

4th Meeting of the Partners to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)



On 23rd and 24th February 2010 the 4th MOP of the EAAFP took place in Songdo, Republic of Korea. The Meeting was attended by 16 of the Partnership's 21 members, ranging from Governments to IGOs and NGOs.

Within the reporting period from the close of the 3rd MOP in November 2008 to January 2010 a new Secretariat was established as of 1st July 2009 in Songdo, Incheon City, with funding provided by the Incheon City Government under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Partnership and the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea.

The Secretariat staff, seven in total, are all of Korean nationality apart from the Chief Executive, Mr Roger P. Jaensch, who is Australian. Mr Jaensch entered on duty on 2nd November 2009. With the recruitment of the Science Officer, the Secretariat is now fully staffed and meanwhile based in a brand new office, which was officially opened on 23rd February 2010 during a ceremony which allowed all Partners to visit the premises.

At the end of 2009, Mr. Jaensch approached the AEWA Secretariat to discuss how cooperation between EAAFP and AEWA could be strengthened. Therefore the AEWA Executive Secretary Bert Lenten decided to attend MOP4 and to meet Mr Jaensch and his Staff.

CMS is one of the Partners to the EAAFP and a member of its Management Committee. The Convention was represented by its Senior Advisor, Mr. Douglas Hykle. On 23rd February, two of three International Single Species Action Plans commissioned by CMS and prepared by BirdLife International – for the Spoon-billed Sandpaper and the Chinese Crested Tern – were formally launched. Mr. Hykle, who instigated the development of the Action Plans through the CMS Scientific Council while serving as CMS Deputy Executive Secretary, handed over copies to the representative of the Host Government. A third CMS Action Plan, for the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill, will be launched shortly at meeting of experts.

Several points of interest to CMS and AEWA were discussed during this Meeting of the Partners. It is clear that the Partnership could benefit from the wealth of experience CMS and AEWA have on issues such as the development of a Flyway Site Network, CEPA, monitoring and research. A good example is the idea of developing International Single Species Action Plans (SSAP). Over the last 15 years a format for this kind of SSAPs has been developed by AEWA in close cooperation with Wetlands International and BirdLife International. Meanwhile this format has been accepted by the EU, the Bern Convention, CMS and others. So instead of developing a complete new format, the EAAFP MOP4 decided to use the same design and if needed to adjust it for the specific circumstances in that region. In addition it was agreed to follow a similar process for drafting such SSAP and to focus also on the implementation of the SSAP by identifying at an early stage which organisation would be in the position to take up the coordination of implementation. Lessons learned from AEWA are that without such coordination implementation might fail. The presence of AEWA and CMS was highly valued by the Partners.

Finally for more information on EAAFP please visit <http://www.eaaflyway.net/>