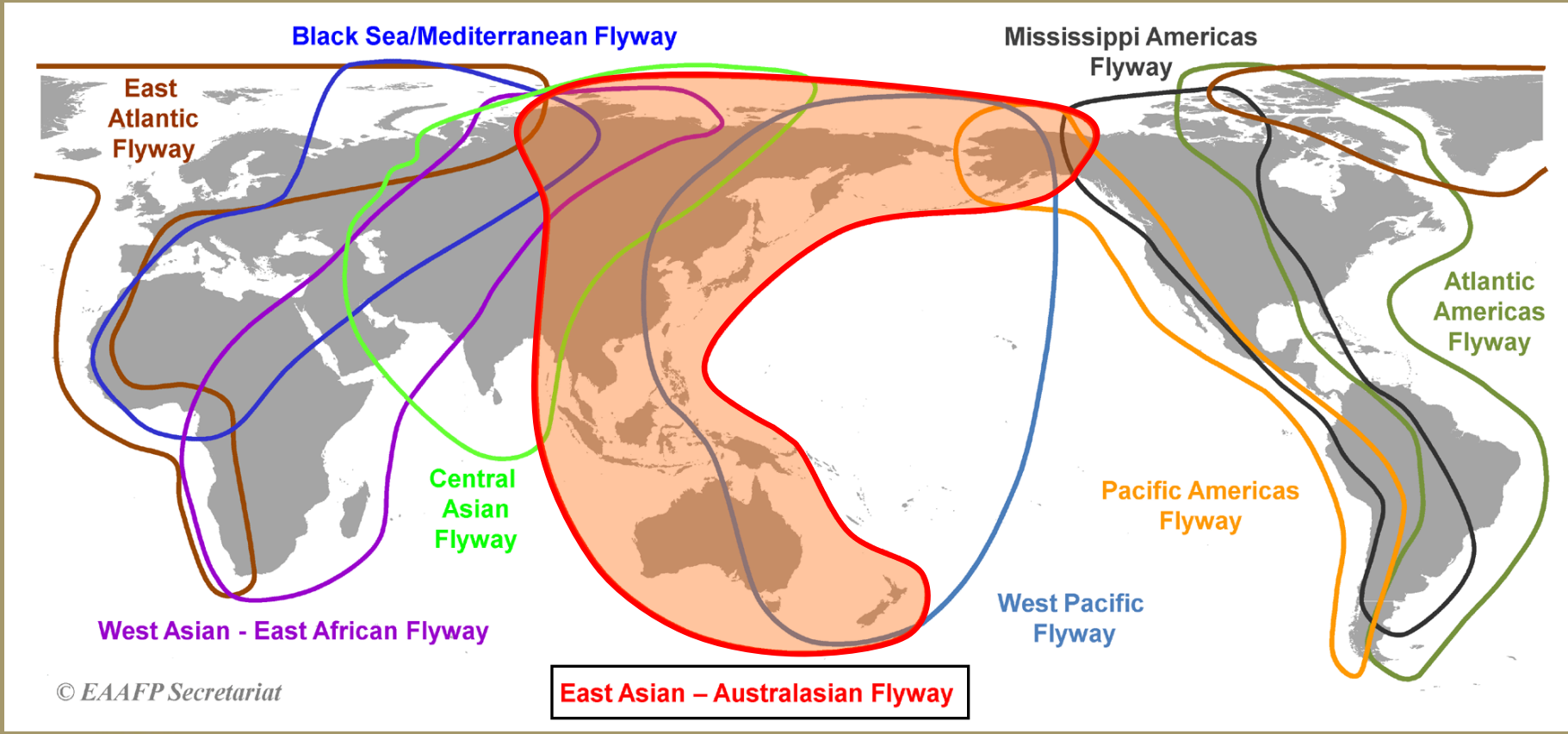
Partnership for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway

conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats for the benefit of people and biodiversity

