waterbird habitat conservation in large-scale **coastal and inland development programmes**
- Further stimulate large-scale **investment** as part of wetland landscape development projects
- Build **local and national capacities for habitat and species management** and **awareness raising**
- Support development of **enabling policies**

Picture by Jan van de Kam



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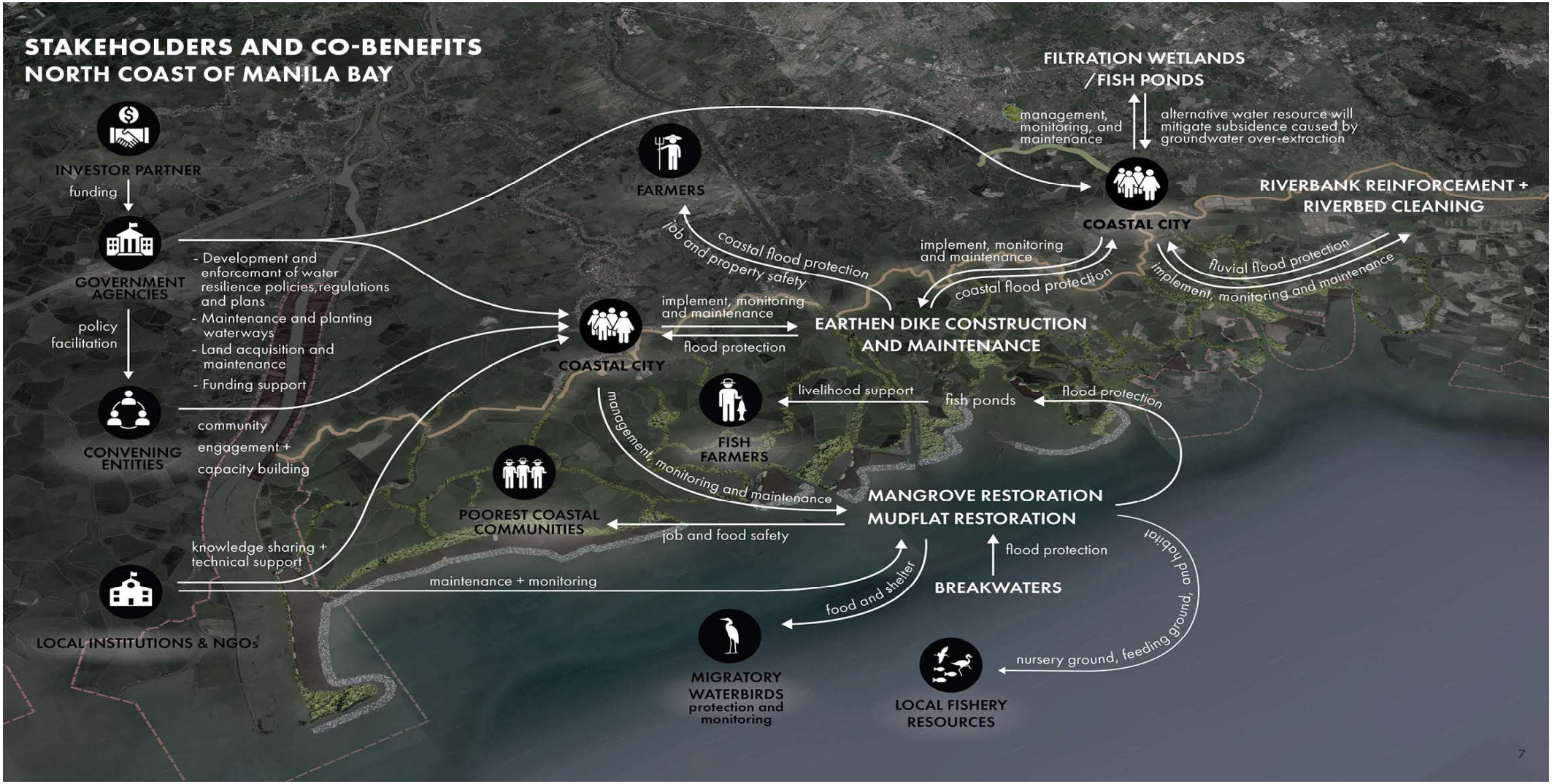
A new approach to waterbird and wetland conservation

Case study: North Manila Bay Landscape



one architecture

A new approach to waterbird and wetland conservation

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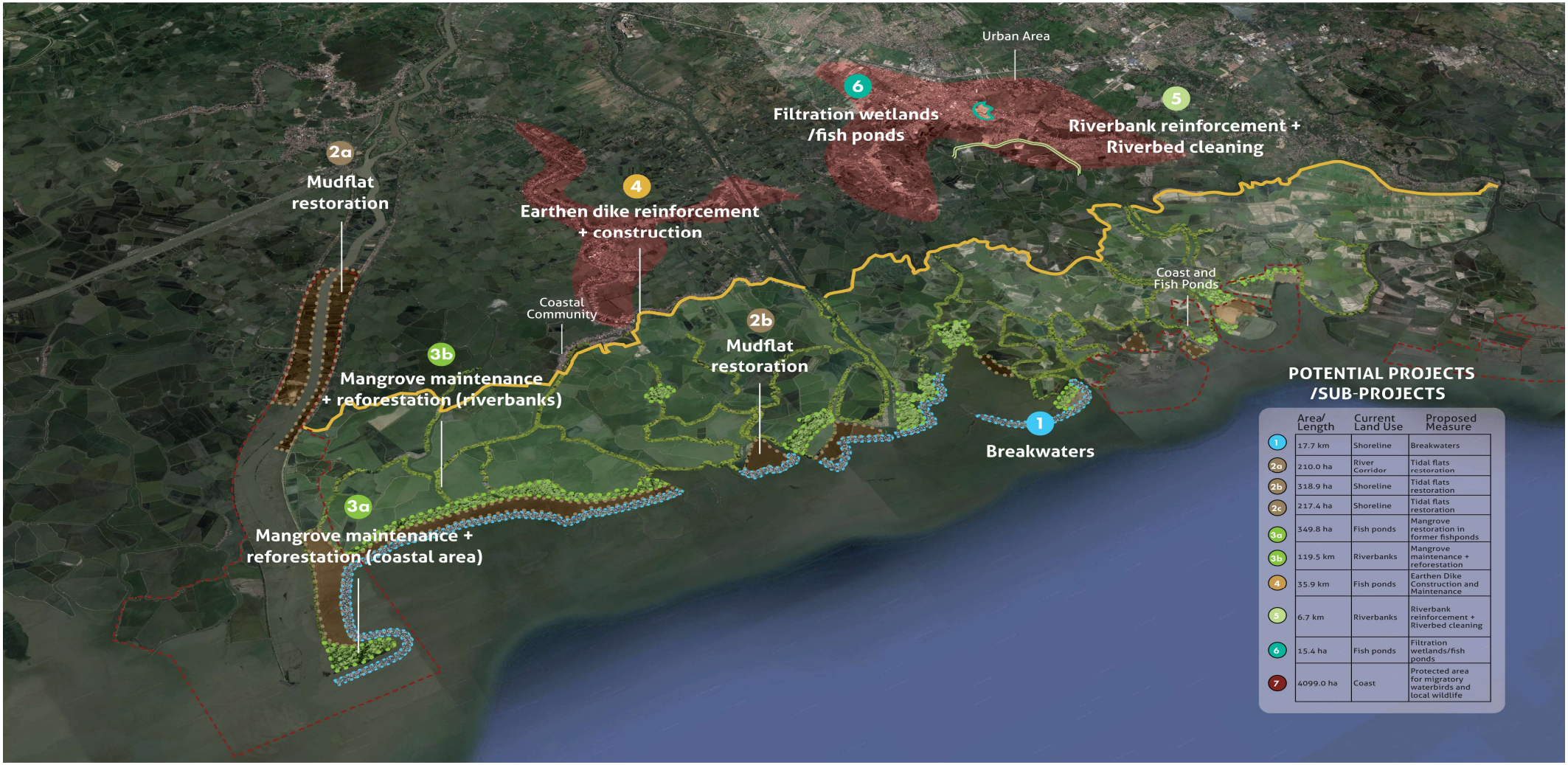

