



# Technical Assistance Report

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Project Number: 55056-001  
Knowledge and Support Technical Assistance (KSTA)  
July 2021

## Scaling Up the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Initiative

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Asian Development Bank



## **ABBREVIATIONS**

ADB	–	Asian Development Bank
CSO	–	civil society organization
DMC	–	developing member country
EAAF	–	East Asian-Australasian Flyway
EAAFP	–	East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership
PRC	–	People’s Republic of China
RFI	–	Regional Flyway Initiative
SDCC	–	Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department
TA	–	technical assistance
UNDP	–	United Nations Development Programme

## **GLOSSARY**

Flyway	–	A flyway is the whole area covered by a species or population of migratory birds over the course of the annual cycle, including breeding and non-breeding grounds and the connecting migration routes.
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## **NOTE**

In this report, “\$” refers to United States dollars.

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<sup>a</sup> Outposted to the Cambodia Resident Mission.

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## KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE

<b>1. Basic Data</b>		<b>Project Number:</b> 55056-001	
<b>Project Name</b>	Scaling Up the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Initiative	<b>Department/Division</b>	SDCC/SDTC-ENV
<b>Nature of Activity Modality</b>	Capacity Development Regular	<b>Executing Agency</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>Country</b>	REG (BAN, CAM, INO, MAL, MON, PHI, PRC, THA, VIE)		
<b>2. Sector</b>	<b>Subsector(s)</b>	<b>ADB Financing (\$ million)</b>	
✓ Agriculture, natural resources and rural development	Land-based natural resources management		0.50
	Water-based natural resources management		0.50
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>3. Operational Priorities</b>		<b>Climate Change Information</b>	
✓ Accelerating progress in gender equality		GHG Reductions (tons per annum)	0.000
✓ Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability		Climate Change impact on the Project	Low
✓ Promoting rural development and food security		<b>ADB Financing</b>	
✓ Fostering regional cooperation and integration		Adaptation (\$ million)	0.10
		Mitigation (\$ million)	0.00
		<b>Cofinancing</b>	
		Adaptation (\$ million)	0.00
		Mitigation (\$ million)	0.00
<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>		<b>Gender Equity and Mainstreaming</b>	
SDG 12.2		Some gender elements (SGE)	✓
SDG 13.a			
SDG 15.1		<b>Poverty Targeting</b>	
		General Intervention on Poverty	✓
<b>4. Risk Categorization</b>	Low		
<b>5. Safeguard Categorization</b>	Safeguard Policy Statement does not apply		
<b>6. Financing</b>			
<b>Modality and Sources</b>		<b>Amount (\$ million)</b>	
<b>ADB</b>		<b>1.00</b>	
Knowledge and Support technical assistance: Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund		0.80	
Knowledge and Support technical assistance: Technical Assistance Special Fund		0.20	
<b>Cofinancing</b>		<b>0.00</b>	
None		0.00	
<b>Counterpart</b>		<b>0.00</b>	
None		0.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1.00</b>	
<b>Currency of ADB Financing:</b> US Dollar			



## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The regional knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) will contribute to a long-term and sustained effort to scale up the protection and sustainable management of a network of wetland sites in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), identified for their globally important biodiversity values and the provision of critical ecosystem services. The TA will address institutional capacity and regional cooperation, generate consensus on priority sites, propose a pipeline of investments to maintain these sites, and develop a financing mechanism to support the flyway in the long term. The investments made at the priority sites will protect internationally threatened waterbird species and wetland biodiversity while maximizing co-benefits for people.

