Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative East Asian – Australasian Flyway Crosswalk[1]

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List of acronyms

AMBI	Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative
ACB	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ACB	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
AMME	ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment
ASOEN	ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment
AWGNCB	ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity
CAFF	Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
CoP	Conference of Parties
EAAF	East Asian – Australasian Flyway
EAAFP	East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership
ESCAP	Economic and Social Committee for the Asia and the Pacific
IBA	Important Bird Area
IGO	Intergovernmental Organisation
INGO	International Non-Government Organisation
Korea, Ro	Republic of Korea
LWFG	Lesser White-fronted Goose
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEAC	Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation
NEASPEC	Northeast Asia Sub-regional Programme for Environment Cooperation
NOWPAP	Northwest Pacific Action Plan
SAARC	South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
SBS	Spoon-billed Sandpiper
TEMM	Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Korea, China and Japan
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme United Nations Development Programme UN
USA	United States of America
WHC	World Heritage Convention

AMBI East Asian - Australasian Flyway Crosswalk

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI), is a project of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), the biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council. AMBI is designed to improve the conservation status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations. Through conservation of a shared natural and cultural resource, AMBI will have a positive impact on societies for whom migratory birds are a source of livelihood and spiritual inspiration. AMBI organizes activities across four flyways:

- Americas Flyway,
- Circumpolar Flyway,
- African–Eurasian Flyway, and the,
- East Asian–Australasian Flyway (EAAF).

AMBI has developed workplans for each of the above flyways that address priority conservation needs of AMBI priority species in each respective geography. Actions proposed by AMBI are designed to bring added value to ongoing conservation programs, or to address issues that are currently underrepresented.

The crosswalk analysis has two primary objectives:

- Identify how the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 objectives and actions align with existing policies, frameworks and priorities identified in complementary Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements and environmental cooperation frameworks in the EAAF region and examine how AMBI can contribute to regional biodiversity priorities.
- To strategically advise AMBI to help fill conservation gaps affecting declining populations of Arctic-breeding migratory birds and the habitats upon which they rely.

To address these objectives the crosswalk methodology analysed key conventions and frameworks at the international, regional and national levels, and compared them to AMBI Workplan 2019-2023 actions and objectives.

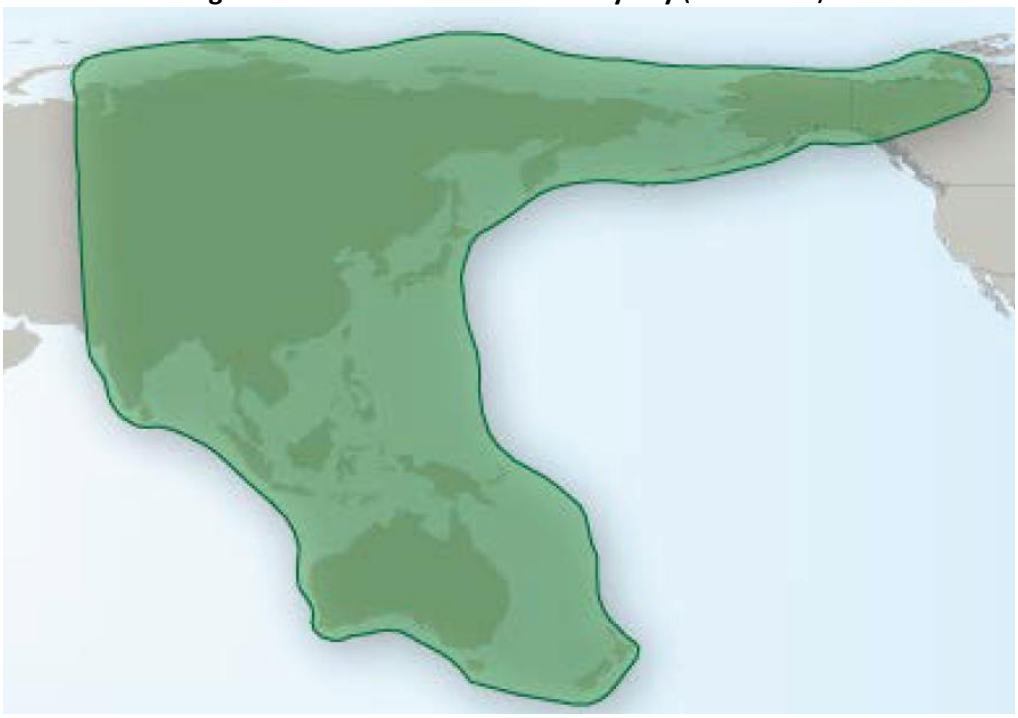
This “crosswalk document” will assist the AMBI EAAF Committee in optimising the EAAF program, by identifying the value that can be added to existing activities and by filling conservation gaps. It will identify potential cooperation across development initiatives that will assist sustainable development to benefit migratory Arctic waterbird species.

1.2 Geographic Scope

The geographical extent of the EAAF (as defined for AMBI) ranges from Alaska (USA) and the Russian East in the north-west, India in the south-west and Australia and New Zealand in the south-east (Figure 1). It includes all or part of the following 23 countries: United States of America (Alaska), Russian Federation (west to include Krasnoyarsk Krai), Mongolia, People’s Republic of China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Japan, Philippines, Viet Nam, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand.

Emphasis in this document is placed on the countries that are currently Arctic Council States (Russia and the United States of America) and Observer States (Peoples’ Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Japan, Singapore and India), as well as the international environmental cooperation frameworks in which these countries participate.

Figure 1. East Asian-Australasian Flyway (source: CAFF).



2.0 Methods

2.1 AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023

This report is focused on AMBI EAAF Workplan objectives and actions for the EAAF. The Workplan has the following five Objectives:

1. Identify and secure important breeding and staging habitats of key AMBI EAAF migratory bird species in Arctic Russia and Alaska, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Dunlin, Emperor Goose and Brant Goose (5 Actions).
2. Secure intertidal and associated habitats for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF (16 Actions).
3. Prevent illegal harvest and regulate unsustainable legal harvest of Arctic migratory birds, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Bar-tailed Godwit, and other priority species (13 Actions).
4. Work with partners to increase the number and quality of population estimates of Arctic breeding waterbirds in the EAAF (2 Actions).

5. Address other threats to Arctic migratory birds along EAAF and improve international cooperation (4 Actions). This Workplan has the following focal species within the EAAF (listed with their IUCN Red List species level status):
    - Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*) [Critically Endangered],
    - Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) [Endangered],
    - Red Knot *(Calidris canutus rogersi and piersmai)* [Near Threatened],
    - Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica* spp. *baueri* and *menzbieri*) [Near Threatened],
    - Dunlin (*Calidris alpina arctica*) [Least Concern],
    - Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea)* [Near Threatened],
    - Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus frontalis,)* [Vulnerable],
    - Emperor Goose (*Chen canagica*) [Near Threatened],
    - Brant Goose (*Branta bernicla nigricans*) [Least Concern].

A current limitation with the IUCN Red List status is that it is applied at the species level and not the regional/population level. The status of a population of a species may be at a higher level of conservation concern than at the species level.

3.0 Analysis

3.1 Overview of International Mechanisms

Mechanisms for international cooperation and collaboration on the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF can be divided into the following four groups:

- Global multilateral environmental agreements,
- Regional multilateral environment frameworks (i.e. Northeast, Southeast and South Asian agreements made exclusively by national governments),
- Bilateral migratory bird agreements,
- Non-formal multi-national migratory waterbird conservation initiatives (i.e. not limited to national governments).

3.2 Global Multilateral Environmental Agreements

3.2.1 Overview of Convention Ratification in the EAAF

The development and ratification of legally binding international policy instruments, directly relevant to migratory waterbird conservation in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, commenced in the early 1970's. All countries in the EAAF are Parties to the World Heritage Convention (WHC), 22 are Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 20 are Parties to the Ramsar Convention, and 6 are Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) (Table 1).

Table 1 Parties to the key MEAs (CBD, WHC, Ramsar, CMS) in the EAA Flyway

** indicates and Arctic Council State or Observer State*

Country	CBD	WHC	Ramsar	CMS
Australia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bangladesh	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brunei Darussalam	Yes	Yes		
Cambodia	Yes	Yes	Yes	
China, Peoples Republic of*	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
Korea, Democratic People's Republic	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Korea, Republic of *	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
India*	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Indonesia	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Japan*	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
Laos	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Malaysia	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Mongolia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Myanmar	Yes	Yes	Yes	
New Zealand	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Papua New Guinea	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Philippines	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Russian Federation*	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	
Singapore	Yes	Yes		
Thailand	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Timor-Leste	Yes	Yes		
United States of America*		**Yes**	**Yes**	
Viet Nam	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Totals	**22**	**23**	**20**	**6**

3.2.2 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The CBD is the leading global framework for biodiversity conservation. All countries of the EAA Flyway, except for the United States of America, are Parties to the CBD.

The CBD Strategic Plan is comprised of a shared vision, a mission, strategic goals and 20 targets, collectively known as the Aichi Targets (see text box).

A summary of the alignment of AMBI objectives and actions with the Aichi Targets is shown in Figure 2. The full alignment table is shown in Annex 1.

Alignment between AMBI and country submissions to the CBD is described as (a) directly contributing to the Aichi Targets (Figure 2 in blue) and (b) "enabling actions" which will facilitate a contribution to an Aichi Target (Figure 2 in green). An example of an enabling action is "identifying internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds across the flyway for priority Arctic breeding populations and promoting the conservation of these areas". This enabling work is important, but the Aichi Target will only be considered met when the National Government has "*integrated the biodiversity values into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes"*.

