

## REGIONAL INITIATIVE

## FLYWAY PARTNERSHIP

### ***1. Implementation of the Ramsar approach***

*1.1 Describe briefly how your initiative is promoting the objectives of the Convention and how it is implementing the Ramsar Strategic Plan through cooperation in your region:*

The purpose and objectives of the **East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership** (the Partnership) support those of the Ramsar Convention, addressing the conservation of waterbirds, the sustainable management of their habitat, and incorporating a collaborative and cooperative approach at the local, national and flyway level. Therefore implementation of the Partnership also promotes the objectives of the Convention and supports implementation of the Strategic Plan.

The purpose of the Partnership is that *Migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the East Asian – Australasian Flyway are recognised and conserved for the benefit of people and biodiversity.*

The objectives of the Partnership are to:

- Develop the Flyway Network of sites of international importance for the conservation of migratory waterbirds, building on the achievements of the APMWCS networks.
- Enhance communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
- Enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, build knowledge and promote exchange of information on waterbirds and their habitats.
- Build the habitat and waterbird management capacity of natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders.
- Develop, especially for priority species and habitats, flyway wide approaches to enhance the conservation status of migratory waterbirds.

### ***SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE***

### ***2. Complete regional adherence and bottom-up approach***

*2.1 Describe briefly if your initiative is based on a bottom-up approach:*

The Partnership encourages and assists the managers of Flyway Network sites to engage local communities in conservation and sustainable use activities, particularly where mutual benefits can be established. It also encourages the development of site and national level Partnerships to promote the wise use of wetlands.

*2.2 List the countries in the region that your initiative covers:*

The Partnership covers 22 countries in the East Asian – Australasian flyway. These countries include Australia, People's Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Union of Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, The Russian Federation, Republic of Singapore, Democratic Republic of East Timor, Kingdom of Thailand, United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

*2.3 Specify those countries in your region that do not participate in the initiative (if any):*

The following countries are not currently Partners:

People's Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, People's Republic of China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Union of

Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, The Democratic Republic of East Timor, Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

### **3. Active involvement of all relevant stakeholders**

#### *3.1 List the participants in your initiative and their affiliation:*

##### Current Partners include:

Government Partners:

Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, The Russian Federation, Republic of Singapore, United States of America

Inter-Governmental Organisation Partners:

Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the Secretariat to the Convention on Migratory Species.

International non-Government Organisation Partners

Australasian Wader Studies Group, International Crane Foundation, Wetlands International, WWF International, IUCN, Birdlife International, Wild Bird Society of Japan.

*3.2 Indicate if only Ramsar Administrative Authorities at national level or also other relevant stakeholders (including other ministries, intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, academia and economic actors) are actively involved:*

The Partnership is open to Governments, Inter-Governmental Organisations, International non-Government Organisations and the international business sector, and therefore participation is broader than Ramsar Administrative Authorities, as shown by the above list of current Partners.

National Partnerships are encouraged to include a broad range of stakeholders, beyond the National Ramsar Administrative Authorities.

### **4. Development of collaboration based on commonly agreed terms**

#### *4.1 Describe briefly how your regional network or centre is operating (attach the terms of reference (or other agreements) elaborated to guide its activities as separate documents where they exist):*

The Partnership provides a flyway wide framework to promote dialogue, cooperation and collaboration between a range of stakeholders including all levels of governments, site managers, multilateral environment agreements, technical institutions, UN agencies, development agencies, industrial and private sector, academe, non-government organisations, community groups and local people to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats.

The Partnership text and the Implementation Strategy (2007 – 2011) are attached. These documents outline the operation of the Partnership and implementation of its objectives.

### **5. Involvement of other regional partners**

#### *5.1 List relevant intergovernmental or international organizations operating in your region:*

The key relevant intergovernmental and international organizations operating in the region include the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, the Secretariat to the Convention on Migratory Species, Australasian Wader Studies Group, International Crane Foundation, Wetlands International, WWF International, IUCN, Birdlife International, and Wild Bird Society of Japan. Each of these organisations are also Partners of the Partnership.

#### *5.2 List those with which you have established common activities:*

The key relevant intergovernmental and international organizations operating in the region include the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, the Secretariat to the Convention on Migratory Species, Australasian Wader Studies Group, International Crane Foundation, Wetlands International, WWF International, IUCN, Birdlife International, and Wild Bird Society of Japan. Each of these organisations are also Partners of the Partnership.

*5.3 List your activities in common:*

Activities that promote the conservation of migratory waterbirds and the sustainable management of their habitats.