Spike Millington

A Flyway in Crisis



PARTNERSHIP for the EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY

Migratory Waterbirds on the EAA Flyway

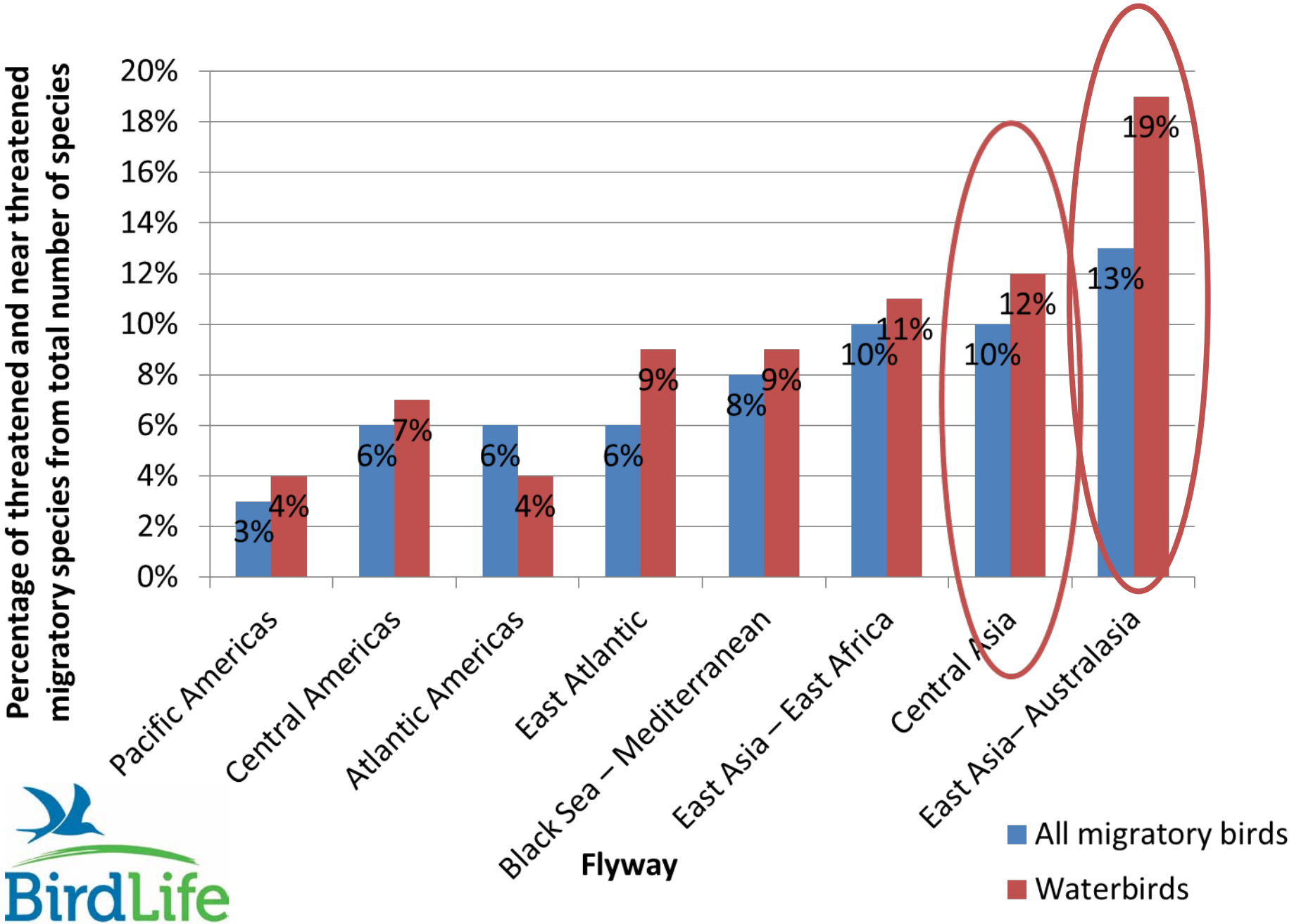
At least 50 million waterbirds of more than 200 species

Highest Number of Threatened Species: 33 globally threatened

Highest number of declining species (annual declines of 9% for some shorebirds)