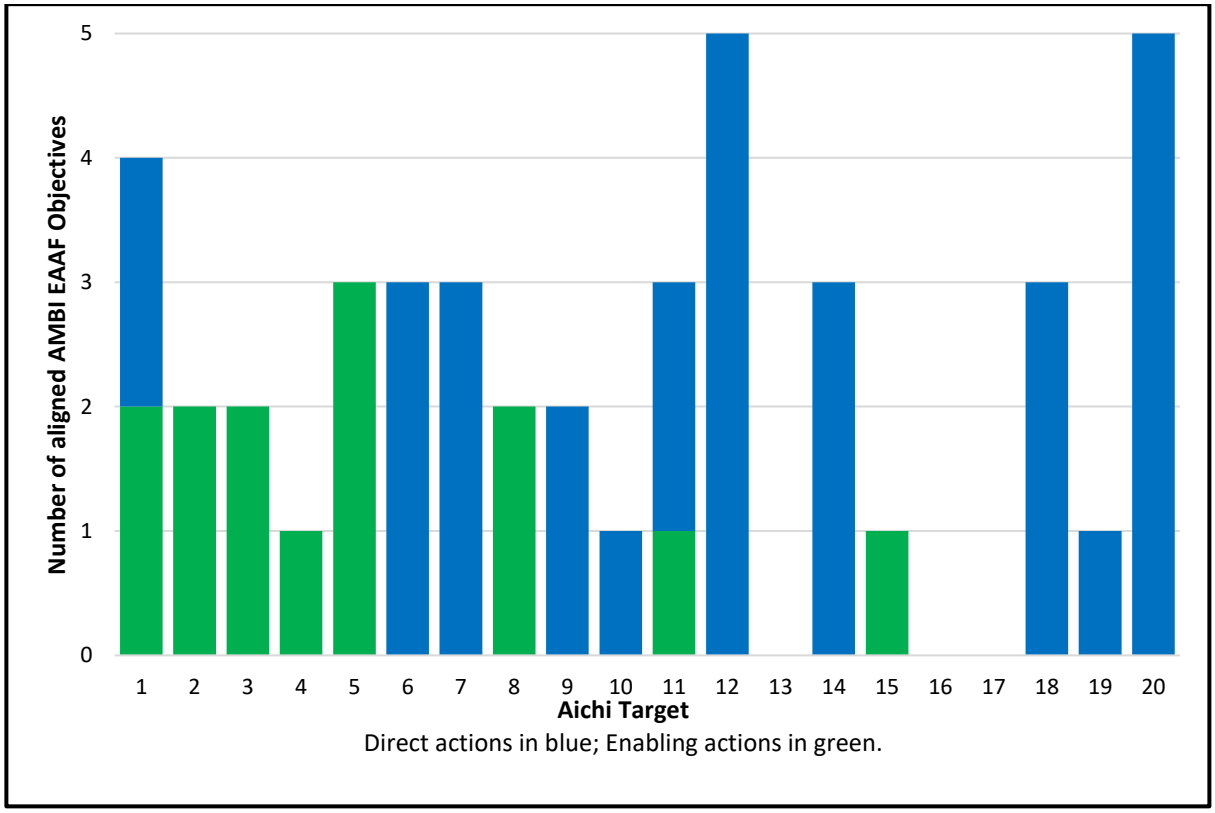
The CBD VISION
"*By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people*."

The CBD MISSION
"*Take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication. To ensure this, pressures on biodiversity are reduced, ecosystems are restored, biological resources are sustainably used and benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable manner; adequate financial resources are provided, capacities are enhanced, biodiversity issues and values mainstreamed, appropriate policies are effectively implemented, and decision-making is based on sound science and the precautionary approach*."

The Aichi Targets
The reporting framework for CBD is the "Aichi Targets" and these are grouped under the following five goals (with a total of 20 targets):

- Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society (4 targets),
- Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use (6 targets),
- Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity (3 Targets),
- Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services (3 Targets),
- Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building (4 Targets).

Figure 2. Alignment of the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 Objectives with the Aichi Targets 2016-2024



The analysis shows that the AMBI objectives align with 17 of the 20 Aichi Targets (Figure 2):

- Aichi Targets 12 and 20 are most strongly aligned with all 5 AMBI EAAF objectives directly addressing them,
- Aichi Target 1 is addressed directly and indirectly by four AMBI objectives,
- Aichi Target 6, 7, 14 and 18 are directly addressed by three AMBI objectives,
- Aichi Target 11 is addressed directly and indirectly with three AMBI objectives,
- Aichi Target 5 is addressed indirectly by three AMBI objectives,
- Aichi Targets 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 15 and 19 are all addressed directly and indirectly by one or two AMBI objectives, while,
- the AMBI objectives do not align with Aichi Targets 13, 16, and 17.

NBSAPs and National CBD Reporting

CBD Parties are obliged to develop and report on their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The following national CBD planning and reporting documents have been reviewed to assess the alignment the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 with Arctic Council State's and Observer State's submissions to the CBD.

- *Members of the Arctic Council within the EAAF*:
  - Russia:
    - Russia's NBSAP v.2, December 2015: Strategy and Executive Plan for the Conservation of Biodiversity within the Russian Federation (2014-2020).
      Russia's 5th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, July 2014.
- *Observers to the Arctic Council within the EAAF:*
  - China's "National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2030",
  - Republic of Korea's "National Biodiversity Strategy 2014-2018",

- Japan's "National Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2020", "Roadmap towards the Establishment of an Enriching Society in Harmony with Nature. 28th September 2012",
- Singapore's "Conserving Our Biodiversity: Singapore's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, National Parks Board 2009",
- India's "National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) Addendum 2014 to NBAP 2008".

To assess the attention given to migratory waterbird conservation in national CBD implementation planning and reporting, a "key word" analysis was conducted on the NBSAPs and the latest National Reports to CBD (Annex 2). Key words selected for analysis provide an index of the level of national government focus on migratory waterbirds and their habitats. The key words assessed were; wetland, migratory, flyway, waterbird, hunt/poach, Important Bird Area (IBA), Ramsar and Aichi.

A key word index was derived from the frequency of the key words in each document. The NBSAPs varied in the total number of words from over 146 000 (Japan) to 5 000 (Singapore) (Annex 2). The frequency of the use of the key words was standardised based on the total number of words in each NBSAP compared to the NBSAP with the least words (Figure 3 and 4). The same approach was used in the analysis of the National Reports.

Figure 3. Use of key words in relation to migratory waterbird conservation in NBSAPs and CBD National Reports
(The first column for each country is the standardized "key word index" of the NBSAP. The second column is the standardized "key word index" of the CBD National Report).

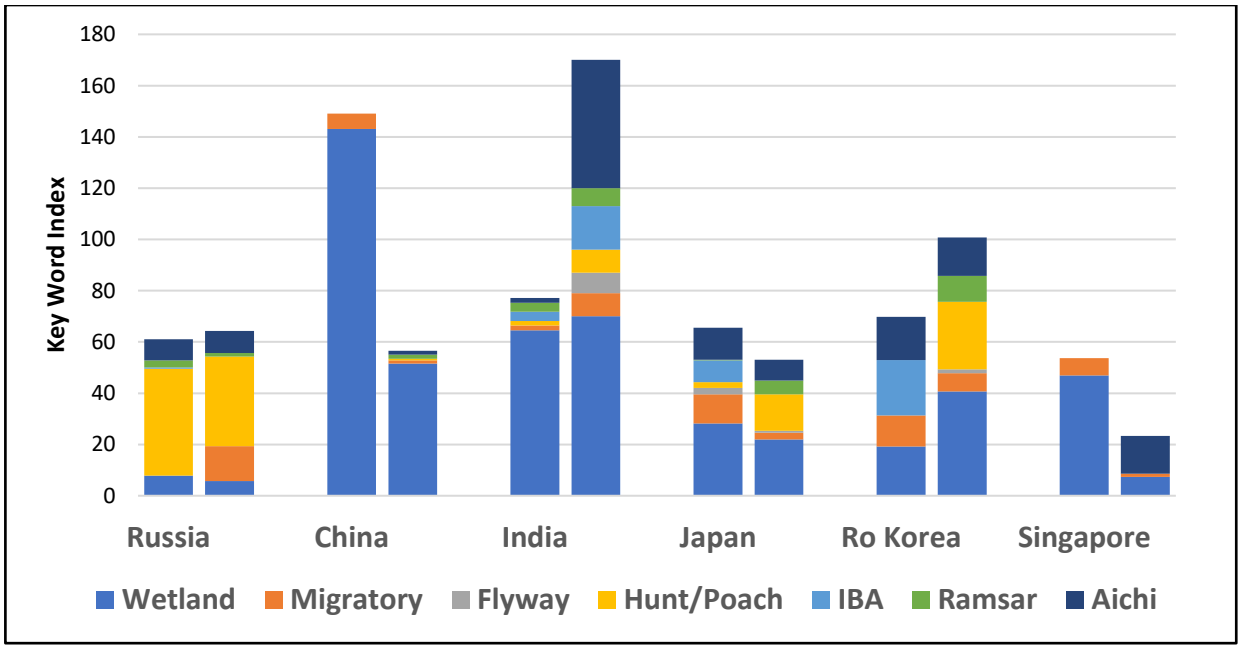
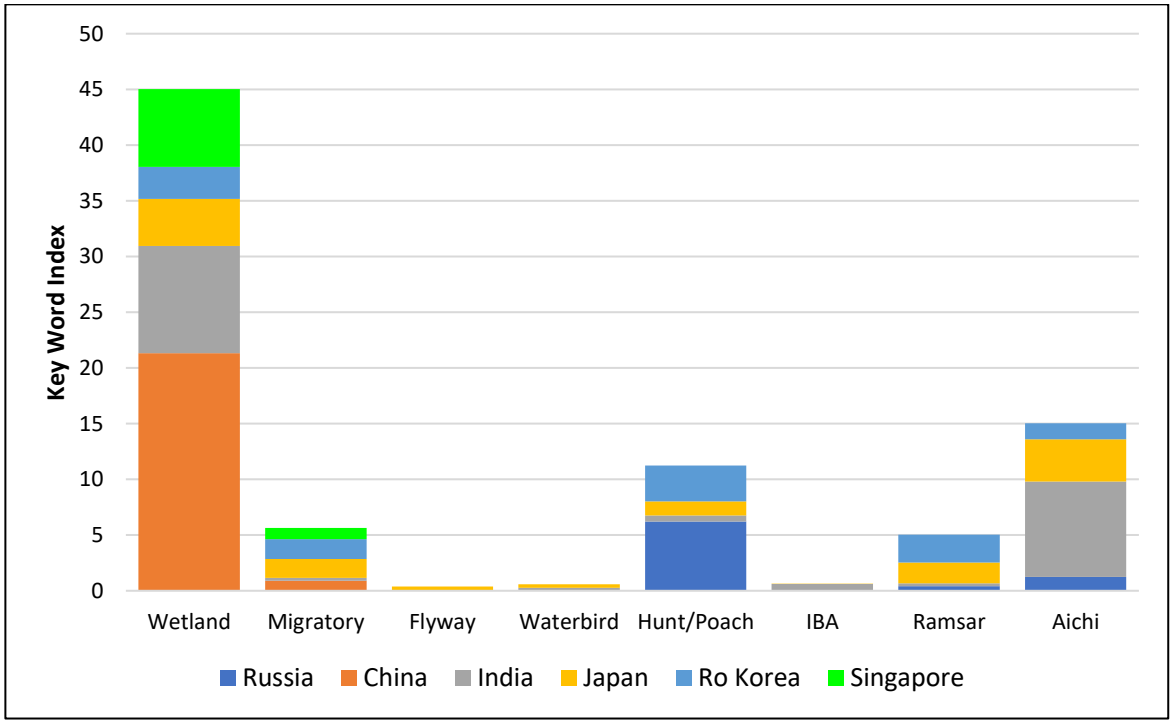


