



# Advances in saving the Ecological Networks of Eurasian Curlews & Black-tailed Godwits

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**Meeting of AEWA Eurasian Curlew & Black-tailed Godwit International  
Working Groups**

**17-19 August 2022, Papenberg, Germany**

Initiatives the BirdLife Partnership led initiatives to help save Godwit/Curlew etc Ecological Networks: turning policy into action on the ground

1. East Atlantic Flyway Ecological Network Project together with the IUCN World Heritage Programme etc
2. Strategic approach to restoration of Wet Grassland Wader breeding as a contribution to implementation of the European Wet Grassland Wader Multi-species Action Plan
3. Establishing a World Coastal Forum in line with Resolutions of CMS, Ramsar, CBD & IUCN
4. Regional Flyway Initiative eg Asian Development Bank in East Asian Australasian Flyway

## 1. BirdLife East Atlantic Flyway Ecological Network identification

priority areas - sites eg for serial World Heritage & landscapes eg for OECMS  
Led by RSPB/VBN/ECA, pilot for 13 priority coastal waterbirds

- **Product:** map & updateable database linked to Critical Site Network Tool as common agenda – World Heritage, Ramsar, CMS, AEWA, EC etc
- Indication of **protection status, gaps, and habitat quality**
- **Approach:** updates IBA/KBA database AND shows ecological connectivity using tracking/ringing data
- **Timescale:** draft ready for AEWA MOP in Sept & Ramsar COP in Nov,





## 2. Estimating how much wet grassland restoration is needed to achieve objectives of the European Multi-species Action Plan for Wet Grassland Waders



1. What is the desired breeding population of each species? Ie **Favourable Reference Value**

2. How much breeding habitat is needed to accommodate the desired population? Ie to achieve **Favourable Conservation Status**

3. Where are these spaces a) existing or b) potential

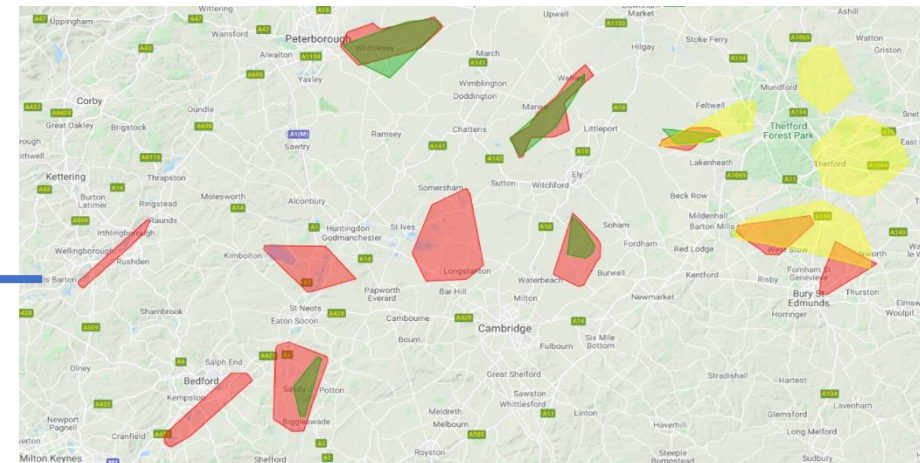
**3b is the map or the area which needs to be restored  
eg in UN Decade of Restoration and under EU Restoration Law**