Flyway	Land birds	Waterbirds	Soaring birds	Seabirds	TOTAL
Pacific Americas	4/191 2%	5/128 4%	1/20 5%	4/49 8%	9/319 3%
Central Americas	17/286 6%	6/92 7%	1/30 3%	0/15 0%	23/378 6%
Atlantic Americas	17/253 7%	6/138 4%	0/26 0%	1/42 2%	23/391 6%
East Atlantic	6/172 3%	11/126 9%	3/28 11%	4/42 10%	17/298 6%
Black Sea–Mediterranean	13/194 7%	10/108 9%	9/37 24%	0/25 0%	23/302 8%
East Asia– East Africa	19/208 9%	14/124 11%	12/42 29%	0/25 0%	33/332 10%
Central Asia	17/199 9%	13/108 12%	11/37 30%	0/16 0%	30/307 10%
East Asia–Australasia	27/293 9%	34/178 19%	15/44 34%	5/45 11%	61/471 13%

Numbers and percentages of threatened and near-threatened migratory species by type and flyway (Kirby 2010).



BirdLife INTERNATIONAL

(Kirby 2010)

Target 12, By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained

Figure 4. Population decline of Great Knots *Calidris tenuirostris* and of the EAAF populations of Red Knot *Calidris canutus* and Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* (for flyway routes see Figure 6). Shown are the measured current rates of decline and the projected trajectories if no further conservation measures are taken (after Amano *et al.* 2010 and Wilson *et al.* 2011).

