



Jan van de Kam

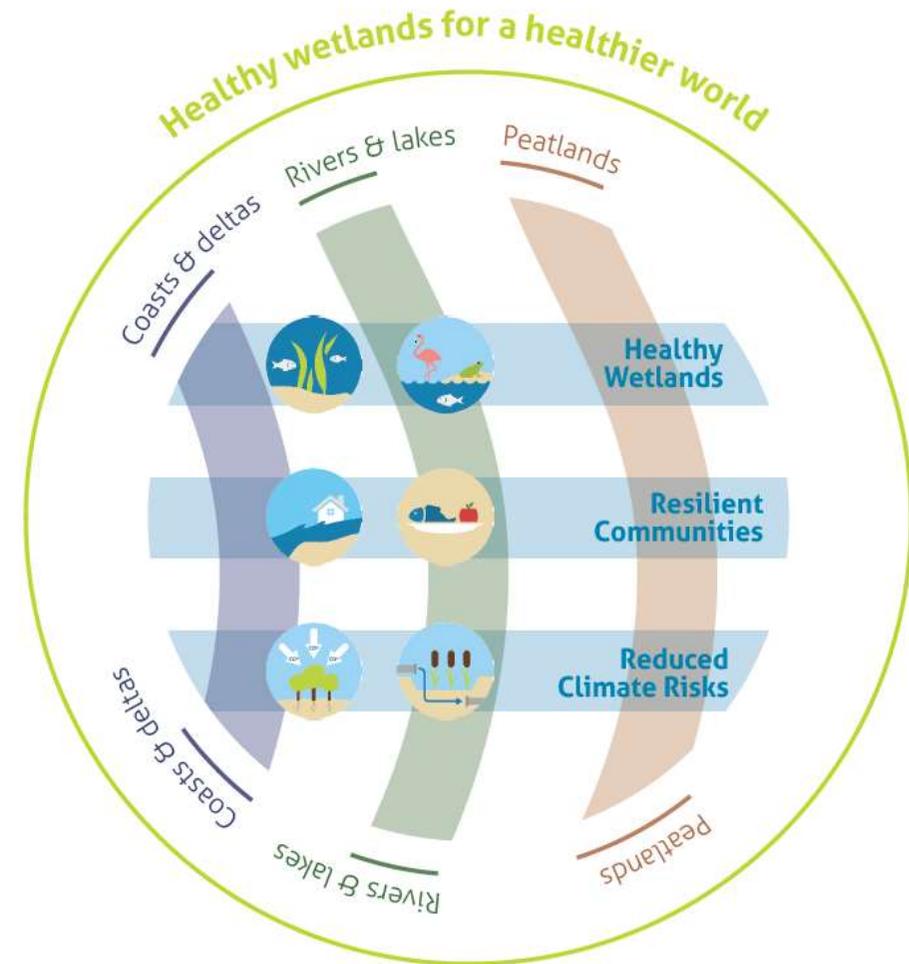
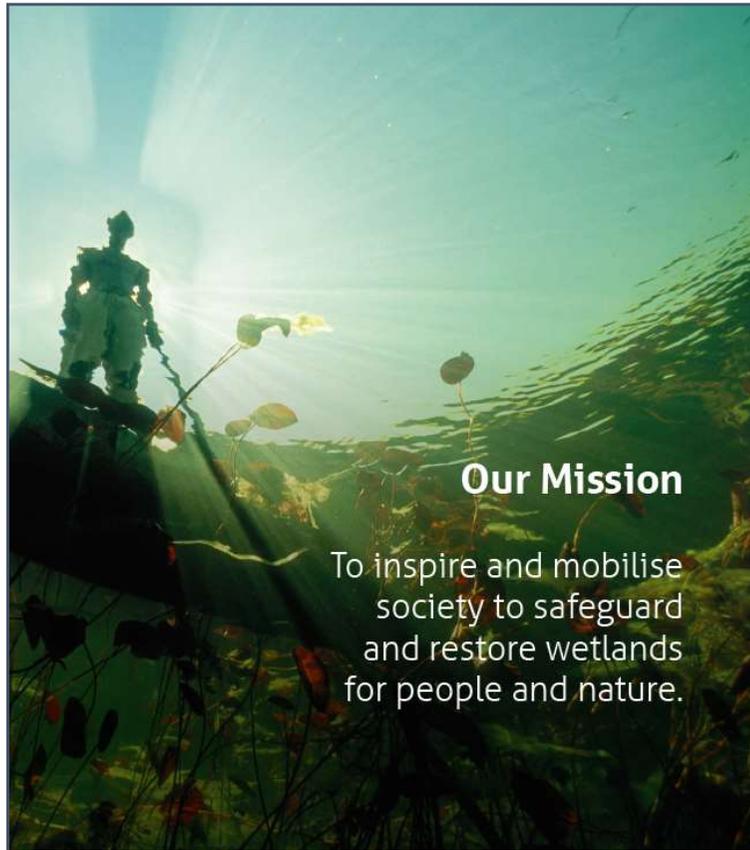
Evidence-based action (Part 1): conservation status of migratory waterbirds in the EAAF