Figure 4. Summary of the use of each key word in the NBSAPs and CBD National Reports



The overall "standardised key word index" combined for each countries NBSAP and National Report (Figure 3) shows varying emphasis across the six countries. Key points include:

- The use of key words was highest in the NBSAP of China followed by India.
- The key word "wetland/s" was used three times more than any other key word in the NBSAPS. This shows the strong recognition of the importance of wetland habitat for biodiversity conservation.
- "Aichi" was the second most frequently key word used. It was used in the context of the Aichi Targets which provide the reporting framework for CBD. It was most used in the National Report of India followed by Japan.
- The third most used key word was "hunting" and/or "poaching". Over 50% of the occurrence of these words was in the NBSAP of Russia. It is important to note that the words "hunting" and "poaching" are used in the general sense and not restricted to waterbirds. These key words did not occur in the NBSAPs for China or Singapore.
- The key word "migratory" appeared in all NBSAPS except that of Russia, but it was well represented in the National Report from Russia.
- The word "shorebird" was not used in any of the reports. The word "waterbird" occurred once in the NBSAP for India and eight times in the NBSAP of Japan.
- The Birdlife International "Important Bird Area" (IBA) featured prominently in the National Report from India.

The latest NBSAPs for Arctic Council States and Observer States were produced from 2009 to 2014. Updated NBSAPs tended to be much more comprehensive and incorporated greater reference to the Aichi Targets (Figure 4).

In October 2020, the CBD will meet for CoP15 in Beijing to review the achievements of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 based on the Aichi Targets. Identifying how AMBI objectives and actions link to the Aichi Targets will assist countries in their planning and reporting for the CBD CoP15. There should be clear effort from the AMBI program to communicate how AMBI actions and objectives can help fulfil CBD requirements.

3.2.3 Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

CMS is the framework for the development of formal legal agreements for the conservation of migratory birds. Only four Arctic Council States (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark) are signatories to CMS. India, an Arctic Council Observer State, is the only country, included in the Arctic Council structure, that is a party to CMS.

Within the EAAF there are six Parties to the CMS Convention: Mongolia, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Bangladesh and India. The limited number of Parties, especially in Northeast and Southeast Asia, continues to constrain the potential for the development of a CMS Agreement for migratory birds in the EAAF.

In the Central Asian Flyway, Bangladesh and Mongolia are also CMS members. India is actively planning to advance a migratory bird conservation initiative for the Central Asia Flyway under CMS. Support from the AMBI program could assist India in this vision.

AMBI objectives align with 14 of the 16 Targets of the CMS Strategic Plan (Figure 5). AMBI aligns most strongly with CMS Strategic Plan Targets 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 and 16, with three or more AMBI objectives addressing these targets. (Full alignment details are provided in Annex 3).

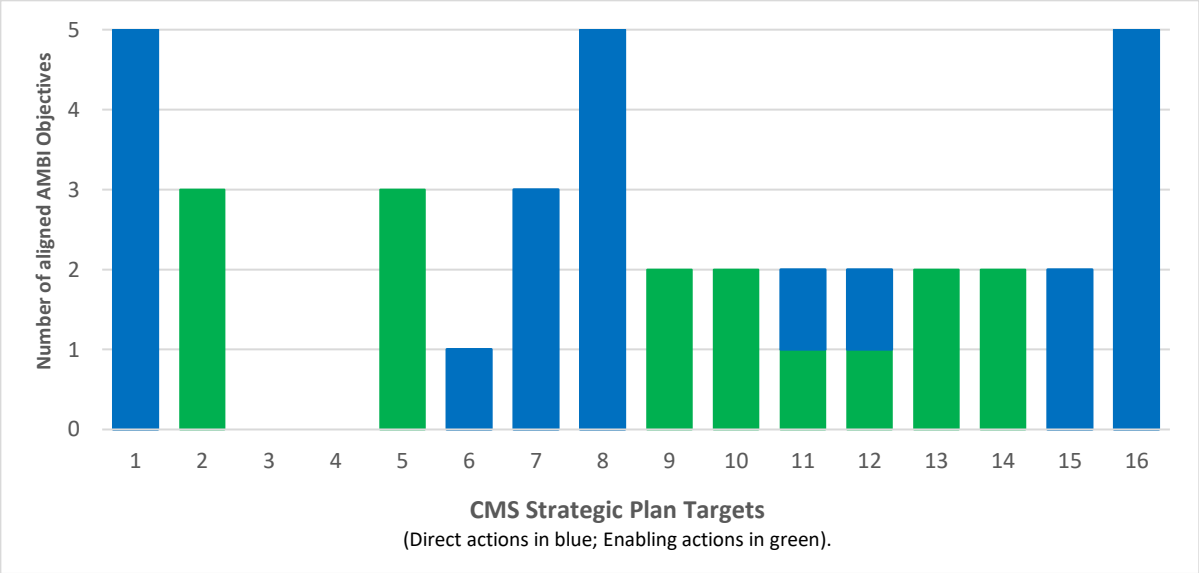
The CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 has the following Vision, Goal and Objectives:

Vision: A world which understands, respects and sustains the phenomenon of animal migration as a unique part of our shared natural heritage.

Goal: To ensure the favourable conservation status of migratory species, thereby contributing to global sustainability.

Objectives:
1: To ensure that the conservation and management of migratory species are based on the best available information.
2: To ensure that migratory species benefit from the best possible conservation measures.
3: To broaden awareness and enhance engagement in the conservation of migratory species amongst key actors.
4: To reinforce CMS's overarching and unifying role in the conservation and management of migratory species.

Figure 5. Alignment of AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 Objectives with CMS Strategic Plan 2015- 2024 Targets



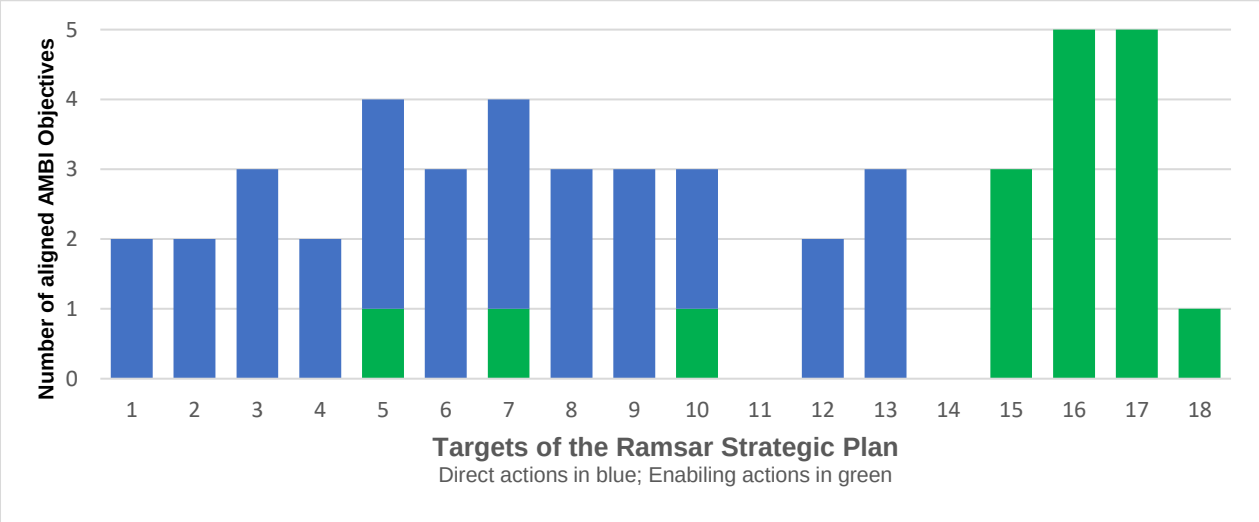
3.2.4 Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)

All, but three of the geographically smaller States in the EAAF (Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Timor-Leste) are Parties to the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention listing of habitats of international importance for migratory waterbirds is valuable in providing greater recognition and enhanced management of these sites. The Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention provides Parties with a framework for planning conservation action for the habitats that are used by migratory waterbirds. The current Ramsar Strategic Plan covers the period 2016-2024.