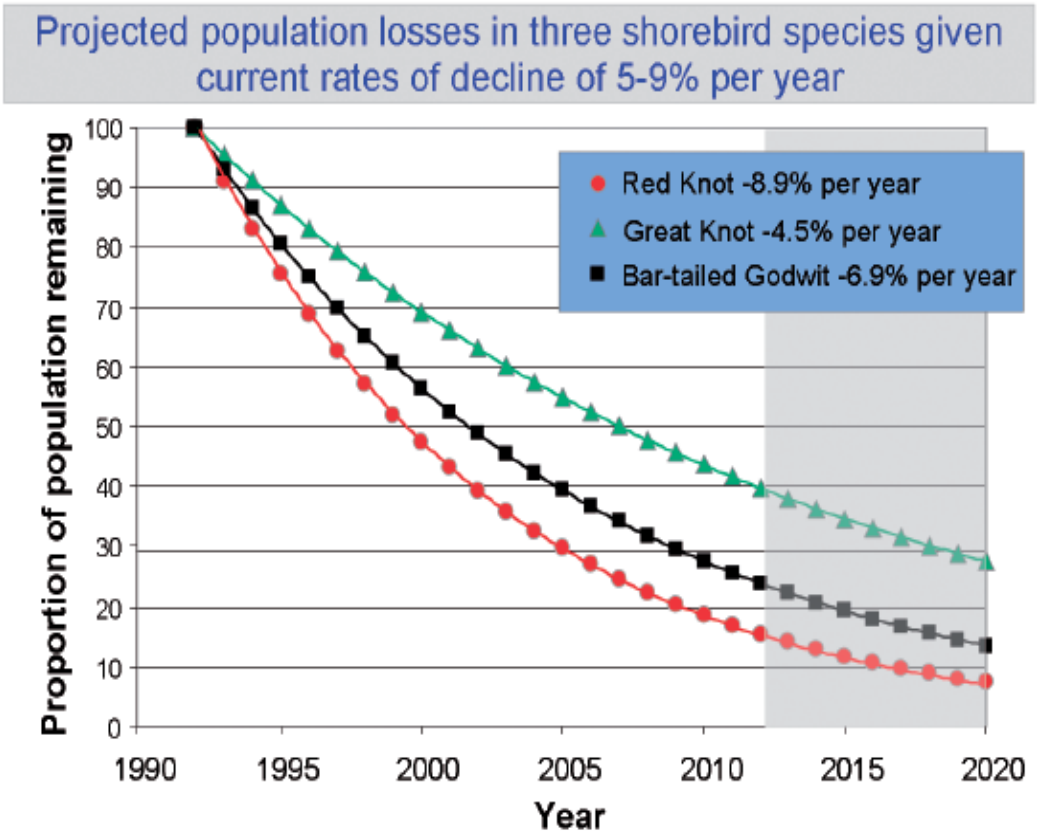
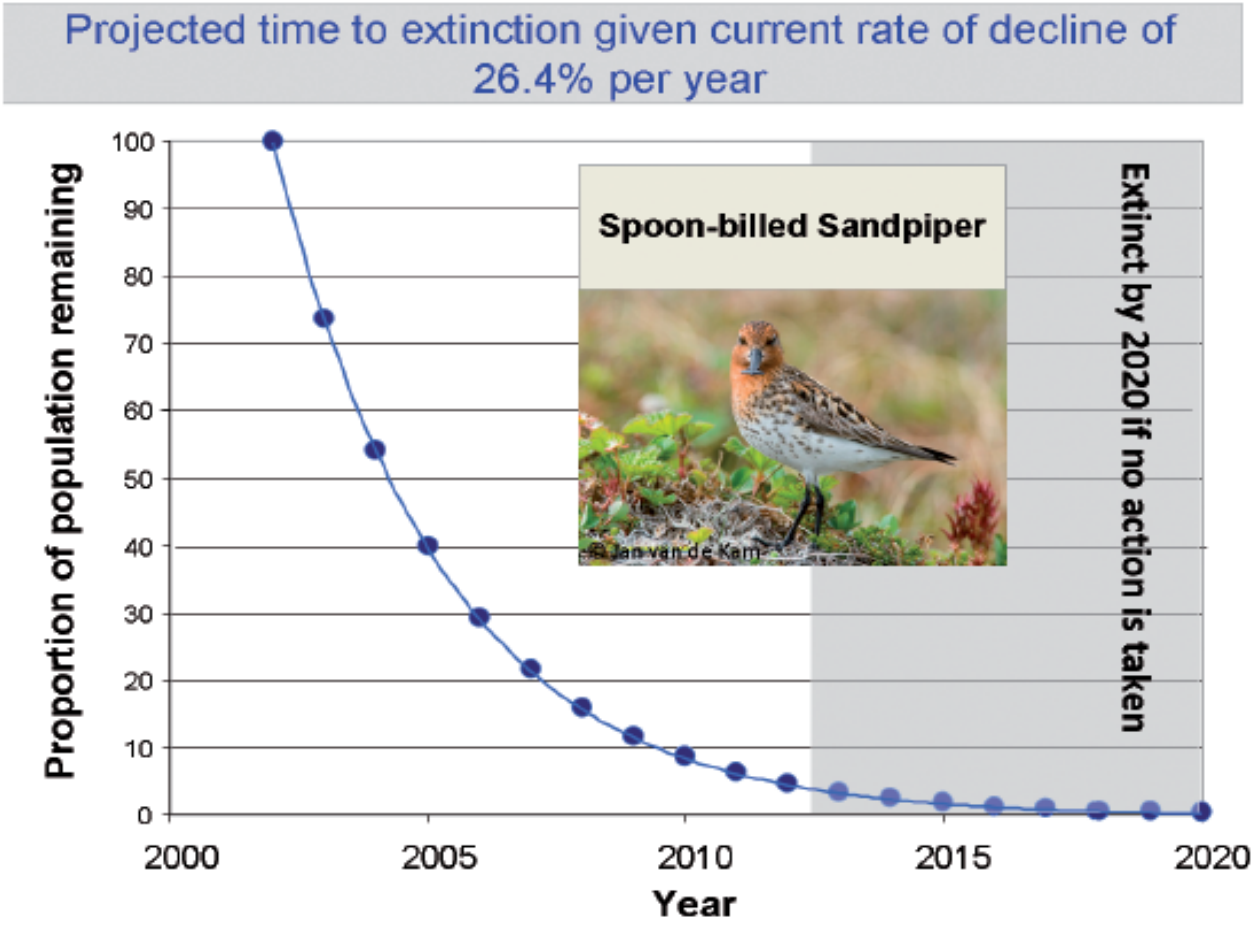


Figure 3. Population decline in Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* showing measured current rate of decline and the projected trajectory to extinction if no additional conservation measures are taken (after Zöckler *et al.* 2010b; but see Pain *et al.* 2011).



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Slipping Away ..

Challenges to Conserving Migratory Waterbirds on the EAA Flyway

Most countries on the flyway are experiencing rapid, large-scale economic development

Consequently, extensive loss of habitat is occurring, including reclamation of intertidal mudflats and conversion of freshwater floodplain wetlands for intensive agriculture.

