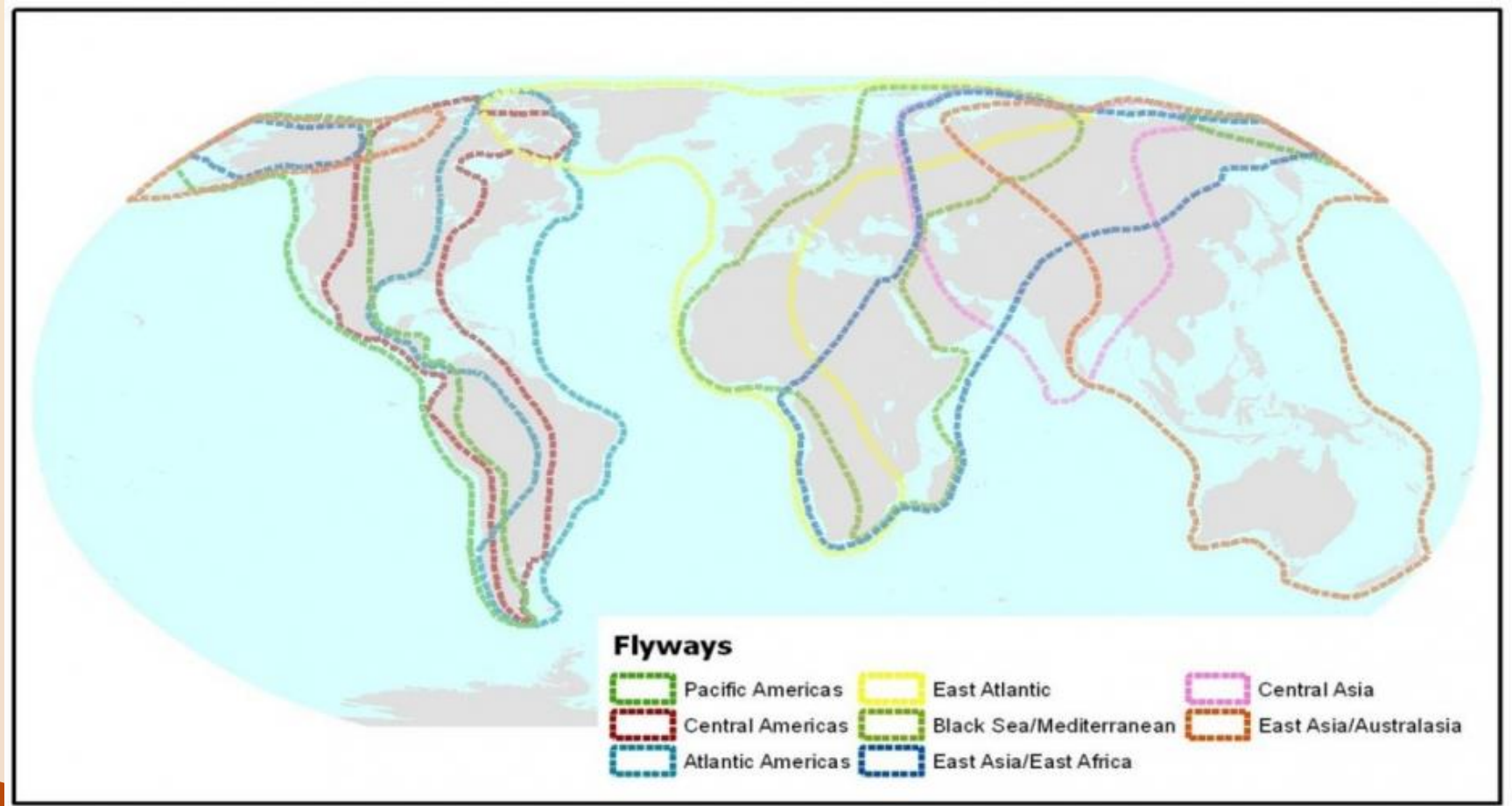


# Conserving Asia's coastal wetlands for migratory birds: the BirdLife experience



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# Migratory Flyways of the World



# The East Asian-Australasian Flyway



# Key shorebird species



Christop Zockler

# The BirdLife Partnership in Asia



# The BirdLife Flyway Programme

- To save threatened migratory species from extinction by addressing main threats and conserve key sites and habitats
- To address landscape-scale barriers to migration, especially illegal and unsustainable killing of birds and the proliferation of poorly-planned energy and power transmission infrastructure
- To conserve networks of critical stop-over sites (Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas, IBAs) through action on the ground by our Local Conservation Groups
- To strengthen local and national capacity in the stop-over sites by strengthening the collaboration between BirdLife Partners
- To understand and address the wider land-use issues facing migratory birds through targeted research and policy work