**Dr Taej Mundkur, Senior Technical Officer
Pieter van Eijk, Ward Hagemeijer, Lorenzo Gaffi & Tom Langendoen**



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

Wetlands International - mission and focus



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

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

Wetlands play vital roles in all landscapes



Wetlands in high altitudes can contain cloud bursts



Floodplains, lakes and marshes can absorb flood waters



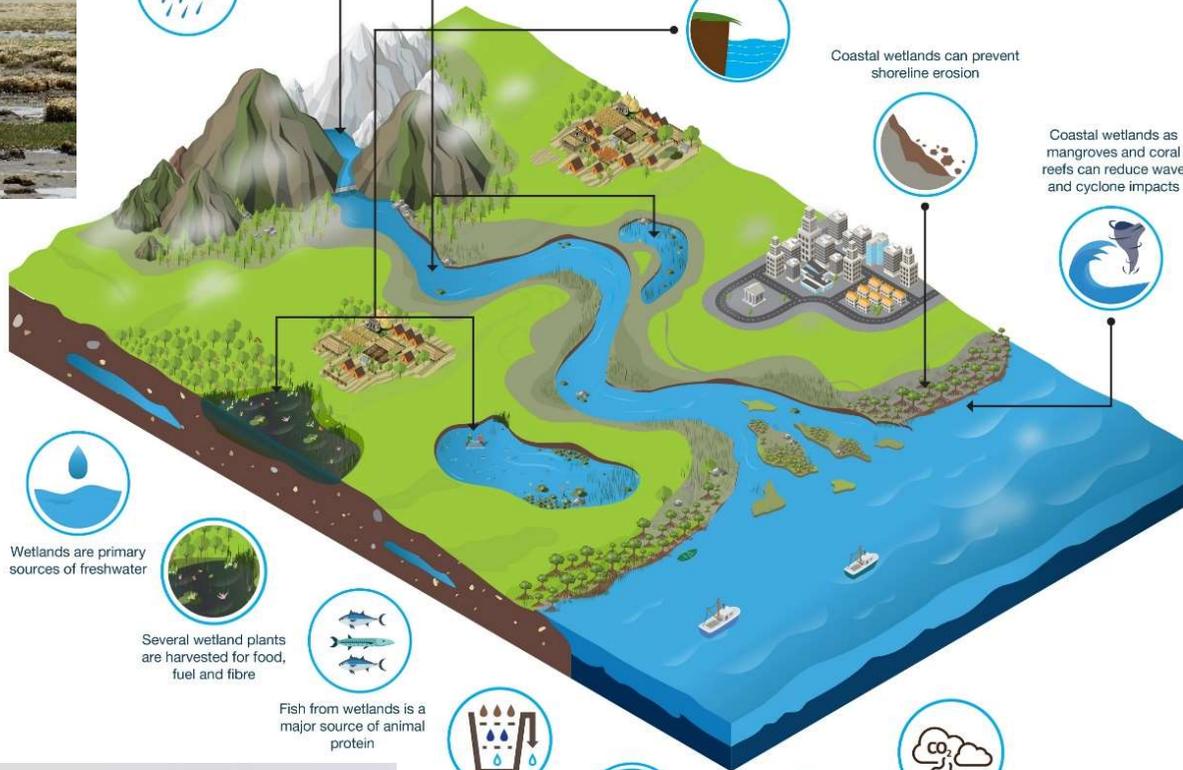
Lakes, ponds and marshes can maintain ground water levels and prevent drought



Coastal wetlands can prevent shoreline erosion



Coastal wetlands as mangroves and coral reefs can reduce wave and cyclone impacts



