

A detailed illustration of a bird, possibly a shorebird like a greenshank, in flight. It has long, dark wings with intricate feather patterns and a long, straight, dark beak. The bird is shown from a side profile, flying towards the right. The background behind the bird consists of vertical stripes in shades of blue, yellow, and green.

East Asian-Australasian Flyway - Regional Flyway Initiative

**Project Overview and Investment Concepts,
delivering for Nature and People**

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Outline for the Presentation

RFI Overview

- 1) What is the Regional Flyway Initiative –long term vision
 - 2) RFI Development Phase – Grant Details / Deliverables
 - 3) RFI Implementation Phase Overview and key components
 - 4) Development Phase activities needing participant support
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RFI Projects – What they might look like

- 1) Ecosystem Services and Co-benefits of Wetlands
- 2) RFI Early Investment Concepts



Spoon-billed Sandpiper (B. Scampion)

What is the Regional Flyway Initiative – long term vision



- **Delivery Timeframe** - Comprising of 2 phases: i) project development phase using grant finance (2yrs); and ii) investment phase (10+yrs).
- **Priority Sites** - Will deliver 50+ flyway sites under Protection / Sustainable Management providing a coherent network of priority sites with favorable conservation status with species numbers maintained or enhanced.
- **Regional** - A Regional Initiative acting at-scale to have flyway level impact.
- **Co-benefits** - It will promote healthy wetlands (strengthen natural capital), deliver ecosystem service co-benefits and reinforce green infrastructure to benefit nature and people.
- **Focus Countries** - It is currently intended to benefit the following countries – Mongolia, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh, and People's Republic of China and Indonesia.
- **Focus Ecosystems** - Coastal sites will be the core focus of the initiative, although inland priority wetlands will also be explored where government interest.
- **International Agreements** - Contributes towards key agreements including EAAFP Strategic Plan, Paris Agreement, Ramsar, Post-2020 biodiversity framework, Ramsar and provides opportunity to support delivery on UNESCO World Heritage obligations

RFI Development Phase – Grant Details

- **Status and Schedule** – ADB Knowledge Sharing Technical Assistance (TA) Grant - 55056-001 ‘Scaling Up the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Initiative’:
 - Approved on 14 July 2021. Delivery period from July 2021 – December 2023
 - Launch Event Eco-Civilization Event of CBD COP15 14 October & COP26 2 November
- **Financing** – Complete grant financing (\$1 million) to facilitate development phase outputs and leverage additional financing.
- **Development Phase Delivery** - TA to be administered by ADB and implemented by consortium led by BirdLife International with the team presented during the workshop.

Grant Delivery Schedule to Dec 2023:

December 2021 -
Inception
Workshop with
DMCs

January 2022 -
Site Selection
Framework
Endorsed

Jan – May 2022 -
DMC
engagement on
site selection

June 2022 -
Consensus on 50
priority sites at
COP15

June 2022 – Dec
2023 - Develop
Project Concepts

RFI Development Phase – Grant Deliverables

- **Development Phase Outputs -**

- **Output 1:** Develop a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and undertake a needs assessment and subsequent capacity building program in targeted countries / locations for delivery of a scaled-up initiative including PRC.
- **Output 2:** Develop Site Selection Framework to deliver the following:
 - Identification of priority sites within EAAF based on existing known internationally important sites to establish 100 highest priority sites to take forward for discussion with developing member countries.
 - Subsequently confirm final list of 50 priority sites (protected and non-protected) in consultation with DMCs to be targeted within the initiative for investment and granting support.
 - For each selected site, design investment concepts detailing biodiversity values, threats to the site to be addressed, co-benefits to be delivered, investment budget required.
- **Output 3:** Develop a Sustainable Financing Mechanism to deliver long-term donor financing for the flyway and to explore self-financing mechanisms.