2. The TA seeks to support and build on the objectives of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) Strategic Plan 2019–2028, to develop a comprehensive network of internationally important wetland sites.<sup>1</sup> This will be done by identifying the sites of highest priority within the network and engaging Asian Development Bank (ADB) developing member countries (DMCs) to strengthen their protection and sustainable use of these sites. The TA is included in the 2021 Management-approved results-based workplan of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC). The TA is aligned with ADB's Strategy 2030 and its operational priorities of accelerating progress in gender equality; tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience and enhancing environmental sustainability; promoting rural development and food security; and fostering regional cooperation and integration, especially by increasing and diversifying regional public goods. It contributes to DMCs' national biodiversity requirements under international treaties and conventions,<sup>2</sup> and to several Sustainable Development Goals (e.g., 12, 13, and 15).<sup>3</sup>

## II. ISSUES

3. The EAAF is the most vulnerable of the world's eight major migratory flyways. It covers East and Southeast Asia as well as Australasia, extending across 22 countries from the Arctic Circle in the north to New Zealand in the south.<sup>4</sup> Thousands of wetlands are present in the EAAF, which supports more than 50 million migratory waterbirds of more than 210 species, of which 20% are globally threatened. The wetlands that make up the EAAF provide essential ecosystem services such as food, medicine, fuel, income, and other benefits for nearly 200 million people in the Asia-Pacific region while also regulating flood waters and sequestering carbon. Despite this, extensive loss or degradation of coastal and inland wetlands continues,<sup>5</sup> largely because of land conversion, drainage for agriculture and as a result of climate change.<sup>6</sup> Hunting of waterbirds and other wetland fauna also remains a major threat at many sites.<sup>7</sup> While the EAAFP and other development partners have made successful efforts to protect migratory waterbirds and wetlands

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<sup>1</sup> The Strategic Plan is endorsed by 14 regional member countries of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), of which 10 are developing member countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, People's Republic of China (PRC), the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Australia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and New Zealand are regional members of ADB.

<sup>2</sup> A partial list includes the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Convention on Migratory Species.

<sup>3</sup> The TA first appeared in the business opportunities section of ADB's website on 19 May 2021.

<sup>4</sup> EAAFP. The Flyway. <https://www.eaaflyway.net/the-flyway/>

<sup>5</sup> Ramsar. 2015. [Wetlands: a global disappearing act](#). Gland.

<sup>6</sup> Note: Actions are being taken by the PRC, including a 2018 moratorium on coastal land reclamation, which can serve as examples for other countries in the EAAF. China Daily, January 2018, Reclaiming Land to be Restricted. [Link](#)

<sup>7</sup> N.J. Murray et al. 2019. The global distribution and trajectory of tidal flats. *Nature* 565, 222–225.

in the EAAF,<sup>8</sup> these endeavors must be expanded from site-focused projects to a network-wide program across multiple countries.<sup>9</sup> The TA will support the development of a new ADB Regional Flyway Initiative (RFI), scaling up the earlier interventions and providing an opportunity for nature-positive investments at a regional scale. The constraints on the efforts so far can be grouped into three key areas.

**4. Limited institutional capacity and lack of data for proper valuation of wetland ecosystem services.** Data inadequacies hinder the biological, economic, and social justification for protecting and sustainably managing EAAF wetlands. Consequently, key ecosystem services are undervalued and not maximized for local, national, and regional benefit. A poor understanding of the regional nature of threats and need for collective action has led to disjointed, nationally focused conservation efforts, often incompatible with the needs of species that move through the network, crossing national borders in response to food availability and climatic conditions.

**5. Inadequate support for sustainable wetland management.** Wetland protection receives limited financing in most DMCs. Funds are lacking for direct site interventions (protection, restoration, and sustainable management) and for longer-term site management, regional coordination, and network management through the EAAFP. Insufficient technical skills, institutional capacity, and human resources compound the problem, while weak legislation, absence of zoning, and protection of priority sites hinder effective management.<sup>10</sup>

**6. Lack of sustainable livelihood options and financing.** Few viable livelihood alternatives are open to local people who are currently engaged in activities that degrade or destroy wetlands and the species that use them. The resources to support a transition to more sustainable practices, such as ecotourism or sustainable aquaculture, are rarely available.