The current Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016) has the following goals:

1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation,
2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network,
3. Wisely using all wetlands, and,
4. Enhancing Implementation.

Figure 6. Alignment of the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2024 Objectives with the Targets of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024



The AMBI EAAF Workplan objectives align with 16 of the targets (88%) of the Ramsar Strategic Plan (Figure 6). Four AMBI objectives will contribute to Targets 5 and 7, and three Objectives will contribute to Targets 3, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 13. (Full alignment details are provided in Annex 4). AMBI does not align with Ramsar Targets 11 and 14.

Each of the AMBI EAAF Workplan Objectives are "enabling" the achievement of:

- Ramsar Target 16: *Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.*
- Ramsar Target 17: *International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.*

Ramsar CoP14 is planned for late 2020.

3.2.5 World Heritage Convention (WHC)

All 23 EAAF countries are Parties to the World Heritage Convention.

In 2012 the World Conservation Congress (WCC), adopted Resolution 5.028 on the Conservation of the EAAF and its threatened waterbirds, with reference to the Yellow Sea. This was followed by the adoption at the 2016 WCC of Resolution 6.026 on the Conservation of intertidal habitats and migratory waterbirds of the EAAF, especially the Yellow Sea, in a global context.

Resolution 6.026 specifically recognises the "Arctic Council's AMBI" workplan as including "intertidal habitat protection in the Yellow Sea". This emphasis has continued in the updated AMBI EAAF Workplan (Action 2.11).

Since 2016, China and the Republic of Korea have been working on a proposed "transboundary serial nomination" involving several sites of outstanding universal natural value in the Yellow and Bohai Seas. Both China and the Republic of Korea have recently expanded their tentative lists (properties which States consider to be cultural and/or natural heritage of outstanding universal value and therefore suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List) to include additional intertidal areas in this region.

There are just over 200 World Heritage listed properties in the EAAF, of which 30% are listed on the basis of natural values, 63% on cultural values and 6% on both natural and cultural values. Migratory waterbird values currently only feature in a small number of these sites (approximately 2%).

In 2018, China made the first of the proposed serial nominations of intertidal areas in the Yellow and Bohai Sea. This nomination, of the Yancheng coast in southern Jiangsu Province, is currently under review by the World Heritage Convention. The Republic of Korea also submitted a nomination of intertidal areas in 2018 but the documentation this was found to be incomplete and it must be resubmitted. If successful, the nomination of these Yellow and Bohai Sea sites could raise the representation of migratory waterbirds in World Heritage listed properties in the EAAF by 10%**.** The role of the regional IUCN Office, located in Bangkok, in supporting the national government bodies has been instrumental in advancing this initiative.

3.2.6 Implications for the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023

CBD, Ramsar and CMS are important drivers of national policy development and environmental planning. While in some countries these agreements may be consolidated in the one government agency, this is not the case in several countries of the EAAF. It will be important for CAFF to liaise with its Senior Arctic Officials, National Focal Points and AMBI Focal Points to discuss approaches to promoting AMBI under national contexts and amongst the Focal Points for the four most relevant global multilateral environmental agreements.

The next CBD CoP is planned for Beijing, China in 2020 and there are opportunities for CAFF to encourage the profiling of AMBI in national reporting. This crosswalk analysis has shown that the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 has strong alignment with the strategic plans and reporting that occurs under the major MEAs:

CDB (Aichi Targets)	85%
CMS (Strategic Plan 2015-2024)	87%
Ramsar (Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024)	88%

Given the importance of CBD meeting in China, and the strong focus on "wetland" and "poaching/hunting" between AMBI partners, AMBI should consider hosting a side event addressing one, or both, of these topics and seek co-hosting possibilities with relevant countries:

- Potential wetland side meeting co-host partners: China, India, Japan, Ro Korea, Singapore.

- Potential hunting/poaching side meeting co-host partners: Russia, India, Japan, Ro Korea, plus China as CBD hosts.

Although a major issue of importance to AMBI, when hosting a side event, it should be considered that the topic of wetland importance and conservation would likely be addressed by several partners in complementary side events. Instead, at this strategically important meeting, AMBI could play an important role in raising the issue of curbing the use of equipment for illegally capturing birds (i.e., mist nets, fish nets; EAAF Work Plan Objective 3, Action 6). It may be strategically important to raise the issue at this CBD meeting to draw attention to the issue in the region, and garner support for the regulation of harmful and widespread technologies.

Although there is only one Party to CMS that is also included in the Arctic Council structure in the flyway (India), CMS is well positioned make a significant contribution in relation to the issue of illegal hunting of migratory waterbirds by facilitating the sharing of experiences from the African-Eurasian Flyway to address this issue. AMBI should continue to work with CMS and CMS Parties in AMBI (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and India) to seek support to address this issue along the EAAF and Central Asian Flyway.

Six of the seven Arctic Council States and Observer States are Parties to the Ramsar Convention. There are two specific areas of work in the AMBI Workplan 2019-2023 that link closely to the Ramsar Strategic Plan. These are:

(a) AMBI Objectives 1 and 2: “Identifying and securing habitat” for Arctic breeding migratory waterbirds. This work will identify sites meeting the Ramsar criteria and promote their protection.
(b) AMBI Objective 4: “updating population estimates”. This directly links to the updating of population estimates that inform the Ramsar waterbird numerical criteria for identifying internationally important sites under the Ramsar Convention.
(c) It would be beneficial for the AMBI work to be highlighted to the National Ramsar Focal Points. In addition, CAFF can be highlighting its Partner role in the EAAFP which is recognised as a Ramsar Regional Initiative.

The potential World Heritage listing of a series of sites in the Yellow Sea is a major new initiative championed by both China and the Republic of Korea. This is an outstanding proposal to maintain the values of the critically important areas of the EAAF. Several priority areas identified in the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 (Objective 2) could be part of these nominations.

3.3 Regional Multilateral Environmental Frameworks

The AMBI EAAF region covers four regions: Northeast Asia (including eastern Russia), Southeast Asia, South Asia and Australia/New Zealand.

3.3.1 Northeast Asia

Northeast Asia has limited formal regional multilateral collaboration frameworks for the environment.

The “UN Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific” has fostered the expansion and strengthening of regional multinational environmental cooperation mechanisms to support sustainable development. Currently there are four key regional mechanisms and three of these have strong UN involvement. These are:

- Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting among Korea, China and Japan (TEMM),
- Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation (NEAC),
- Northeast Asia Sub-regional Programme for Environment Cooperation (NEASPEC), and the
- Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP).

Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM)
The TEMM among Korea, China and Japan provides a valuable high-level forum for the Environment Ministers of these countries to discuss critical regional environmental issues and identify cooperative actions.

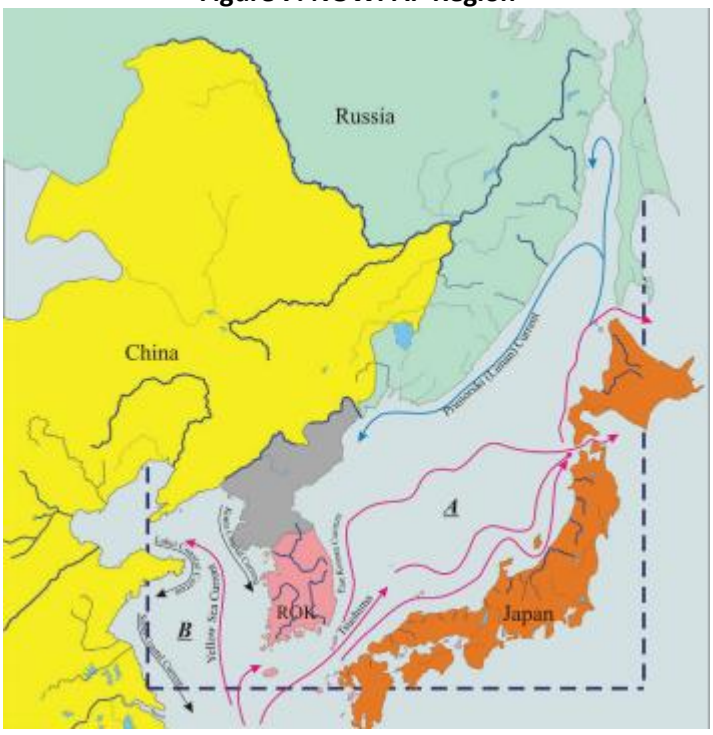
Northeast Asia Sub-regional Programme for Environment Cooperation (NEASPEC)
The NEASPEC was launched in 1993 as a "comprehensive intergovernmental cooperation mechanism to address environmental challenges in this subregion". Today, it remains the only comprehensive intergovernmental mechanism for environmental consultation in the region. It involves the six UN member states (Republic of Korea, China, Japan, Russia, Mongolia, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea). NEASCAP convenes Senior Officials Meetings at least annually to review and discuss its five program areas: Transboundary Air Pollution, Nature Conservation, Marine Protected Areas, Low Carbon Cities and, Desertification and Land Degradation.

In 2007, a nature conservation strategy was endorsed by the member countries (NEASPEC 2007). The transboundary project on "flagship species" included three migratory waterbirds; Black-faced Spoonbill, White-naped Crane and Hooded Crane (NESCAP 2007).

Northeast Asian Conference on Environmental Cooperation (NEAC)
The NEAC involves experts from central government environmental organizations, local authorities, research institutes, from China, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and Russia, along with experts from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and UN Economic and Social Committee for the Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) participating as observers.

Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)
The NOWPAP is part of the United Nations Environment Regional Seas Programme. This updated Action Plan covers the period 2018 – 2023, providing the framework for cooperative actions in marine and coastal areas involving China, the Republic of Korea, Japan and Russia (Figure 7).