Wetlands are primary sources of freshwater



Several wetland plants are harvested for food, fuel and fibre



Fish from wetlands is a major source of animal protein



Wetlands help filter waste water



Wetlands provide space for recreation and cultural activities



Wetlands are key biodiversity habitats



Wetlands fix carbon and help in mitigating climate change



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**

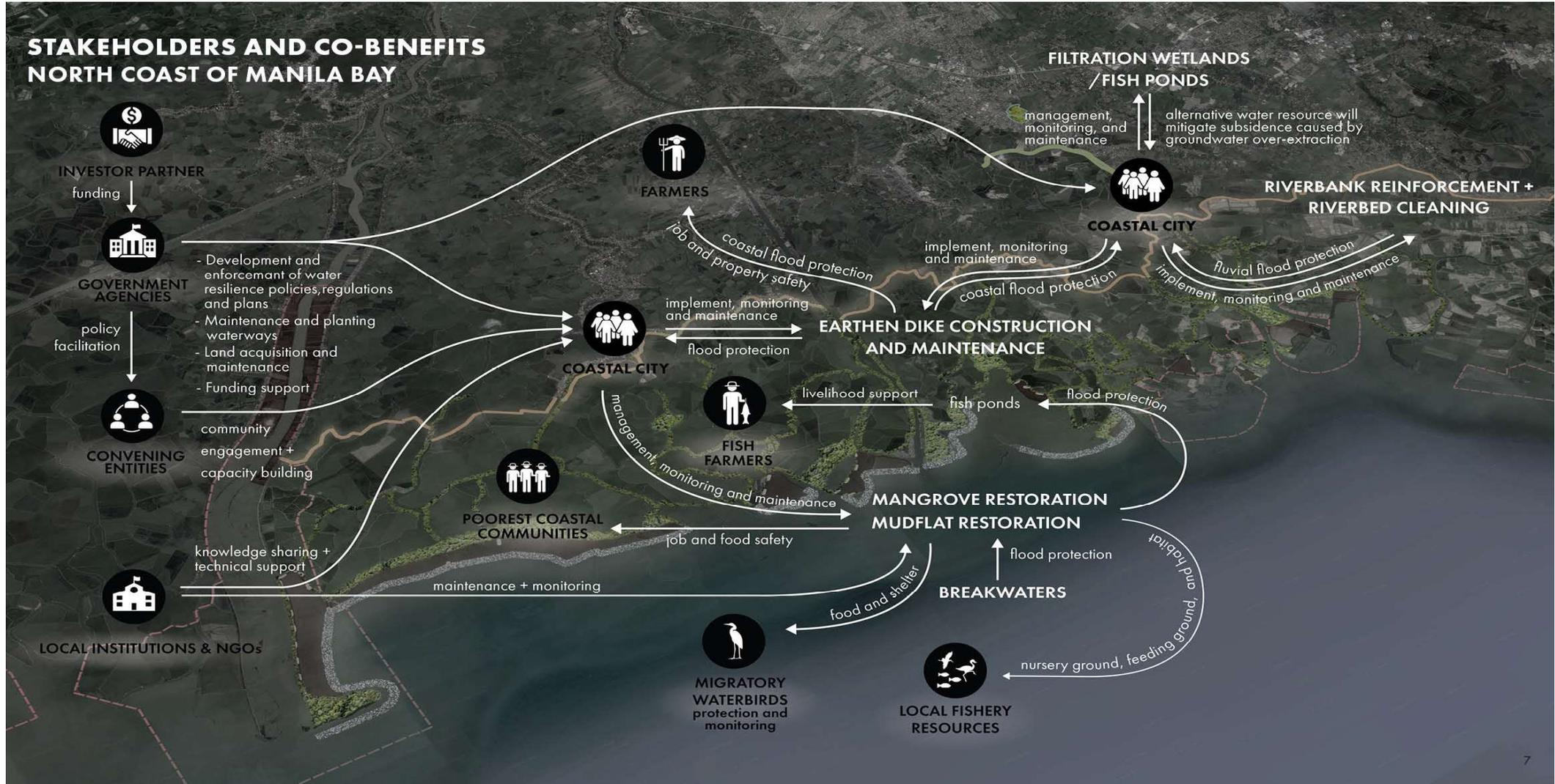


Picture by Jan van de Kam



A new approach to waterbird and wetland conservation

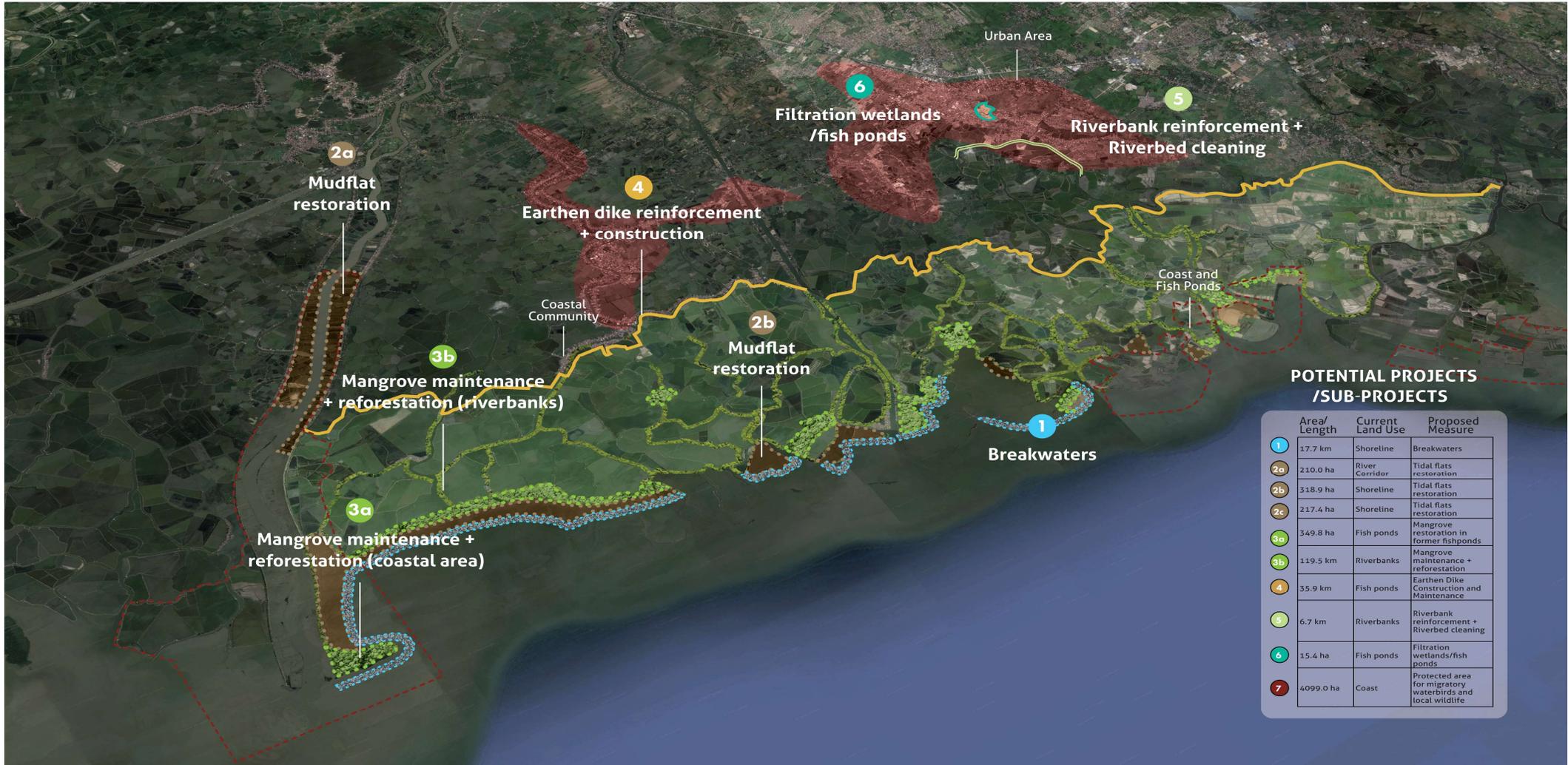
Case study: North Manila Bay Landscape



● one architecture

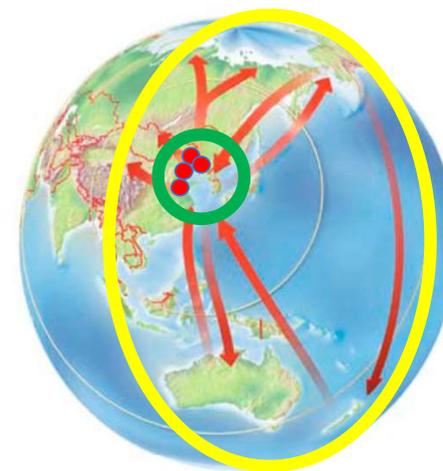
A new approach to waterbird and wetland conservation

Case study: North Manila Bay Landscape



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”.