### III. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

#### A. Impact and Outcome

7. The TA is aligned with the following impact: effective protection and sustainable use of a network of wetland sites in the EAAF bolstered, benefiting wetland biodiversity and people.<sup>11</sup> The TA will have the following outcome: wetland management in the EAAF improved.<sup>12</sup>

#### B. Outputs, Methods, and Activities

8. The TA scope will include wetlands in 10 ADB DMCs (footnote 1) and will focus provisionally on Cambodia, Indonesia, the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The TA will look to explore opportunities in other DMCs within the EAAF and will also feature collaboration with key partners to scale up the implementation of the EAAFP Strategic Plan, thereby supporting and enhancing ongoing wetland conservation and sustainable management efforts in the EAAF (footnote 8). The TA will align with the ADB Natural Capital Lab,

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): [Strengthening the protected area network for migratory bird conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway \(EAAF\)](#) in the PRC (approved December 2020); WWF's Asian Flyways Initiative. Conservation for Nature and People. A strategic plan for 2020–2030; and ongoing programs by Agence Française de Développement ([Wolong Lake](#)) and KfW ([Hengshui Lake](#)).

<sup>9</sup> Poulson Institute. 2016. Blueprint of Coastal Wetland Conservation and Management in China. [Link](#)

<sup>10</sup> J. MacKinnon et al. 2012. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) situation analysis on East and Southeast Asian intertidal habitats, with particular reference to the Yellow Sea. *Occasional Paper of the IUCN Species Survival Commission* No. 47.

<sup>11</sup> EAAFP. 2018. *East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Strategic Plan 2019–2028*. Hainan.

<sup>12</sup> The design and monitoring framework is in Appendix 1.

a regional digital platform that serves as a testbed to integrate nature-positive solutions in project design and implementation. No work will be undertaken in the territory of any DMC until a no-objection letter has been obtained from the government of the relevant DMC.

9. **Output 1: Institutional capacity for understanding East Asian-Australasian Flyway wetland values enhanced regionally.** This output will ensure that local, regional, and international stakeholders are involved in the selection of priority wetlands and the delivery of the TA outputs. The TA team will build capacity and awareness of EAAF communities and decision makers, highlighting the natural and socioeconomic value of wetlands, and the vision and objectives set out in the EAAFP Strategic Plan to conserve and increase this value. It will assist the EAAFP, governments, and development actors in identifying the knowledge and capacity gaps that hamper sustainable wetlands management, and in defining actions to fill these gaps and to expand the partnership. Key activities will be the design of a stakeholder engagement strategy; delivery of stakeholder awareness-raising campaigns regionally and locally, including components to enhance gender inclusivity during consultation as well as through long-term participation in EAAF conservation and development; assessment of capacity and knowledge needs and preparation of an action plan to meet these needs; and preparation of related knowledge products. The TA team will draw on information from current surveys and activities in the region. Consultations and knowledge exchange will take place in existing forums (including ADB's subregional platforms, such as the Greater Mekong Subregion Economic Cooperation Program) and will showcase available tools such as eco-compensation (as used successfully for the Jiangsu Yancheng Wetland).<sup>13</sup>

10. **Output 2: Regional Flyway Initiative investment framework for priority East Asian-Australasian Flyway sites prepared.** The TA team will design and implement a methodology for selecting about 50 highest-priority wetland sites in the EAAF. These sites will be selected considering biodiversity values and co-benefits and will include sites where strategic investments can help overcome key conservation and development challenges. The TA team will then prepare concept-level investment proposals for these priority wetlands and wetland clusters to promote improved nature protection and sustainable site management while enhancing the delivery of co-benefits to local residents and strengthening the wider network of wetlands across the EAAF region. Activities will be done in close coordination with national and local authorities; key users of these wetlands, such as local communities and private sector entities; donors potentially interested in financing the proposals; scientists, civil society organizations (CSOs), and development organizations; and other potential stakeholders. The resulting investment portfolio will be made available to governments, development partners, private sector entities, and other donors or investors to select the activities that can be supported under their respective business. The TA will also look to set out wider criteria for secondary wetland sites that may be supported by ADB and other development partners and will contribute to the wider RFI objectives and the EAAFP Strategy. The RFI will be launched at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (rescheduled for October 2021).

