

## PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES INFORMATION SHEET

### **Name of the Partnership/Initiative:**

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Sites of International Importance to Migratory Birds in East-Asia, South East Asia and Australasia.

**Expected date of initiation:** September 2002

**Expected date of completion:** December 2005

### **Partners Involved:**

Governments: Australia, Japan

The following governments will be invited to join the partnership: Republic of Korea, People's Republic of China, United States of America, Indonesia, New Zealand, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Cambodia, Russian Federation, The Philippines, Viet Nam, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh.

Intergovernmental organizations: UNDP/GEF, UNEP/GEF, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Convention on Migratory Species.

Major groups: Wetlands International, World Wide Fund for Nature, Wild Bird Society of Japan, BirdLife International, Japanese Association for Wild Geese Protection.

#### *Leading Partners:*

This project is being co-led by Australia (Department of Environment and Heritage); Japan (Ministry of the Environment); and Wetlands International.

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**Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative:**

This partnership provides a cooperative framework for conservation of migratory waterbirds and their inland and coastal habitats across the region. The partnership is guided by the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy* and associated Action Plans for conservation of Anatidae (Ducks, Swans and Geese), Cranes and Shorebirds. Each of these Action Plan calls for recognition of internationally important habitat for the relevant species group through inclusion in 'Site Networks'. The site network concept links internationally important sites across country boundaries and provides for exchange of information and training opportunities. It provides a powerful tool for cooperation to ensure that the chain of sites required by migratory birds along their migration route is conserved.

In order to achieve their potential, the site networks need to include at least 25% of internationally important sites across the migratory flyways. At present the networks include approximately 10% of internationally important sites. The WSSD partnership provides for expansion of the site networks across the region.

**Relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21, as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:**

This partnership supports implementation of the following components of Part IV of the WSSD Draft Plan of Implementation – "Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development" (based on draft unedited text):

- 31 (d) contributing to halting the loss of coastal wetlands
- 31 (e) supporting the joint work programme of Ramsar Convention and Convention on Biological Diversity with specific reference to international networking for wetland ecosystems in coastal zones.
- 34. improving scientific understanding and assessment of coastal ecosystems
- 42 (g) undertaking initiatives to support conservation of hot spot areas and promote the development of regional ecological networks.

This partnership directly relates to the following Chapters of Agenda 21:

- 15. Conservation of Biological Diversity
- 35. Science for sustainable development
- 36. Promoting education, public awareness and training
- 37. National mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity-building in developing countries

The initiative relates to the United Nation Millennium Declaration, in particular to:

- Paragraph 12 of Goal III (Development and poverty eradication) where parties resolve "to create an environment at the national and global levels alike which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty".
- Goal IV (Protecting our common environment) where:
  - Governments resolve "to adopt in all our environmental actions a new ethic of conservation and stewardship", and
  - Where Government for action "to stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies".

**Expected results:**

This partnership will result in the conservation and sustainable use of a network of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds. The capacity of site managers and local communities at important sites will be enhanced to sustainably use and manage these ecosystems.

**Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:**

To build the networks of internationally important sites by 2005 to include:

- 34 sites for Anatidae;
- 38 sites for Cranes; and,
- 100 sites for Shorebirds

**Coordination and Implementation mechanism:**

The partnership will be coordinated through the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee (MWCC), made up of representatives of the partner organisations. The MWCC comprises seven government representatives (Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Russia and U.S.A.); the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention); the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention); international NGOs (BirdLife International and World Wide Fund for Nature, Wetlands International); a representative of the United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility (UNDP/GEF); chairs of the three technical Working Groups (for Anatidae, cranes and shorebirds) and a Wetlands International Specialist Group Coordinator. Implementation will be coordinated by a Strategy Coordination Officer and Flyway Officers for each of the three species groups.

**Arrangements for funding:**

Core funding for the partnership will be provided by the Australian, Japanese and United States governments. Additional funding is required and will be sought from other partner governments and international organisations.

**Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer:**

Capacity building to ensure effective management of important sites is a key element of the partnership. This will be achieved through formal training, cross-site information sharing, provision of training materials and technical support.

Site management and migratory bird conservation techniques and international best-practice approaches will be shared across the members of this partnership.

**Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any):**

This partnership is linked to the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy*. Additional value in the context of WSSD is generated by an increase in government participation, additional financing, and extending geographical coverage of activities.

**Monitoring Arrangements:**

This partnership will operate under an annual work program. An annual report will be prepared against that work program, along with reporting required under contractual arrangements with donor organisations. Reports, information and updates will be posted on the websites of Environment Australia; Ministry of the Environment, Japan; other governments; Wetlands International; and other NGOs. Updates will be posted on the list servers of Environment Australia, Ramsar Bureau, CMS and others. Reports and information will be published in the newsletter "Wetlands" produced by Wetlands International.

**Other relevant information:**

For more information, please visit the following websites:

Australia: [www.ea.gov.au](http://www.ea.gov.au)

Japan: <http://www.env.go.jp/en/> and <http://www.sizenken.biodic.go.jp/flyway/>

Wetlands International: [www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org)

Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy:  
<http://www.wetlands.org/IWC/awc/waterbirdstrategy/default.htm>

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