# Recovering wader populations in lowland wet grasslands

## Restoration Area – Clusters

Drawn by eye, with areas of at least 1,000 ha to at most 10,000 ha



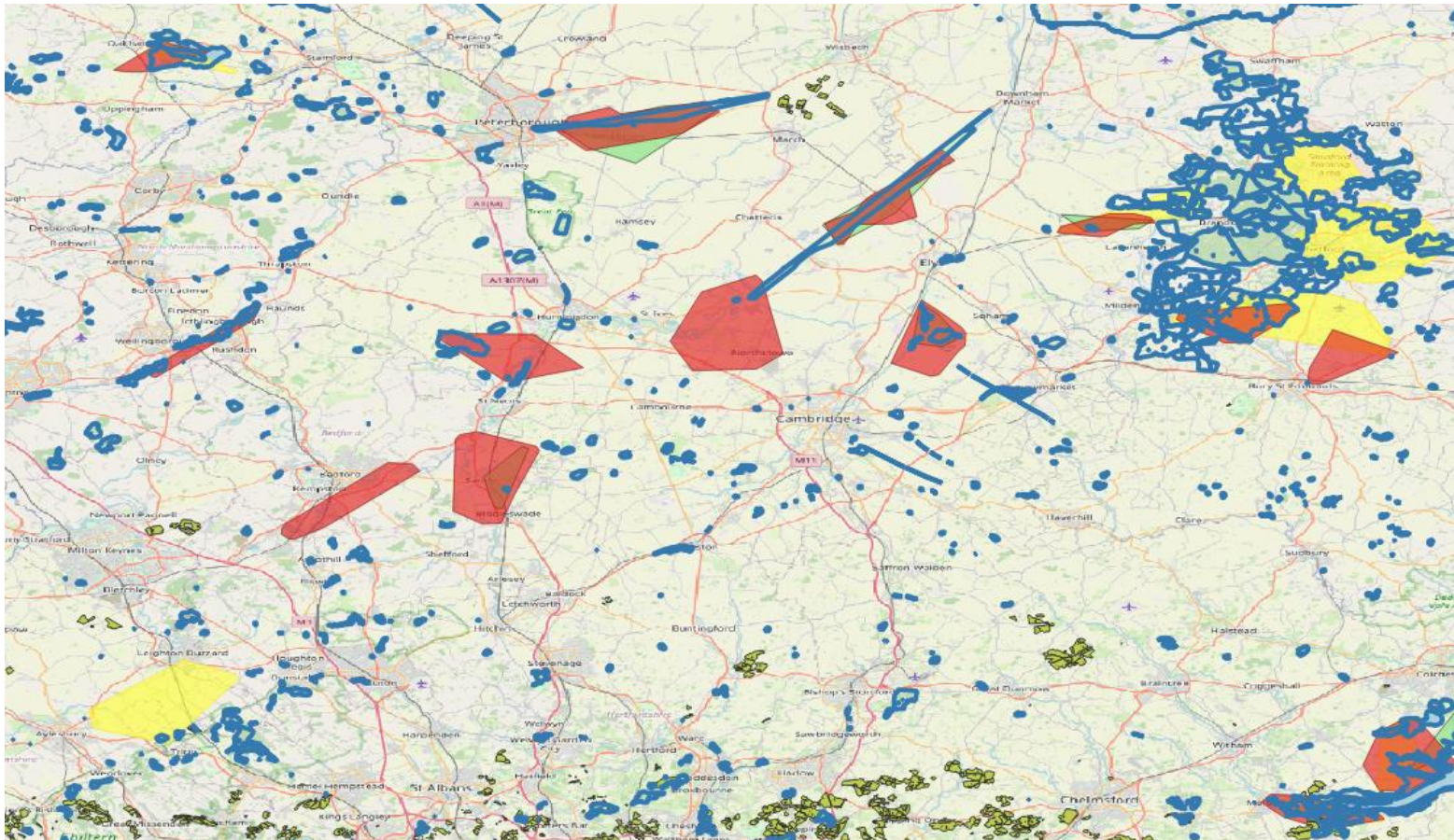




# Recovering wader populations in lowland wet grasslands



## Restoration Areas – Clusters + SSSI



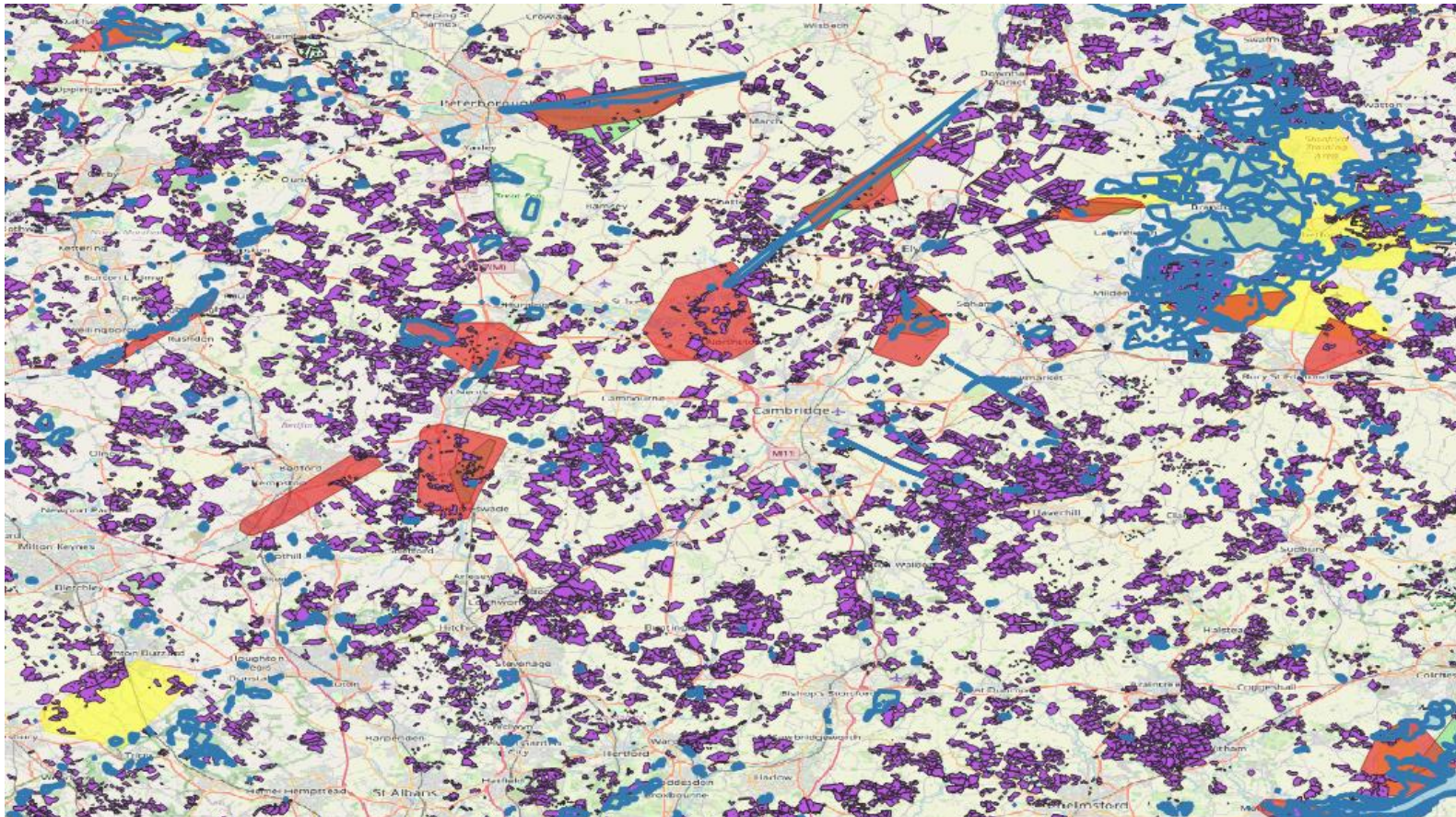




# Recovering wader populations in lowland wet grasslands



## Restoration Area – Clusters + SSSI + AES





# Flyway Roadmap from Arctic to Mediterranean

- Compiled from EC Biogeographical realm workshops (Arctic, Boreal/Continental, Atlantic, Micro & Macronesian) – from EC to MS to target investments to sites/species
- per workshop 1 multi-country project with 4- 6 selected SPAs & non-EU IBAs/landscapes covering life cycle (breeding/passage/ wintering) of priority migratory species
- **€20M** new investments over 10 years eg chain of LIFE projects



# WORLD COASTAL FORUM

Harmonious Coexistence: To Build a Community  
of Life for Man and Nature

3. [www.WorldCoastalForum.org](http://www.WorldCoastalForum.org) a voluntary initiative to catalyse, facilitate and promote national and international coastal conservation efforts that support synergistic international commitments to conserve, sustainably manage and restore coastal ecosystems, with a focus on evidence-based actions ,



## 3a. Why coastal wetlands?

- coastal waterbirds are **1 of world's 3 most threatened migratory bird groups** (alongside albatrosses/petrels & African-Eurasian Vultures)
- 2021 European Red List of Birds: “Seabirds, wildfowl, waders...most threatened & fastest declining groups of birds in Europe”. **Half (19) of 37 European species at greater extinction risk than in 2015 depend on coastal ecosystems.**
- **ecosystem services** reasons to conserve coastal wetlands including nature-based solutions eg blue carbon storage