**6. Scientific and technical backing**

*6.1 List the scientific and technical partners that provide a solid backing to your initiative:*

The following organisations hold significant scientific and technical expertise and are Partners in the initiative:

Australasian Wader Studies Group, International Crane Foundation, Wetlands International, WWF International, IUCN, Birdlife International and the Wild Bird Society of Japan.

**7. Targets of the initiative and their links with Ramsar**

*7.1 List your initiative's strategic and operational targets for the period 2009-2011:*

The Partnership objectives represent the strategic targets. A total of 14 major outcomes are to be achieved through the Partnership by the end of 2011. These are documented in the Implementation Strategy (attached), together with supporting actions, and are as follows:

- The Flyway Site Network has developed to include at least 200 sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds.
- The management activities at sites result in a halt of loss of biodiversity or an increase in the conservation status of species concerned
- The Flyway Site Network is demonstrating sound integration of wetland biodiversity conservation and sustainable development that benefits local communities.
- The ecological, social and economic values of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds are recognized in development and impact assessment processes.
- There is a high level of awareness and recognition of the ecological, social and economic values of migratory waterbirds and Network sites.
- There is a broad level of recognition of the activities and achievements of the Flyway Partnership.
- Scientifically sound information is available on the Flyway wide status and trends of waterbird populations and their habitats.
- Information is available on the internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds in all countries of the Flyway.
- Threats to internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds have been assessed and recommendations for appropriate management actions developed.
- Knowledge of the ecology and migratory strategies of waterbirds is enhanced to support conservation action.
- Knowledge of the potential role of migratory waterbirds in disease transmission, especially Avian Influenza, is enhanced.
- Improved understanding of capacity needs for stakeholders for management of internationally important waterbird sites.
- Natural resource managers, decision makers and local stakeholders at internationally important sites have the skills and support to enable sustainable management of waterbird habitats.

- Collaborative Flyway-wide actions for waterbird species and habitats have improved the conservation status of priority species.

*7.2 Specify the relations of these targets to the objectives of the draft Ramsar Strategic Plan (attach your work plan for 2009-2011, or for 2009, where it exists):*

The outcomes and activities of the Partnership Implementation Strategy directly relate to the objectives of the Ramsar Strategic Plan by supporting the wise use of wetlands, the identification of internationally important sites, promoting cooperation and collaboration at the international, as well as local and national level, and building the habitat and waterbird management capacity of site managers, decision makers and stakeholders. The Partnership Implementation Strategy is attached.

### **8. Raising awareness of Ramsar objectives**

*8.1 Describe briefly your activities in the fields of communication, education, and participatory processes with relevant stakeholders:*

Enhancing communication, education and public awareness of the values of migratory waterbirds and their habitats is a key objective of the Partnership. Similarly, the Partnership seeks to enhance flyway research and monitoring activities, build knowledge and promote exchange of information on waterbirds and their habitats.

Current activities include the drafting of a communication strategy, and the development of a website to communicate the objectives and activities of the Partnership.

National workshops to build the capacity of site managers and develop National Partnerships have been held in Australia and the Philippines, with further workshops planned for Cambodia and Indonesia during 2008. These workshops promote a participatory approach to the development and implementation of National Partnerships, reflecting the goal of the broader Flyway Partnership.

*8.2 Describe briefly the increased support for Ramsar objectives resulting from these activities (this information may be used by Ramsar's CEPA Oversight Panel, according to Standing Committee Decision 35-14):*

Due to the Partnership objectives linking closely with those of the Ramsar Convention, communication of the Partnership and the value of migratory waterbirds and their habitats also increases communication and support for the objectives of Ramsar. Furthermore, the Partnership is communicated as a regional initiative of Ramsar

### **FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE**

#### **9. Who provides political and financial support?**

*9.1 List all your sources and the amounts of financial support for the triennium 2009-2011. Specify the amounts which are already confirmed:*

Securing ongoing funding for the Partnership is an issue to be addressed by the Partners. At this early stage, annual Meetings of the Partners determine the extent of the need and options for generating financial resources.

The Partnership is implemented through collaborative projects, with Partners determining priorities and leading on the development and implementation of selected projects, including fundraising.

*9.2 List your sources and amounts of financial support for the year 2009. Specify the amounts which are already confirmed:*

The 2009 budget will be determined at the next Meeting of the Partners later this year.

*9.3 List concisely, according to main budget lines, your expenditures planned for 2009:*

The 2009 budget and expenditure will be determined at the next Meeting of the Partners later this year.

## **10. Financial planning**

10.1 Summarize your remaining funding needs for 2009 that are not yet covered by confirmed donations, according to the main budget lines used above:

The 2009 budget will be determined at the next Meeting of the Partners later this year.