11. **Output 3: Regional Flyway Initiative financing mechanism developed.** The TA will establish a mechanism to generate long-term financing in the form of small-to-medium funds for wetland biodiversity conservation and maintenance of co-benefits at highest-priority sites. In a first step the TA team will analyze case studies of existing regional or global funding mechanisms that support regional and local conservation and/or social development activities, and draw lessons from their successes and failures.<sup>14</sup> Based on this analysis, the team will prepare a paper

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<sup>13</sup> Jiangsu Yancheng Wetlands Protection Project (Loan 2838-PRC). [Link](#)

<sup>14</sup> This approach has proven successful in similar initiatives such as the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. [Link](#)

on the design options for a financing mechanism, to be discussed in workshops attended by representative governments, wetland-dependent communities, CSOs, universities, potential investors, and private sector entities. The final design of the mechanism will be based on the feedback received in the workshops and endorsed by EAAF stakeholders. It is expected that funds from the mechanism will complement projects focused on priority sites by supporting site maintenance, monitoring, data collection, enforcement, and community-based management initiatives. Fund recipients are expected to come primarily from CSOs, communities, and academic and research organizations. A final workshop to present the proposed financing mechanism and all other key TA outputs will also discuss opportunities for funding and request detailed commitments from countries and development partners.

12. The TA will contribute to Pillar 3 of the Regional Cooperation and Integration Operational Plan with regard to regional public goods, biodiversity protection and sustainable resource management, and use of the EAAF wetlands that form a transboundary network of key importance for waterbirds and other wetland-dependent species. The TA will support measures such as pollution control and regional capacity development, as well as actions to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change in the priority wetland sites. It will also support the mobilization of additional financial resources for biodiversity protection and enhanced regional coordination on the management of the wetland sites for which ADB provides particular value addition.

13. The TA will be delivered in close collaboration with other development agencies already working on sustainable wetland management and conservation in the region, such as KfW, Agence Française de Développement, and particularly United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (footnote 8). Outreach to DMCs has begun as part of TA preparation and to date included a webinar on 16 October 2020 attended by government representatives from Cambodia, the PRC, and Viet Nam. Follow-up engagement was conducted with Cambodia, engagement with pertinent PRC authorities is scheduled for July 2021, and engagement with Viet Nam is ongoing as part of the country partnership strategy process. Consultation with other DMCs will be initiated in the second half of 2021 in collaboration with staff from operational departments, and through existing mechanisms such as the Greater Mekong Subregion Working Group on Environment. In addition, engagement with CSOs has already started through the development of a stakeholder group with whom an initial meeting was held on 15 December 2020.<sup>15</sup>

### **C. Cost and Financing**

14. The TA is estimated to cost \$1,000,000, of which (i) \$200,000 will be financed on a grant basis by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF 7) and (ii) \$800,000 will be financed on a grant basis by the Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund.<sup>16</sup> The key expenditure items are listed in Appendix 2.

### **D. Implementation Arrangements**

15. ADB will administer the TA. ADB's Environment Thematic Group will lead the TA implementation. A working group consisting of key experts from the environment, natural resources, and agriculture divisions of ADB's East Asia and Southeast Asia departments; as well as experts from the Rural Development and Food Security, and Regional Cooperation and Integration thematic groups is operational. The group received expert input from international organizations such as the EAAFP Secretariat and BirdLife International, to support ADB in

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<sup>15</sup> Group members attending the first meeting included ADB; WWF; Wetlands International, IUCN, International Crane Foundation, Paulson Institute, EAAFP, BirdLife International, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

<sup>16</sup> Established by ADB. Financing partner: the Government of Japan.

correctly identifying the key issues and the actions required to scale up the implementation of the EAAFP Strategic Plan.