	Area/ Length	Current Land Use	Proposed Measure
1	17.7 km	Shoreline	Breakwaters
2a	210.0 ha	River Corridor	Tidal flats restoration
2b	318.9 ha	Shoreline	Tidal flats restoration
2c	217.4 ha	Shoreline	Tidal flats restoration
3a	349.8 ha	Fish ponds	Mangrove restoration in former fishponds
3b	119.5 km	Riverbanks	Mangrove maintenance + reforestation
4	35.9 km	Fish ponds	Earthen Dike Construction and Maintenance
5	6.7 km	Riverbanks	Riverbank reinforcement + Riverbed cleaning
6	15.4 ha	Fish ponds	Filtration wetlands/fish ponds
7	4099.0 ha	Coast	Protected area for migratory waterbirds and local wildlife

one architecture

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Working with Government and key stakeholders in the Yellow Sea Region / EAAF (2019-2024)

1. Strengthening **regional collaboration** on flyway conservation amongst government and civil society partners

2. Supporting government agencies and key stakeholders in developing overarching **conservation strategy** and targets

3. Promoting **alignment of regional conservation programmes** for the East Asian-Australasian flyway

4. Supporting the adoption of **best practices** for management & restoration of coastal wetlands and waterbird conservation

5. **Building capacities** of wetland managers on science-based approach to monitoring and conservation of waterbirds

6. Promoting evidence-based approach to **management** and **restoration** of coastal wetlands and **monitoring** of waterbirds and benthos at site level

EAAFP Conservation Status Review 1 - 2021-2022 - Migratory waterbird species and populations

Background

1. The Partnership requires **up-to-date information on status of populations** of migratory waterbirds for a range of prioritization and review purposes, including to:

   (a) derive EAAF Flyway **Site Network thresholds** (1%),

   (b) provide an **international context for prioritization and supporting the identification of changes in the status** of populations, including threatened populations,

   (c) provide a **technically sound basis for cooperative actions** to develop & implement conservation action plans for these populations, and

   (d) assist in **measuring success** of the Partnership in achieving its goal that "Migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF are recognised and conserved for the benefit of people and biodiversity".

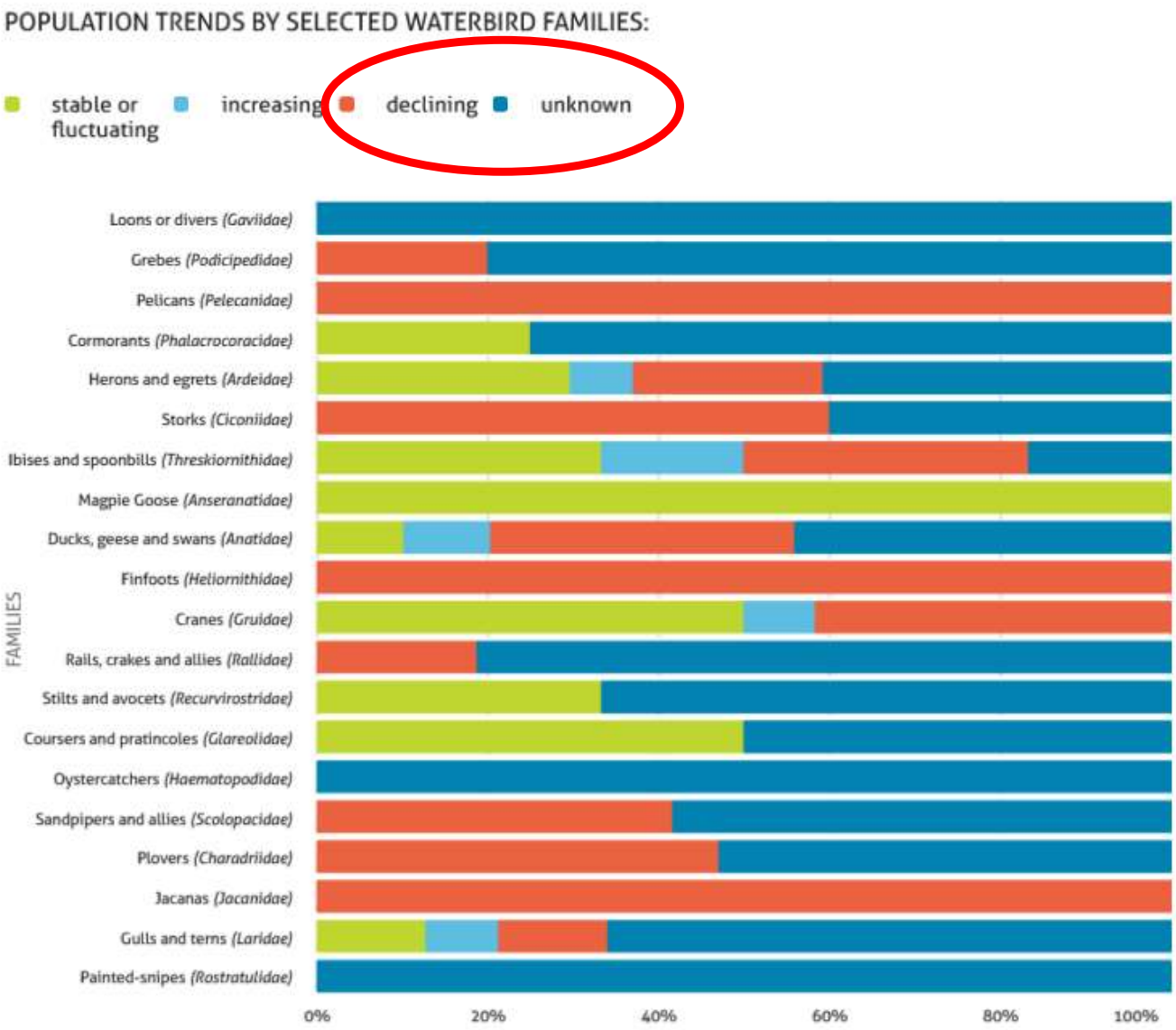
2. Decision 7.4 calls for use of the "Waterbird Population Estimates" process to provide:

   (a) updated information on waterbird population sizes and trends,

   (b) the basis for deriving the EAAF Flyway Site Network thresholds (1%).

