



WWF regional work

Vivian Fu (WWF Hong Kong)

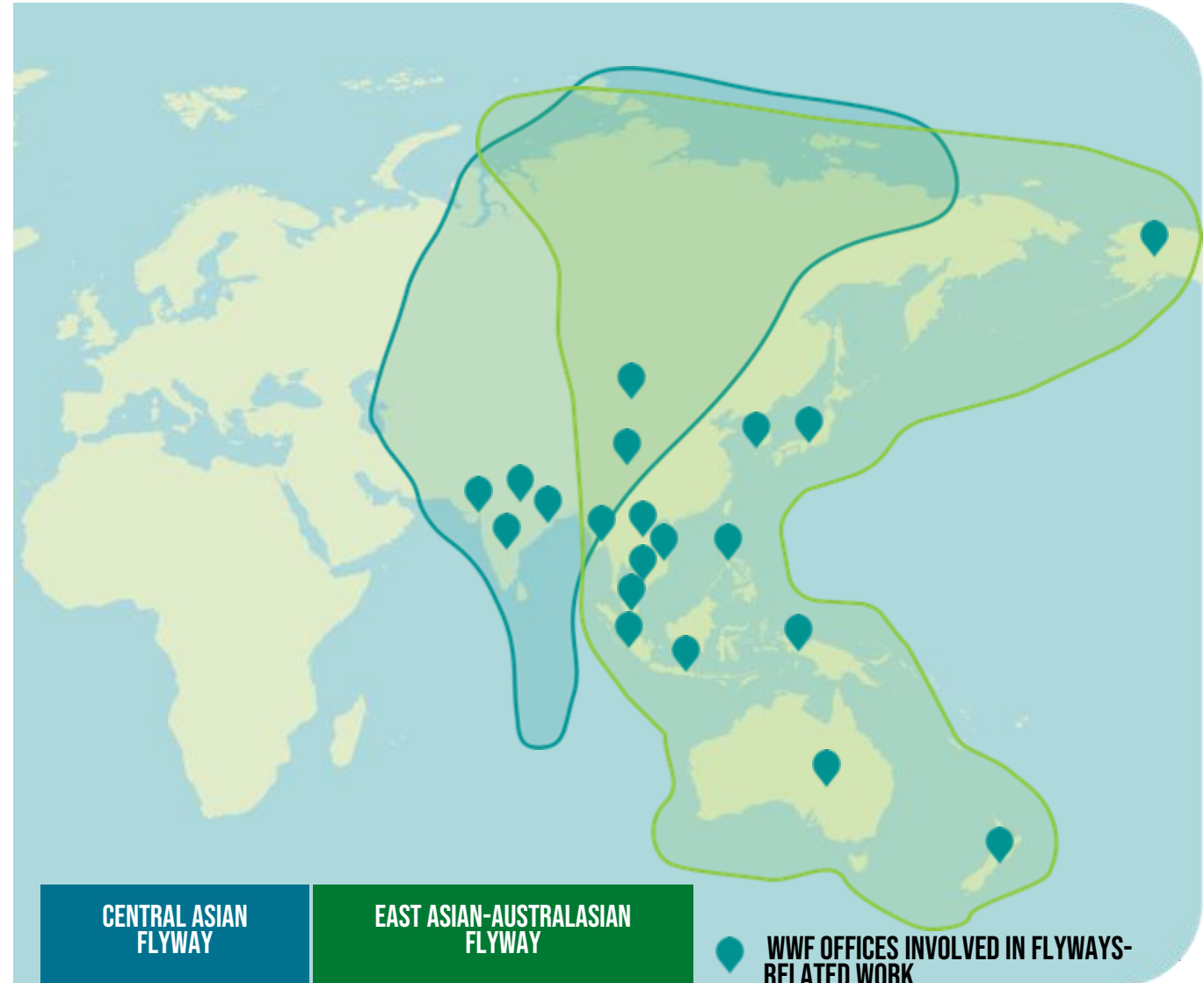
WWF's effort to conserve Asian Flyways



Our work is across two of the world's most species-rich and most threatened flyways in the world:

- East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF)
- Central Asian Flyway (CAF)

About 20 WWF offices within the two Flyways: Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pacific Islands, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand U.S.A., and Viet Nam.



“Wetlands for Asian Flyways” (WAF)



How will we deliver this Initiative



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1. Conserve, restore, and effectively manage a network of healthy wetlands important to migratory birds in Asian flyways

- Coastal, inland and artificial wetlands
- Protected and unprotected areas (OECMs)

2. Conserve populations of migratory birds depending on wetlands in Asian flyways and support implementation of conservation action plans for globally threatened species

- Migratory waterbirds
- Wetland-dependent landbirds

3. Promote and build community stewardship at wetlands for long-term sustainable livelihoods, and enhance community adaptation and resilience to climate change and disaster risk through Nature-based Solutions.

GBF

Targets:

