

1st Asian marine IBA workshop

14th-16th April 2010

JICA Chikyu-hiroba

Tokyo, Japan



Sponsored by Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF)

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Attendee list with email address and details

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3. Seabird scientists

- 13). Shuihua CHEN (Zhejiang Museum of Natural History, a member of Zhejiang Wild Bird Society, China) birdchen@hotmail.com
 - 14). Evgeny SYROECHKOVSKIY (Bird Russia, Russia) ees_jr@yahoo.co.uk
 - 15). Yuri ARTUKHIN (Kamchatka Branch of Pacific Institute of Geography, Russia) artukhin@mail.kamchatka.ru
 - 16). Akinori TAKAHASHI (National Institute of Polar Research, Japan) atak@nipr.ac.jp
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4. Other participants

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5. Observers

- 19). Nobuo KOKUBUN (National Institute of Polar Research, Japan)
- 20). Takashi YAMAMOTO (National Institute of Polar Research, Japan) taka.y@nipr.ac.jp

Key Outcomes/Issues

Need for different approaches between tropical and northern areas of the region, both due to species composition and also due to capacity and current data availability.

Goal/target for the region should be to produce something in relation to the CBD 2012 marine targets, and have a draft list of sites prepared for CBD COP11 in 2012.

For many countries seabirds fall between the jurisdiction of forestry and fisheries authorities, and there is a need to ensure that it is on the agenda of both. Good to develop a common approach for the region to tackle this.

There is a need to decide on a list of species suitable for marine IBAs in the region e.g. should this include divers, phalaropes, eider, brent goose. It was agreed by all that Saunder's Gull and Relict Gull should be removed from the list of species relevant to a marine IBA approach. Initially all agreed that the focus of seabird work within the region should be threatened and indicator species.

In the north of the region, establishing links between Japan, Russia and the US/Canada would seem essential for identifying a network of priority sites for some species that occur on both sides of the North Pacific.

Plans were established to develop a North Pacific Murrelet proposal, to cover Xantus's, Marbled, Kittlitz's, Japanese and Long-billed Murrelet. This would look to identify threats, key sites for conservation (IBAs) and create species action plans.

Russia identified a clear workplan for IBA and marine IBA identification to work towards producing an inventory for the Far East by 2013. this includes holding a national marine IBA workshop during 2011.

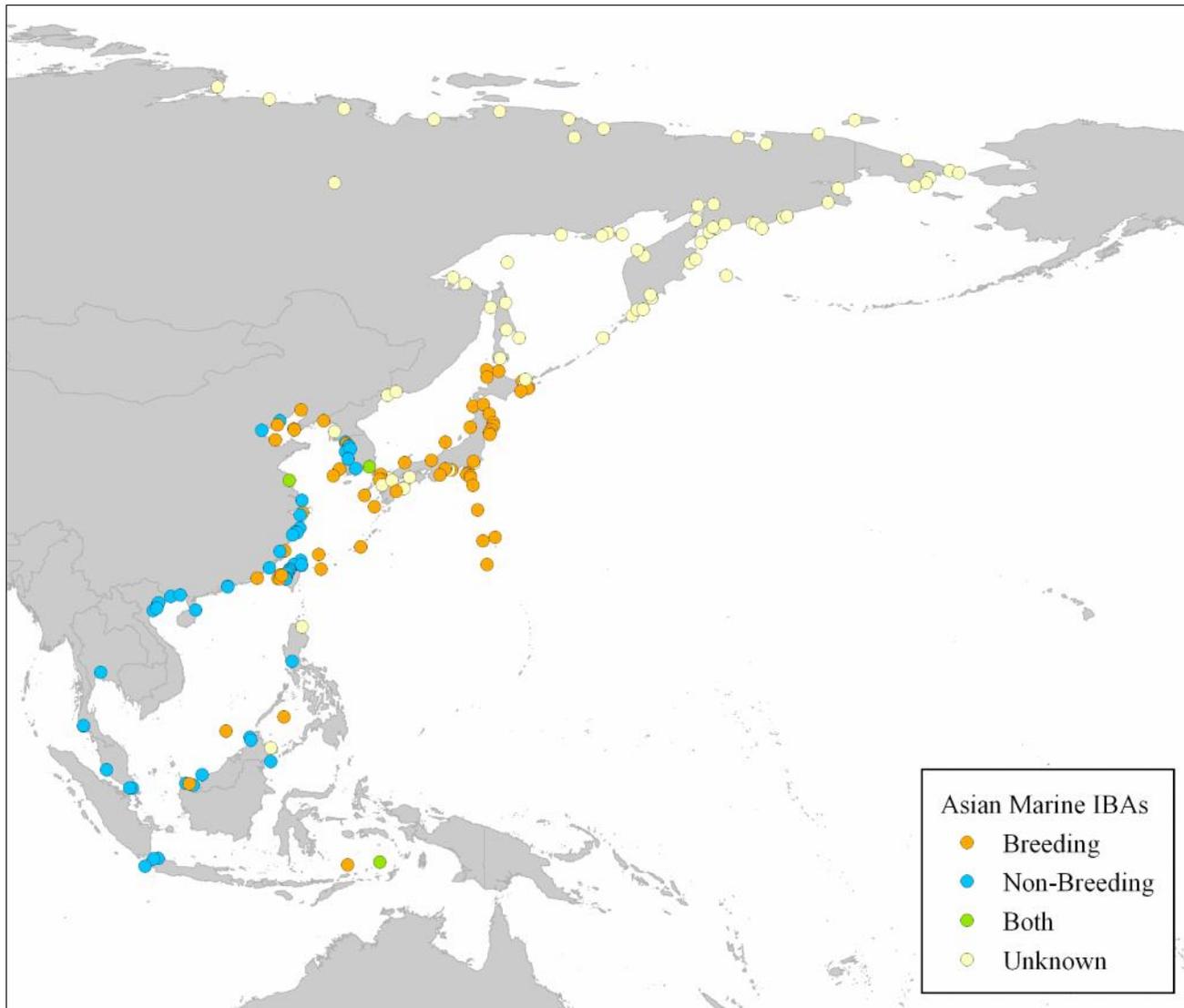
Japan has already created a draft marine IBA workplan, and has plans for a national marine IBA workshop in June 2010. The aim is to produce a draft list of sites for Japan to promote at CBD COP10 in Nagoya, Japan, Oct 2010.