Figure 7. NOWPAP Region



Under NOWPAP, a State of the Marine Environment Report for the region (2014) identified habitat degradation, pollution, invasive alien species, overfishing and climate change impacts as the main threats to the marine and coastal environment and biodiversity in the region. These findings have been used in the update of the NOWPAP Strategic Plan 2019-2028. The strategic focus and priority areas detailed in the NOWPAP are:

- Support integrated coastal and river basin management,
- Assess status of the marine and coastal environment,
- Prevent and reduce land- and sea-based pollution, and
- Conserve marine and coastal biodiversity.

The Plan calls for an ecosystem-based integrated coastal and river basin management approach for the sustainable use of NOWPAP marine and coastal resources and services. Progress will be assessed using the Ecological Quality Objectives agreed on by Member States:

- No significant effect on biological and habitat diversity from anthropogenic pressure,
- Alien species do not adversely alter ecosystems,
- No adverse effects of eutrophication,
- Contaminants do not harm coastal and marine ecosystems and human health, and
- Marine litter does not damage coastal and marine environments.

The NOWPAP Medium Term Strategy 2019-2028 identifies several areas of work that are aligned with the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023. These include:

- *Target 15.3 Urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.* This is the focus of several actions at internationally important sites for priority species in the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023.
- *Target 15.8: By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.* In the case of AMBI the concern is the spread of *Spartina* (an invasive alien species) on the tidal flats of the Yellow Sea and more broadly in north Asia.
- *Target 17.16: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the NOWPAP sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.* The Draft NOWPAP identified CAFF (and EAAFP) as potential Partners for implementation of elements of the NOWPAP.

3.3.2 Southeast Asia

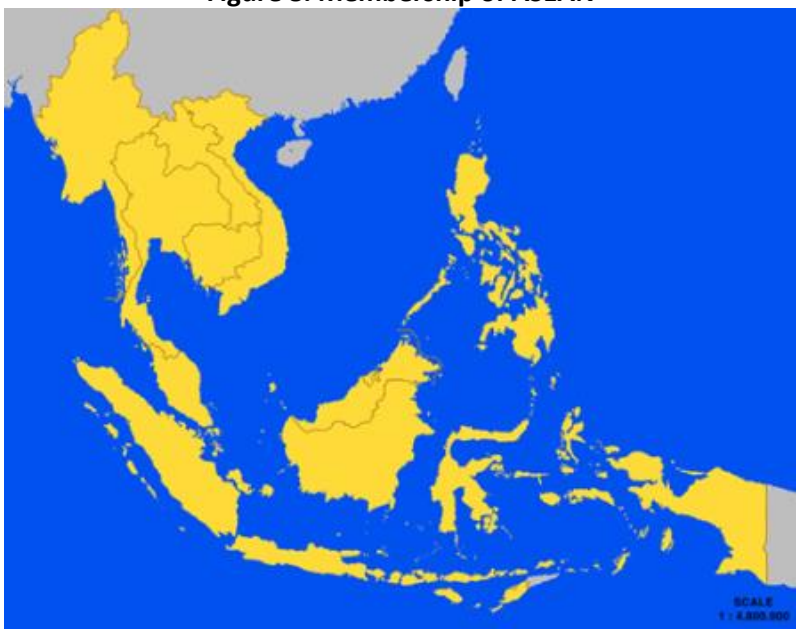
In Southeast Asia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), established in 1967, provides a high-level mechanism for regional cooperation and collaboration. ASEAN includes; Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam (Figure 8).

ASEAN divides the sectoral ministerial bodies into three groups. Environment is covered in the Socio-cultural Group with meetings of an ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME) and an ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN).

ASEAN mechanisms for cooperation on the environment consists of the AMME, ASOEN, and seven subsidiary bodies/working groups: Climate Change, Chemicals and Waste, Coastal and Marine Environment, Environmental Education, Environmentally Sustainable Cities, Nature Conservation and Biodiversity and Water Resources Management (Annex 5).

ASEAN works closely with a range of dialogue and development partners in promoting environmental protection and sustainable development. These partners include; China, Japan, Republic of Korea, EU, Germany, India, USA, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Hanns Seidel Foundation, and the Global Environment Centre.

Figure 8. Membership of ASEAN



In 2005, ASEAN established the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in the Philippines. ACB facilitates cooperation and coordination among ASEAN Member States and with relevant national government, regional and international organisations, on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

The ASEAN Working Group on Natural Resources and Biodiversity (AWGNCB) has identified the following set of Strategic Measures:

a) Strengthen regional cooperation to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems resources, combat desertification, halt biodiversity loss, and halt and reverse land degradation.
b) Promote cooperation for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of the coastal and marine environment, respond and deal with the risk of pollution and threats to marine ecosystem and coastal environment, in particular, in respect of ecologically sensitive areas.
c) Adopt good management practices and strengthen policies to address the impact of development projects on coastal and international waters and transboundary environmental issues, including pollution, illegal movement and disposal of hazardous substances and waste, and in doing so, utilise existing regional and international institutions and agreements.
d) Enhance policy and capacity development and best practices to conserve, develop and sustainably manage marine, wetlands, peatlands, biodiversity, and land and water resources.
e) Promote capacity building in a continuous effort to have sustainable management of ecosystems and natural resources.
f) Promote cooperation on environmental management towards sustainable use of ecosystems and natural resources through environmental education, community engagement and public outreach.
g) Strengthen global and regional partnerships and support the implementation of relevant international agreements and frameworks.
h) Promote the role of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity as the centre of excellence in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
i) Support the full implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets.

In 2018, AWGNCB endorsed a three-year project to "Improve Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Resilience in the EAAF through better informed Wetland Site Management". The project aims to:

1) Establish a functional and responsive Southeast Asia Partnership Network to champion the conservation of wetlands, in particular coastal and marine, along the EAAF, to increase their resilience to climate change and improve conservation of migratory waterbirds,
2) Develop a strategic plan that embodies climate resilience, knowledge management strategies, and capacity development mechanisms for the conservation of wetland ecosystems that serve as staging areas of important bird species across EAAF,
3) Improve the management capacities of site managers and local stakeholders in managing wetland habitats,
4) Implement a comprehensive knowledge and awareness campaign to support the conservation of wetlands areas, particularly coastal/marine zones, being important staging sites of migratory shorebirds, and
5) Spur and support the development of local conservation actions directed towards: (a) improving the resilience to climate change of coastal wetlands which particularly serve as staging areas of migratory shorebirds and as important livelihood source of coastal communities, in general; and (b) the conservation of migratory shorebirds.

The project has been made possible with funding for the Government of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund. The Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund was established in March 2006 and by May 2018 total contributions to all projects have amounted to more than USD 660 million.

3.3.3 South Asia

Two of the AMBI EAAF countries in the south west of the Flyway, Bangladesh and India, are members of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). This was formed by governments in the region in 1980 to "promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia, strengthen collective self-reliance, promote active collaboration and mutual assistance in various fields, and cooperate with international and regional organizations". Current member States are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. States with observer status include; United States, Japan, Republic of Korea, China and the European Union.

While the "SAARC Environment Action Plan" was adopted in 1977 and a "Convention on Cooperation on Environment" was developed in 2013, coordinated activities for the environment with relevance to AMBI priority species appear to be limited.

3.3.4 Implications for AMBI EAAF

North Asia

NEASPEC is the key regional facilitator for cooperation on environmental issues and has activities that are directly relevant to the implementation of the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023. Russia, China, Republic of Korea and Japan are directly involved in these activities. There is the opportunity for CAFF to follow-up with these countries, and NEASPEC, to discuss potential engagement in NOWPAP (on coastal areas) and trans-national conservation efforts for Arctic breeding migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

Southeast Asia

Singapore National Parks has lead responsibility for implementation of the ASEAN Flyway Project. It will be implemented in two phases. This project is a strategic opportunity for AMBI to foster strengthening the outcomes

for Arctic breeding migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the ASEAN region. Several of the AMBI priority populations (such as the Spoon-billed Sandpiper) are dependent on coastal habitats in Southeast Asia for staging and for "overwinter" migratory waterbirds.

Capacity building for site managers and improving the knowledge base on important sites for migratory waterbirds are key components for the project.

The commencement of the ASEAN Flyway Network project provides the opportunity for AMBI to engage with the three-year project in Southeast Asia.

In addition, given the success of bi-lateral scientific exchanges between Russia and Singapore since AMBI's inception, it is important to continue to focus on this strategic partnership. Continued scientific exchange and joint projects should be encouraged, and the development of an intervention toolbox could be a focus on this partnership. Such a toolbox should consider a range of appropriate interventions to secure resilience of Arctic-breeding migratory birds, including commencing with a satellite tracking program to;

1) improve knowledge of key Arctic shorebird species in the flyway;
2) evaluate threats to those species, including hunting and pollution, and,
3) develop adaptive conservation planning in key areas.

This work, conducted with Singapore, will build strategic partnership between AMBI and Southeast Asia, with the potential to expand partnerships and activities in years to come.

South Asia

In the South Asia region of the EAAF, there is not a strong regional coordination mechanism for the environment. The recommended approach is for CAFF to work directly with India.

India has firm aspirations for the development of a conservation initiative for the Central Asian Flyway for which AMBI may be able to support. CMS is currently working with India on the proposal.

The occurrence of several AMBI EAAF priority species along the coast of India provide a sound basis for implementation of the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 in India.

3.4 Migratory Bird Bilateral Agreements

3.4.1 Overview of Migratory Bird Agreements

During 1970s to 2007, 14 bilateral migratory bird agreements were developed (Table 2) between eight countries in the EAAF (USA, Russia, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, China, Australia and India). All these countries, except Australia, are either Members or Observers to the Arctic Council. Two of these countries are Arctic Council members (USA and Russia) and four are Arctic Council Observer countries.