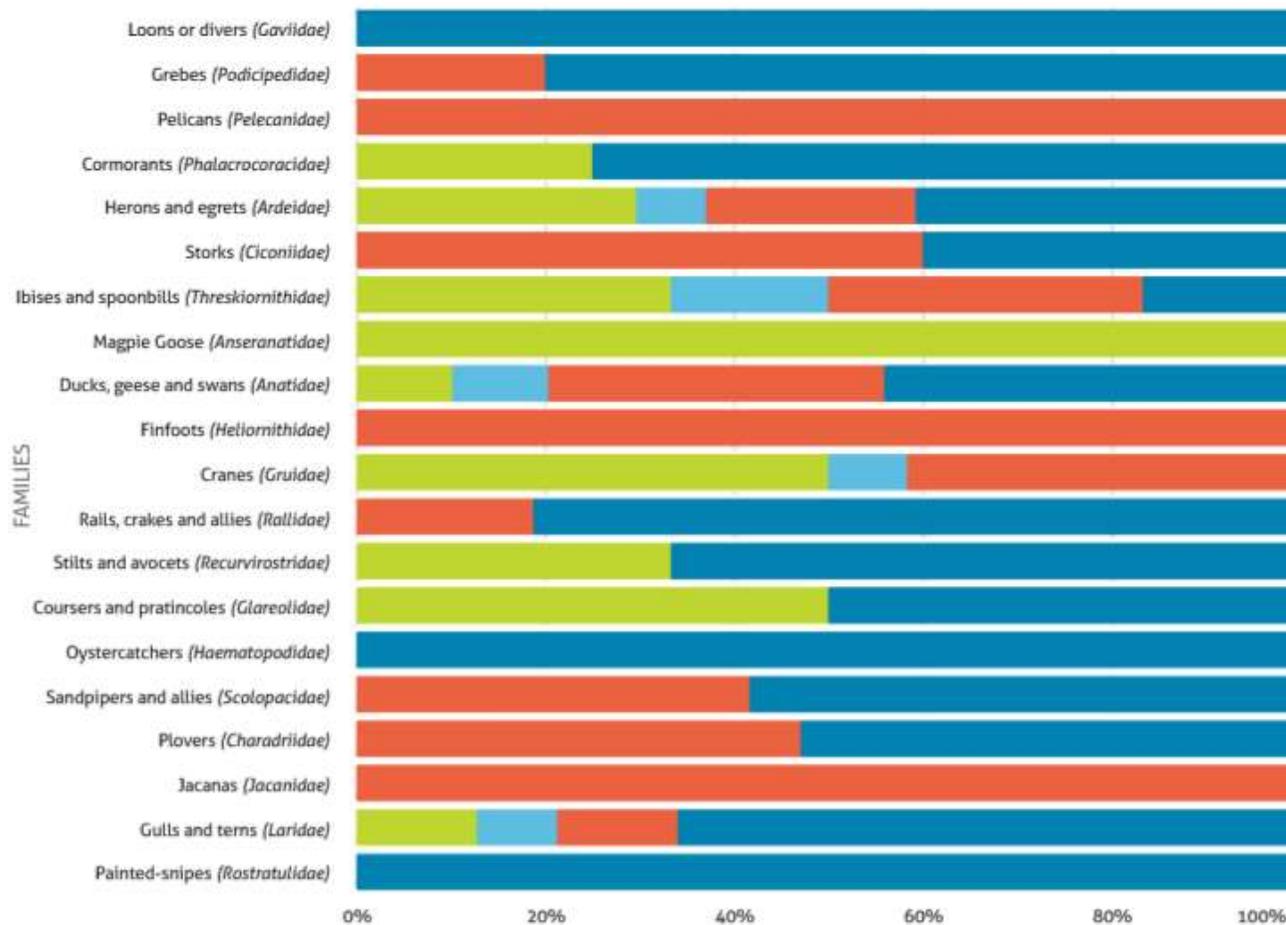
2. Decision 7.4 calls for use of the “Waterbird Population Estimates” process to provide:
 - (a) updated information on waterbird population sizes and trends,
 - (b) the basis for deriving the EAAF Flyway Site Network thresholds (1%).

Status of waterbird populations in the EAAF

As included in the WPE 5 (2012)

POPULATION TRENDS BY SELECTED WATERBIRD FAMILIES:

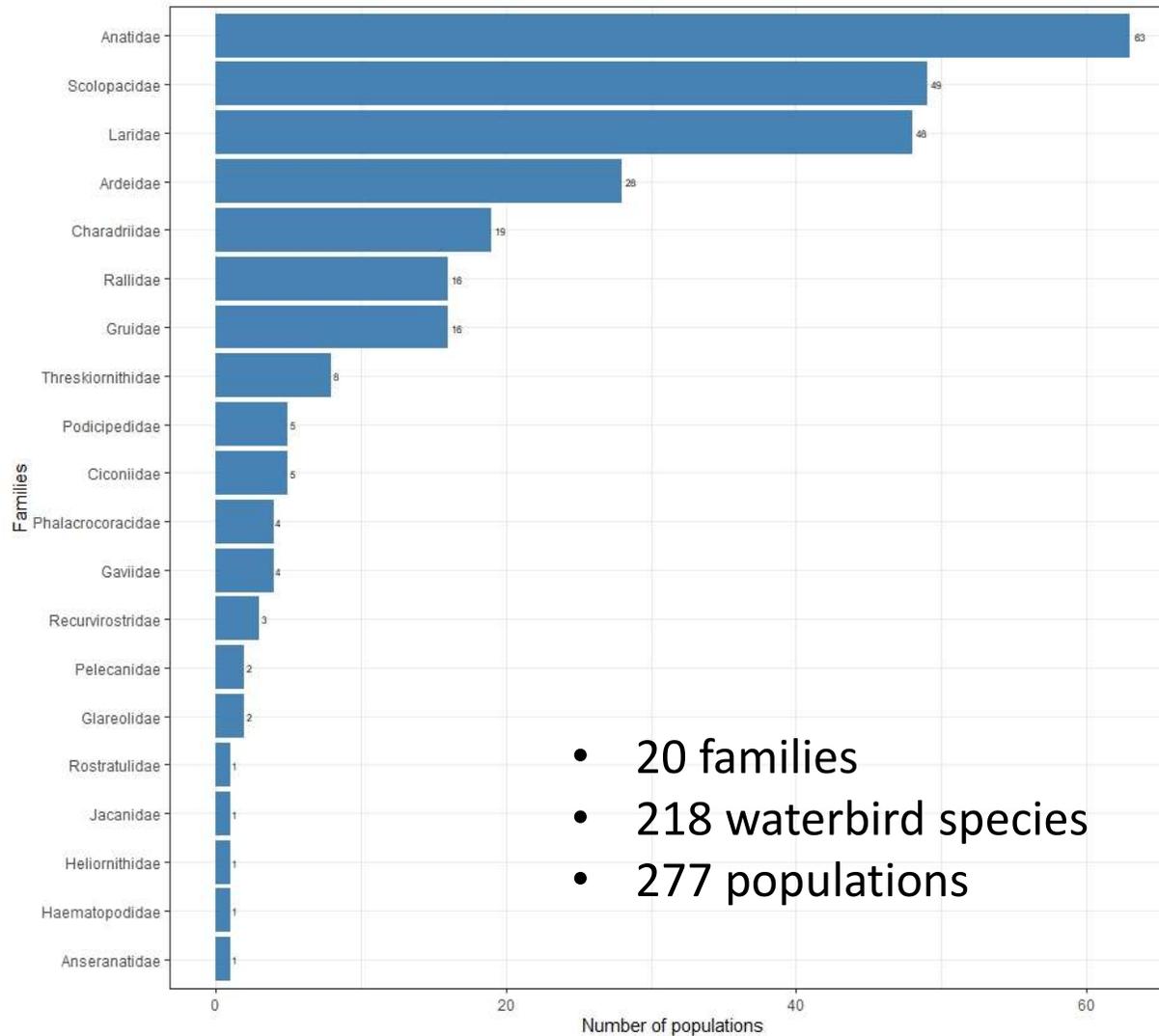
■ stable or fluctuating
 ■ increasing
 ■ declining
 ■ unknown