Aichi Target 5: By 2020 the rate of loss of all natural habitats is at least halved ...
and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced

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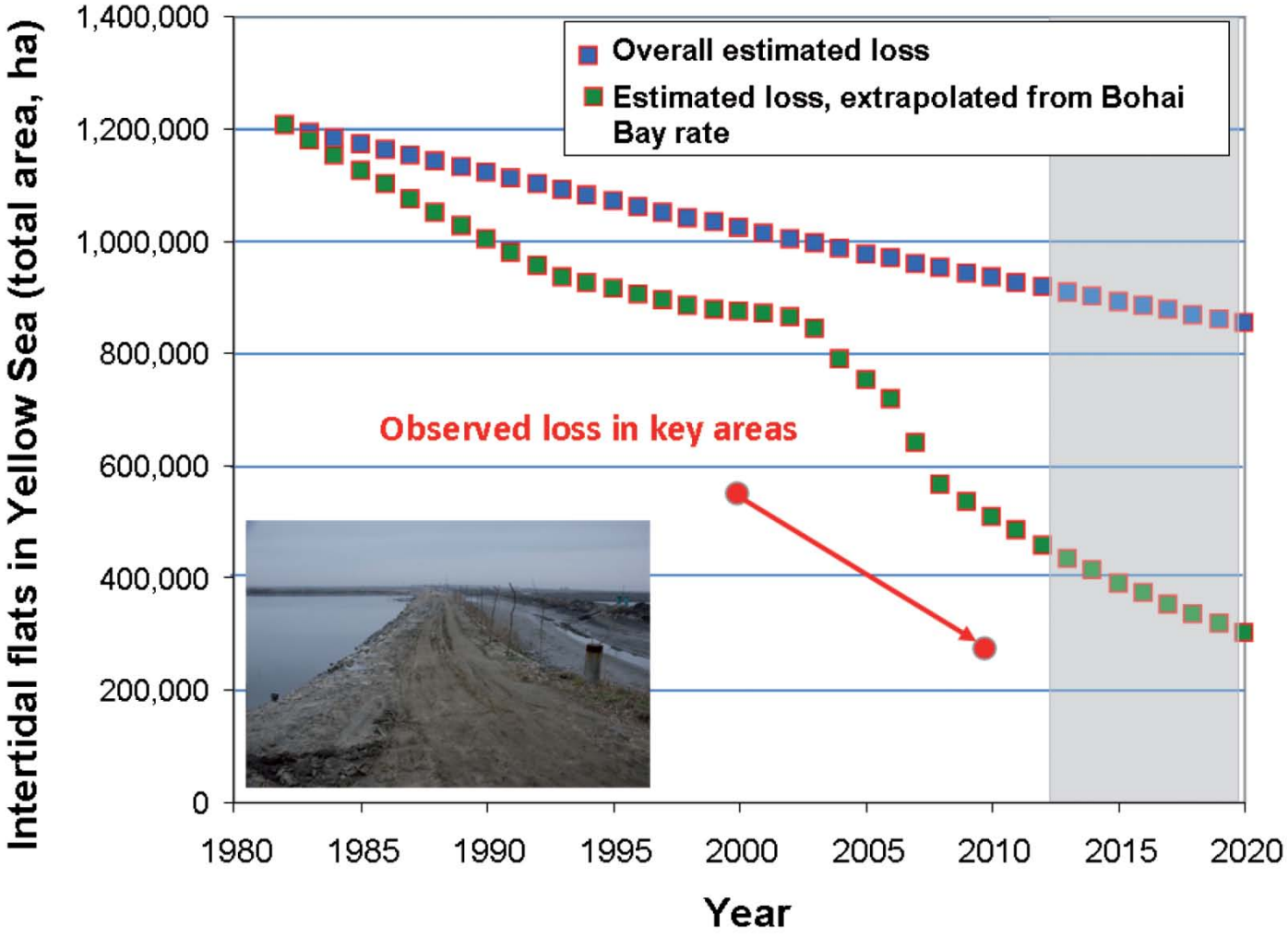
Loss of intertidal flats in the Yellow Sea (including Bohai Sea) and in Yellow Sea key areas