Status of waterbird populations in the EAAF

As included in the WPE 5 (2012)



- 218 waterbird species
- 258 biogeographic populations
- 10% have no size estimates
- 50% have size estimates dating pre-2000
- Over 50% have no trend information

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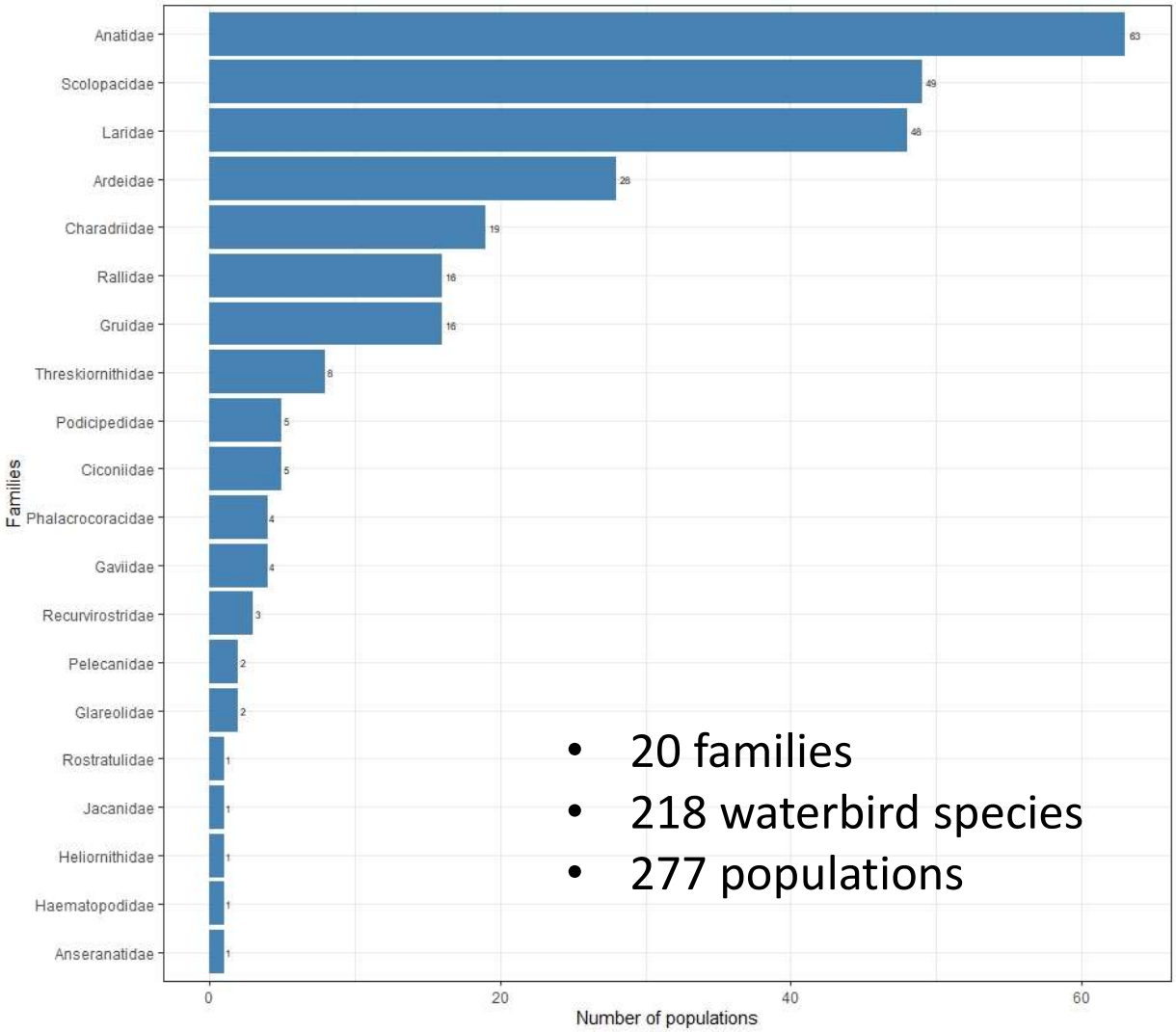
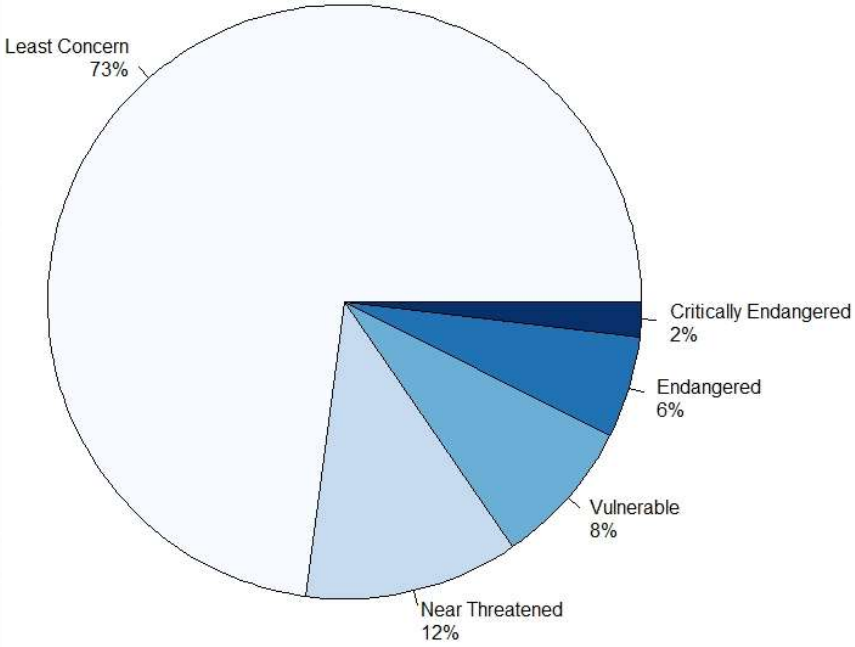
EAAFP Conservation Status Review 1 - 2021-2022 - Migratory waterbird species and populations