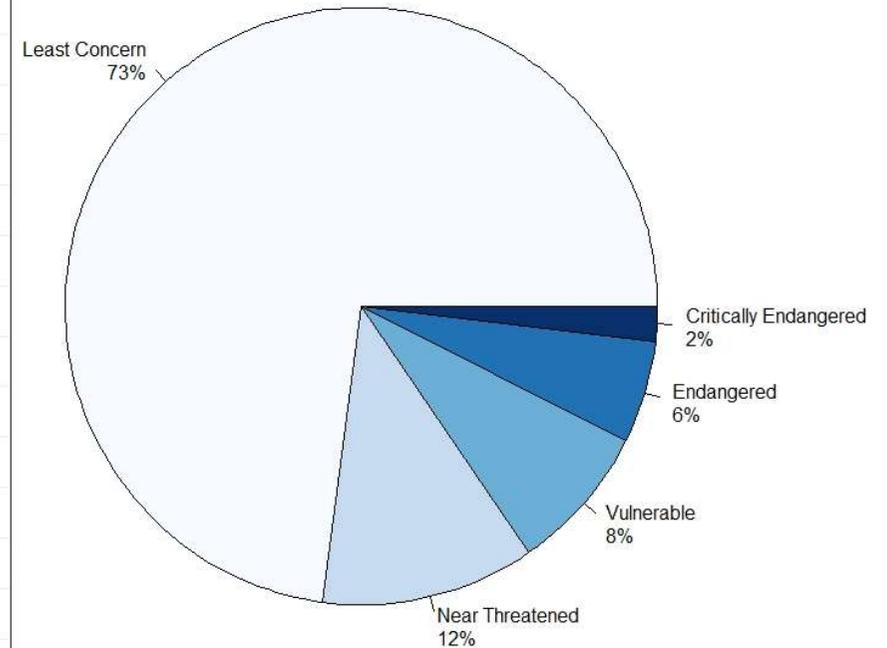
- 218 waterbird species
- 258 biogeographic populations
- 10% have no size estimates
- 50% have size estimates dating pre-2000
- Over 50% have no trend information