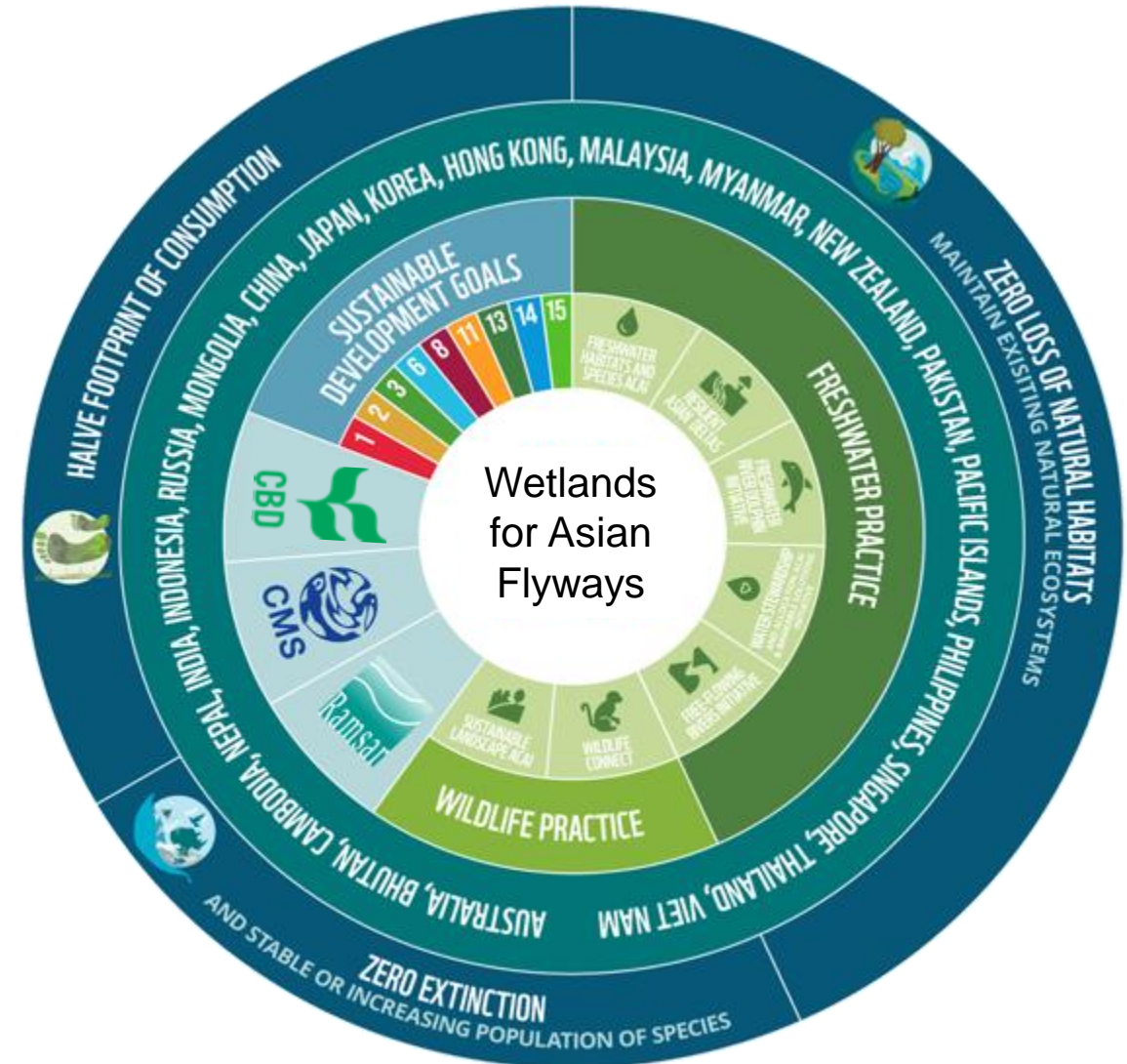


WAF is not just about migratory birds and wetlands



Synergize with multiple global goals and WWF priorities:

- Sustainable Development Goals
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) - Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- Convention of Migratory Species (CMS)
- Ramsar Convention
- East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)
- WWF's Freshwater practice goals and outcomes
- WWF's Biodiversity practice goals and outcomes