The CBD commissioned Review of Global Assessments of Land and Ecosystem Degradation and their Relevance in Achieving the Land-based Aichi Biodiversity Targets identified wetlands as the most degraded ecosystem among the six assessed

Aichi Target 11: At least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Network Sites

(120 sites)

Important Sites

(Approx. 950 sites)

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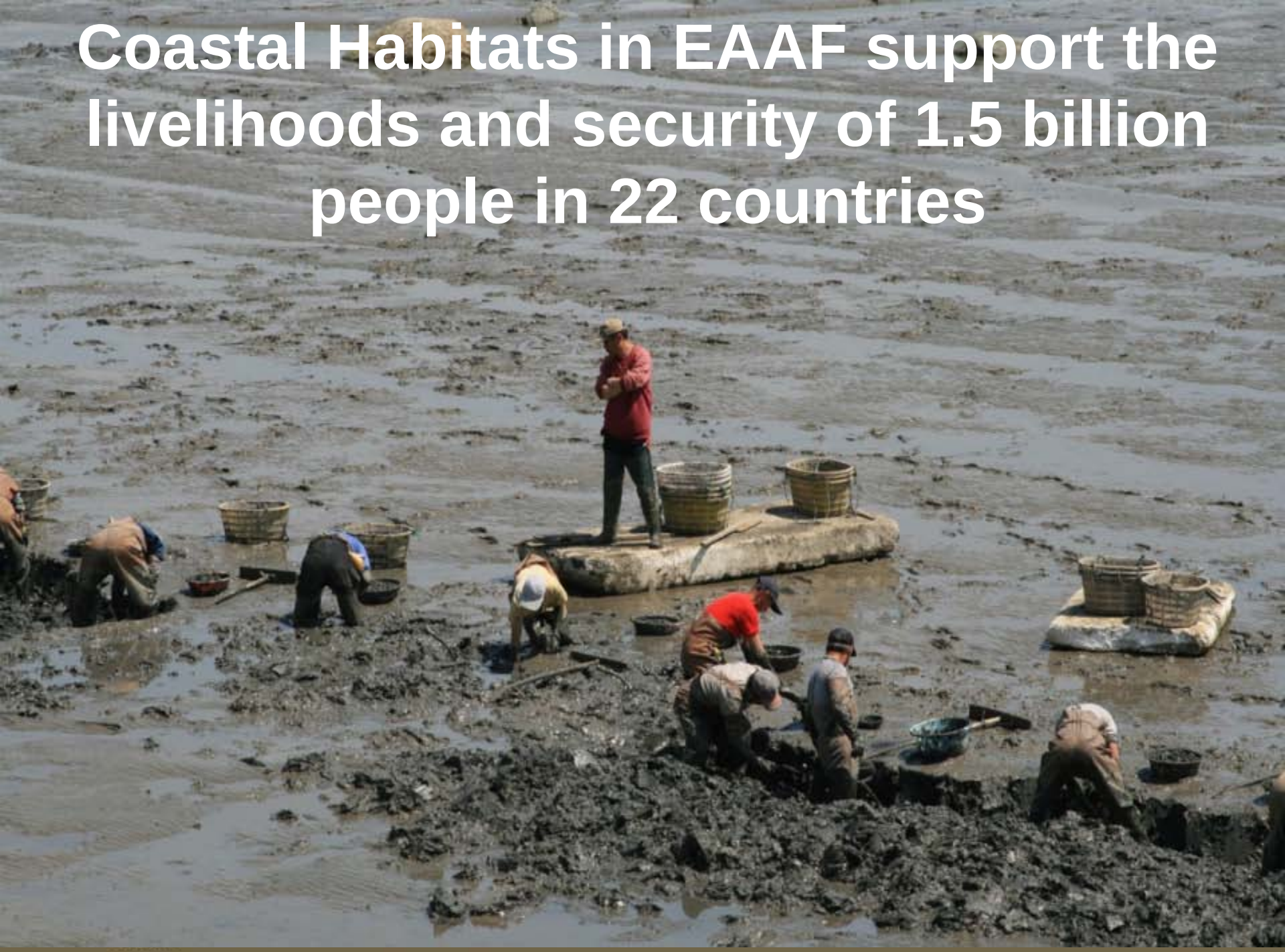
Aichi Target 14