EAAFP Conservation Status Review 1 - 2021-2022

- Migratory waterbird species and populations



- 20 families
- 218 waterbird species
- 277 populations



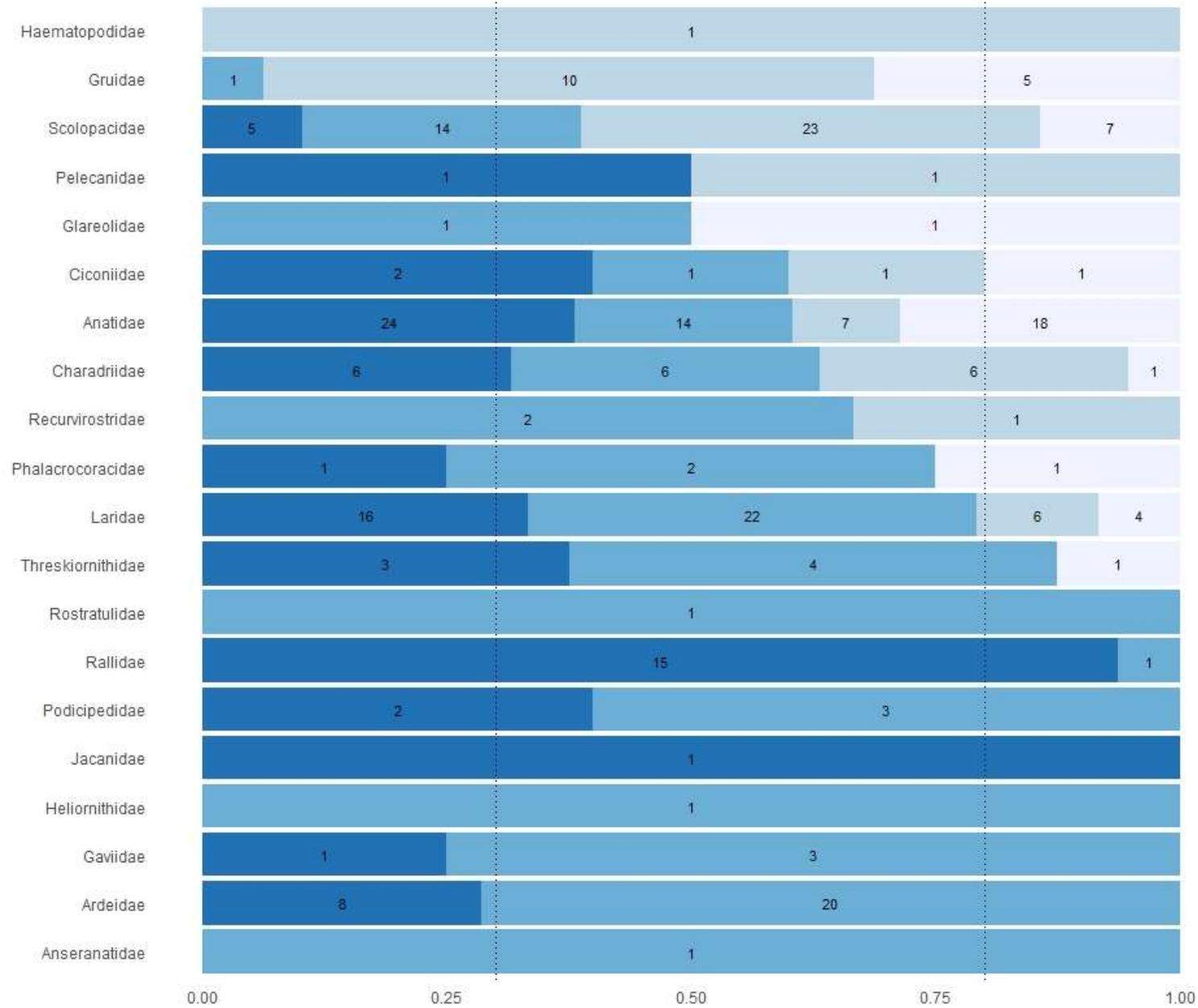
IUCN Red List Threatened status

- 34 IUCN Red List species
- 25 Near Threatened species

list as of January 2021

DRAFT REPORT NOT TO BE QUOTED

Quality of population size estimates by family



Quality (%) 31 35 20 14

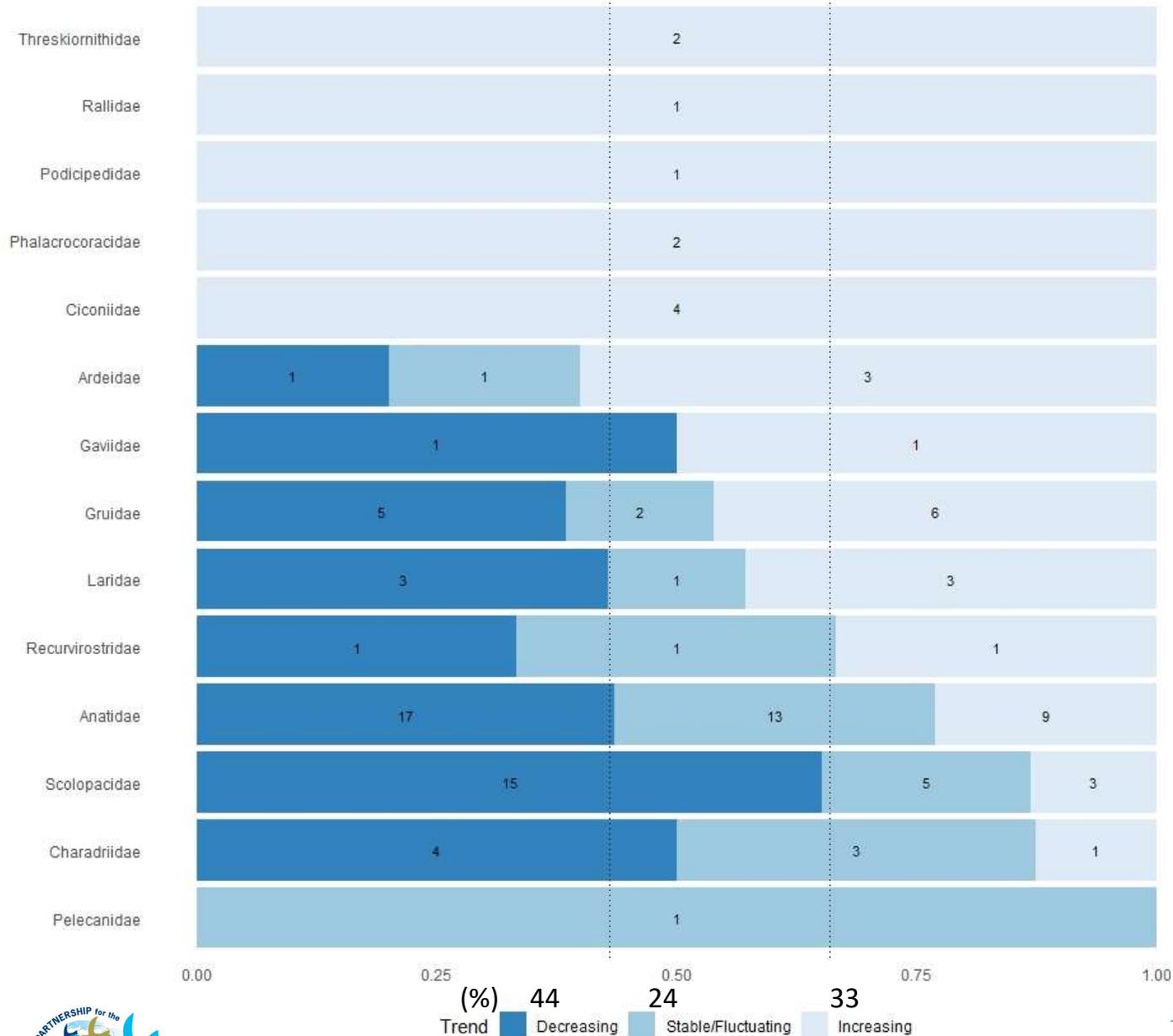
No estimate Best guess Expert opinion Census based

DRAFT REPORT NOT TO BE QUOTED

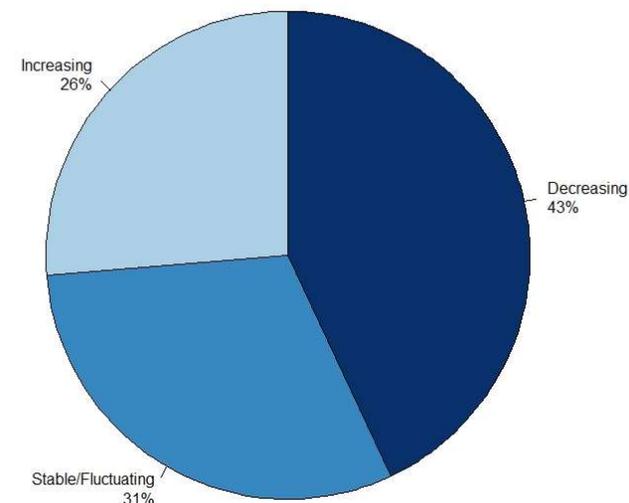
Population trend directions of waterbirds