Wetlands are crucial not only for biodiversity but for various societal purposes



**Climate
Adaptation**

**Water
Security**

**Food
Security**

**Biodiversity
Conser-
vation**

**Disaster
Risk
Reduction**

**Social
Develop-
ment**

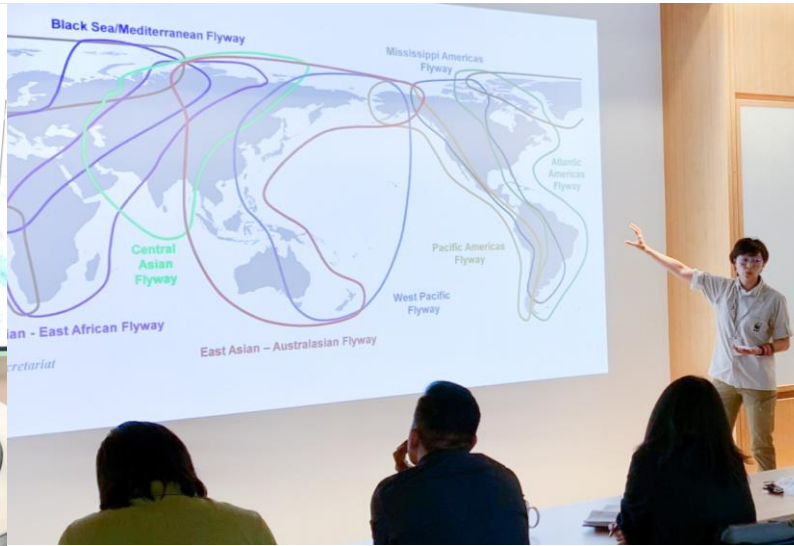
**Human
Health**

WWF's Work in Asian Flyway – capacity building



Mai Po Nature Reserve run by WWF Hong Kong

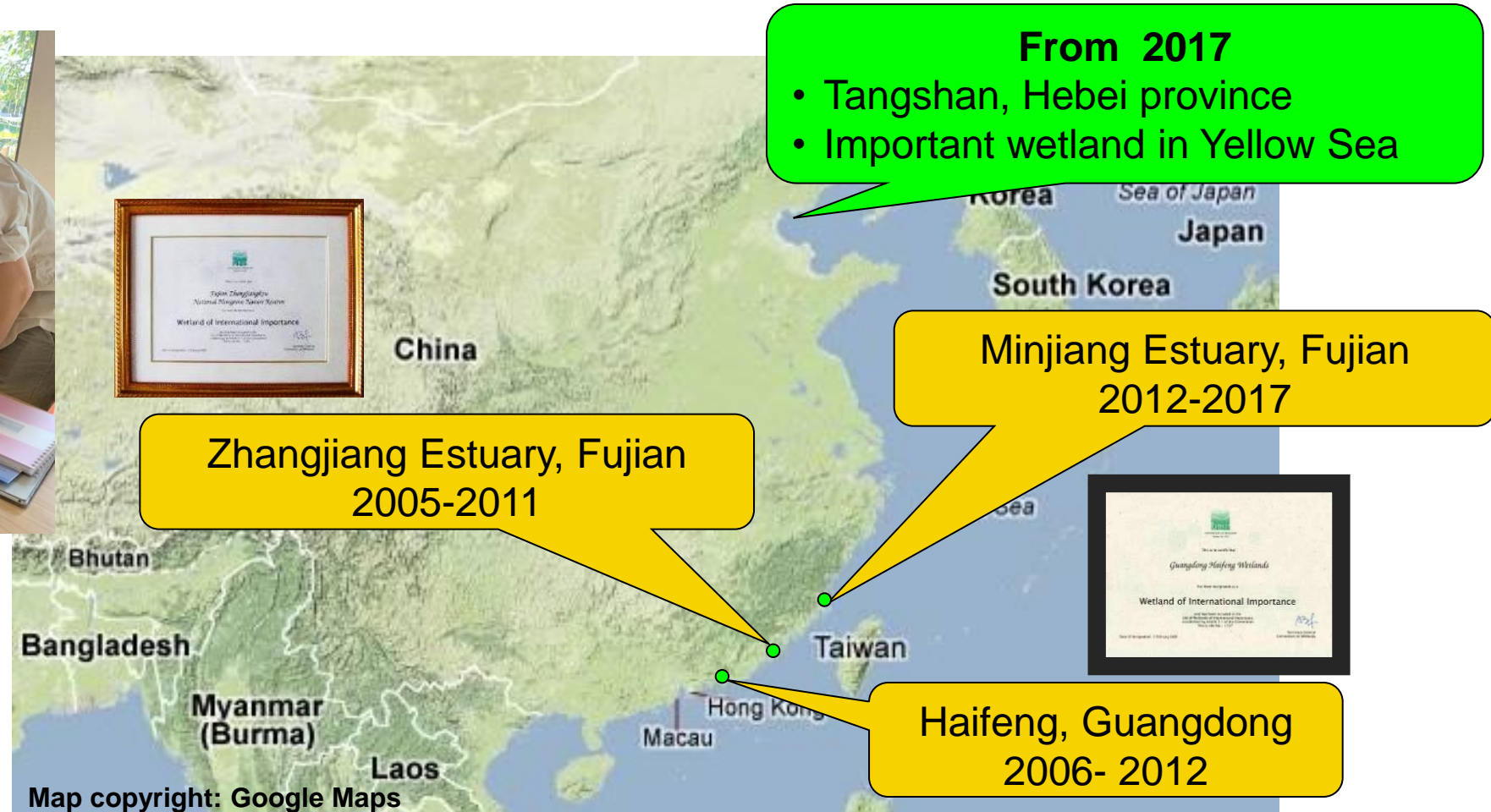
- Regional training hub on wetland management
- Share experience and knowledge with other Ramsar sites and wetlands in the EAAF for migratory birds
- Over 20 years
- Trained over 5000 government officers, conservationists and researchers



WWF's Work in Asian Flyway – capacity building



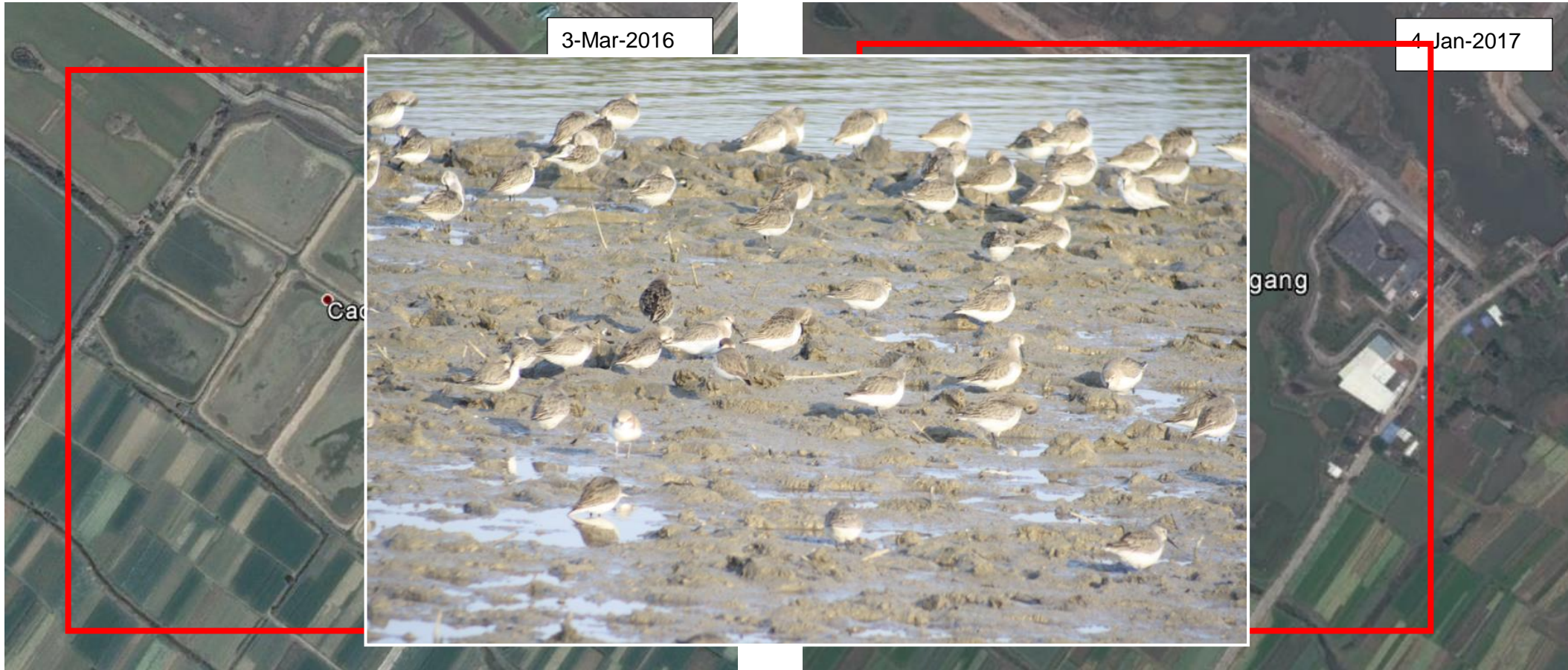
Replicate Mai Po's experiences in Mainland China