By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

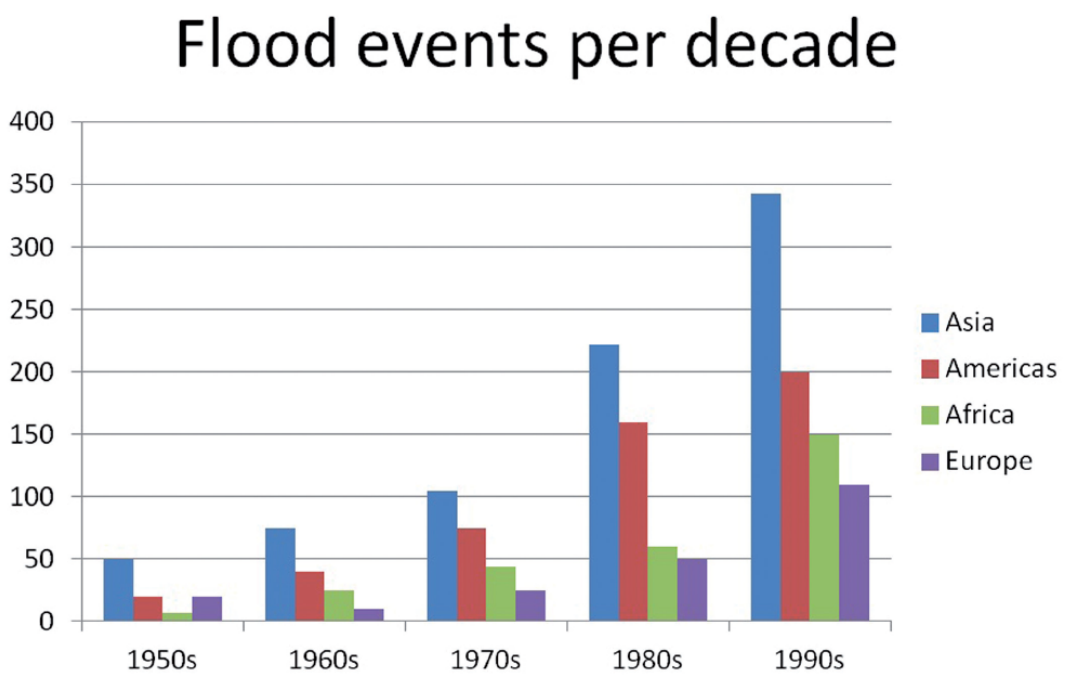
Coastal Habitats in EAAF support the livelihoods and security of 1.5 billion people in 22 countries



Wetland Ecosystem Goods & Services

- Water supply and quality
- Food and livelihoods
- Climate change mitigation & adaptation
- Nutrient cycling
- Recreation & tourism
- Cultural values

Figure 8. Rising frequency of major flood events between 1950 and 2000 on four continents. Source: International Disaster Database, EM-DAT.



Breaking Down Seawalls

In the Humber estuary, managed rearrangement was found to have a positive net present value after around 30 to 40 years, reaching a benefit of about £11.5 million over a period of 50 years.

Wallasea Island, UK

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The long term benefits of restoring coastal wetlands include:

- Reduced flood defense costs
- Reduced flood risks
- A more robust coastline to deal with climate change
- Improved and more productive sustainable fisheries and shell fisheries
- Re-creation of pollution and carbon soaks to improve water quality and prevent carbon emissions
- Re-creation of natural landscapes as a global and national natural heritage with aesthetic and cultural values
- Increased biodiversity, including nesting, feeding and roosting migrating birds, a shared international concern
- Increased tourism revenues and associated benefits
- Restoration projects support income generation and provide job creation opportunities
- International recognition of sustainable economic development
- Social security and well-being.

Next Steps

- Potential for Launch of Coastal Restoration Challenge at CBD COP12 (part of Korean Biodiversity Initiative?)
- Review of Coastal Restoration Best Practice
- Guidance and Tools
- Partnerships and Capacity Building (e.g Yellow Sea – Wadden See)
- Demonstration Sites

Thank you for your attention.