Improve the coordination and discussion about seabird issues in South East Asia via the establishment of a web based seabird discussion group and by exploring the possibilities for holding a sub-regional workshop. Set up a South East Asian seabird colony register

Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar and Malaysia share concerns of lack of data, lack of capacity and lack of awareness about seabirds.

Identification cards for priority species, and a simple reporting format would be very useful for the South East Asian region in particularly, and this would help in raising awareness and for gathering new data.

Other countries not represented at the workshop, but who need to be engaged with to create a truly regional approach include Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Contacting relevant seabird researchers in these areas would help to fill the gaps. In the absence of experts BirdLife Asia office should lead the review of the existing candidate marine IBA list.



Map showing all existing IBAs that have seabirds as trigger species, and their season of occurrence at the site.

This list was compiled using IBA information held within BirdLife's World Bird Database and was used as the basis for identifying candidate marine IBAs in East Asia.

This list of sites needs review in each country, some of which was provided during the workshop. Existing sites need updating with new population estimates where they exist, and assessment of the season of occurrence at the site. This update would help to identify those sites most in need of updated survey.

New sites containing seabirds, either breeding sites and/or at-sea areas, can also be proposed to enable the most complete network of marine IBAs to be identified in time for the CBD 2012 marine targets

Scientific name	Common name	Reason	Japan	Russia	Philippines	China	Hong Kong	Indonesia	Malaysia	Myanmar	Regional	Multi-regional
<i>Fregata andrewsi</i>	Christmas Island Frigatebird	Critically Endangered			M		M	H	H		H	H
<i>Sterna bernsteini</i>	Chinese Crested Tern	Critically Endangered	H		H	H	M	M	H		H	
<i>Brachyramphus brevirostris</i>	Kittlitz's Murrelet	Critically Endangered		H								H
<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>	Black-footed Albatross	Endangered	H									M
<i>Papasula abbotti</i>	Abbott's Booby	Endangered						H				M
<i>Phoebastria albatrus</i>	Short-tailed Albatross	Vulnerable	H	M							H	H
<i>Phoebastria immutabilis</i>	Laysan Albatross	Vulnerable	M	M							M	M
<i>Synthliboramphus wumizusume</i>	Japanese Murrelet	Vulnerable	H									
<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	Sooty Shearwater	Near Threatened	M									L
<i>Oceanodroma tristrami</i>	Tristram's Storm-petrel	Near Threatened	H									
<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Ivory Gull	Near Threatened		L								L
<i>Gavia adamsii</i>	White-billed Diver	Near Threatened	L	L							L	
<i>Brachyramphus perdix</i>	Long-billed Murrelet	Near Threatened	M	H							M	M
<i>Calonectris leucomelas</i>	Streaked Shearwater	Regional Endemic	H		M	M		M			H	M
<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>	Black-naped Tern	Regional Endemic	L				M		M		M	M
<i>Onychoprion aleuticus</i>	Aleutian Tern	Regional Endemic		H		M	H					
<i>Rissa brevirostris</i>	Red-legged Kittiwake	Regional Endemic		M								M
<i>Cepphus carbo</i>	Spectacled Guillemot	Regional Endemic	M	M							M	
<i>Larus crassirostris</i>	Black-tailed Gull	Regional Endemic	M	L		L	L				L	
<i>Uria aalge</i>	Common Murre	Indicator Species	L	M							L	L
<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Thick-billed Murre	Indicator Species	L	M							L	L
<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>	Tufted Puffin	Indicator Species	L	M							L	
<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	Rhinoceros Auklet	Indicator Species	M	M							L	L
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Black-legged Kittiwake	Indicator Species		M								L
Sulidae family	Booby species	Indicator Species	L		M			H	M	M	M	M
Sternidae family	Noddy/Terns	Indicator Species			M		H	M	M	M	M	M

Table of priority seabird species for study and marine IBAs in the East Asian region, as identified during the marine IBA workshop. Priority is given as H = high, M = medium, L = low

Key timeline of events

Month	Year	Event	Activity Deadline
Now	2010	-	Report back to colleagues
Now	2010	BirdLife Jensen funds	Suggest projects to fund (see workshop report for ideas)
May	2010	BirdLife Asian Partnership Meeting	Submit workshop report
June/ July	2010	Pro Natura Fund	Funding application opportunity
4 times	2010	Nagao Foundation pre screening	Funding application opportunity
Sept	2010	World Seabird Conference	Promote marine IBA work in Asia
Oct	2010	CBD COP10	Draft marine IBAs of Japan complete
Dec	2010	East Asia-Australasia Flyways meeting	Promote workshop report
	2012	CBD COP11	Produce first inventory of east Asian marine IBAs

Suggested Activities for the East Asian Region

- Report back on workshop to your colleagues
- Discuss draft national marine IBA workplans within colleagues
- Create draft budget and time allocation for the workplan
- Compile country and regional seabird/marine IBA workplan
- Decide on priority species list for the region
- Establish Google group to share information
- Submit workshop report and workplan to BL Asia meeting in May 2010
- Develop funding proposals (individual and joint)
- Review/amend existing IBAs
- Produce seabird ID card and sightings recording forms
- Raise awareness in country about seabirds and the regional project
- Gather existing at-sea data (e.g. colony surveys, at-sea surveys, tracking)
- Contact experts for consultation on candidate marine IBA sites
- Look to engage with relevant policy mechanisms
- Produce foraging factsheets
- Conduct seaward extensions
- Identify new IBAs
- Identify gaps in coverage
- Conduct new studies to fill gaps
- Create draft list of sites and boundaries for network of east asian marine IBAs

Russian Far East

Representative Present:

Dr. Evgeny E. Syroechkovskiy (Birds Russia)

Dr. Yuri B. Artukin (Pacific Institute of Geography)

Previous Seabird Work

Eastern Russia is particularly important for breeding sea-duck and auk species, and hence conservation through marine IBAs. Threats to sea bird populations in this area are regrettably high; with salmon driftnet and gillnet fisheries resulting in significant mortality. Marine IBAs, in conjunction with improved coastal zone and salmon fisheries management, have the potential to alleviate the mortality these seabird species are currently facing. Extensive work has already been conducted in the Bering Sea in collaboration with Audubon Alaska and BirdLife Asia division.