Impacts of capacity building and on-site conservation programme



Caozhugang, Minjiang Estuary



Impacts of capacity building and on-site conservation programme



Stimulating innovative conservation activities by trainees of the training programme



Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund

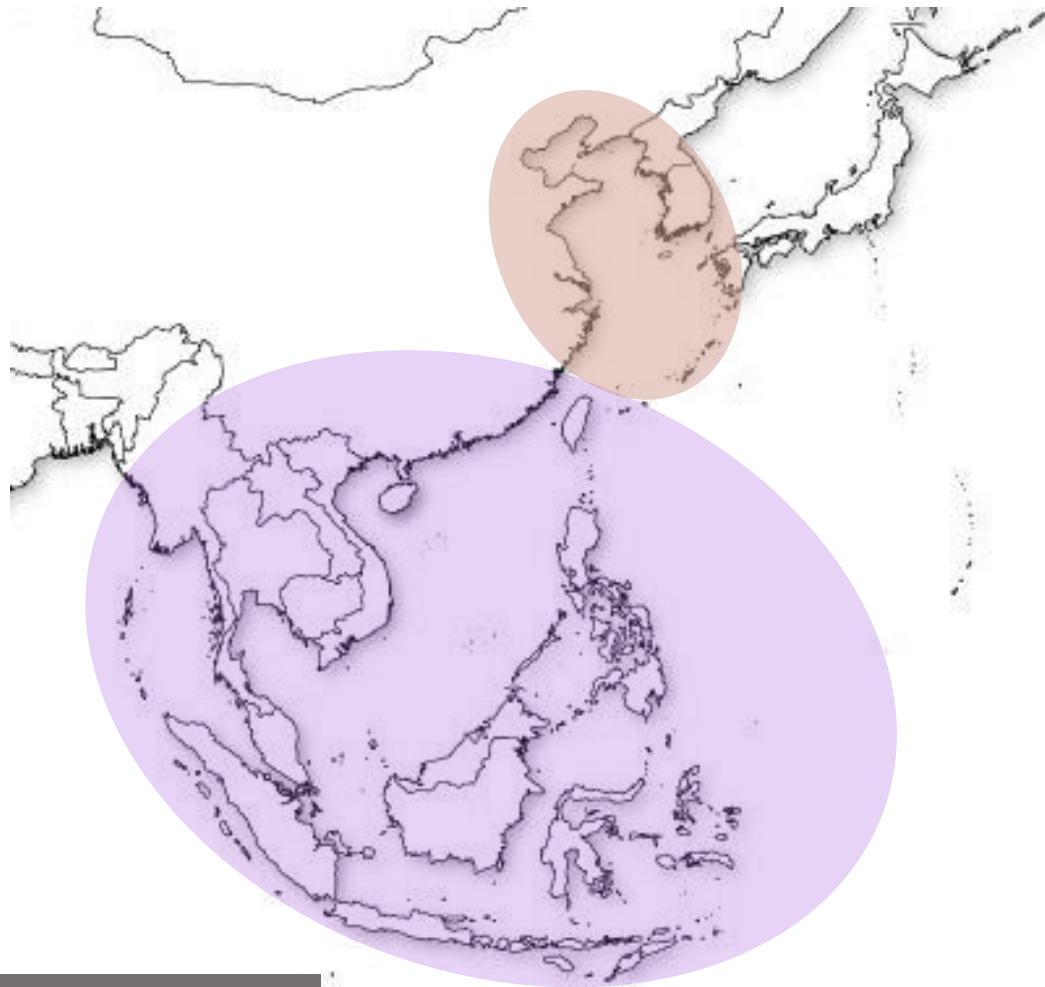


A small grant fund by WWF Hong Kong was established to support projects in Asia for conserving migratory waterbirds and their wetland habitats in the EAAF and Central Asia Flyway, particularly through partnership with the local community at the site.