### Why now?

- Rising sea levels
- Disaster risk reduction



# 3b World Coastal Forum



- Called for by CMS (2017), Ramsar (2018), CBD (2019), IUCN (2020)
- **international, multi-stakeholder umbrella (incl govs, business & philanthropy)** adding value to accelerate effective on ground delivery of international biodiversity conservation commitments on coastal ecosystems incl. as NbS (SDGs, Post-2020 GBF, Glasgow Climate Pact etc)
- **independent of treaties**, but treaties could adopt WCF products
- **endorsed at high political level** in terms of its establishment & operation
- **gov reps engaged in coastal management**, not international negotiators
- **beneficial not burden to participants**, rewarding engagement by channelling practical tools to deliver conservation
- **modular structure: steering group, thematic task teams, regional hubs, annual big meetings of whole Forum**

# 3c World Coastal Forum Establishment Group (WCFEG)

- **BirdLife is co-coordinator**, with Chinese “NGO” Eco-Foundation Global enabled by China’s Ministry of Natural involving **CMS, Ramsar, CBD, IUCN World Heritage, Wadden Sea, WI, WWT** etc
- 10 Jan: **kicked off at high level meeting** hosted by China’s Vice Minister of Natural Resources, speeches from 8 international ministers (eg UK, Portugal), diplomatic representatives of 30+ other countries incl France.
- 17 Feb: 1<sup>st</sup> meeting WCFEG chaired by ex IUCN President Zhang
- 21 Apr: 1<sup>st</sup> meeting WCFEG **Steering Group** & Task Teams on Institutional Framework, Science & Evidence, Resource Mobilisation, International engagement, subnational engagement.
- 17 May: 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of WCFEG
- 17? Sept: 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of WCFEG
- Oct: 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of WCFEG
- Nov: WCF launch at Ramsar COP Geneva/Wuhan,
- Dec: 1<sup>st</sup> WCF meeting, Yancheng, China





# 3d World Coastal Forum – what will it do (i)?

Support govs & other stakeholders to catalyse **on ground action including through policy, empowering people to scale up what works**, to implement existing international commitments in relation to coastal wetlands:

- Facilitate **coordinated, concerted and cooperative implementation** of priority actions at an international scale.
- Support **capacity building** at all levels, incl. through mentoring, site twinning, networks of demonstration sites, esp. in developing countries
- Enhance **communication, education and public awareness**, including youth engagement, on the value & conservation of coastal wetlands
- **mobilise resources** at scale from diverse sources including business and development banks.



# 3e World Coastal Forum – what will it do (ii)?

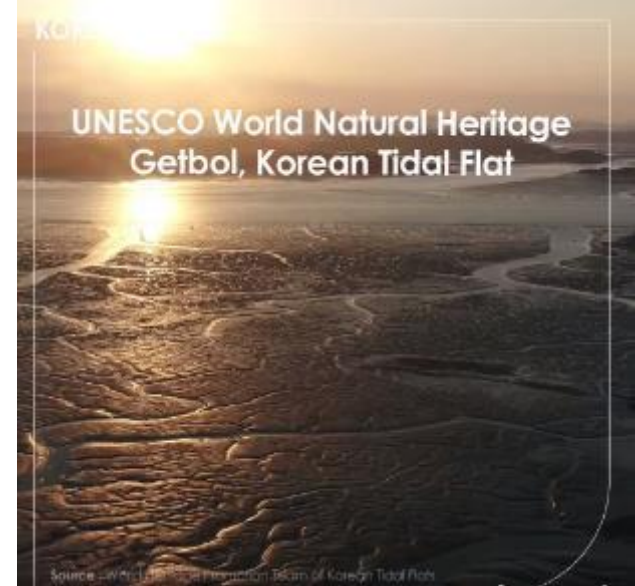
- Compile, disseminate & ensure filling of gaps in **evidence and guidance**, inform the work of the WCF may include:
  - a. State of world's coasts** as baseline, to be updated regularly
  - b. World Coastal Conservation Toolkit** - creation and dissemination of Evidence-based Guidance on coastal wetland ecosystem protection, management and restoration
  - c. global stakeholder review of relevant organizations, initiatives, businesses and other stakeholders** with mandates complementary to WCF to help define roles and responsibilities of the WCF to deliver added value.