- 20 families
- 218 waterbird species
- 277 populations

list as of January 2021



IUCN Red List Threatened status

- 34 IUCN Red List species
- 25 Near Threatened species

DRAFT REPORT NOT TO BE QUOTED

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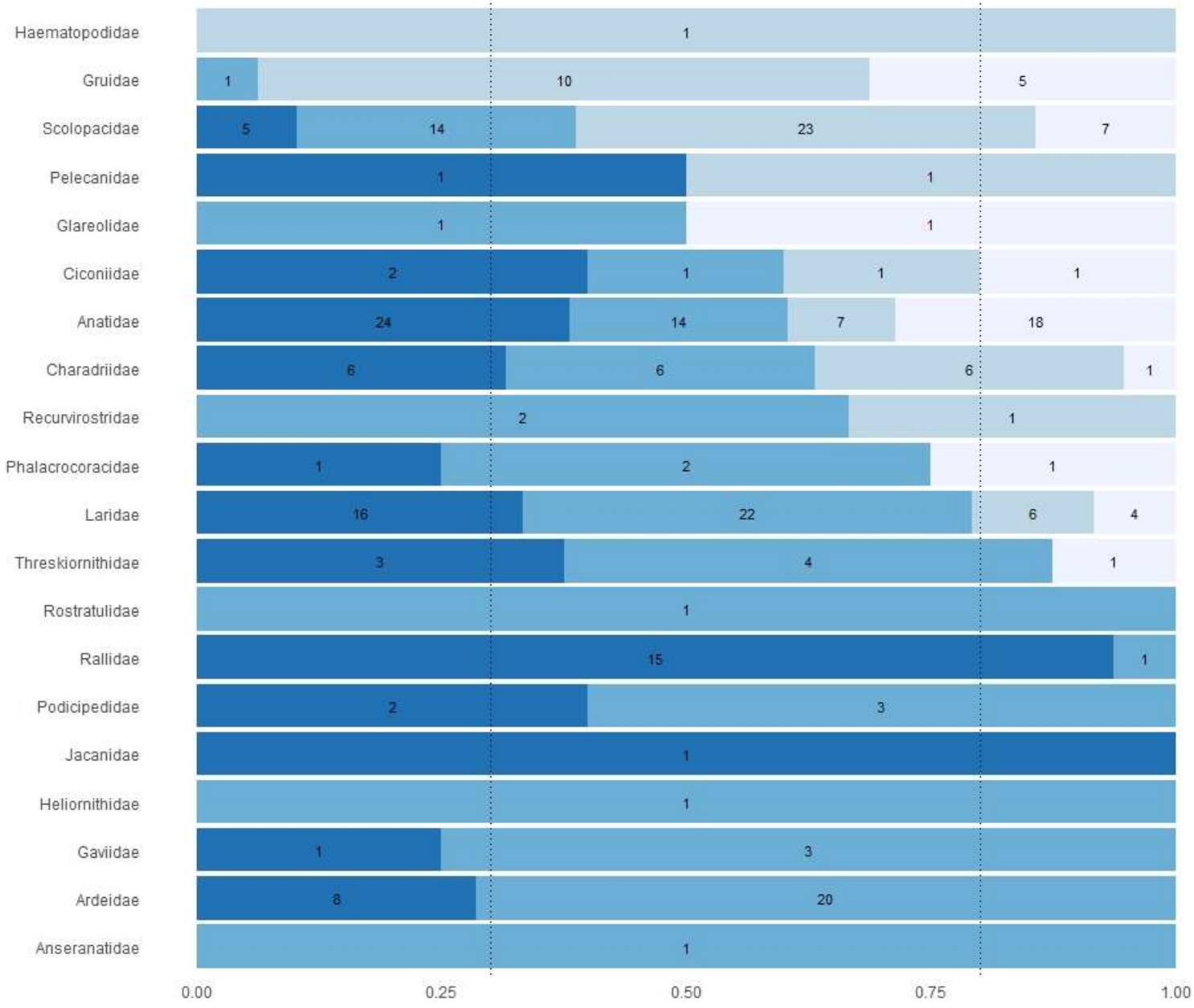
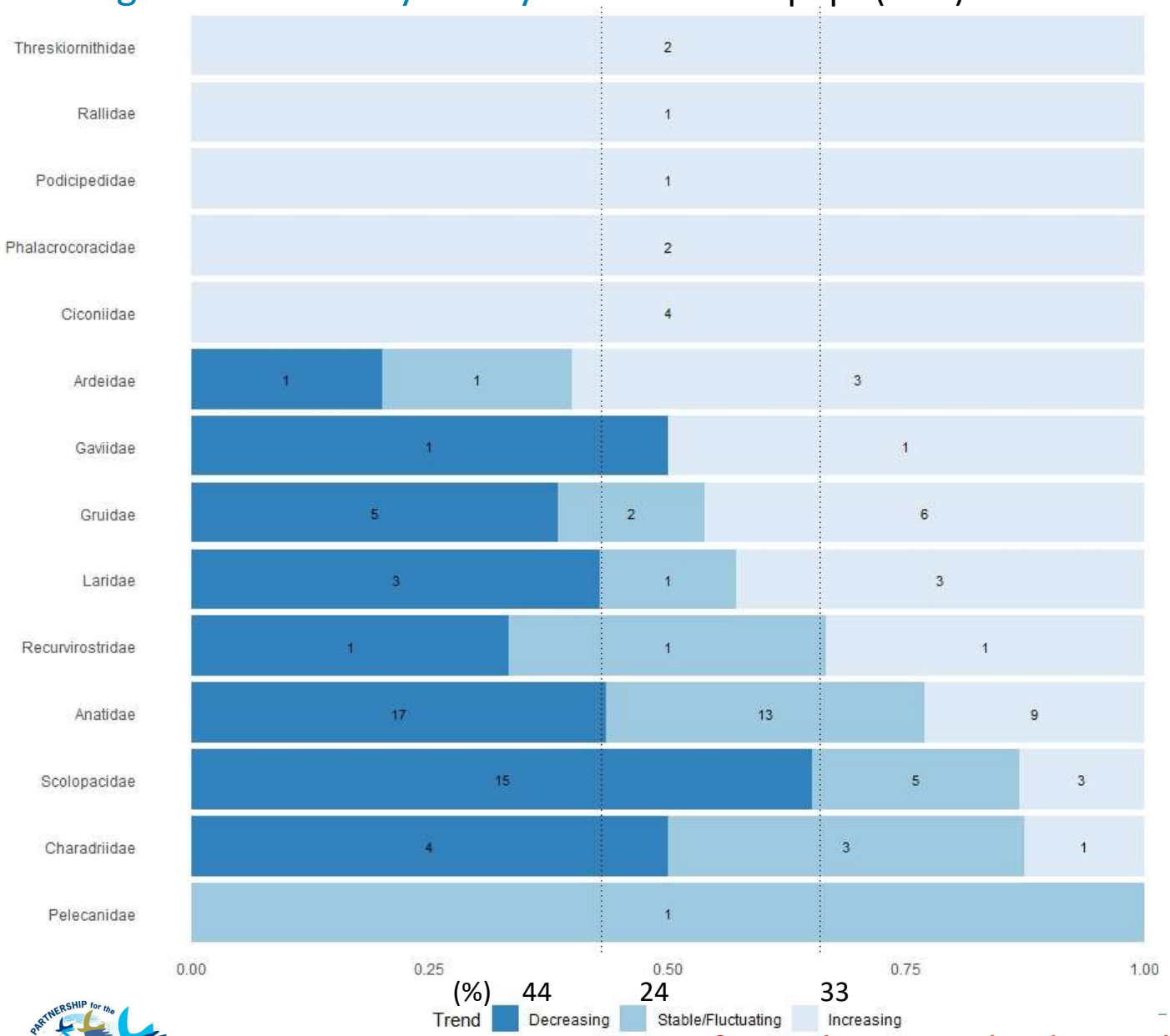
Quality of population size estimates by family