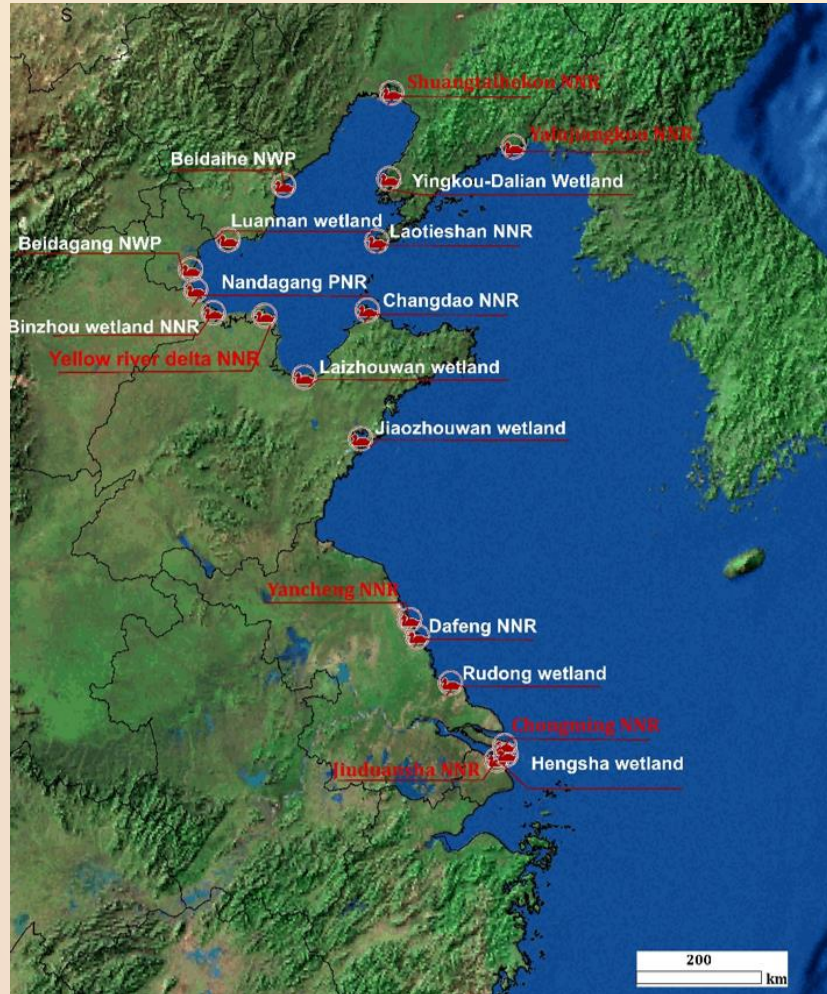
# Challenges in conserving the East Asian-Australasian Flyway

- Many stakeholders involved – some very supportive, others less so
- Different legislations, cultures and approaches to biodiversity conservation across different countries
- Rapid economic expansion across the region, leading to habitat loss
- Harvesting of wild bird populations for food and other uses

# The China Coastal Waterbird Census

- Project led by BirdLife China Programme, working closely with the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (BirdLife in HK)
- Engagement of local groups across coastal cities in mainland China; encourage the formation of more than 20 new birdwatching societies
- Long term monitoring programme with standardized methodology started across region
- Greatly strengthened awareness and education in the region

# Advocacy work to secure Yellow Sea wetlands



- Most important part of the EAAF for migratory shorebirds
- Covers three countries – China, ROK and DPRK
- Under threat from development, with some major sites loss

# Advocacy work to secure Yellow Sea wetlands

- Many threats and highly sensitive political nature of conservation work due to development
- Dedicated advocacy work in collaboration with other stakeholders, including government departments in PRC and ROK
- Major progress achieved in early 2017 – nomination of multiple sites for World Heritage Status in PRC, alongside ROK
- More needs to be done still!

# Engaging coastal communities in Asia to conserve migratory birds

- More than a quarter of Asia's 3 billion people live close to the sea
- Many coastal communities remain relatively poor
- Livelihoods a critical concern when tackling conservation of coastal areas
- Work ongoing or planned in Myanmar, Malaysia, Viet Nam and the Philippines through the BirdLife partnership

# The Gulf of Mottama – recent progress in Southeast Asia

- Extensive area of coastal wetlands (e.g. intertidal flats) in Mon State, Myanmar
- Most important wintering area for Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Southeast Asia
- Important lobbying work lead by BANCA (BirdLife in Myanmar) with Central and State government
- Tackling illegal hunting of migratory shorebirds through alternative livelihoods
- Declaration of GOM as RAMSAR site in 2016/17

# Conserving Malaysia's coast for shorebirds

- Monitoring key high-tide roost (Kapar Ash Ponds) and foraging sites (KSNP) in Peninsular Malaysia
- Significant flyway population (>1%) of many species – e.g. Nordmann's Greenshank, Great Knot, Eurasian Curlew
- Long-term monitoring of shorebirds led by MNS members under the Asian Waterbird Census since 1987; Outreach events (e.g. Pesta Sayap, WWD)
- MNS work on wetlands, which will be critical to securing EAAF shorebird populations

# Moving forward with migratory bird conservation in the EAAF

- Sustainable engagement with governments and other stakeholders
- Identifying priorities for work in the region (Yellow Sea, South Chinese coast, Gulf of Thailand)
- Developing science and policy capacity across the region
- Getting governments to come together to talk, through MEAs and other platforms

# The BirdLife Partnership



Partnership for  
**nature** and **people**