Japan, the Republic of Korea, China and Australia meet concurrently every two years with the hosting of the meeting rotating between these countries. These agreements are used primarily for reporting and administrative purposes but can also include planning for joint activities.

The Migratory Bird Bilateral Agreement between Australia and Japan was particularly important in developing flyway approaches to the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the EAAF. Based on discussion at a Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement meeting, Japan hosted the first EAAF Conference in 1994 in Kushiro, Japan. From this meeting of Government, non-government organisations and experts, came the development of the Asia-Pacific

Waterbird Conservation Strategy and the networks of internationally important sites for Cranes, Anatidae and Shorebirds (Wells and Mundkur 1996; Weaver 1997). After 10 years, this framework evolved into the EAAFP.

Table 2. Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements in the EAAF (showing year of signing)

Country	**Russia**				
USA	Yes - 1978	**USA**			
China	Yes - 2013	Yes - 1979	**China**		
India	Yes - 1982				
Japan	Yes - 1981	Yes - 1974	Yes - 1981	**Japan**	
Korea Ro	Yes - 1994		Yes - 2007	Yes - 1993*	**Korea Ro**
Australia			Yes - 1988	Yes - 1974	Yes - 2007

* This refers to the Japan-Korea Environmental Conservation Cooperation Agreement.

3.4.2 Implications for AMBI EAAF

A major limitation with bilateral agreements for migratory birds is that, in recent years, meetings have focused on reporting and administrative issues. While limited programs of work are now being developed in these meetings, there continues to be the opportunity for Arctic Council States and Observer States (USA, Russia, China, the Republic of Korea and Japan) to use these existing mechanisms to strengthen reporting on AMBI EAAF implementation and to promote increased coordination and collaboration with partner States.

Given the engagement of five of the seven countries with bilateral Agreements in the AMBI program, it would be advantageous for CAFF to:

- Encourage the AMBI Focal Points in these countries to profile AMBI implementation actions in reports to bilateral migratory bird meetings and in the agenda for one-to-one bilateral discussions with other Arctic Council States and Observer States.
- Encourage the AMBI Focal Point in these countries, to promote specific cooperative actions identified in the AMBI EAAFP Workplan 2019-2023 that governments could undertake and potentially coordinate with partner governments.

3.5 Other International Migratory Bird Initiatives

3.5.1 East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership

The EAAF Partnership is a non-legal collaborative mechanism for the conservation of migratory waterbird of the EAAF. Membership is open to Governments, Intergovernmental Organisations, International Non-government Organisations and the international business sector. The EAAFP evolved from the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee of Wetlands International.

In January 2019 the EAAFP had a membership of 18 National Governments, 1 Metropolitan Government (the host of the EAAFP Secretariat), 6 IGOs (including CAFF, CBD, Ramsar, CMS and the ASEAN ACB), 11 INGOs and 1 Corporate.

The EAAF Partnership is recognised as a regional initiative of the Ramsar Convention. This strengthens its link to the Ramsar National Administrative Authority in each Ramsar Party Government in the EAAF.

The work of the Partnership is guided by a Strategic Plan and an updated 10-year Strategic Plan was adopted at the December 2018 Meeting of Partners (Table 3 and Figure 9).

CAFF is an intergovernmental organisation partner in the EAAFP. As part of joining the Partnership in 2013, CAFF and the EAAFP Secretariat signed a Resolution of Cooperation. This document is focused on cooperation, and actions to contribute to the building and sharing knowledge, creating awareness and enhancing capacity for conservation of migratory bird species along the EAAF.

CAFF is a member of the EAAFP as an intergovernmental organization. The Partnership Document states that the Goal of the Partnership is "*Migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway are recognised and conserved for the benefit of people and biodiversity*". The listed Objectives are;

1. Develop the Flyway Network of sites of international importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, building on the achievements of the APMWCS networks.
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.

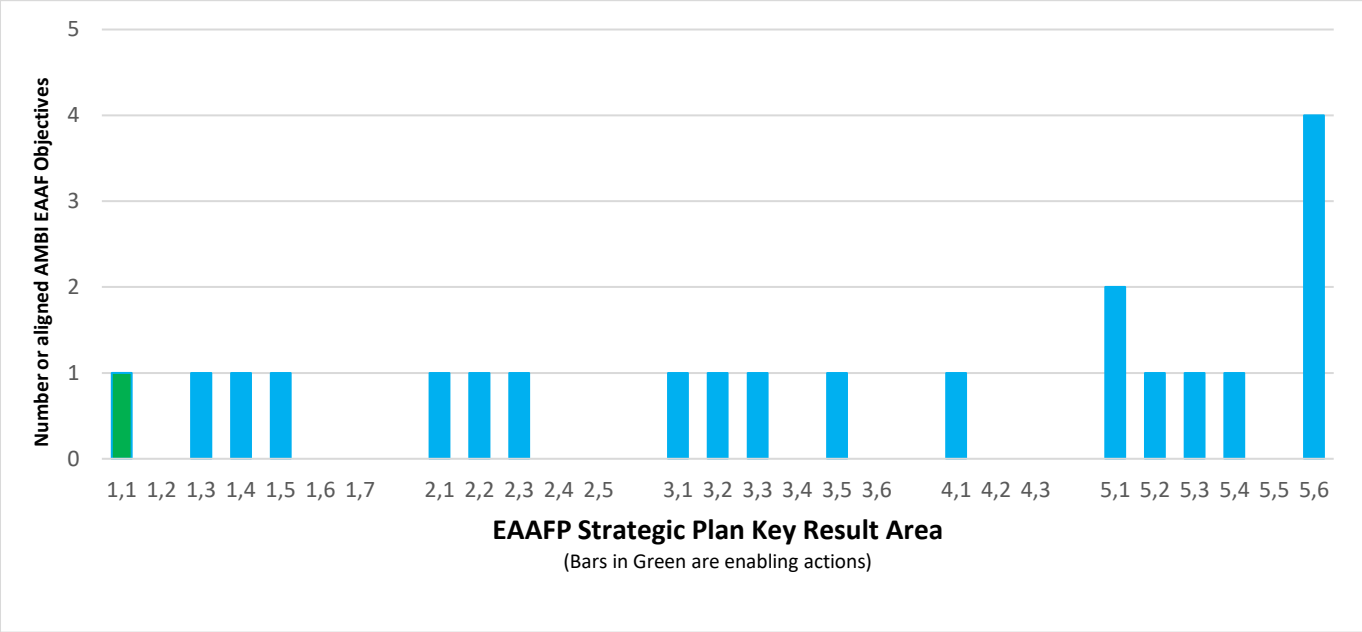
Table 3. Alignment of AMBI EAAFP Workplan 2019-2023 Objectives with the Objectives of the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028

EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028 - Objectives	Alignment of AMBI EAAF Objectives to EAAFP Key Result Areas
1. Develop the Flyway Network of sites of international importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, building on the achievements of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy, with the ultimate goal of establishing a sufficient and efficient network of sites with sustainable management.	4 of 7 Key Result Areas
2. Enhance communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.	3 of 5 Key Result Areas
3. Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, build knowledge and promote exchange of information on waterbirds and their habitats.	4 of 6 Key Result Areas
4. Build the habitat and waterbird management capacity of natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders.	1 of 3 Key Result Areas
5. Develop, especially for priority species and habitats, flyway wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds.	5 of 6 Key Result Areas
Overall alignment of Draft AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 with the EAAFP Strategic Plan KRAs	**17 of 27 Key Result Areas**

The AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 has a 63% alignment with the Key Result Areas identified in the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028 (summarised in Figure 9, with full details in Annex 6). This lower alignment than that in the MEA Strategic Plans is because of the greater specificity of the Key Result Areas in the EAAFP Strategic Plan.

The EAAFP has several Taskforces relevant to the implementation of the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 and which can provide valuable technical advice to the implementation of the AMBI Workplan 2019-2023. The most relevant of these is the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Taskforce chaired by Russia. Additional EAAFP mechanisms with a complementary agenda to components in the AMBI EAAFP Workplan 2019-23 include the Yellow Sea Taskforce (chaired by New Zealand), Monitoring Taskforce (chaired by Wetlands International), Shorebird Working Group (chaired by the US), Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds (chaired by Cambodia) and the Anatidae Working Group (chaired by Japan).

Figure 9. Alignment of AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 Objectives with the Objectives of the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028



3.5.2 Implications for the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023

CAFF, and each of the Arctic Council States and Observer States in the AMBI EAAF (except for India) are Partners in the EAAFP. The AMBI EAAF Workplan is a more constrained initiative in its number of partners. Since 63% of the actions in AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 align with the EAAFP Strategic Plan, AMBI is in a strong position to successfully work with the EAAFP. Membership in the EAAFP provides CAFF with a means of networking with 12 additional countries that are important for the staging and wintering of Arctic breeding migratory waterbirds.

While it is valuable for CAFF to continue to reinforce the complementary nature of AMBI with the EAAFP, it is differentiated in two important ways:

- AMBI is focused primarily on the seven Arctic Council States and Observer States in the EAAF.
- As an Arctic Council initiative, AMBI has engagement with Foreign Affairs and Environmental ministries in each of the seven countries. This positions AMBI with a higher level of formal government engagement then the EAAFP.
- In the AMBI Workplan 2019-2023, Arctic Council States and Observer States have “self-identified” the actions for implementation. This self-identified responsibility for implementation differs from the EAAFP. It currently has an updated Strategy but lacks an implementation plan that identifies the contribution that each Partner anticipates being able to make to the Key Result Areas.

It continues to be valuable for CAFF to work with Taskforces and Working Groups of the EAAFP. These can provide valuable technical advice and contribute to the implementation of the AMBI Workplan 2019-2023.