Evgeny has been leading on Russia Arctic research, including research on seabirds, for the last 20 years. He represents the recently formed NGO Birds Russia, and one of the priority work areas of the organisation is seabirds

Yuri has worked on seabirds in the Commander Islands and Kamchatka for many years, with a particular interest/experience in monitoring and seabird/fisheries interactions.

Little direct conservation work is currently being undertaken on seabirds.

Lots of old seabird surveys have been published in Russian literature though these have not compiled into a central resource. New data has also been collected in recent years via vessel-based survey visits. These surveys have provided new updates for a number of breeding seabird species and have led to improved understanding of northern fulmar distribution, both Murre species (e.g. total of 900,000 new birds discovered breeding here), Black-legged Kittiwakes (e.g. 260,000), Cormorant species (e.g. several thousand), Horned puffins outnumber Tufted Puffins by a factor of 3 but need much more detailed survey, Crested Auklet may be underestimated (c. 1,000 currently known) and small numbers of whiskered auklet are known to breed

In total 29 colonies ranging in size from 259 to 333,000 individuals (?), and totalling 1.9 million birds have now been discovered. None of these areas are protected.

Some long-term monitoring data exists in the Commander islands, but only around 5% of seabird breeding sites in the Russian Far East have proper monitoring underway. There have been recent attempts to involve local people in monitoring of cliff nesting seabirds via the establishment of study plots. This has been done using photo monitoring by local people, where high resolution cameras (digital SLR) have been used initially to assess species composition, and in the following years compact cameras have been used to monitor the total number of individuals. This work has highlighted the importance of finding the right people to conduct the monitoring, and paying them a small amount of money has assisted in getting regular results. This methodology does require some standardisation still, e.g. time of day, year etc. that photos are taken.

Marine IBA assessment

Russia started work on its IBA assessment over fifteen years ago, though for eastern areas it is not yet complete, and has not progressed in the last 10 years. There is a lot of additional recent knowledge, but this needs to be coordinated to fill gaps and update existing sites.

Difficulty to decide where the boundaries between terrestrial and marine IBAs lie and may need to decide whether a narrow focus on marine IBAs is taken or a broad view to include sites for species that are of relevance to both terrestrial and marine IBAs e.g. eider and phalarope species, black-headed gull.

Initial estimates suggest there are probably 70-130 globally significant seabird IBAs, amounting to over 20 million birds. Few marine IBAs have been identified so far that could be considered purely marine/pelagic, some are obvious (e.g. Kuril Strait), and some of the most easily identified will be for wintering/moulting sites of eider and alcids. The Kamchatka IBA inventory was completed in 200?, but has not yet been incorporated into the BirdLife database(?)

Foraging ranges for murre, black-legged kittiwake, northern fulmar and auklets have been explored for some sites and these could be formalised into new IBA boundaries in some areas.

Some vessel based transect routes cover an area up to 50km from the coast, and these have proved useful for identifying patterns of Kittlitz's Murrelet distribution. These have helped to determine that on average there are 1.8 birds per km² within a 3km strip from the coast. 10 main sites that may qualify as IBAs have been proposed, and 4 breeding sites are known. There are few data on wintering areas, though some birds winter around the breeding sites, but many/most migrate south to the Kamchatka coast and around Sakhalin Island. Some bycatch has been observed in the Bering Sea and along the Kamchatka coast, and oil/gas activities are likely to pose a threat.

Birds Russia has good connections to all existing seabird scientists/data in the region and can probably get 90% to be involved in a regional analysis if an appropriate plan and timeframe is developed.

Relevant Policy Mechanisms

Less than 50% of important seabird breeding sites in the Russian Far East are protected, and many of these are only on a local scale. Russian legislation only allows the sea surface to be designated as an MPA at the federal level, and mostly this is within 2km of coast, though the Commander islands are an exception with 30km around the island protected. IBAs are currently not formally included in planning processes; some progress has been made in European Russia where local level protection has been achieved. However there is a need for serious lobbying to convince government to think beyond the current 2km limit.

Major threats to seabirds in the region include oilspills, coal mining, egg collecting, bycatch (for some species) and oil/gas related activities.

Priorities

- Surveys of area that have previously not been visited
- Finding Kittlitz's Murrelet breeding sites, collaborate with US for range wide conservation, make local population estimates and identify gaps
- Work to promote oilspill management with local authorities
- Lobby government for protection of key sites
- Hold an Russian Far East marine IBA inventory meeting in Kamchatka in April or Sept 2011

Russian Far East Workplan

Inventory:

- 1) Development of marine IBA project proposal between June and December 2010
- 2) Consultation on potential fields of cooperation for Russia and Japan on Marine IBAs after June 2010 (after national marine IBA workshop in Japan)
- 3) Preparation stage for marine IBAs between January and April 2011
- 4) Communication with experts between May and August 2011
- 5) 1st national marine IBA workshop in Kamchatka 2011
- 6) Data collection and processing between October 2011 and September 2012
- 7) Conduct surveys of last remaining never counted colonies of the North Pacific in Penzhina Bay;
- 8) Compile inventory of wintering seabird concentrations (Alcids & eiders) in the Kuril straits and South Kamchatka;
- 9) Completion of inventory of Navarin cliffs and publishing results of 7 years of work
- 10) Produce intermediate results of draft marine IBAs for Russia Far East at CBD COP11 in 2012
- 11) Completion of inventory of Marine IBAs of Russian Far East: published, October 2012; on the web, March 2013

Monitoring:

- 1) Continuation of long-term monitoring in selected locations: (a) Commander Islands Reserve; (b) Talan Island in the Northern Sea of Okhotsk;
- 2) Monitoring of Chukotka peninsula colonies to identify trends;
- 3) Establish the community monitoring program of cliff nesting seabirds (Murres and Black-Legged Kittiwake) for the Russian Far East based on South Chukotka experience (BirdsRussia program);

Policy:

- 1) Lobbying Ministry of Natural Resources to develop and formally accept conservation status for off shore sea surface areas;
- 2) Lobbying Ministry on recognition of IBA status in general;
- 3) Work with local governments on creation of zones with regulation of human activities in costal waters for bird conservation purposes.