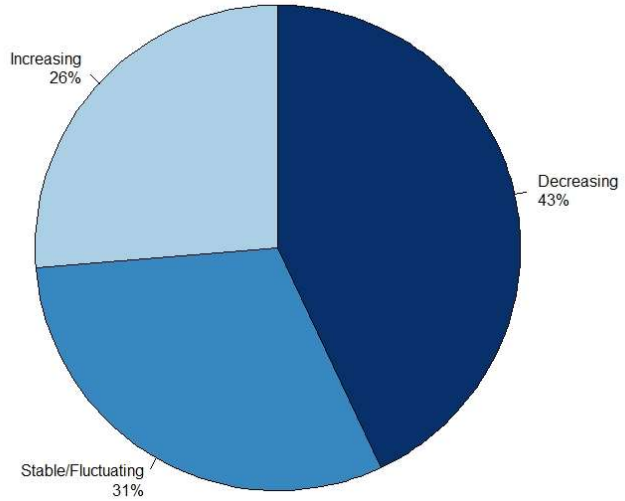


Population trend directions of waterbirds

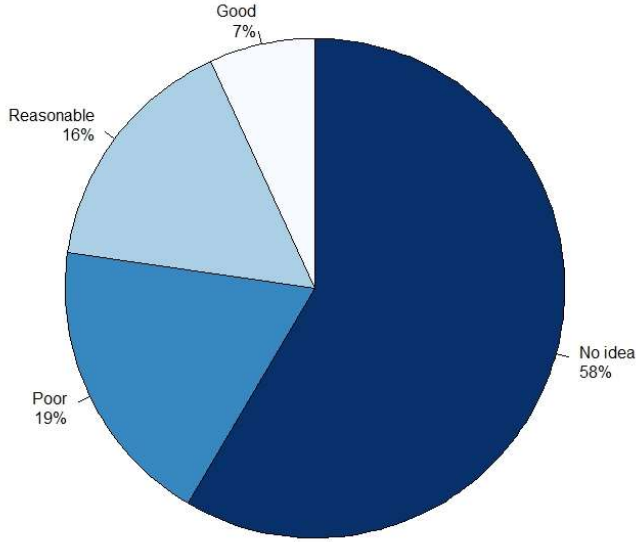
Long-term trends by family



short-term trend direction



short-term trend quality



Open access to EAAFP CSR1 from the Waterbird Populations Portal

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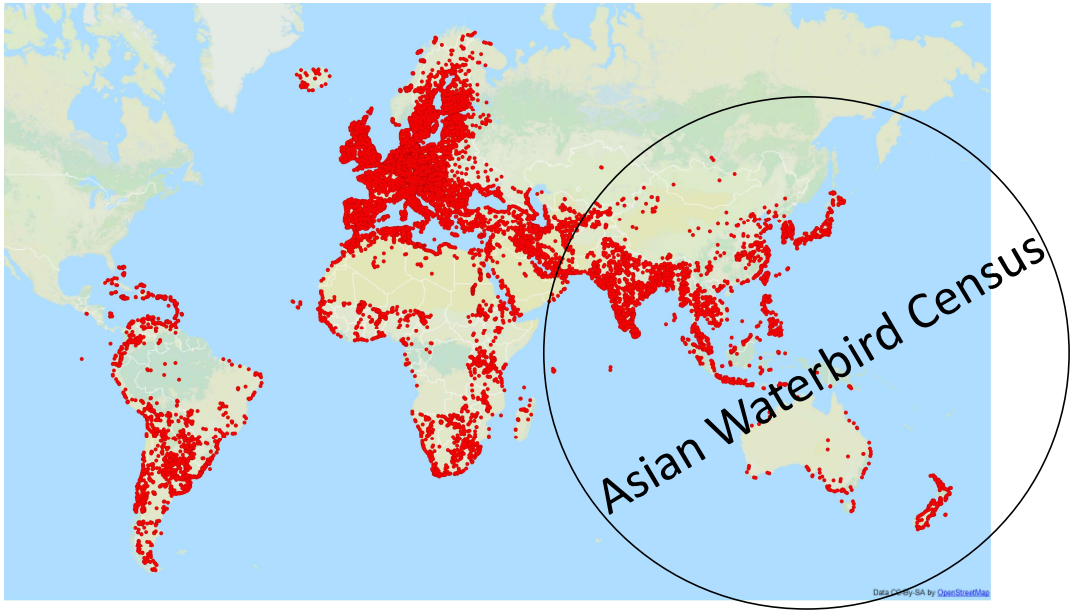
Monitoring waterbirds - International Waterbird Census

- Global monitoring programme, covering all waterbird species and wetlands
- Longest-running global citizen science biodiversity monitoring programme, since 1967
- Surveys repeated annually in Jan/Feb and July

Outcomes

1. Annual regional/flyway and national assessments of waterbirds and wetlands, for EAAFP and others
2. Updates of status and threats to wetlands and waterbirds
3. Strengthened local capacity for monitoring
4. Greater interest and support for conservation action



More on : www.wetlands.org/IWC

http://iwc.wetlands.org/index.php

EAAFP

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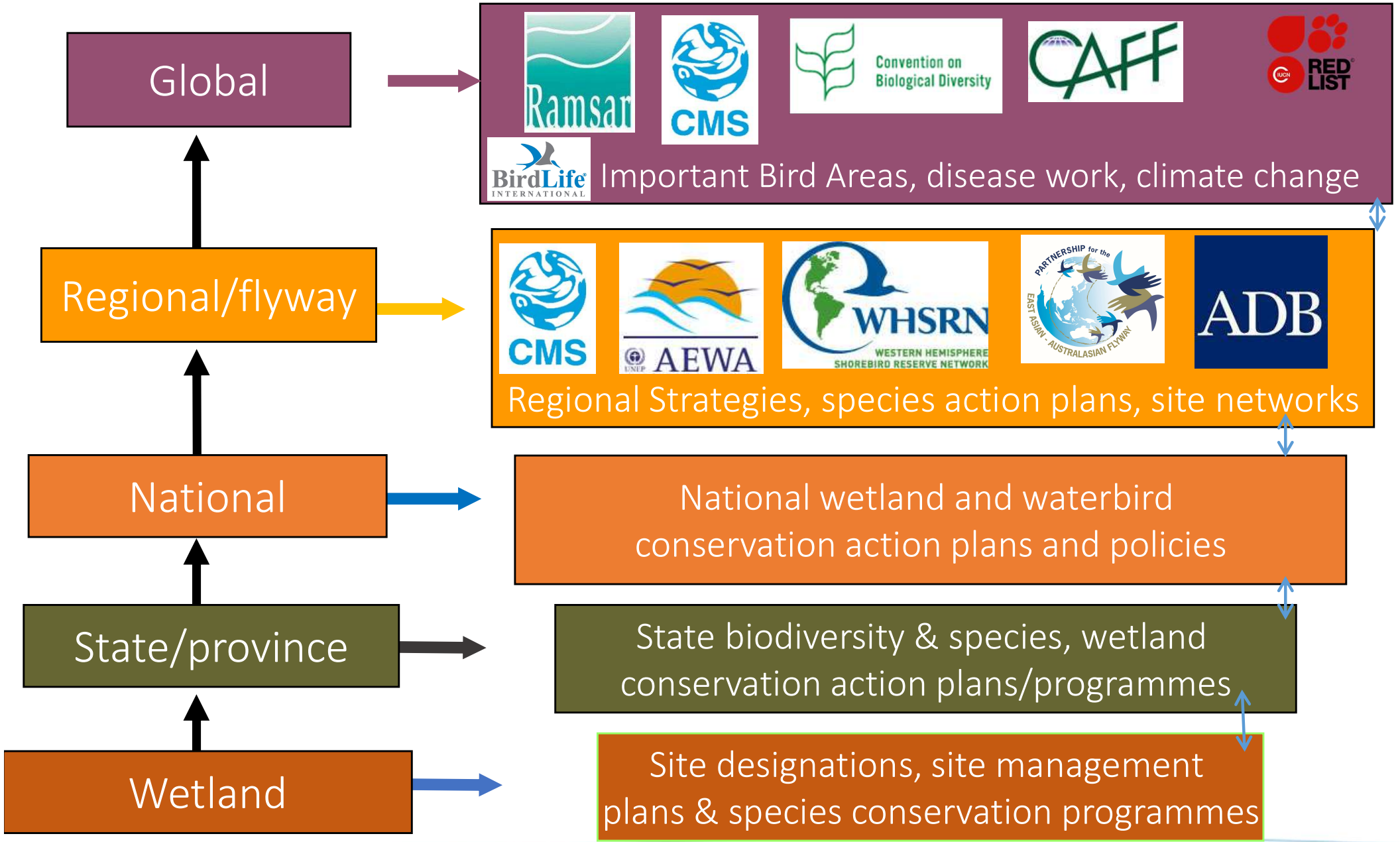
Joining the dots! International Waterbird Census