Long-term trends by family

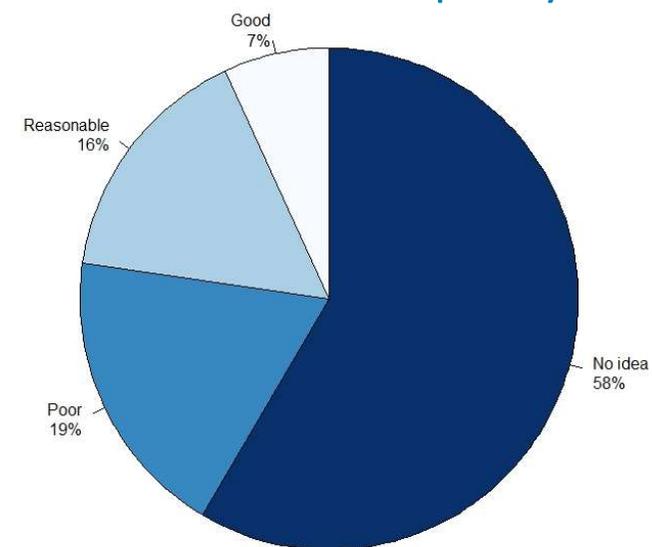
111 of 277 pops (40%)



short-term trend direction



short-term trend quality



Open access to EAAFP CSR1 from the Waterbird Populations Portal

DRAFT REPORT NOT TO BE QUOTED

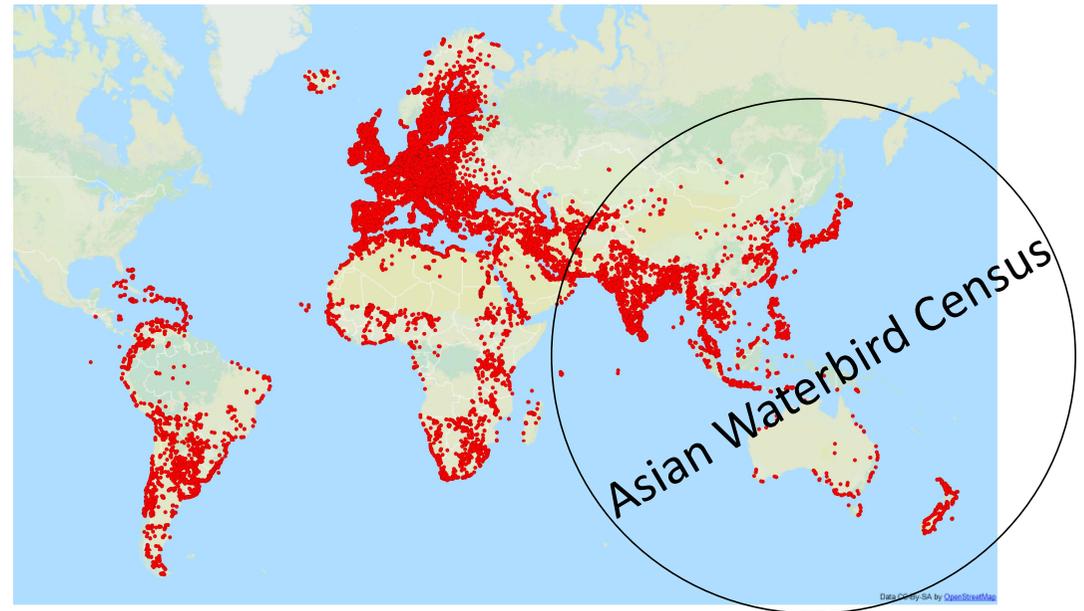


Monitoring waterbirds - International Waterbird Census

- 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

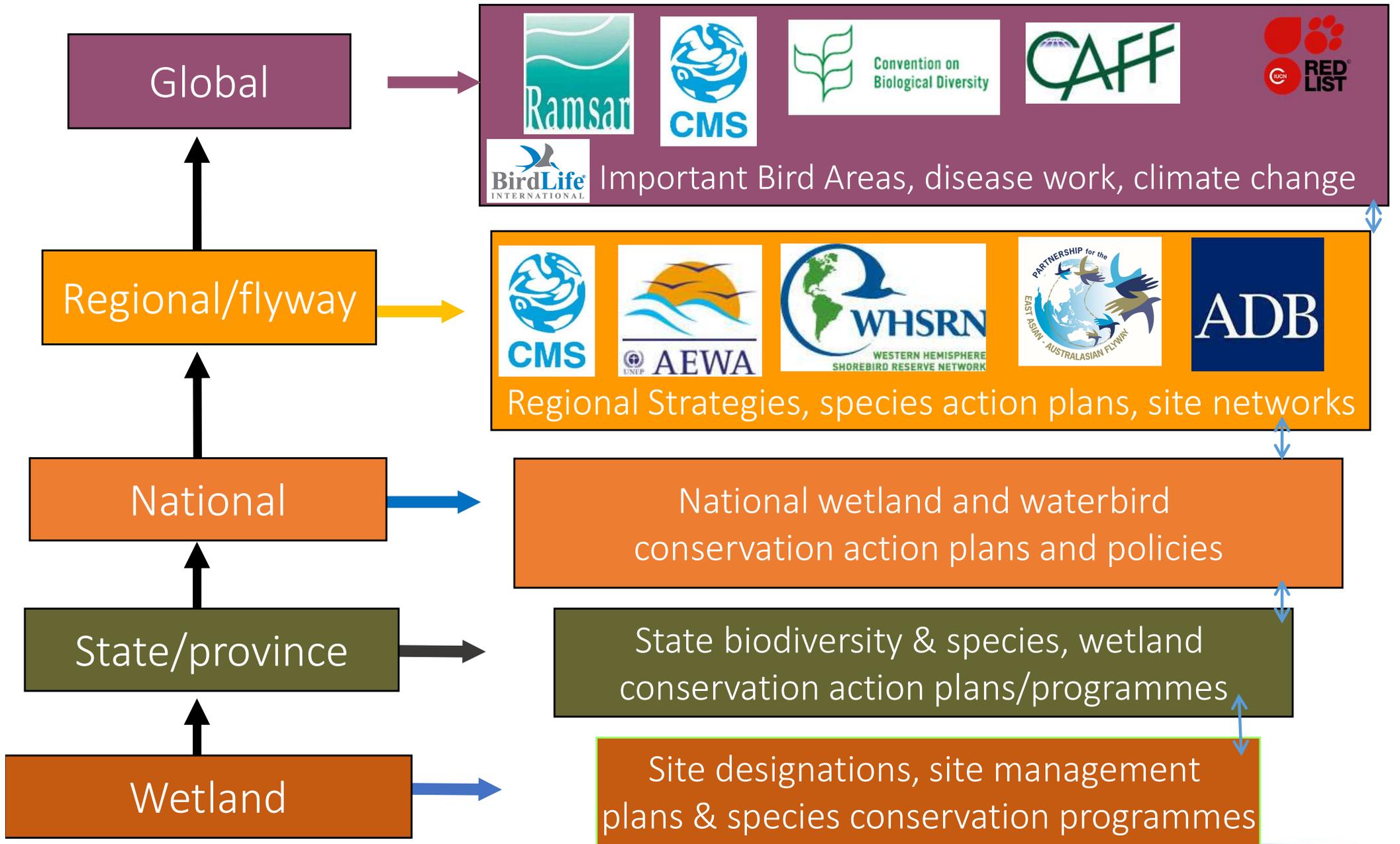
1. Annual regional/flyway and national assessments of waterbirds and wetlands, for EAAFP and others
2. Updates of status and threats to wetlands and waterbirds
3. Strengthened local capacity for monitoring
4. Greater interest and support for conservation action