Site conservation:

- 1) Improvement of conservation status of selected marine IBAs after finalizing of the inventory - priority list to be prepared;
- 2) Finalize foraging radius work with more precise identification of key at-sea areas to be included in potential protected areas within National Park “Beringia” (Anadyr Bay of Bering Sea) (desk work & boat surveys)

Species:

- 1) Kittlitz Murrelet (Critically Endangered) – Asian population: summarize existing data, GIS evaluation of numbers, surveys to find the core breeding area, community monitoring activities in Chukotka and Kamchatka region; evaluating bycatch in Kamchatka
- 2) Long-billed Murrelet – clarification of status and evaluation of numbers in Russia;
- 3) Satellite tracking (data loggers) of Aleutian Terns to discover their wintering grounds; analysis of modern status and trends of Asian population.

Population management:

- 1) Evaluation of seabird harvest (birds and eggs) in the areas of traditional hunting of indigenous peoples (Inuit & Chukchi)
- 2) Bycatch issues: Monitoring seabird mortality in the salmon driftnet, bottom gillnet and demersal long-line fisheries in the Russian Far East region; gradual decrease of seabird by-catch during demersal long-line fishing; evaluation of Murrelets bycatch by coastal fishing in Kamchatka

Education and awareness rising:

- 1) Publication and distribution of education materials in Russian for fisherman, boat crews, helicopter pilots etc.

Japan

Representative Present:

Mr. Yutaka Yamamoto (Wild Bird Society of Japan)

Mr. Seiji Hayama (Wild Bird Society of Japan)

Dr. Akinori Takahashi (National Institute of Polar Research)

Dr. Nobuo Kokubun (National Institute of Polar Research)

Mr. Takashi Yamamoto (National Institute of Polar Research)

Previous seabird Work

In 2009 WBSJ established a Japanese Murrelet conservation programme

11 families of seabirds have been recorded in Japan, and 63 species are regular. Species are split between southern hemisphere species and Arctic-Bering Sea species.

Streaked Shearwater has been tracked (or is planned) from five breeding sites (Sangan, Awashima, Mikura, Awa and ???) around Japan.

Marine IBA assessment

Of 167 IBAs currently identified in Japan, 39 sites are for seabirds and could be considered as candidate marine IBAs. The current candidate list has 46 (?) sites; it would be good to establish where the differences are.

At the moment there are some discussions as to whether the four species of diver, brent goose, saunders gull and phalarope species are suitable to include in marine IBA work.

Tracking of the streaked shearwater has shown that the sea south of Hokkaido is an important feeding area for breeding birds, as are areas between Hokkaido and Kuyshu. Streaked Shearwaters tracked in the non-breeding season have been shown to travel mostly to the north of New Guinea, with fewer to the south of the island, and also some concentrations in the South China Sea and around Philippines.

GLS deployment trials are underway on rhinoceros auklet (recovery of devices in 2010) and black-tailed gull which will help to identify important areas for these species.

There are plans to trial marine IBAs in Japan for a selection of species:

1. Seaward extension around breeding colony: *Synthliboramphus wumizusume*, *Sterna dougallii*
2. Pelagic hotspots: *Calonectris leucomelas*
3. Non-breeding concentrations or Migration hotspots: *Puffinus tenuirostris*, *Aethia cristatella*

For three species it is currently considered that they might not be suitable for marine IBA identification without much new information:

- 1) Long-billed Murrelet: no breeding site data
- 2) Thick-billed Murre: not much data exist and distribution unknown
- 3) Black-tailed Gull: no data exist

WBSJ would like to foster greater international cooperation for the identification of marine IBAs particularly for Streaked Shearwater breeding in Japan and wintering in the Arafura sea.

Relevant Policy Mechanisms

In Japan many seabird colonies are protected but feeding and migration areas are not protected, and this needs to be considered in future.

Onohara Island off the coast of Mijakejima (a breeding site of Japanese Murrelet) is protected as a national park under Japanese law, but Japanese Murrelet is not a qualifying species at the moment. Also, fisheries and marine boats are allowed in the area under the law, and this has raised a conservation concern. Some of the marine area is also protected, but this may not be enough to cover the area used by the Murrelet?

Priorities

- Surveys for Chinese Crested Tern in Okinawa
- Determine areas where off-shore windfarms may have a negative impact
- Identifying the non-breeding distribution of Japanese Murrelet
- Determine IBAs from streaked shearwater tracking data
- Draft marine IBA national workshop plans, and start reviewing and amending existing candidate marine IBAs (late April 2010)
- Hold a national marine IBA workshop (June 2010) to identify a candidate list of marine IBAs, select target species, and finalize the timeline
- Produce poster/presentation of draft marine IBAs for Japan at CBD COP10 in Nagoya Oct 2010
- Continue to work on the identification of marine IBAs and report Japanese marine IBAs by 2012
- Potential collaboration with Russia and the USA for conservation of North Pacific species of Murrelet, including collaboration with Russia on Long-billed Murrelet
- Potential collaboration with Russia on marine IBAs in general

China

Representative Present:

Dr Shuihua Chan (Zhejiang Museum of Natural History)

Previous Seabird Work

China has approximately 18,000 km of coast line, about 7000 islands (6500 of which are uninhabited) and borders from north to south the Bohai Sea, Yellow Sea, East China Sea, and South China Sea.

Seabirds have been neglected in China and most islands have not been surveyed properly. Tan et al (1990) listed 2500 literature references of Chinese ornithology of which only 25 relate to seabirds. 13 of these relate to seabirds inland, so only 8 studies/publications currently exist on seabirds at sea. The discovery of the Chinese Crested Tern (CCT) at Matzu Island in 2000 has helped to raise the seabird profile within the country.

CCT research is ongoing, new surveys for nesting sites have been conducted, and these have counted other seabirds at the same time. There are historical records of CCT from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and China, and unconfirmed reports from a few other countries. Between 2003 and 2009 monitoring has been conducted on the Zhejiang coast, in 2004 surveys were made of the Ximan coast, and in 2006 in the Beijing area.