*10.2 Provide information about your fundraising plan to cover such outstanding needs:*

The Partnership is implemented through collaborative projects with Partners determining priorities and leading on the development and implementation of selected projects, including fundraising.

## **11. Request for Ramsar core budget support**

*11.1 If you request a financial contribution from the Ramsar core budget, specify the amount for 2009, and for the triennium 2009-2011:*

The Partnership would welcome a financial contribution from the Ramsar core budget to support collaborative activities. The amount of funding and activities would be discussed by Partners at the annual meeting of Partners in accordance with Ramsar and Partnership priorities, but the amount is not likely to exceed \$20,000 USD per annum.

## **GOVERNANCE OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE**

### **12. Governance mechanisms in place**

*12.1 Describe the governance and advisory mechanisms and structures (e.g., committees) in place or to be established to provide guidance and insight to your initiative (attach terms of references, rules of procedures, or operational guidelines, where such exist):*

The Partners elect a Chair and Vice Chair for a term of two years, which is currently Australia and the Republic of Korea, respectively. The Partners are currently determining the process for funding and establishing a permanent Secretariat, with Australia acting in this role in the interim. The Secretariat operates under the leadership of the Chair, and with direction from the Partnership.

A register of technical experts is to be developed to provide the Chair and Partners with access to specialist technical expertise, as required. Species and issue specific expertise is also available from the Shorebird, Anatidae, Crane, Seabird, and Avian Influenza Working Groups, which operate under the auspices of the Partnership. The role of the Working Groups is to promote the Partnership objectives through species-specific activities.

Development, implementation and oversight of collaborative projects in the Partnership annual work plan is the responsibility of the Partners, rather than the role of specific committees.

### **13. Coordination with the Ramsar Secretariat**

*13.1 Specify the established or anticipated operational arrangements between the governance structures of your initiative and the Ramsar Secretariat:*

The Ramsar Secretariat participates as a Partner of the Partnership.

*13.2 List the full name, telephone and e-mail contact of the main focal point of your initiative:*

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Interim Secretariat  
Migratory and Marine Biodiversity Section  
Marine Environment Branch  
E-mail: Vicki.Cronan@environment.gov.au  
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## **Annex I**

[to Resolution VIII.30]

### **Guidance for the development of regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands**

#### **AIM**

1. The overall aim of regional initiatives should be to promote the objectives of the Convention in general and to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan in particular, through regional and subregional cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern.

#### **SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS**

2. Regional and subregional initiatives should be based on a bottom-up approach. As a matter of priority, the involvement of as many as possible Contracting Parties of the region or subregion(s) covered by the new initiative should be sought from the start.

3. Each initiative should entail the participation, from the start, not only of the Administrative Authorities responsible for the application of the Convention in the Contracting Parties involved, but also of all other relevant stakeholders with an interest in and directly or indirectly responsible for wetland issues, including the ministries responsible for the environment and water issues, intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, academia, and economic actors.

4. A regional initiative should base its operation on the development of networks of collaboration established upon clearly defined terms of reference, thus creating an enabling environment for the involvement of all stakeholders at all levels.

5. At an early stage, a regional initiative should seek collaboration with other intergovernmental or international partners operating in its region, by establishing complementary and non-duplicative activities.

6. The operation of a regional initiative should be based upon strong scientific and technical backing, provided by relevant institutions which should be recognized as partners in the initiative.

7. The strategic and operational targets of a regional initiative should be fully aligned with the Strategic Plan of the Convention by means of policy and site technical work and activities.

#### **FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT**

8. A regional initiative requires both political and financial support from Contracting Parties and other partners from the region. A substantial support from the host country is especially important if a regional office is to be established.

9. The launching of a regional or subregional initiative should rely upon secured start-up funding for planned activities and projects.

10. Financial support from the Convention's core budget, should the Conference of the Parties so decide, will be provided for a pre-determined period of time – in principle not more than three years. After such a period, the support should be phased out. A regional initiative should generate its own resources and should become financially self-sufficient in the long term. When deciding financial support from the Convention's core budget, geographically equitable distribution should be taken into account.

## **GOVERNANCE**

11. Regional initiatives should establish their own advisory mechanisms, involving all the stakeholders, in order to provide guidance and insight. The Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee shall receive, through the Ramsar Bureau, reports on their activities and shall oversee their general policies relating to the implementation of the Convention.

12. Specific arrangements as to the coordination between a regional initiative and the Convention should be worked out by the Ramsar Bureau under the guidance of the Standing Committee, and such arrangements should ultimately be approved by the Conference of the Parties.