### Implementation Arrangements

Aspects	Arrangements		
Indicative implementation period <sup>a</sup>	July 2021–December 2023		
Executing agency	ADB, SDCC		
Implementing agency	ADB, SDCC		
Consultants	To be selected and engaged by ADB		
	Firm: direct contracting	Development of the Regional Flyway Initiative	\$578,000
	Individual	National (12 person-months)	\$60,000
Disbursement	Disbursement of technical assistance resources will follow ADB's <i>Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook</i> (2020, as amended from time to time). The funds from ADB TASF and the RCIF will be utilized to finance all activities and will be disbursed based on project deliverables.		

ADB = Asian Development Bank, RCIF = Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund, SDCC = Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, TASF = Technical Assistance Special Fund.

<sup>a</sup> The implementation period starts from the expected month of commitment or signing.

Source: ADB.

16. **Consulting services.** ADB will engage the consultants following the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and its associated project administration instructions and/or staff instructions.<sup>17</sup> A consortium led by BirdLife International will be engaged using direct contracting to deliver the consultancy services for the development of the RFI. BirdLife has successful experience of working with ADB through an ongoing regional TA focusing on reconciling energy infrastructure and impacts on birds.<sup>18</sup> For this project, in addition to their technical knowledge, BirdLife with its partnership structure<sup>19</sup> possesses the unique experience required to lead the consortium, and a proven track record of delivering large regional bird-orientated initiatives, such as the Migratory Soaring Birds Project funded by UNDP–Global Environment Facility and delivered over 10 years. With the consortium they bring world experts from the EAAFP Secretariat, Wetlands International, the Paulson Institute, University of Singapore, and the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund, among other players, who provide detailed collective knowledge covering all key TA outputs and with Asia-Pacific regional experience. The consortium is well connected to DMC governments, CSOs, and donors; and includes on-the-ground representation across the entire geography of the EAAF through local partners.

#### IV. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION

17. The President, acting under the authority delegated by the Board, has approved the provision of technical assistance not exceeding the equivalent of \$1,000,000 on a grant basis for Scaling Up the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Initiative, and hereby reports this action to the Board.

<sup>17</sup> Terms of Reference for Consultants (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 3).

<sup>18</sup> Protecting and Investing in Natural Capital in Asia and the Pacific (TA 9461-REG). [Link](#)

<sup>19</sup> BirdLife International is a global partnership of CSOs—the world's largest nature conservation partnership comprising about 115 national CSOs. It uses rigorous science to support partners in implementing practical and sustainable conservation of critical habitats and generate ecosystem services for local communities.

## DESIGN AND MONITORING FRAMEWORK

<b>Impact the TA is Aligned with</b> Effective protection and sustainable use of a network of wetland sites in the EAAF bolstered, benefiting wetland biodiversity and people (East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Strategic Plan 2019–2028) <sup>a</sup> .			
<b>Results Chain</b>	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms</b>	<b>Risks and Critical Assumptions</b>
<b>Outcome</b> Wetland management in the EAAF improved	<b>By 2023</b> a. Updated EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019–2028 incorporating TA outputs endorsed by participating DMCs (2020 baseline: NA) (OP 3.3.4, OP 7.3.2)  b. At least 3 RFI projects are included in the investment pipelines of ADB and/or other partners involving protection, restoration, sustainable management, or sustainable livelihoods (2020 baseline: 0)	a. Endorsed EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019–2028  b. COBPs of participating countries and development partners' formal communications on support for RFI investments	R: Change in government priorities shifts efforts away from national commitments on protection and sustainable management of wetland sites.
<b>Outputs</b>  1. Institutional capacity for understanding EAAF wetland values enhanced regionally	<b>By 2023</b> 1a. At least 200 participants (at least 30% of them women) from governments and regional stakeholders confirm improved understanding of EAAF wetlands and the vision set out in EAAFP Strategic Plan (2020 baseline: 0) (OP 2.3; OP 7.3.4)  1b. Needs assessments of at least 5 DMCs completed with recommendations, and an action plan prepared to address implementation capacity gaps in participating governments and regional organizations supporting the EAAF, including gender analysis to identify key operational and practical entry points for gender mainstreaming (2020 baseline: 0)	1a. Workshop evaluation  1b. DMC needs assessment reports and related knowledge materials, and a summary knowledge product.	R: Differing priorities among national agencies and/or RFI partners hamper the ability to achieve timely consensus on regional approach.  R: Uncertainty related to COVID-19 outbreak restricts DMCs' ability to support TA activities.