Jiushan archipelago in Zhejiang had around 20 breeding CCT in a colony of 4000 Great Crested Terns (GCT). In 2004 breeding completely failed due to egg collecting and a typhoon. In 2005-06 no terns bred here at all, in 2007 8 CCT nested with 2000 GCT but over 1000 eggs were harvested from the site in one night. In 2008 the Jiushan colony moved to Wuzhishan Islands some 100km away and 4 CCT nested with 1000 GCT. In 2009 5 CCT nested with 1000 GCT at the same site, including 3 birds at one nest. Colour banding of chicks was undertaken in 2008 and 2009. Currently only two distinct populations are known in Matzu and Zhejiang which include 23 breeding adults at 3 sites.

Threats to CCT include egg collection, disturbance (shellfish collection and birders/tourists), pollution (red tides), overfishing (June-Sept supposed to be closed fishing, but illegal fishing still occurs) and typhoons.

To try to improve the status of the species, conservation ideas have been sent to relevant government officials, and volunteers employed to safeguard colony. In an attempt to raise awareness about the plight of the species xxx has produced an education brochure, created press releases, and established education and monitoring programmes.

Marine IBA assessment

Of the 26 candidate marine IBAs currently list, 21 are coastal wetlands. Many important seabird sites have been identified but have not yet been included as IBAs e.g. Haimo Dao Island. Most currently included sites have been identified on the basis of the presence of Saunder's Gull, and there are too many and some need to be re-evaluated. Saunder's Gull is not consider relevant to a marine IBA approach.

For some areas there is a lack of information as to their importance for seabirds, such as the Yellow Sea and offshore water, though there are currently no plans for any at-sea surveys to solve this.

Relevant marine Policy

In China the Forestry Administration are supposed to be responsible for bird conservation, but they do not have jurisdiction for enforcing law at sea. This falls to the Ocean Administration who are responsible for at-sea protection/management but their focus is on the conservation of aquatic wildlife, and generally neglects seabirds

The recently passed Law of the Peoples Republic of China on Island protection has a mandate to protect islands important to biodiversity, and the identification of seabird breeding sites and marine IBAs can be used to help promote sites for protection under this legislation.

It is illegal to collect eggs under Chinese law, but many people are unaware of this and/or think it is their traditional right. It is currently not a high government priority to enforce this law.

Priorities

- Determine status and distribution of Chinese crested tern along China coast
- Raise awareness and promote increased protection through Seabird Conservation and Island Management forum to be held in Zhejiang in late June 2010
- Search for Aleutian Tern in South China Sea
- Visit the Streaked shearwater and Swinhoe's Petrel breeding site at xxx to provide updated population information
- Provide Birdlife with the new candidate marine IBA list as proposed during the workshop (Dr. Chen to provide)
- Explore how IBAs can be used to protect breeding sites under the new Law of the Peoples Republic of China on Island protection

**South East Asia
Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Myanmar**

Representative Present:

Mr. Yat-tung Yu (Hong Kong Birdwatching Society)

Ms. Dwi Mulyawati (Burung Indonesia)

Mr. Fairul Izmal Jamal Hisne (Malaysian Nature Society)

Mr. Don Geoff E. Tabaranza (Haribon Foundation Philippines)

Ms. Than Than Aye (Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association Myanmar)

Previous Seabird Work

Hong Kong Birdwatching Society currently has an ongoing waterbird monitoring programme and has already done some work on seabirds though this is mainly focused on observations from land.

In Indonesia, threatened and endemic species are the focus of Burung at present, though KNCF has funded marine conservation projects in the country previously. Burung Indonesia are currently undertaking a Protected Areas (PA) gap analysis for the government. In the terrestrial environment IBAs are the only good quality information to compare against the PA network, but in the marine environment good data on coral reefs, turtle nesting beaches and some cetacean distribution is available to compare against the MPA network. At the moment seabird information has not been considered in this gap analysis.

In Malaysia there is a lack of current and ongoing research on seabirds, with many of the last proper surveys made over 20 years ago. There is also a lack of public interest in seabirds due to knowledge limits.

In Philippines there has been previous work on MPAs with local communities, though not in relation to seabirds. Haribon have tried to link MPA monitoring and IBA monitoring where possible. A marine KBAs project has also been conducted in the Philippines in conjunction with Conservation International.

In Myanmar recent surveys (Feb-Apr 2010) have been conducted at Lampi by BANCA, Forest Department and Oikos. This identified 10 species of tern and gull in the area. The project also surveyed the native Moken women to determine the socio-economic impacts on the marine environment and assess the traditional fishing system. The Lampi site has high potential for ecotourism.

Marine IBA assessment

In Hong Kong there is currently only one candidate marine IBA, though this is an estuary site rather than marine. On the east coast there are some small islands for breeding terns (around 500 birds), but numbers fluctuates a lot, and it is likely there are not enough present to qualify the site as an IBA. Seabird migrate past Hong Kong in substantial numbers (e.g. 6000 red-necked phalaropes, 1000's of terns), and there are non-breeding records of Christmas Island Frigatebird, but it is not thought to be regular.

The Indonesian islands of Pulau Manuk and Pulau Gunung Api are some of the most important seabird breeding sites in South East Asia as they hold multiple species

congregations, however neither is protected, they are hard to visit and have not been surveyed for many years. There are potentially many new areas to survey, which could reveal many new sites. While Burung may not lead on marine IBA work they are well placed to facilitate the gathering of seabird data by other organisations within Indonesia.

In Malaysia there are ten existing IBAs for seabirds, and there are potentially four new sites in Pulau Perak, Sembilan Islands, Tioman Islands and Mersing Island.

In Philippines there are 117 IBAs but only 3 of these have seabirds as trigger species. Recent surveys suggest that Bugey is mainly for shore birds, Manila Bay has no breeding seabird species, and that the Tubbataha Reef is the most important site for seabirds in the country.

No candidate marine IBAs have yet been identified for Myanmar. Lampi Island is already an IBA (but for forest species), the recent surveys found 23 bird species, including 11 species of gulls and terns, though the exact numbers present have not yet been clarified.

Relevant marine Policy

In Hong Kong there are problems of disturbance by fisherman at the tern breeding site.