- Started in 2005
- 51 projects completed, 8 still on-going
- 12 countries covered
- US\$ 200,000 granted

Conservation strategy: cross-country collaboration



Coastal wetlands

1. Greater Yellow Sea Ecoregion

Coastal areas in China, Ro Korea and DPR Korea

- Tidal flats important for migratory waterbirds, especially waders/shorebirds

2. East China Sea and Southeast Asia coasts

- Tidal flats and mangrove for wintering waterbirds
- Climate mitigation, fisheries and disaster risk reduction

 Yellow Sea ecoregion

 Coastal wetlands in East China Sea and SE Asia

Map source:

<https://www.burningcompass.com/continents/asia/asia-blank-map.html>

Regional strategy



Key species

Black-faced Spoonbill



Spoon-billed Sandpiper



Threatened shorebirds



© JJ Harrison

Cranes



© Ian Davies

Shorebirds



© Andrew Spencer

Yellow-breasted Bunting



© Alexander Thomas

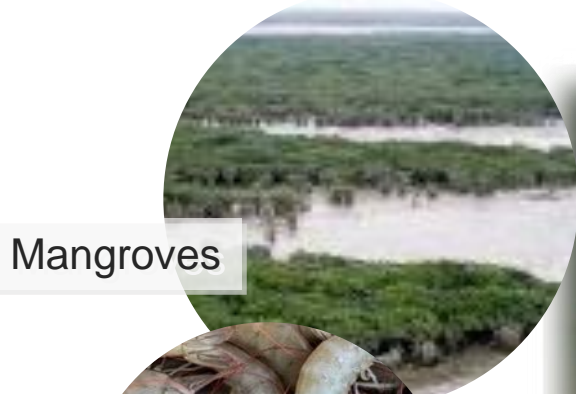
Conservation issues to address

- Development and land use change
- Pollution
- Human disturbance (human-bird conflicts)
- Invasive species
- Renewable energy infrastructure
- Illegal killing
- Unsustainable farming and fishery

Conserving Black-faced Spoonbill at Mai Po Nature Reserve



- Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site (since 1995)



Mangroves



Reedbed



Traditional *gei wai*



Habitats for wildlife

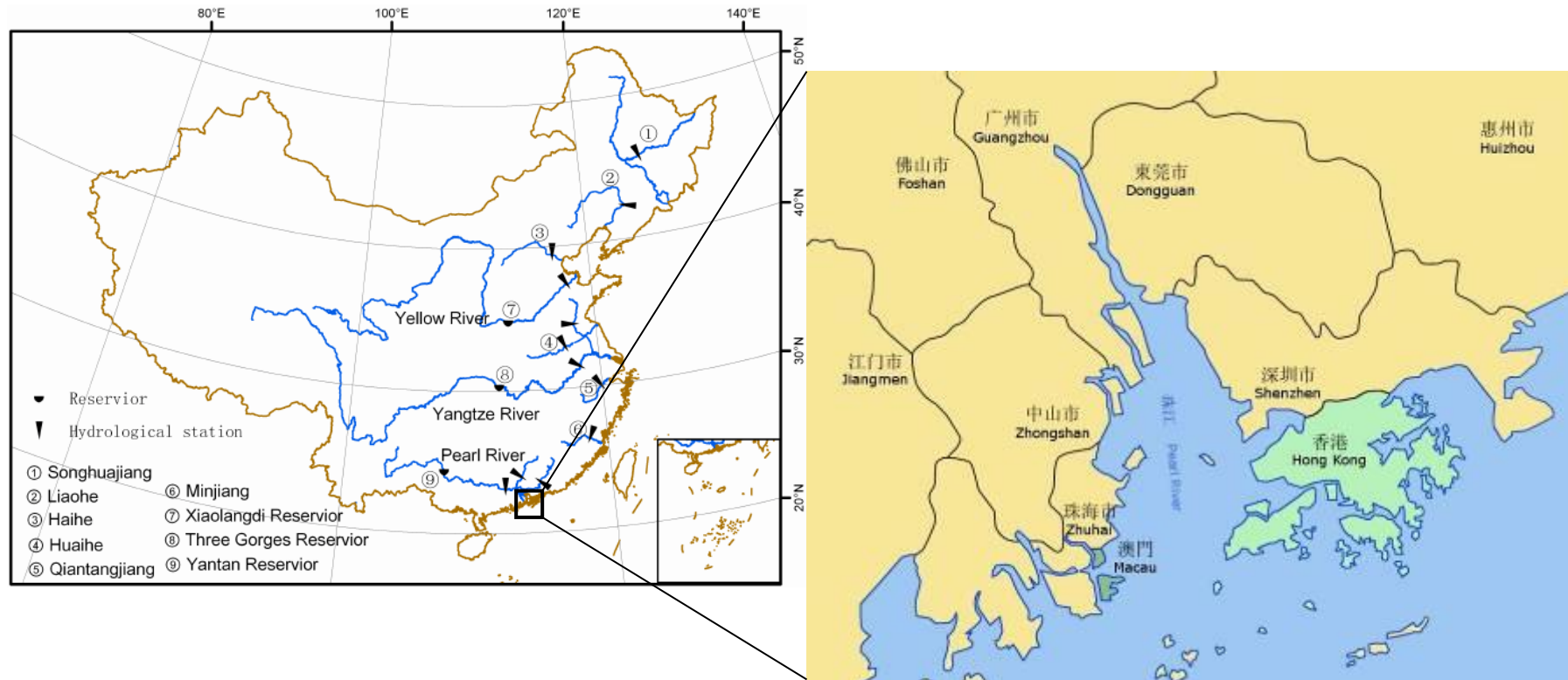


For education



For public awareness raising

Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay, Hong Kong, China



Lies in east coast of Pearl River, at the mouth of the Shenzhen River in northwestern Hong Kong