Results Chain	Performance Indicators	Data Sources and Reporting Mechanisms	Risks and Critical Assumptions
2. RFI investment framework for priority EAAF sites prepared <sup>b</sup>	<p>2a. List of EAAF priority sites of maximum impact<sup>c</sup> identified and endorsed by EAAFP partner governments (2020 baseline: NA) (OP 3.3.3)</p> <p>2b. At least 50 investment concepts—including concepts for protection, restoration, climate resilience, sustainable management, or sustainable livelihoods of highest-priority wetland sites and/or wetland clusters—prepared with DMCs and submitted for consideration in the country programming process (2020 baseline: 0) (OP 5.3.1)</p> <p>2c. At least 1 knowledge product summarizing the RFI investment framework completed; and site selection framework, list of priority sites, and investment concepts prepared (2020 baseline: 0)</p>	<p>2a. Proceedings of stakeholder workshop</p> <p>2b. Report on investment concepts</p> <p>2c. Knowledge product(s) and reports of knowledge dissemination activities</p>	
3. RFI financing mechanism developed	<p>3a. A financing framework and mechanism published, detailing the conservation and/or social development activities at regional and local levels to be supported, and the modalities for long-term RFI financing (2020 baseline: NA)</p> <p>3b. At least 2 development partners express support to the financing framework and/or mechanism and concepts (2020 baseline:0)</p>	<p>3a. Published paper on the RFI financing mechanism</p> <p>3b. Workshop documentation</p>	

### Key Activities with Milestones

#### 1. Institutional capacity for understanding EAAF wetland values enhanced regionally

- 1.1 Design draft stakeholder engagement strategy and distribute for comment (Q3 2021)
- 1.2 Obtain partners' endorsement of the stakeholder engagement (Q4 2021)
- 1.3 Undertake national consultations at the priority DMCs to discuss the RFI, build capacity, and ensure that activities are gender inclusive (Q4 2021)
- 1.4 Gain written endorsement from all priority DMCs for the RFI (Q4 2021)
- 1.5 Prepare and disseminate training needs assessment survey, analyze results, and draft a training needs action plan for stakeholder comments (Q4 2021)
- 1.6 Finalize and distribute training needs action plan incorporating stakeholder comments (Q4 2021)
- 1.7 Complete summarized knowledge product for needs assessment work for wider dissemination (Q1 2022)

#### 2. RFI investment framework for priority EAAF sites prepared

- 2.1 Prepare draft site selection criteria, disseminate to the working committee for comment, and finalize (Q3 2021)
- 2.2 Prepare draft site selection framework based on agreed criteria and consult stakeholders (Q3 2021)
- 2.3 Revise and finalize the framework, taking into account stakeholder comments (Q3 2021)
- 2.4 Apply the site selection framework, using EAAFP's designation of 450 important wetland sites as a starting point, narrow down to about 100 priority sites, and finally identify about 50 sites of highest priority (Q3–Q4 2021)
- 2.5 Organize and prepare for the first regional stakeholder workshop (possibly as a side event during CBD COP15) to discuss and endorse achievements to date, and reach broad consensus on proposed activities for the remainder of the TA (Q3–Q4 2021)
- 2.6 Develop criteria for inclusion of secondary wetland sites (supporting the wider RFI goals) (Q3–Q4 2021)
- 2.7 Prepare concept-level investment proposals for the identified 50 priority sites in conjunction with country consultations. A minimum of 20 of the priority sites will have had field surveys completed (selected among the top 50 sites but not necessarily the 20 sites of highest priority) (Q2 2023)
- 2.8 Disseminate overall findings of the concept proposals and discuss them at a videoconference consultation workshop; seek national approval of the respective proposals; and record interest to support the proposals from the countries' development partners, including ADB (Q1 2023)
- 2.9 Prepare and disseminate two knowledge products, one on the investment framework and the other on the training needs action plan (Q1–Q2 2023)