In Indonesia there are more than 100 MPAs in total, though most (all?) have been established on the basis of non-seabird marine taxa and habitats. Some MPAs are managed by Ministry of Forestry, some by Marine Affairs and Fisheries, and there is little dialogue between the two.

The Malaysian Nature Society is still lobbying for IBAs to be formally incorporated into Protected Area planning, and the concept of marine IBAs may cloud the process, or benefit it. Currently MPAs can only be designated from the low water mark up to two nautical miles from the coast. The management of land and marine areas falls under different government departments, and hence are not managed together, and seabirds seem to fall between the two with neither department accepting responsibility for them.

The Philippines has 35 years experience with MPAs of which there are now 1300, but half of which are <10 hectares in size and only around 15% are managed properly. Seabirds are generally not included in the MPA planning process. The president recently increased the size of the Tubbataha Reef MPA from 30,000 to 90,000 hectares.

The newly established 203 km² Lampi Marine National Park is the only MPA in Myanmar.

Priorities

Hong Kong

- Determine presence of key migration areas
- Assess the likely key areas to be affected by offshore windfarms, which may be sited in the seabird flyways

Indonesia

- Conduct new surveys of Pulau Manuk and Pulau Gunung Api
- Islands meeting (?) in Aug 2010 where it may be possible to discuss marine IBAs
- Add a paragraph to the Protected Areas gap analysis about the absence of seabird data within the project
- Facilitate other organisations within Indonesia to work on seabirds as appropriate

Malaysia

- Confirm the four new seabird breeding sites as IBAs
- Raise awareness about seabirds within Malaysia
- Update the surveys of Booby breeding sites which have not been surveyed since the 1980s

Philippines

- Survey priority areas to identify potential new sites
- Encourage diving boats travelling between the Philippines and Palau to report non-breeding streaked shearwater sightings

Myanmar

- Determine exact number and status of terns in Lampi National Park
- Survey other areas for terns and potentially booby species

SE Asian Workplan

During the break out group, the South East Asian countries identified a list of priority species/species groups to work on within the region, and priority activities for each that they would like to conduct. A number of issues for the region also arose that are dealt with separately and that some of the activities identified under each species may help to tackle.

Priority Species

Chinese Crested Tern – priority for China, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, and Hong Kong

- Survey all known great crested tern colonies/sites to search for Chinese crested tern – identify country priorities use existing IBA list and historical records
- Gather historical records of CCT in each country – check Asian Red Data book (2001) for existing sites/records and add to as appropriate
- Conduct searches during the non-breeding season (Oct-Mar) – identify country priority search areas using red data book and historical records identified above
- Produce CCT fact sheet/poster, for raising awareness and trying to gather new information in each country
- Hold a regional training programme to provide details of how to identify CCT

Christmas Island Frigatebird – priority for Indonesia, Philippines, and Malaysia

- Update species range map to incorporate recent knowledge
- Search for important non-breeding roost sites – e.g. on Spratley Islands
- Contact Janos Hennicke and ask him to identify the likely key sites from the tracking data to help identify priority survey areas and candidate marine IBAs
- Explore the use of the foraging radius approach around important roost sites
- Compile historical data for the region

Streaked Shearwater – priority for Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, and China – activities need to be shared with Japan and Papua New Guinea for a more complete regional network of sites to be identified.

- Identify important non-breeding areas
- Contact Dr. Takahashi and ask him to identify the likely key sites from the tracking data to help identify priority survey areas and candidate marine IBAs
- Use diving boats and promotion with ships etc to visit sites identified and clarify the number of birds present

Booby species – priority for Philippines, Malaysia, China, and Indonesia

- Abbotts Booby may occur off the coast of Java, contact Janos Hennicke and ask him to identify the likely key sites from the tracking data to help identify priority survey areas and candidate marine IBAs
- Philippines already conducts regular monitoring at xxx site, and this can be used to assess the overall status in the region and trigger monitoring at other sites when changes are noted. An additional regularly monitored site would be beneficial.

- Large decline in some booby species (which?) in the region in last 40 years, need to survey some priority sites to clarify the exact levels of decline
- Use Google earth and other remote sensing information to search for new potential breeding sites in the region – each country to narrow search areas for using these techniques on.
- Explore the possibility of tracking booby species in the region in future

Tern and Noddy species – priority for Indonesia, Hong Kong, Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, and China

- Determine status of Aleutian Terns wintering in Indonesia, Malaysia and South China Sea
- Create identification sheet to raise awareness and encourage reporting of sightings
- Set up a monitoring programme for one or two sites, to trigger wider monitoring when required
- Use Google earth to search for new potential breeding sites in the region – each country to narrow search areas for using these techniques on.

Black-tailed Gull – priority for China, and Hong Kong – activities need to be shared with Japan and Russia to achieve a comprehensive regional approach

- This species was identified as a priority by two countries but no activities were suggested

Issues

Some breeding sites are poorly surveyed; at-sea areas are poorly understood

- Organise surveys of priority breeding sites (use existing IBAs and identified potential sites to clarify where the priority sites are)
- Use existing tracking data for some species to narrow search area for non-breeding congregations
- Activities outlines under priority species discussed above would help to address this

There is a lack of awareness about seabirds in many countries

- Create seabird identification cards for priority species
- Create simple sightings reporting form
- Distribute these with fisherman/yachts/cruise ships etc
- Undertake seabirds training days (using the existing Hong Kong waterbirds day as a model?)
- Activities outlines under priority species discussed above would help to address this

The Spratley Islands are a territory disputed by 6 countries, which causes logistical and political problems when it comes to conducting research and promoting the site as an IBA/MPA

- All Partners agree on the importance of the islands for seabirds
- Needs further surveys to confirm exact species composition and number of birds present

- Some countries conduct annual survey trips for other purposes; look into possibility of seabird researchers joining these surveys
- Share existing data (though not publish) from all 6 countries to (privately) assess the importance of the islands. Each country will need to try and access their relevant data and combine it.

Many seabird breeding sites do not hold IBA threshold numbers of birds but are still of interest nationally/regionally

- Establish regional colony register. This may best be done through the framework for a global colony register being discussed at the 1st World Seabird Conference in Canada, Oct 2010.