Ecological importance of Mai Po



- 51 species with global concern
- 60000 wintering waterbirds



426 Bird species



105 Butterfly species



40 Crab species



53 Odonata species

- 1 species of global concern



141 Spider species



321 Plant species




34 Mammal species

- 1 species of global concern



22 Reptile species

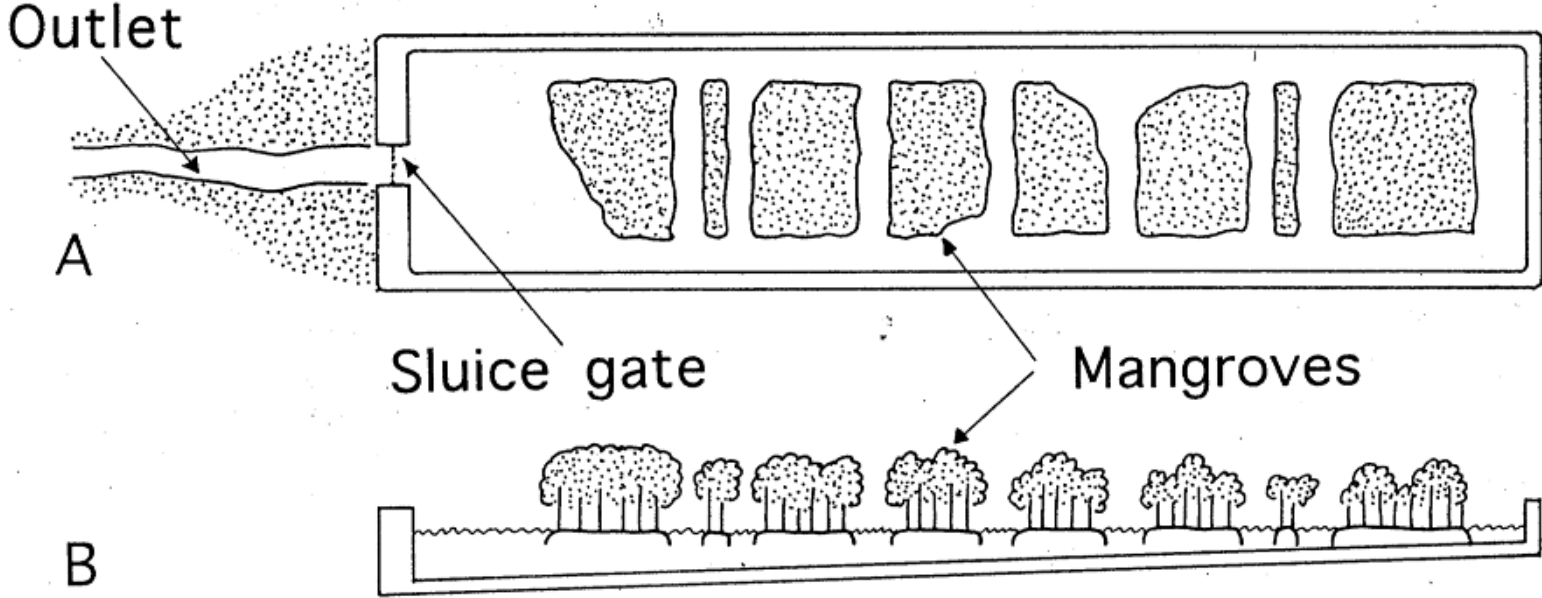


8 Amphibian species



55 Fish species

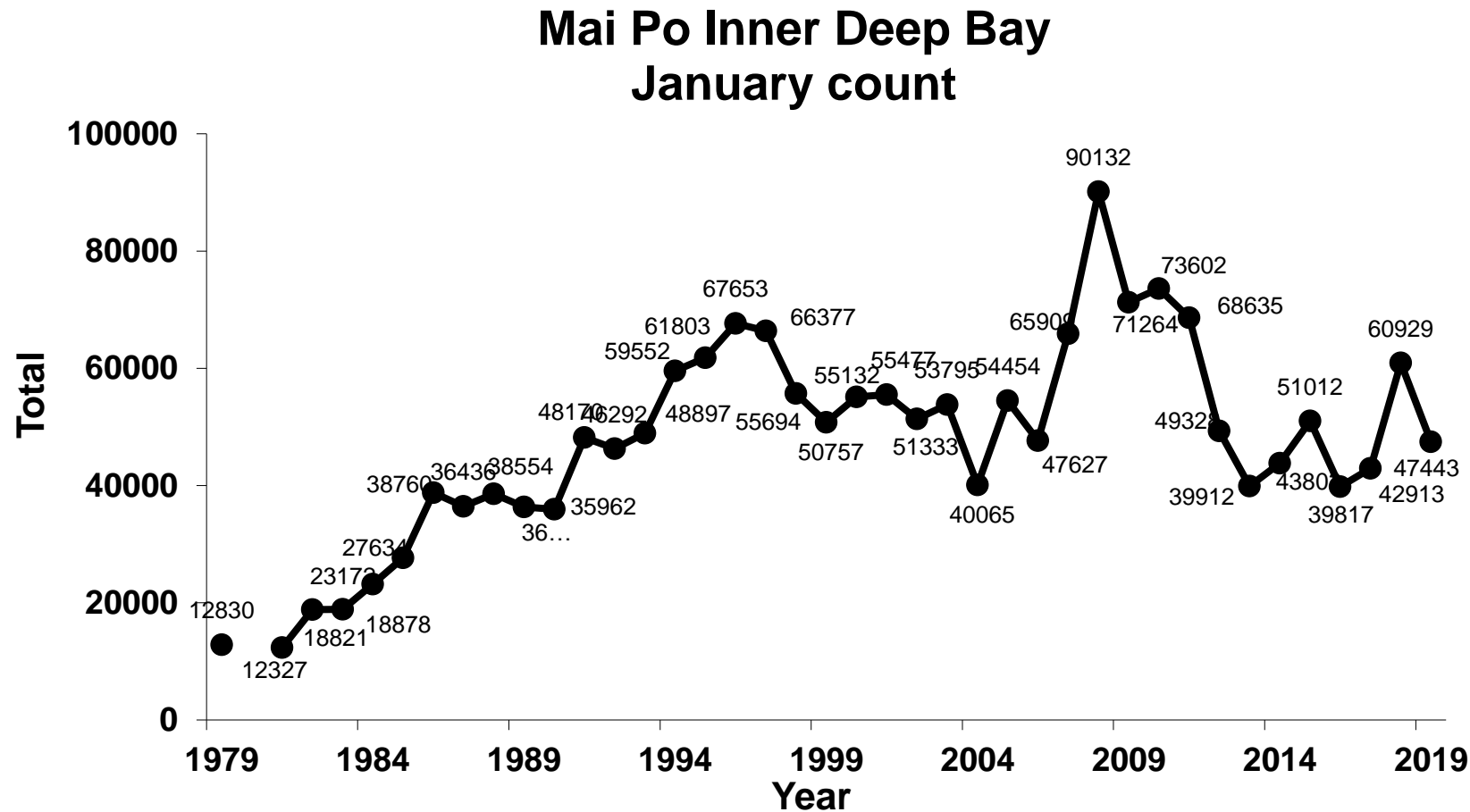
Traditional Knowledge



Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site monitoring: Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)



- Baseline Ecological Monitoring Programme:
 - Monthly Waterbird Count
 - Hong Kong Bird Watching Society



Source: AFCD, HKBWS

Monitoring: ecological succession



Fixed point photography

Time

Aim

- Once every 2 years

- Monitor habitat and vegetation change



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Environmental Education

- Citizen Scientist Programme
- School Programmes
- General public activities and guided tours
- Volunteer Programmes



Regional flagship species for flyway



Black-faced Spoonbill

- Evaluate Species Action plan (2012)
- Research gaps on 1. habitats; 2. rising threats (windfarm, land use change, plastic pollution, etc.)