4.0 Conclusions

Multilateral Agreements

1. The AMBI Workplan 2019-2023 has over 80% alignment with planning documents for the three most relevant multilateral Agreements (CBD, Ramsar and CMS).
2. In association with the anticipated 2020 CoPs of CBD (China), CMS (India) and Ramsar (TBD), AMBI should profile its work across national reports and side events associated with these events.
3. It is important for AMBI to liaise with its Focal Points and for CAFF to liaise within the Arctic Council structure to promote AMBI within internal systems, including those who are focal points for the CBD, Ramsar, CMS and WHC.
4. AMBI should work with MEAs, Arctic States and Observer States to identify appropriate interventions to ensure resilience of Arctic waterbirds along the East Asian - Australasian Flyway, and work to combine these in an "intervention toolbox".

CBD Convention

5. CAFF needs to work with its national technical AMBI focal points to promote recognition of shared biodiversity in national biodiversity planning and reporting, especially in relation to the contribution to the Aichi Targets, and strategically consider its presence at CBD 2020 in a side event to address curbing technologies use for illegal killing.

CMS Convention

6. AMBI should actively support the strengthening of the Central Asian Flyway Secretariat established by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India.
7. AMBI should cooperate with India and CMS to ensure AMBI priorities are considered and included in the development of a Central Asian Flyway initiative.
8. AMBI should work with the CMS Secretariat to facilitate the sharing of experience from the Africa - Europe Flyway in addressing illegal hunting of migratory waterbirds

Ramsar Convention

9. The actions taken in the AMBI Workplan contribute to, and complement, those identified in the EAAFP Strategic Plan. As the EAAFP is recognised as a Ramsar Regional Initiative, AMBI should work with its national Government Contact Points to have these included in the Ramsar national reports. This includes the contribution to updating waterbird population estimates that inform the species numerical criteria for the identification of internationally important sites for waterbirds.

World Heritage Convention

10. AMBI should support both China and the Republic of Korea in the World Heritage listing of a series of sites in the Yellow Sea.

Regional Mechanisms for the Environment

Southeast Asia

11. AMBI should engage with Singapore and the ASEAN ACB on their three-year flyway project in Southeast Asia. Capacity building and improving the knowledge base on important sites are key components for the project.
12. AMBI should continue to encourage Russian and Singaporean partnership, including the development of a flyway intervention toolbox to improve knowledge of AMBI species, evaluate threats and develop adaptive conservation planning in the flyway.

South Asia

13. CAFF should work directly with India to promote its work in South Asia, and in developing a Central Asian framework for migratory waterbird conservation.

Bilateral Migratory Bird Agreements

14. Given the engagement of five of the seven Arctic Council Member and Observer States in Bilateral Agreements covering migratory waterbirds, it would be advantageous for AMBI to encourage the use of these mechanisms to more strongly promote AMBI actions and implementation.

Other International Initiatives

EAAFP

15. CAFF should continue to act on its Resolution of Cooperation with the EAAFP, including attending MoPs and working with the EAAFP Secretariat.
16. CAFF should prioritize cooperation with the following EAAFP Task Forces: Spoon-billed Sandpiper Taskforce, the Taskforce on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds, and the Monitoring Taskforce.

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Annex 1. Alignment of the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 Objectives with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020

Note: AMBI EAAF Objectives are considered to align with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets if they directly address the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, or if they are "enabling" actions that assist with realising the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Such "enabling" AMBI EAAF Objectives are notes with an "e".

Aichi Target	Text of the Aichi Target	AMBI EAAF Objective*
Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society		
1	People are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	**1e, 2e, 3, 4**
2	Biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	**1e, 2e**
3	Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.	**1e**
4	Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	**2**
Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use		
5	The rate of loss of all-natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.	**1e, 2e**
6	All fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.	**1, 2, 5**
7	Areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.	**1, 2, 5**
8	Pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.	**5e**
9	Invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	**2, 5**
10	The multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.	**2**
Strategic Goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity		
11	A least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and	**1, 2, 4e**

	ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.	
12	The extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	**1, 2, 3, 4, 5**
13	The genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.	**NA**
Strategic Goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.		
11	A least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.	**1, 2, 4e**
12	The extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	**1,2,3, 4, 5**
13	The genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.	**NA**
Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.		
14	Ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and wellbeing, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	**2, 5**
15	Ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	***2***
16	The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.	**NA**
Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.		
17	Each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.	**NA**
18	The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in	**1, 2, 3**

	the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	
19	Knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	**4**
20	The mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 from all sources and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resources needs assessments	**AMBI**
Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.		
17	Each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.	**NA**
18	The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	**1, 2, 3**
19	Knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	**4**
20	The mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 from all sources and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resources needs assessments	**AMBI**

Annex 2: NBSAPs and Biodiversity National Reports – Key Word Count

Country	Russia	China	India	Japan	Korea Ro	Singapore
NBSAP date	2014	2011	2014	2012	2013	2009
Words	87566	13600	22600	146556	16846	6044
Word Ratio	14	2	4	24	3	1
Key Words						
Wetland	17	48	36	102	8	7
Migratory	0	2	1	41	5	1
Flyway	0	0	0	9	0	0
Waterbird	0	0	1	8	0	0
Hunt/Poach	90	0	2	31	9	0
IBA	1	0	2	1	0	0
Ramsar	6	0	1	45	7	0
Aichi	18	0	32	92	4	0
Totals	132	50	75	329	33	8
Standardised Key Word Numbers						
Wetland	1.2	21.3	9.6	4.2	2.9	7.0
Migratory	0.0	0.9	0.3	1.7	1.8	1.0
Flyway	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Waterbird	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Hunt/Poach	6.2	0.0	0.5	1.3	3.2	0.0
IBA	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ramsar	0.4	0.0	0.3	1.9	2.5	0.0
Aichi	1.2	0.0	8.6	3.8	1.4	0.0
Totals	9.1	22.2	20.1	13.6	11.8	8.0

Annex 3. Alignment of the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 Objectives with the CMS Strategic Plan 2015 – 2023

Note: AMBI EAAF Objectives are considered to align with the CMS Strategic Plan Goals and Targets if they directly address the achievement of the CMS Target. The table also recognises AMBI EAAF Objectives that "enable" the achievement of a CMS Target and these are noted with an "e".

CMS Strategic Plan Goals and Targets		AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 Objectives
Goal 1: Address the underlying causes of decline of migratory species by mainstreaming relevant conservation and sustainable use priorities across government and society		
1	People are aware of the multiple values of migratory species and their habitats and migration systems, and the steps they can take to conserve them and ensure the sustainability of any use.	1e,2,3,5
2	Multiple values of migratory species and their habitats have been integrated into international, national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes, including on livelihoods, and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	2e,3e,5e
3	National, regional and international governance arrangements and agreements affecting migratory species and their migration systems have improved significantly, making relevant policy, legislative and implementation processes more coherent, accountable, transparent, participatory, equitable and inclusive.	-
4	Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to migratory species, and/or their habitats are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation of migratory species and their habitats are developed and applied, consistent with engagements under the CMS and other relevant international and regional obligations and commitments.	-
Goal 2: Reduce the direct pressures on migratory species and their habitats		
5	Governments, key sectors and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption, keeping the impacts of use of natural resources, including habitats, on migratory species well within safe ecological limits to promote the favourable conservation status of migratory species and maintain the quality, integrity, resilience, and ecological connectivity of their habitats and migration routes.	2e,3e,5e
6	Fisheries and hunting have no significant direct or indirect adverse impacts on migratory species, their habitats or their migration routes, and impacts of fisheries and hunting are within safe ecological limits.	3
7	Multiple anthropogenic pressures have been reduced to levels that are not detrimental to the conservation of migratory species or to the functioning, integrity, ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats.	1,2,5
Goal 3: Improve the conservation status of migratory species and the ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats		
8	The conservation status of all migratory species, especially threatened species, has considerably improved throughout their range.	1,2,3,4,5

9	International and regional action and cooperation between States for the conservation and effective management of migratory species fully reflects a migration systems approach, in which all States sharing responsibility for the species concerned engage in such actions in a concerted way.	1e,2e
10	All critical habitats and sites for migratory species are identified and included in area-based conservation measures so as to maintain their quality, integrity, resilience and functioning in accordance with the implementation of Aichi Target 11, supported where necessary by environmentally sensitive land-use planning and landscape management on a wider scale.	1e,2e
Goal 4: Enhance the benefits to all from the favourable conservation status of migratory species		
11	Migratory species and their habitats which provide important ecosystem services are maintained at or restored to favourable conservation status, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities[7], and the poor and vulnerable.	2e,5
12	The genetic diversity of wild populations of migratory species is safeguarded, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion.	2e,5
Goal 5: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building		
13	Priorities for effective conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems have been included in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, with reference where relevant to CMS agreements and action plans and their implementation bodies.	1e,2e
14	The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, and their customary sustainable use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, thereby contributing to the favourable conservation status of migratory species and the ecological connectivity and resilience of their habitats.	1e,2e
15	The science base, information, training, awareness, understanding and technologies relating to migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, their value, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of their loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and effectively applied.	4,5
16	The mobilization of adequate resources from all sources to implement the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species effectively has increased substantially.	1,2,3,4,5

Annex 4: Synergies between the Goals and Targets of the Ramsar Strategic Plan and the Objectives of the AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 (indexed to the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets)

Ramsar Goals and Targets	AMBI EAAF Objective
Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation.	1. Identify and secure important breeding and staging habitats of key AMBI-EAAF migratory bird species in Arctic Russia and Alaska, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Dunlin Emperor Goose and Brant Goose.
	2. Secure intertidal and associated habitat for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF.
Target 4: Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.	2. Secure intertidal and associated habitat for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF.
Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network.	2. Secure intertidal and associated habitat for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF.
Target 5: The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.	2. Secure intertidal and associated habitat for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF.
Target 6: There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network in particular under represented types of wetlands including in underrepresented ecoregions and transboundary sites.	1. Identify and secure important breeding and staging habitats of key AMBI-EAAF migratory bird species in Arctic Russia and Alaska, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Dunlin Emperor Goose and Brant Goose.
	2. Secure intertidal and associated habitat for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF.
Target 7: Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.	1. Identify and secure important breeding and staging habitats of key AMBI-EAAF migratory bird species in Arctic Russia and Alaska, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Dunlin Emperor Goose and Brant Goose.
	2. Secure intertidal and associated habitat for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF.
Target 8: National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the	1. Work with partners to increase the number and quality of population estimates of Arctic breeding waterbirds in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway.