Need for coordination between South East Asian Countries when working on seabirds to ensure a consistent approach

- Plan to establish a Google group or Yahoo group where seabird issues can be discussed.
- Invite appropriate regional seabird experts to join this group as appropriate
- Explore opportunities for holding a South East Asian marine IBA workshop (Philippines suggested as one possible venue)

Lack of funding/capacity to engage in seabird work in the region

- For several countries their current priorities lie in forest and terrestrial conservation issues
- Partners need to identify some of the costs and times needed to conduct the above mentioned activities to help develop appropriate budgets for the work
- Develop funding proposals for aspects of the above as appropriate

Need for engagement in relevant policy mechanisms

- CBD
- Coral Triangle Initiative
- CMS – applies for only a few species and countries – most Asian countries not signatories
- East Asian - Australasian Flyway – this initiative includes a seabirds working group which is being convened by BirdLife International, there is a very real possibility to shape the focus of the work here
- ASEAN agreement

Threats

Poaching/egg collecting

- Mostly by fisherman/locals, and does not appear to be of commercial value or on a large scale
- Major threat to Chinese crested tern
- Needs to be assessed further across the region
- If conducting visits to seabird breeding sites for any other activities should include an assessment of presence/impact of poaching/egg collecting

Introduced Species

- At some sites seabirds have been impacted by introduced species (which ones?)

- Needs to be assessed further across the region
- If conducting visits to seabird breeding sites for any other activities should include an assessment of presence/impact of introduced species

Bycatch

- Bycatch monitoring programme in Malaysia for marine taxa reports that it affects mostly turtles, and seabirds currently account for 0.01% of that reported
- Not thought to be an issue in Indonesia but not monitored systematically
- Mentioned as an issue in Coral Triangle Initiative
- Philippines not known to be a problem, but not well known
- Hong Kong has some records of bycatch of streaked shearwater
- China issue not well known, 50 streaked shearwaters exist in the specimen factory obtained from bycatch
- Each country to contact government fisheries department to check if any seabird bycatch data exists and begin to assess scale of the problem in the region

List of useful data sources

BirdLife website marine IBA/Global Seabird Programme page –
<http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/species/seabirds/index.html>

BirdLife World Bird Database - <https://www.globalconservation.info/> - contact Ian May (ian.may@birdlife.org) for access information

SPEA marine IBAs of Portugal book –
<http://lifeibasmarinhas.spea.pt/y-book/ibasmarinhas/>

SEO marine IBAs of Spain book - http://www.seo.org/programa_intro.cfm?idPrograma=32

Draft marine IBA toolkit – contact Mayumi Sato or Ben Lascelles for the latest version

BirdLife foraging range database – contact Ben Lascelles for further information

Birdlife Global Procellariiform Tracking Database – www.seabirdtracking.org (from June 2010).
Contact Ben Lascelles for further information.

BirdLife booklet on possible funding sources (?) – contact Simba Chan for further information

World Database on Protected Areas - <http://www.wdpa.org/>

World Database on Marine Protected Areas –
<http://www.wdpa-marine.org/#/countries/about>

Protect Planet Ocean - <http://www.protectplanetoccean.org/>

Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative – www.gobi.org

DINRAC - <http://portal.pacificinfo.ru/>

ASEAN Agreement - <http://www.aseansec.org/5308.htm>

Reefbase – www.reefbase.org/mpa/mpa-database.html; <http://mpa.reefbase.org/> (to be launched in June 2010). 9 Biophysical map layers are available: Coral reef habitat map (includes e.g. sandy layers), Sea Surface Temperature and fish spawning aggregation data likely to be most useful for marine IBA work, potentially coral reef locations as well.

Action Plan For The Protection And Management Of The Marine And Coastal Environment Of The South Asian Seas Region - <http://www.sacep.org/pdf/SAS%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

Coral Triangle Atlas - <http://ctatlas.reefbase.org/default.aspx>

COBSEA - <http://www.cobsea.org/>

PEMSEA - <http://pemsea.org/>

BirdBase - <http://birdbase.hokkaido-ies.go.jp>

OBIS-SEAMAP - <http://seamap.env.duke.edu/>

Funding Opportunities

Nagao Natural Environmental Foundation

www.nagaofoundation.jp

Funds mainly for the Asia-Pacific region

Research Grant Scheme & Scholarship Scheme may be relevant

4 funding opportunities per year, dates for 2010 not yet announced

secretariat@nagaofoundation.or.jp (for information about application)

PRO NATURA Fund

<http://www.nacsj.or.jp/pn/index.html>

Pro Natura Foundation-Japan and the Nature Conservation Society of Japan

Conservation grant programme

Project grants of around \$10k per year

Non OECD countries eligible

Projects must be recommended by Japanese organisation (BirdLife Asia can do this);

contact Mayumi Sato sato@birdlife-asia.org

Announcement can be expected in early June and application deadline in late July

pnfund@nacsj.or.jp (for information about application)

Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF)

<http://www.keidanren.or.jp/kncf/en/index.html>

Over 18 years KNCF has supported 917 projects, amounting to 28 million dollars.

Project focus in Asia/Pacific mainly, but expanded to a global remit in recent years.

KNCF Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Manabu Takeda, provided a presentation to introduce the Asian marine IBA workshop

Application advice

- Identify clear objectives, methods, show significance and timeline
- Relate to current global issues (e.g. MPAs, CBD, indicators, renewable energy, fisheries)
- Relate to previous achievements on IBAs (terrestrial) therefore extension of existing programme
- Form regional partnerships to generate more funding and show ecosystem approach
- Show some initial outcomes (e.g. candidate marine IBA list, marine IBA map based on expert opinions, seaward extensions etc.)

Jensen Foundation funding

BirdLife has received funding from the Jensen Foundation for developing marine conservation approaches in Asia. Grants are equivalent to 5,000 Euro per year and currently there are funds for four projects with BirdLife Partners/affiliates

Following the workshop it was decided that it might be most appropriate to suggest the projects/activities that could be funded under this initiative to feed into the workplans outlined above and provide some impetus to maintain the momentum developed. Two projects are ongoing from 2009 (1 and 2 below), and projects 3 and 4 below would be new projects that may address the priorities identified in the marine IBA workshop

1. Breeding Sites of Japanese Murrelet are IBAs

This is an ongoing project, in year two of the project there will be surveys conducted to Mikomoto Island which will look to determine the number of breeding birds, the presence of introduced predators, and the homing behaviour of Japanese Murrelet at the site.