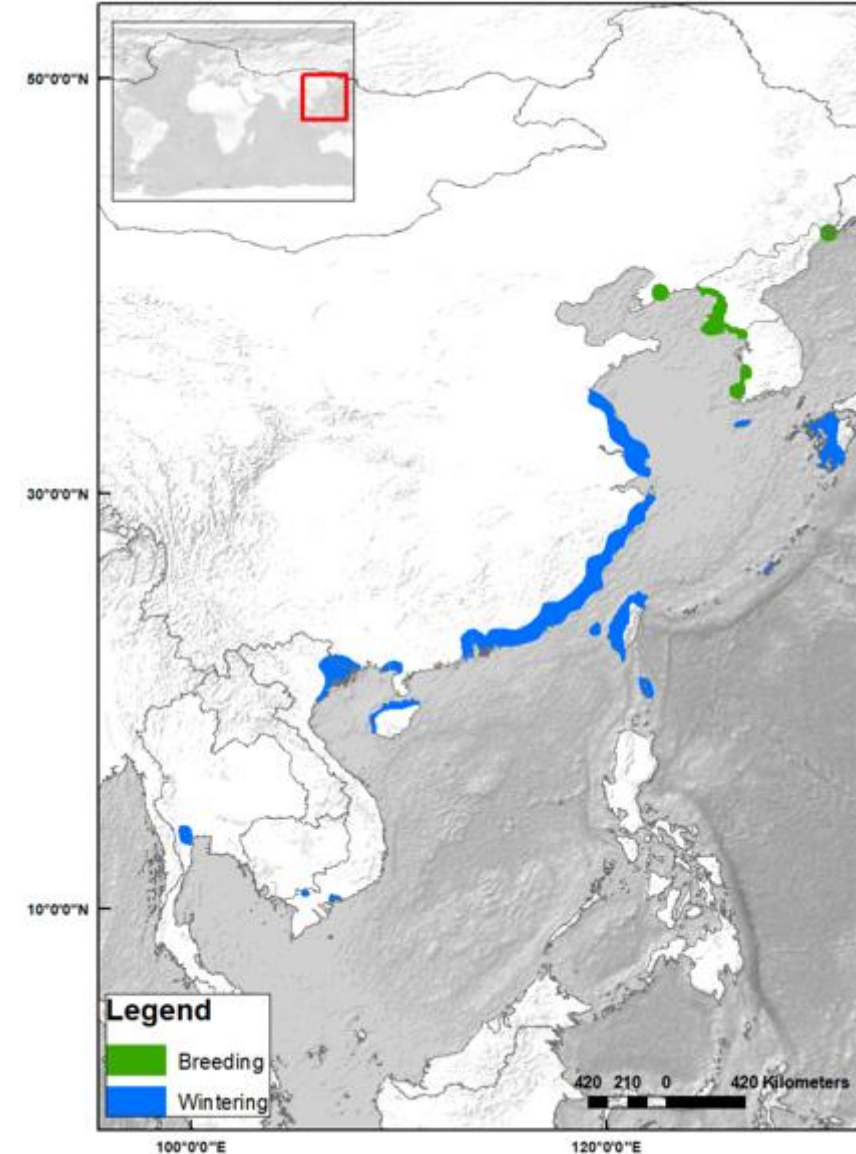


© John and Jemi Holmes

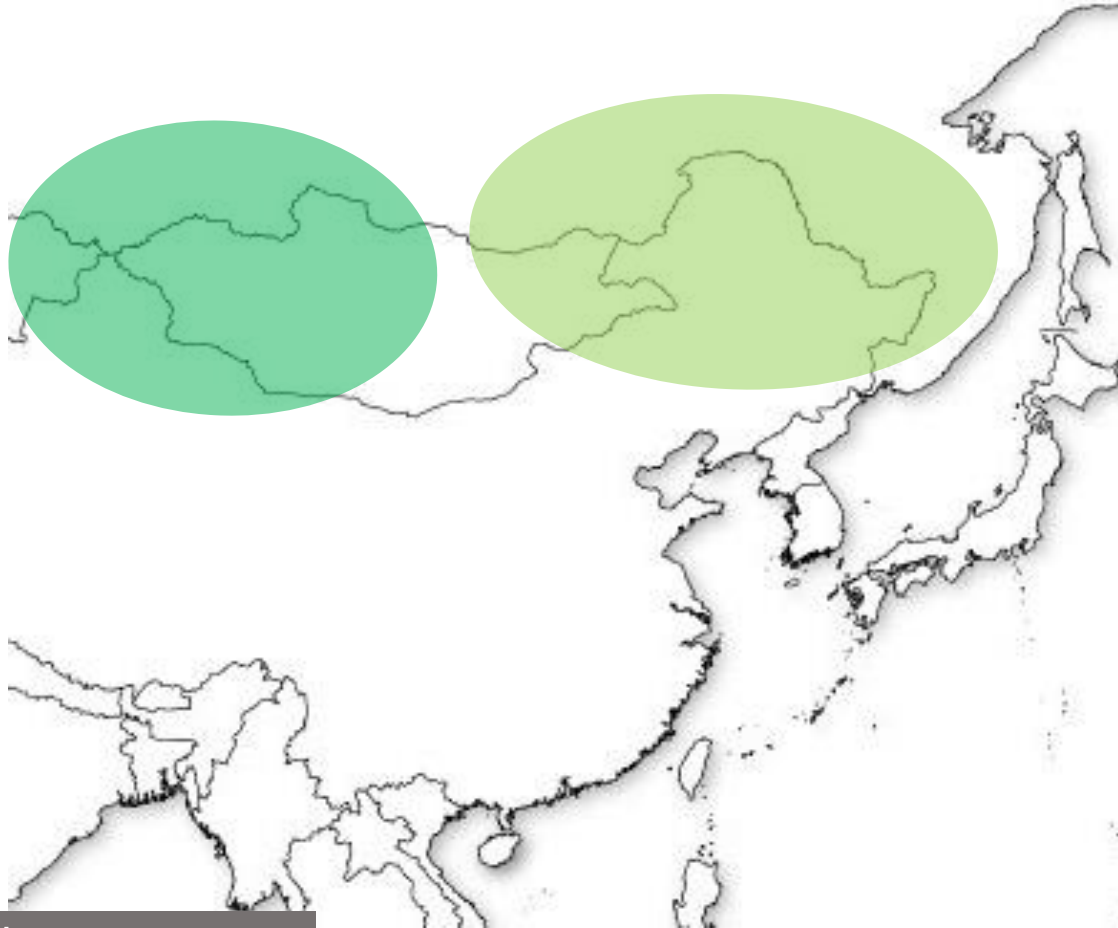
CMS Technical Report Series No. 22

International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Black-faced Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*)

Prepared by: S. Chan, W. H. Fang, K.S. Lee, Y. Yamada and Y. T. Yu.



Conservation strategy: cross-country collaboration



Amur-Heilong Eco-region Complex (AHEC) & Altai-Sayan Eco-region Complex (ASEC)

Mongolia, China, Russian Far East

- Amur River - One of the longest rivers in the world
- Important for cranes, and stopover sites for arctic breeding birds
- Also important for big cats conservation

- Amur-Heilong Eco-region Complex
- Altai-Sayan Eco-region Complex

Map source:

<https://www.burningcompass.com/continents/asia/asia-blank-map.html>

Regional strategy



Key species

Dalmatian Pelican



Migratory waterbirds



Cranes



Asian Big Cats



Swan Goose



Other mammals



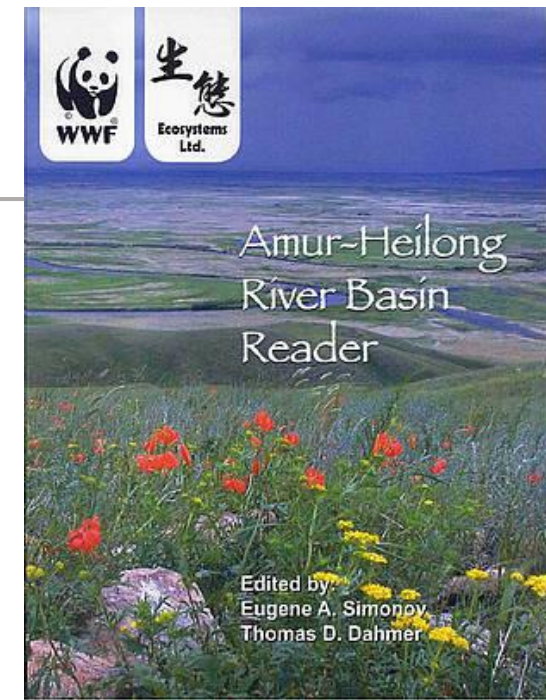
Conservation issues to address

- Overgrazing and livestock disturbance
- Linear infrastructure
- Damming and levees
- Arson
- Illegal killing and trade
- Drought (climate change)
- Habitat fragmentation and degradation
- Unsustainable infrastructure
- Climate change

WWF Amur-Heilong and Altai-Sayan Ecoregion Conservation Strategies

Renewing Strategic Plans – in draft

- Populations of target species increased
- Protected and conserved areas increased
- Wetland Conservation
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Communities in conservation
- Responsible business and investment strategy
- Communication strategy: Knowledge and Advocacy



Altai-Sayan
Ecoregion
Conservation
Strategy





together possible™

For more information, contact: Vivian Fu
vivianfu@wwf.org.hk

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WWF, 28 rue Mauverney, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. Tel. +41 22 364 9111
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