# World Coastal Forum possible priorities

1. **Protection** of top sites as World Heritage and/or Ramsar Sites, including via site twinning
  - EAF Ecological Network for coastal Waterbirds



 THE  
**WADDEN SEA**  
FLYWAY INITIATIVE





# World Coastal Forum possible priorities 2

**2. Conservation management** eg  
develop global guidance for 'Working Coastal  
Wetlands' eg shellfisheries, aquaculture, saltpans

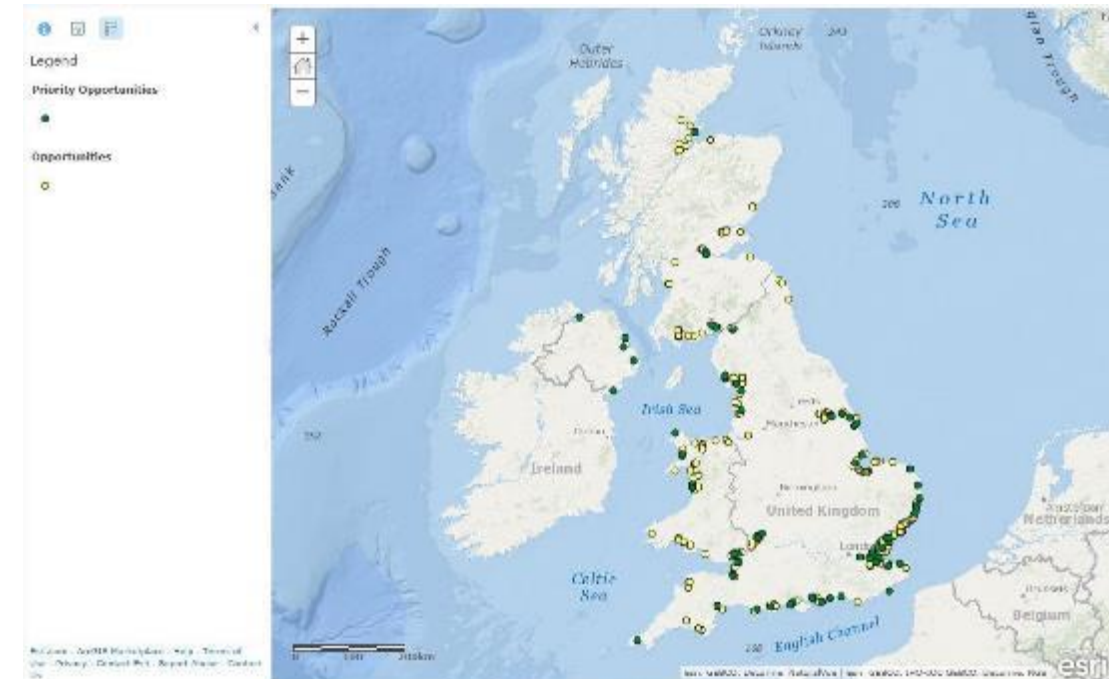
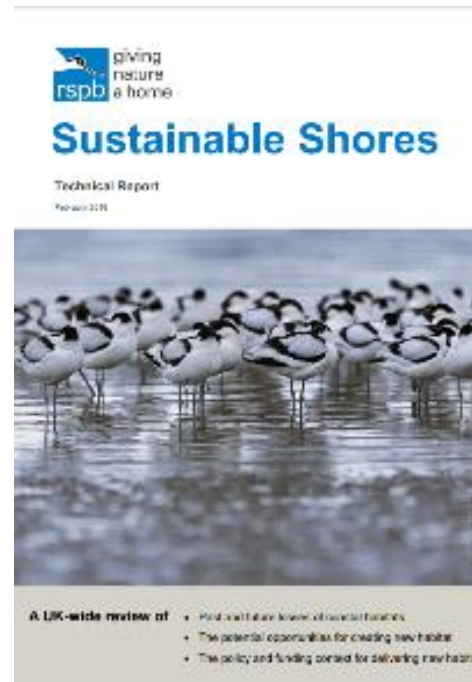




# World Coastal Forum possible priorities 3

## 3. Restoration/creation of coastal wetlands including:

- Identifying national priority sites & targets
- Sharing best practice and guidance



## 4. BirdLife-led approaches to accelerate conservation of migratory coastal waterbirds: Flyway Fund

### **East Asian Australasian Flyway Initiative**

- Asian Development Bank, BirdLife, East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership
- \$3-5 billion over 10-20 years
- 50-100 East Asian coastal wetlands
- blended finance

**Americas in progress**

**African-Eurasian?**