#### 3. RFI financing mechanism developed

- 3.1 Prepare about 3 options for sustainable financing based on analysis of existing case studies drawn from past applicable financing efforts in the region and around the world (Q2 2023)
- 3.2 Organize workshops to discuss options and to engage investors and donors for involvement (Q2–Q2 2023)
- 3.3 Design a financial mechanism based on conclusions from the workshops and disseminate for comment (Q3 2023)
- 3.4 Hold a final TA workshop to present the financial mechanism and all other primary TA outputs; request detailed commitments from countries and development partners; and show those commitments in a matrix that will be the workshop's main output (Q3 2023)

### TA Management Activities

TA management will be ongoing throughout the life of the TA and will include:

- (i) managing contracts for technical studies on a regular basis (to conform to normal monthly management and invoicing and billing cycles); and
- (ii) conducting annual TA reviews to monitor use of TA funds and progress on TA performance indicators, and to assess consultants' performance.

### Inputs<sup>e</sup>

ADB: \$200,000

Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund: \$800,000

ADB = Asian Development Bank, CBD COP15 = 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, COBP = country operations business plan, COVID-19 = coronavirus disease, DMC = developing member country, DMF = design and monitoring framework, EAAF = East Asian-Australasian Flyway, EAAFP = East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, NA = not applicable, OP = operational priority, Q = quarter, R = risk, RFI = Regional Flyway Initiative, TA = technical assistance.

<sup>a</sup> EAAFP. 2018. East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Strategic Plan 2019–2028. Hainan.

<sup>b</sup> The investment framework consists of concept investment proposals, as well as proposals for capacity building and other supporting programs.

<sup>c</sup> Sites of maximum impact are those that (i) meet key conservation objectives or have highest threat status, (ii) deliver co-benefits, and (iii) are of national importance.

<sup>d</sup> Existing mechanisms for examination of national biodiversity funding will be examined, including [BIOFIN](#).

<sup>e</sup> Applications for these funds are underway. However, funding is yet to be confirmed from either source.

#### **Contributions to Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities**

The expected values and methodological details for all OP indicators to which the TA will contribute results are detailed in Contribution to Strategy 2030 Operational (accessible from the list of linked documents in Appendix 3 of the TA report).

Source: Asian Development Bank.

**COST ESTIMATES AND FINANCING PLAN**  
(\$'000)

Item	ADB <sup>a</sup>	Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund <sup>b</sup>
A. Consultants		
1. Remuneration and per diem		
a. International consultants		489.25
b. National consultants	60.00	88.75
2. Out-of-pocket expenditure		
a. International and local travel	5.00	102.00
b. Training, seminars, and conferences	95.00	80.00
c. Miscellaneous administration and support costs <sup>c</sup>	10.00	
B. Training, seminars, and conferences		
1. Travel cost of ADB staff acting as a resource person <sup>d</sup>	10.00	
C. Miscellaneous administration and support costs <sup>c</sup>	10.00	10.00
D. Contingencies	10.00	30.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>800.00</b>

ADB = Asian Development Bank.

<sup>a</sup> Financed by ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund (TASF 7).

<sup>b</sup> Established by ADB. Financing partner: the Government of Japan.

<sup>c</sup> Miscellaneous administration and support costs include general operating costs and software licenses for consultants.

<sup>d</sup> ADB (BPMSD and SPD). 2013. Use of Bank Resources: Regional Technical Assistance and Technical Assistance vs. Internal Administrative Expenses Budget. Memorandum. 26 June (internal).

Source: ADB estimates.

**LIST OF LINKED DOCUMENTS**

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/LinkedDocs/?id=55056-001-TARreport>

1. Terms of Reference for Consultants
2. Contribution to Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities