



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE



University of  
Southampton



REGIONAL FLYWAY INITIATIVE TRAINING SERIES:

**Workshop on Wetland Ecosystem Services and Nature-based Solutions**

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# Identifying Priority Wetlands for Migratory Birds in Mongolia

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# Importance of Mongolia for EAAF migratory waterbirds

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- Mongolia sits at the confluence of two 'flyways' – East Asian-Australasian Flyway and Central Asian Flyway
- Extremely rich floodplain wetlands, lakes on three major river basins and endorheic lakes
- Used by large congregations of staging migratory waterbirds, including Ferruginous Duck, Common Pochard
- Breeding habitat for several threatened EAAF and CAF species, including White-naped Crane, Asian Dowitcher and Relict Gull



# Tracking studies have enabled identification of breeding and staging sites

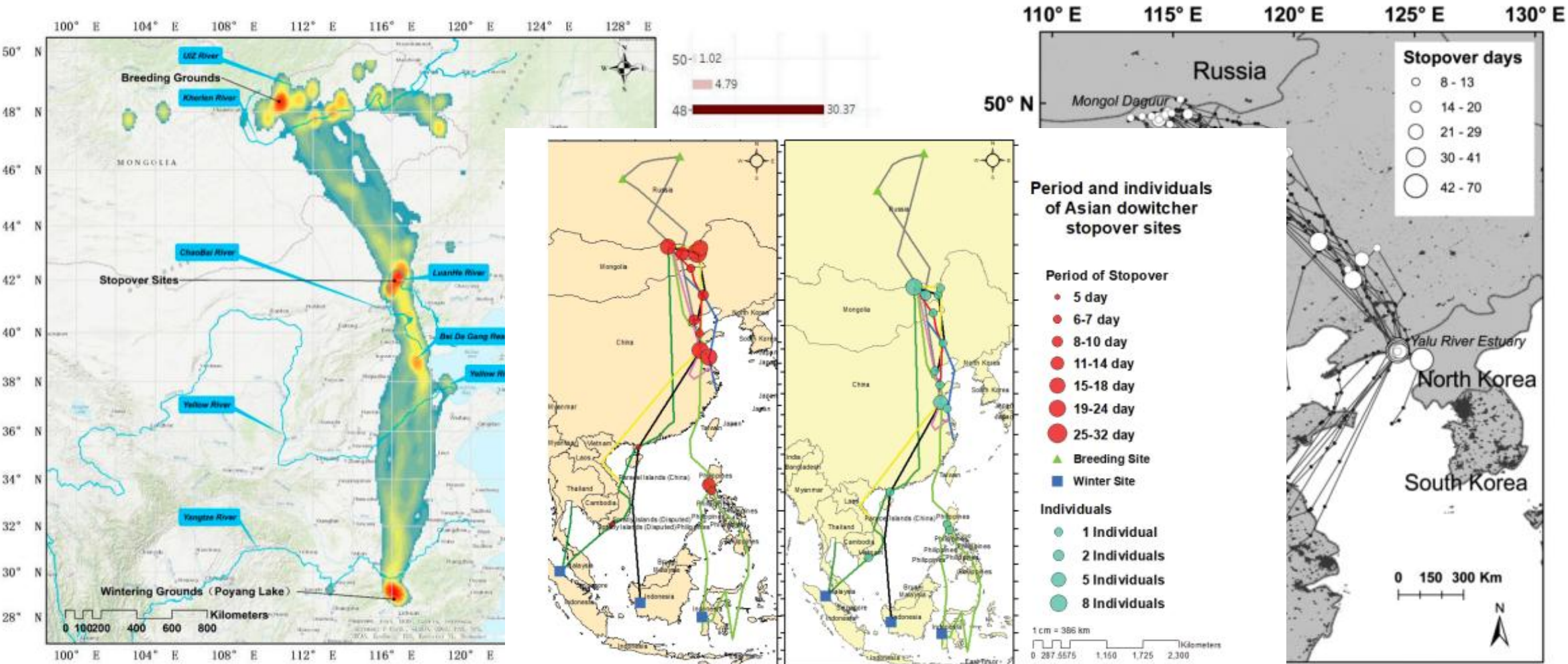


Figure 2. Individuals and duration of Asian dowitcher resting at stopover sites.

et al. (2011). *Wildfowl*. 61.

Batbayar et al. (2021). *Remote Sens.* 21.

Baldandugar et al. (2023). *Mong. J. Biol. Sci.* 21.

# Criteria for prioritising & ranking candidate sites

## ***Biological importance***

- Threatened species and migratory bird congregations
- Key waterbird life cycle events at site, i.e. critical staging ('refuelling') habitat, moulting area, etc.
- Critical sites for migratory connectivity
- Extensive, high quality wetland habitats present (based on available data and ground-truthing)

## ***Conservation potential***

- Conservation actions underway at site, with opportunities for strengthening, e.g. (stronger management)
- Opportunity to take effective action at site because of support from government and local community

# Identifying the most important wetland sites in Mongolia

## Criteria for site prioritisation

### Biodiversity

- EAAF migratory bird congregations exceeding 1% thresholds based on EAAF conservation status review (CSR1)
- Key waterbird life cycle components at sites (e.g. staging, wintering habitat)
- Critical for ecological connectivity for threatened species
- High quality wetland habitats present

### Conservation potential

- Opportunities for conservation and management
- Opportunities to take effective action because of local context (local government or communities)

Sites with records of species exceeding 1% thresholds formed basis of a list of sites. Data was obtained from IBA directory and peer-reviewed literature



Preliminary ranking of candidate sites conducted based on available data e.g. bird abundance, or published rankings of Mongolian sites for birds



Review by experts from SSTT (BirdLife, Wetlands International, EAAFP). Update datasets where necessary



Review and ranking of sites in the preliminary list by panel of national ornithological experts



Top 11 sites shortlisted for the final priority list



Review by SSTT, and national experts (WSCC Mongolia, MBCC, NUM).



# Overview of Mongolia RFI wetlands

- Number of sites assessed · 48
- Number of priority sites identified · 11
- Number of priority coastal sites · 0
- Number of priority freshwater sites · 11
- Number of sites overlapping with protected area(s) · 7
- Species occurring in significant congregations ( $\geq 1\%$ ) · 48 species including Dalmatian Pelican, Hooded Crane (VU), Common Pochard (VU)
- Source of count and site data · Peer-reviewed papers and unpublished project reports, IBA inventory of Mongolia

# Most important wetland sites for migratory waterbirds in Mongolia

RANK	SITE	PROVINCE	SPECIES (≥ 1%)	
1	<b>Khar-Us Lake (including Khovd River Tributary and Khar Lake)</b>	Uvs	Dalmatian Pelican* Great Crested Grebe Great Cormorant Greylag Goose Bar-headed Goose Ruddy Shelduck Common Goldeneye Common Merganser Common Crane Northern Lapwing Caspian Tern Great Egret Whooper Swan Common Shelduck	Mallard Green-winged Teal Gadwall Eurasian Wigeon Northern Pintail Northern Shoveler Red-crested Pochard Common Pochard Tufted Duck Temminck's Stint Great Black-headed Gull White Spoonbill Swan Goose
2	<b>Khurkh Khuiten</b>	Khentii	Ruddy Shelduck** White-naped Crane Great Crested Grebe Black Stork Bean Goose	Swan Goose Whooper Swan Common Crane Demoiselle Crane Northern Lapwing

\* Exceeding 10% of CSR1 estimates

\*\* Exceeding 50% of CSR1 estimates

Sites in **bold** overlap with protected area(s)



# Most important wetland sites for migratory waterbirds in Mongolia

RANK	SITE	PROVINCE	SPECIES (≥ 1%)	
3	<b>Mongol Daguur IBA including Ulz River and Khukh Lake (include SPA)</b>	Dornod	Swan Goose Ruddy Shelduck Hooded Crane* Ruddy Shelduck Common Pochard Whooper Swan Swan Goose Common Shelduck Pacific Golden Plover	Spotted Redshank Pied Avocet Great Crested Grebe Great Cormorant Bean Goose Common Crane White-naped Crane Demoiselle Crane
4	<b>Uvs Lake</b>	Uvs	Eurasian Spoonbill Great Crested Grebe Dalmatian Pelican Great Cormorant Greylag Goose Ruddy Shelduck	Common Goldeneye Common Crane Common Coot Little Ringed Plover Northern Lapwing Great Black-headed Gull
5	<b>Tolbo Lake</b>	Bayan-Ölgii	Great Cormorant Bar-headed Goose Whooper Swan	Ruddy Shelduck Common Goldeneye Northern Lapwing

\* Exceeding 10% of CSR1 estimates

\*\* Exceeding 50% of CSR1 estimates

Sites in **bold** overlap with protected area(s)



# Most important wetland sites for migratory waterbirds in Mongolia

RANK	SITE	PROVINCE	SPECIES (≥ 1%)	
6	<b>Airag Lake</b>	Uvs	Great Cormorant Pallas's Gull Great Crested Grebe Dalmatian Pelican Ruddy Shelduck	Common Pochard Greater Sand Plover Kentish Plover Northern Lapwing White Spoonbill
7	Tashgain Tavan Lakes	Dornod	Great Crested Grebe Swan Goose Ruddy Shelduck Common Shelduck	Gadwall Common Pochard White-naped Crane Demoiselle Crane
8	<b>Terkhiin Tsagaan Lake</b>	Arkhangai	Great Cormorant Bar-headed Goose Ruddy Shelduck	Common Goldeneye Common Merganser Northern Lapwing

\* Exceeding 10% of CSR1 estimates

\*\* Exceeding 50% of CSR1 estimates

Sites in **bold** overlap with protected area(s)

# Most important wetland sites for migratory waterbirds in Mongolia

RANK	SITE	PROVINCE	SPECIES (≥ 1%)	
9	<b>Ogii Lake</b>	Arkhangai	Swan Goose Great Crested Grebe Bar-headed Goose Whooper Swan Ruddy Shelduck	Common Goldeneye Common Crane Northern Lapwing Mute Swan
10	<b>Buir Lake</b>	Dornod	Great Crested Grebe Great Cormorant Grey Heron Swan Goose	Ruddy Shelduck Common Shelduck Northern Lapwing Mute Swan
11	<b>Valley of lakes (including Boon Tsagaan, Orog Lake and Taatsiin tsagaan)</b>	Bayan-Khongor	Mute Swan* Common Shelduck Ruddy Shelduck	Great Cormorant Great Crested Grebe Hooded Crane

\* Exceeding 10% of CSR1 estimates

\*\* Exceeding 50% of CSR1 estimates

Sites in **bold** overlap with protected area(s)

# Distribution of prioritised RFI sites in Mongolia



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