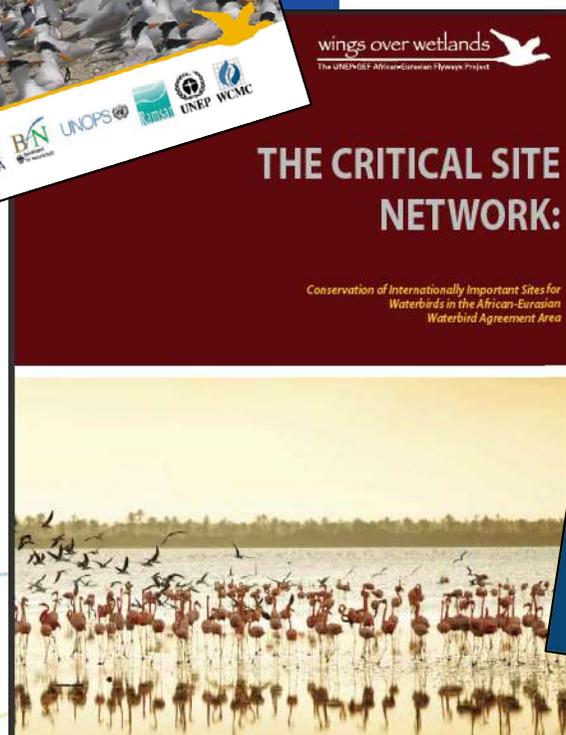
More on : www.wetlands.org/IWC
<http://iwc.wetlands.org/index.php>



Joining the dots! International Waterbird Census



Capacity building and technical guidance





Family: Ducks, geese and swans (*Anatidae*)

Collapse

Species information

Collapse

Population 1% level

Collapse

Publication	Yearset	1 percent	Notes
WPE 5	2012	2400	
WPE 4	2006	2500	
WPE 3	2002	7500	
WPE 2	-1	-1	N6810
WPE 1	-1	-1	N6810

Download data

References

- R519 - Perennou, C.P., Mundkur, T. and Scott, D.A. 1994. The Asian Waterfowl Census 1987-1991: distribution and status of Asian waterfowl. IWRB Spec. Publ. No. 24; AWB Spec. Publ. No. 86. Slimbridge, UK and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- R1851 - Langendoen, T, Mundkur, T. & Nagy, S., (2021) Flyway trend analyses based on data from the Asian Waterbird Census from the period of 1987-2020. Online publication. Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands.
- R407 - Li, David, and Asian Waterbird Census network in litt. 2005.
- R455 - Miyabayashi, Y. and Mundkur, T. 1999. Atlas of Key Sites for Anatidae in the East Asian Flyway. Wetlands International ? Japan ? Tokyo, and Wetlands International ? Asia Pacific, Kuala Lumpur. 148 pp.

Notes

- NS8055 - Moores, N. in J. Kear (ed.) 2005, Li in litt. 2005: Low thousands winter in Korea, 100 000 in Japan. 45: Fewer than 10,000 counted in the Yangtze valley during 2003-2005. Gerasimov & Gerasimov 2003: 180,000 migrate through the Kamchatka Peninsula in spring.
- NS5345 - 466, 413: Low thousands winter in Korea, 100 000 in Japan. 45: Fewer than 10,000 counted in the Yangtze valley during 2003-2005. 257: 180,000 migrate through the Kamchatka Peninsula in spring.
- NT10 - The IWC analysis reports a moderate increasing trend for 2010-2020 (1.0797), a decreasing trend for 1989-2020 (0.981) and stable over 3 generations 2001-2020 (0.9948). Occasional but inconsistent count numbers from CN suggests the monitoring of this population is inadequate.
- N%6810 - Not Set

Notes
[S5348](#) [T2](#)

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>

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



© Taej Mundkur

Thank you

 [Wetlands International](#)

 [@WetlandsInt](#)

 [Wetlands International](#)

Disclaimer: The views expressed on this document are those of the author/s and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) or its Board of Governors or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this publication and accepts no responsibility for any consequence of their use. By making any designation of or reference to a particular territory or geographic area, or by using the term "country" in this document, ADB does not intend to make any judgments as to the legal or other status of any territory or area.

taj.mundkur@wetlands.org