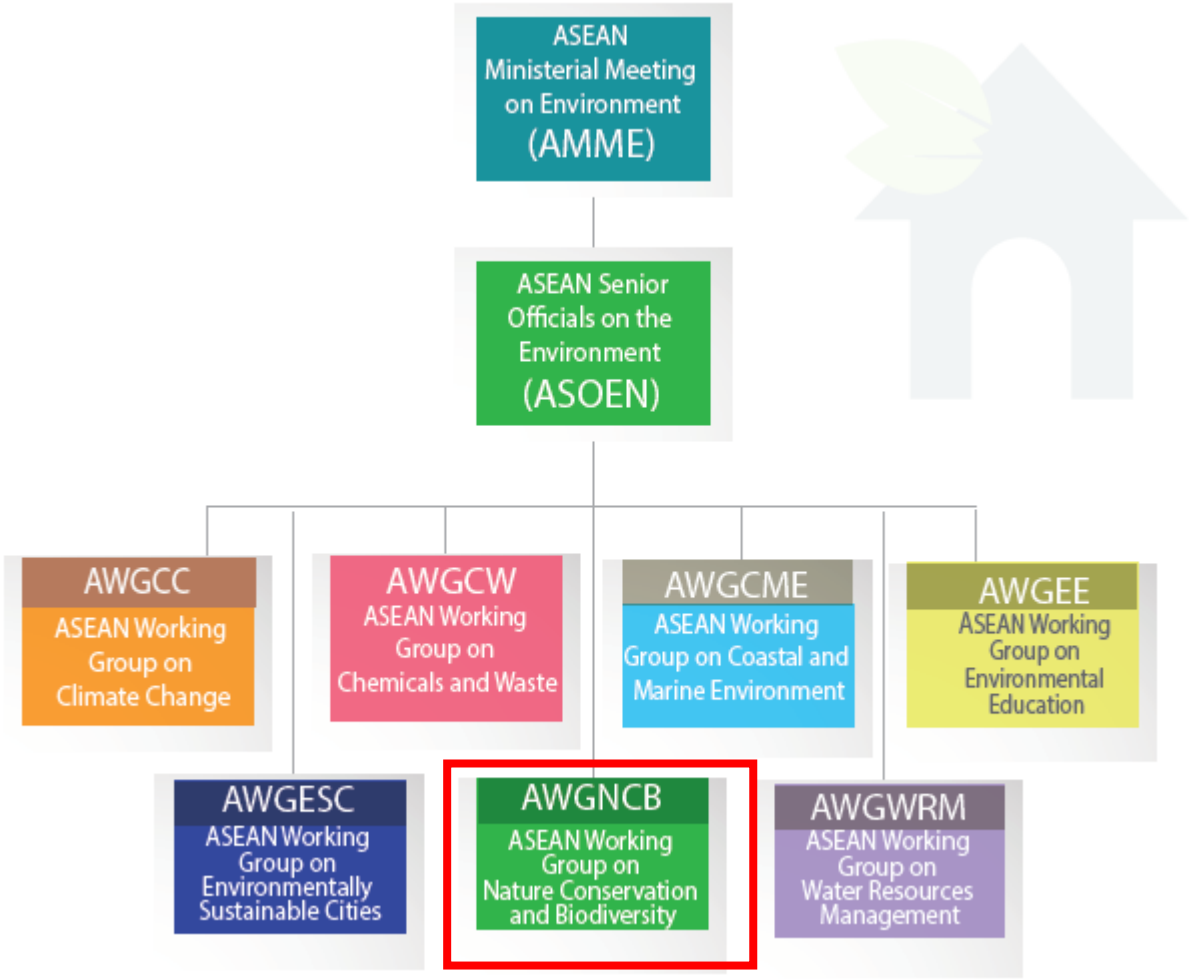
conservation and effective management of all wetlands.	2. Secure intertidal and associated habitat for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF.
	3. Prevent illegal harvest and regulate unsustainable legal harvest of Arctic migratory birds, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Bar-tailed Godwit, and other priority species.
Target 9: The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.	1. Secure intertidal and associated habitat for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF.
Target 10: The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.	1. Secure intertidal and associated habitat for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF.
Target 12: Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.	1. Secure intertidal and associated habitat for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF.
Enabling Actions	
Target 15: Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.	1. Identify and secure important breeding and staging habitats of key AMBI-EAAF migratory bird species in Arctic Russia and Alaska, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Dunlin Emperor Goose and Brant Goose.
	2. Secure intertidal and associated habitat for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF.
	3. Prevent illegal harvest and regulate unsustainable legal harvest of Arctic migratory birds, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Bar-tailed Godwit, and other priority species.
	4. Work with partners to increase the number and quality of population estimates of Arctic breeding waterbirds in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway.
Target 18: International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.	1. Identify and secure important breeding and staging habitats of key AMBI-EAAF migratory bird species in Arctic Russia and Alaska, with a focus on

	Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Dunlin Emperor Goose and Brant Goose.
	2. Secure intertidal and associated habitat for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF.
	3. Prevent illegal harvest and regulate unsustainable legal harvest of Arctic migratory birds, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Bar-tailed Godwit, and other priority species.
	4. Work with partners to increase the number and quality of population estimates of Arctic breeding waterbirds in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway.
Target 19: Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.	1. Secure intertidal and associated habitat for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF.

Annex 5. ASEAN Cooperation on the Environment

The institutional framework of the ASEAN cooperation on environment consists of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME), ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN), and seven subsidiary bodies/working groups.

AMME meets once every two years, while ASOEN and its subsidiary bodies meet once every year to oversee the implementation of ASEAN Strategic Plan on Environment and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025.



Annex 6. Alignment of AMBI EAAF Workplan 2019-2023 Objectives with the EAAFP Key Result Areas (KRA) in the EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019 – 2028

Objective 1. Develop the Flyway Network of sites of international importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, building on the achievements of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy, with the ultimate goal of establishing a sufficient and efficient network of sites with sustainable management.	**AMBI EAAF Objectives**
KRA 1.1 A comprehensive and coherent Flyway Network of Sites is developed and managed for migratory waterbirds, including sites that are not currently Protected Areas.	1
KRA 1.2 National and Site Partnerships have been developed to coordinate the implementation of the EAAFP at national and local levels.	-
KRA 1.3 Flyway Network Sites are valued by the community and sustainability managed.	2
KRA 1.4 Where appropriate, Flyway Network Sites are being sustainably used to support subsistence livelihoods of the local community.	2
KRA 1.5 Partners and local stakeholders are empowered to engage in responding to projects which may threaten Flyway Network sites.	2
KRA 1.6 The EAAFP Sister Site Programme has expanded.	-
KRA 1.7 The membership of the EAAFP has expanded to deliver stronger outcomes for migratory waterbirds and habitats.	-
Objective 2. Enhance communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.	
KRA 2.1 Public engagement at important sites for migratory waterbirds has increased.	2
KRA 2.2 The sharing of knowledge about the conservation and sustainable management of migratory waterbirds is enhanced.	2
KRA 2.3 Guardianship is recognised as a valuable mechanism to secure conservation and sustainable management of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.	2
KRA 2.4 Migratory waterbirds and conservation of their habitats is included in school curriculums.	-
KRA 2.5 The EAAFP CEPA Strategy and Action Plan is monitored and updated.	-
Objective 3. Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, build knowledge and promote exchange of information on waterbirds and their habitats.	
KRA 3.1 National monitoring systems to assess the status of migratory waterbirds and their habitats are established, maintained and further enhanced.	4
KRA 3.2 Conservation status reviews for waterbird populations are periodically produced to set and adapt priorities for action.	4
KRA 3.3 Updated list of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds for conservation management and prioritization.	4
KRA 3.4 A stronger understanding is developed on the anticipated impacts of climate change on waterbirds and wetlands and this is informing planning and site management.	-
KRA 3.5 Collaborative research programs are providing valuable support for conservation and sustainable management efforts, particularly the sustainable use of resources for local livelihoods benefits.	2
KRA 3.6 Best practice guidelines for waterbird and wetland conservation programs, including the incorporation of traditional knowledge, are developed and made available.	-

Objective 4. Build the habitat and waterbird management capacity of natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders.	
KRA 4.1 Partners and the Secretariat promote the use of the range of available training tools and assistance to address challenges at Flyway Network Sites.	2
KRA 4.2 Building capacity of Partner Focal Points to support the purpose of the Partnership.	-
KRA 4.3 Corporates with operations impacting on migratory waterbirds are engaged in delivering better outcomes for the conservation of waterbirds and their habitats.	-
Objective 5. Develop, especially for priority species and habitats, flyway wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds.	
KRA 5.1 Partners are actively collaborating to develop innovative and improved approaches to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the EAAF.	1, 2
KRA 5.2 Threatened migratory waterbirds are protected from threats and populations are increasing.	2
KRA 5.3 Regional Action Plans are developed and implemented to address critical threats in specific geographic regions of the EAAF.	3
KRA 5.4 Measures to reduce and, as far as possible eliminate, illegal hunting, take and trade of migratory waterbirds are developed and implemented.	3
KRA 5.5 The conservation of migratory waterbirds is mainstreamed into national legislation and/or policy instruments including adaptation to the impacts of climate changes.	-
KRA 5.6 The conservation of migratory waterbirds is integrated into regional multilateral and bilateral agreements and other regional mechanisms.	1,2,3,4