RFI Implementation Phase - Overview



- **Delivery Schedule** – Expected timeframe for overall delivery: i) 10+ years from 2021 onwards and ii) 30 years to 2050 reaching both short and long-term targets set out in the post-2020 biodiversity framework. The implementation may be done on a 5-year cyclical basis.
- **Key Components** – The RFI will consist of two key components: 1) Investment Pipeline; and 2) Sustainable Financing Mechanism



Bar-tailed Godwits (Ding Li Yong/ BirdLife)

RFI Implementation Phase : Key Component 1. Investment Pipeline



Common Whimbrel (G Allport/ BirdLife)

- **Project Investment Pipeline** – Total estimated investment needed to secure key sites is approx. \$3 billion (including all investment partner financing from loans and grants)
 - » **Site level selection and investment** – The estimated site level investment would be approx. \$10-50 million per site, with sites selected based on criteria earlier expanded.
 - » **Investment Funding Sources** – Funding partnerships between sovereign governments with support from bilateral, multi-lateral and civil society
- **Capacity Building** – To ensure that the investments are sustainable through stronger institutions, policies, networks, partnerships. This support would continue from development into implementation.

RFI Implementation Phase: Key Component 2. Sustainable Financing Mechanism

- Comprise of grant money from multiple sources. **\$15-20 million per cycle**
- Focus would be regional to cover strategic level issues but will also include scope for interventions at a site level at priority sites to complement government action.
- Action mainly at non-protected sites (but also some Protected Areas under innovative management arrangements)
- Bridge the gap where other sources of funding are not available
- Will explore options for long-term self financing such as eco-compensation and market-based instruments
- The mechanism would also support and compliment key activities by CSOs where government funding is not available



Development Phase activities requiring participant support

- **Support for Grant project implementation**

- Support for approval and subsequent implementation of the grant project in relevant country;

- **Development Output 1: Needs Assessment**

- consultation with stakeholders in participating countries to identify opportunities for capacity building, knowledge sharing, policy support, training, flyway management.

- **Development Output 2: Priority Site Selection**

- Detail consultation on site selection framework and identified priority sites selected for government consideration and approval for further concept development
- Identification of potential investment opportunity sectors to focus project components for different sites such as eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, formal protection etc.

- **Knowledge Sharing**

- Mapping existing projects and initiatives to ensure no overlapping / wastage of resources;
- Collaboration on existing flyway and wetlands focused programs.



Regional Flyway Initiative

RFI investment project
concepts and co-benefits
they might deliver



Habitat Restoration

Aquaculture /
Fisheries

Sustainable
Agriculture

Pollution Prevention and
Water Management

Nature protection /
Eco-tourism



Ecosystem Services and Co-Benefits in Wetlands

Socio-economic development



Food security



Raw materials



Medicinal security



Water security



Livelihoods

Personal and cultural values



Cultural and spiritual connection



Recreation



Community building

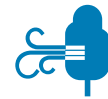


Aesthetic values



Health and wellness

Climate adaptation and resilience



Air quality regulation



Climate regulation



Water regulation



Erosion regulation



Water purification



Moderation of extreme events

Ecosystem resilience



Species habitat



Nutrient cycling



Photosynthesis



Soil formation/
Soil integrity



Disease and pest regulation



Pollination

Habitat Restoration

ES Benefits List



Aquaculture and Fisheries

ES Benefits List



Sustainable Agriculture

ES Benefits List



Pollution Prevention and Water Management

ES Benefits List



Nature protection and Eco-tourism

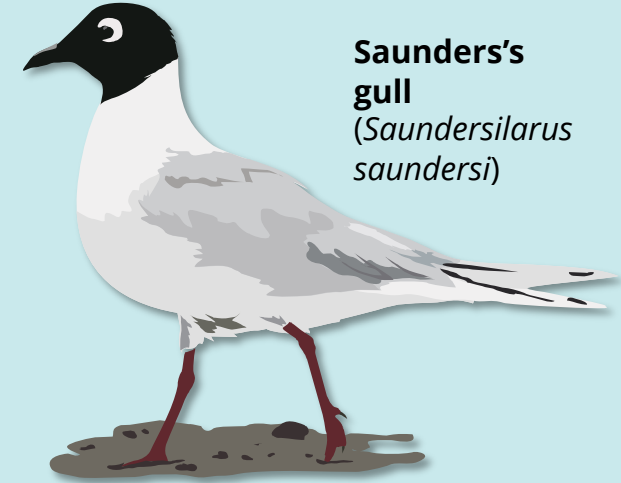
ES Benefits List



Chinese egret
(*Egretta eulophotes*)



Saunders's gull
(*Saundersilarus saundersi*)



**Thank you very
much for your time
and attention!**

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Red-crowned crane
(*Grus japonensis*)



Spoon-billed sandpiper
(*Calidris pygmaea*)



Black-faced spoonbill
(*Platalea minor*)