www.wetlands.org/IWC

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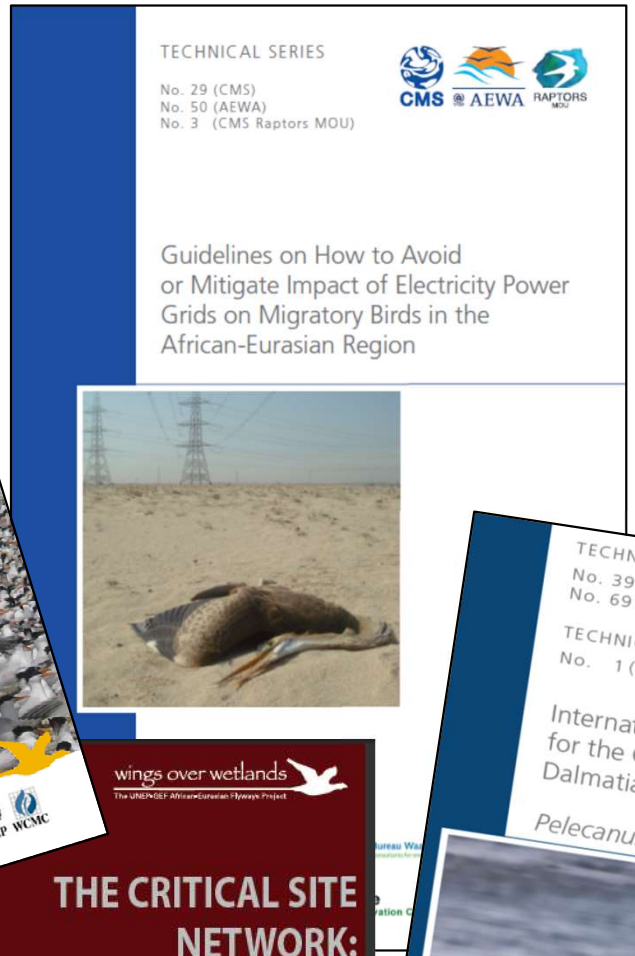
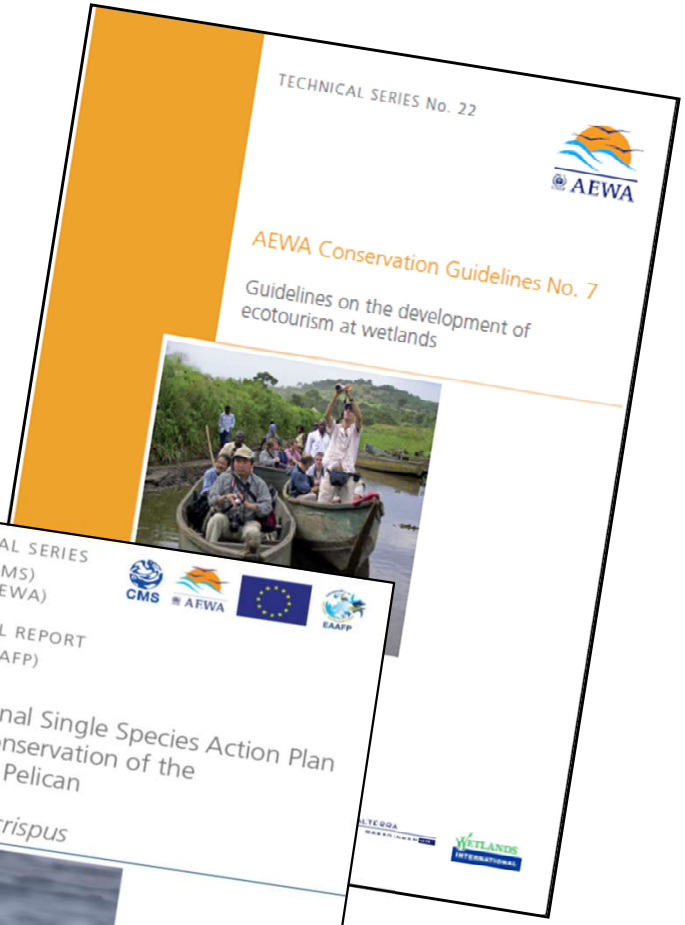
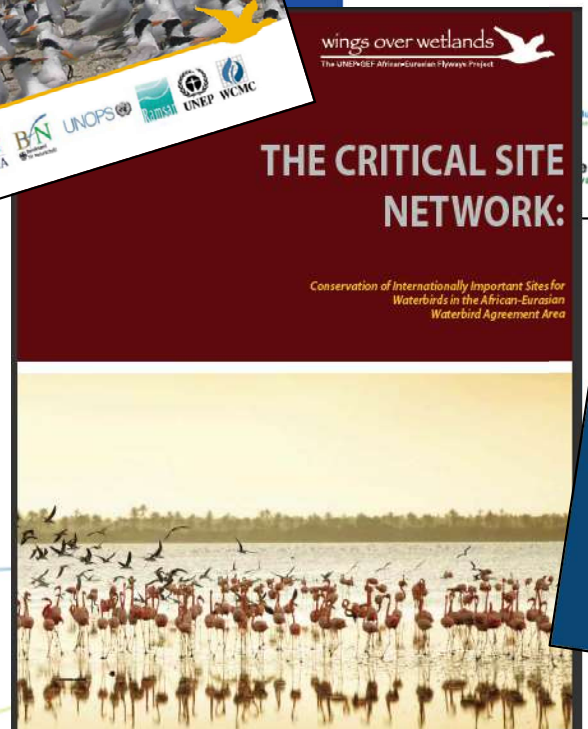
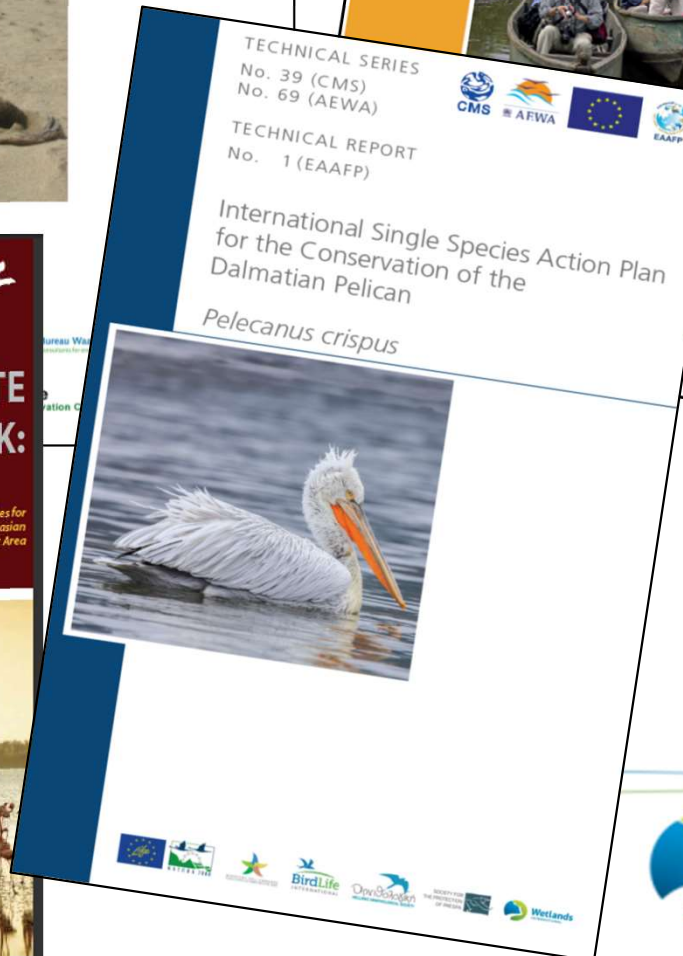
Capacity building and technical guidance









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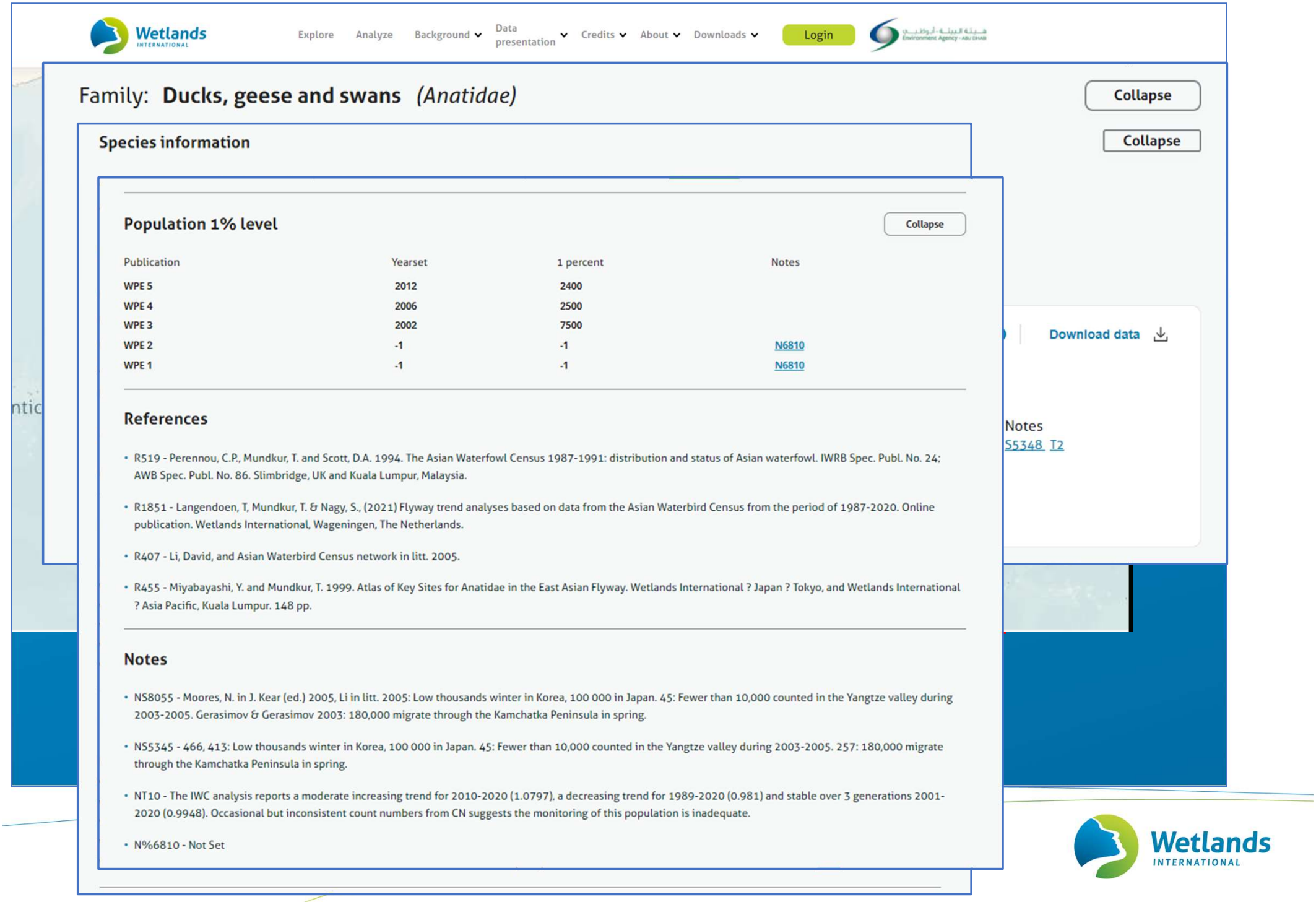
Waterbird Populations Portal