2. Breeding sites of Chinese Crested Tern are IBAs

This is an ongoing project, in year two of the project the international action plan will be launched at the East Asian Australasian flyway meeting, a training workshop will be held looking at management of seabird colonies on islands of China, and to help start the survey of the wintering areas in South East Asia via the production of educational materials in national languages.

3. Searches for non-breeding sites of Chinese Crested Tern

Chinese Crested Tern was identified as a priority species for 5 countries at the workshop. At the moment its non-breeding distribution is not well known, though there are a number of historical records in the South East Asian region. This project would link to project 2 above and would provide each country with c. \$1000 to conduct surveys of priority wintering sites from Nov-Mar 2010-2011. This would require some coordination within the region, which may best be done through Dr. Chen and the proposed Google group for the region.

4. Bycatch of Kittlitz's Murrelet in Kamchatka

Bycatch in Salmon gillnet fisheries is thought to be a major threat to this species in the Russian Far East. However the scale of the problem has not been assessed. This project would look to address this by engaging with salmon fisheries to determine the levels of bycatch.

Annex 1 – Workshop Agenda

Introduction

- 1). Opening remarks (CN)
- 2). Greetings from a sponsor (Mr. Takeda from KNCF)
- 3). Brief round table introductions (30 sec. each)
- 4). Hopes and fears (CN)
- 5). Goals and agenda (CN)

Session 1 - Overview of Marine Conservation (i.e. MPA etc.) in Asia and Comments on the Proposed List of marine IBAs

- 1). Seabird conservation and MPAs in general (BL)
- 2). Short presentation by each (5-8 min. each)
- 3). Talk: Mr. Kohei Hibino “Presentation on Coral Reef MPAs of East Asia and Micronesia Project”
- 4). Discussion on marine conservation
- 5). Summary remarks (BL)

Session 2 - IBA Programmes in Asia

- 1). IBA criteria (SC)
- 2). The IBA programme in Asia (SC)
- 3). Open discussions: challenges in identifying marine IBAs
- 4). Questions

Session 3 - Marine IBA Identification Process and Criteria

- 1). Background of GSP and Marine IBAs (BL)
- 2). The Marine IBA toolkit (BL)
 - a). Seaward extensions and seabird foraging fact sheets
 - b). Using tracking data
 - c). Using boat survey data
 - d). Using habitat modelling
 - e). Other data sources
- 3). Questions and answers

Session 4 - Presentations by Seabird Researchers

- 1). Talk 1: Mr Evgeny Syroechkovskiy "Seabird Cliffs of Chukotka as Marine IBAs: Review of Recent Surveys and Initiation of Community Monitoring Program"
- 2). Talk 2: Dr Chen Shuihua "Status of the Chinese Crested Tern and the Implications for Marine IBA Protection in China"
- 3). Talk 3: Dr Akinori Takahashi_ "Marine Ecology and Conservation from a Seabird's Eye View"
- 4). Talk 4: Dr Yuri Artukhin_ "Distribution of Kittlitz's Murrelets in the Russian Far East"

Session 5 - Previous Marine IBA Identification Experiences: Europe and Others

- 1). Case examples (Europe) (BL)
- 2). Case examples (Rest of the world) (BL)
- 3). Questions and answers (BL)

Session 6 - Previous Marine IBA Identification Experiences: North America

- 1). A case example (From Barrow to Baja Project) (GL)
- 2). Questions and answers (GL)

Session 7 - Panel Discussion

Questions and answers on previous sessions (Panellists: SC, BL, GL)

Session 8 - Marine IBAs and Policy

- 1). Importance of linking to policy agreements (BL)
- 2). Questions and discussion about relevant policy in each country

Session 9 - Planning for Next Step_1

- 1). Small group discussions
- 2). Small presentation from each group - to highlight the top 3-5 priorities for each country in their marine IBA programme
- 3). Small presentation from each group - to highlight the need & help each expects from BL Asia secretary
- 4). Preparation for work plan

Session 10 - Planning for Next Step_2

- 1). Presentation on work plan (5 min each)
- 2). Draft timeline of work before 2012 (BL)

Session 11 - Funding Opportunities

Session 12 - Evaluation and Conclusion

- 1). Hopes and fears (CN)
- 2). Closing remarks (CN)

Annex 2 - 'Hopes and Fears'

Hopes

- Understand the state of programmes in each country
- Create plans for future
- See international collaboration develop in the region
- Exchange each other's experience and expertise
- Gain ideas and learn from others' experiences in merging marine IBAs into existing MPAs
- Learn how to decide the boundary of seabird feeding areas
- Learn how to make MPA in the open sea
- Gain information on endangered seabird species
- Find ways to involve local communities to IBA monitoring
- Marine IBA workshop will be held every year
- Make friends across the Pacific to help bird conservation
- People make new friends and continue to work together in future
- Get details on marine IBAs, their selection criteria, and application to date
- Get a clear picture on regional application of marine IBAs in MPAs
- See clear examples/ideas on how marine IBA identification was done in other regions
- Identify an initial list of marine IBAs in the Asian Region
- Specific objectives of marine IBA criteria
- Simplicity
- Understand the criteria of marine IBAs
- Define criteria for marine IBA selection/identification
- Know differences between land and marine IBAs
- Develop correct methods for identification of marine IBAs in Asia
- All Asian countries start marine IBA programme after this workshop
- Make step forward in marine IBA inventory
- All attendees understand the marine IBA process and want to work on them
- Marine IBA programme will be a chance for many Japanese people to become interested in seabirds
- Find out the way to make research results useful for seabird conservation

Fears

- People will talk too fast
- Discussion in English
- Wide range of species and environmental conditions in the North and South: difficult to find common approaches to marine IBAs
- Too many things to cover and might not be able to get a good idea on the marine IBA concept
- Area is too wide to cover
- Marine IBAs may appear too technical and difficult
- Too technical especially on bird species names
- Technical terms
- No follow-up after the workshop
- People are too busy to work together
- Need more stakeholders for better involvement in future
- Much talking and not much action to follow
- No conclusion and decision
- Not enough time for discussion