https://wpp.wetlands.org/



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Access to decision-support information on internationally important waterbird sites – Critical Site Network Tool

< BACK

Oxyura leucocephala EN

ENGLISH NAME White-headed Duck

FAMILY Anatidae

BIRDLIFE SPECIES FACTSHEET

Legends

Level of site protection
- Little/none
- Some
- Most
- Whole
- Unknown

Population boundaries
- Algeria & Tunisia
- East Mediterranean, Turkey & South-west Asia
- South Asia (non-bre)
- West Mediterranean (Spain & Morocco)

Freshwater flow

Inundation

AEWA Extent

BirdLife International species range maps
- Resident
- Breeding
- Passage
- Non-breeding

Modelled species distribution change

Otgonbayar Tsend

http://critical-sites.wetlands.org/en

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Conclusions

1. **Strategic planning at flyway level** in conceptualisation of conservation /investment plans for internationally important sites/landscapes
2. Project sites – clear **ecological, socio-economic and climate change adaptation/ mitigation linked targets** at important landscapes for investments
3. Importance of collection & use of up-to-date **waterbird and wetland monitoring** to support an evidence-based assessment of the impact of the project interventions.
4. **Capacity building** – strengthening of existing networks, government and volunteer-based, that can benefit from adaptation of existing resources & expertise
5. **Knowledge management** – use of open-access decision-support tools - Waterbird Populations Portal, Conservation Status Review and Critical Site Network Tool
6. Opportunity to **share our experiences from other flyways** and related programmes to support development and implementation of the ADB RFI

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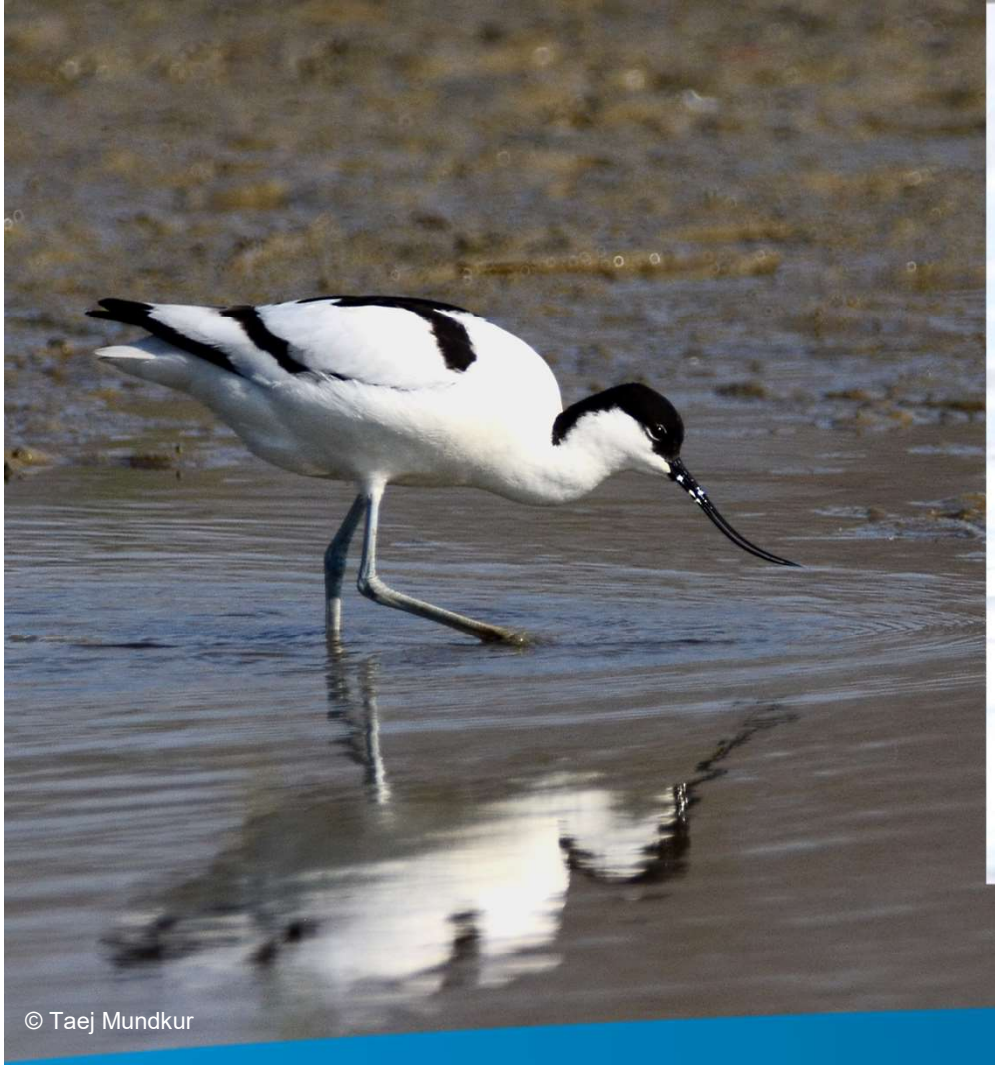

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Thank you

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