

Globally significant biodiversity in north coast of the West/Yellow Sea in DPR Korea

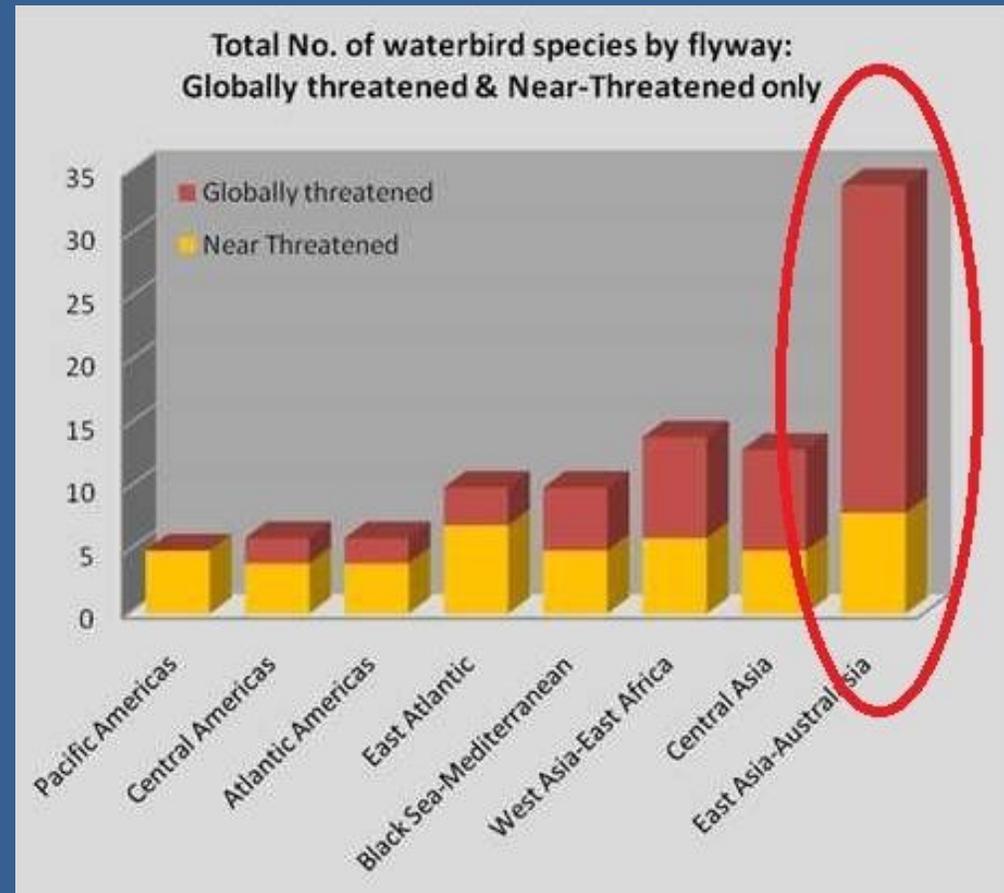
David S. Melville

Global Flyway Network

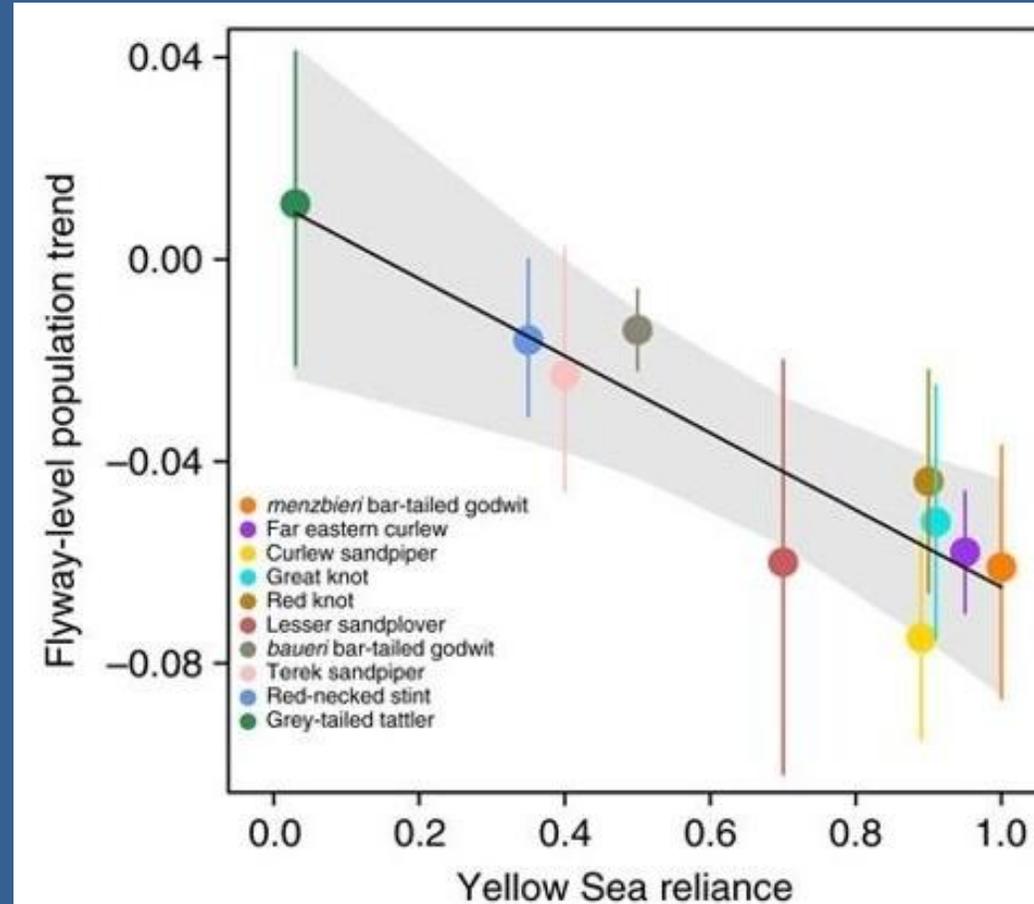
Pūkorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust



The East Asian-Australasian Flyway has more endangered and threatened waterbird species than any other flyway



The more a shorebird relies upon the West/Yellow Sea the greater the rate of population decline



[Studds et al. 2017 Nature Comms.]





Survey sites 2009-2019

6 surveys



Pūkorokoro
Miranda
Naturalists'
Trust

Nature
Conservation
Union of Korea



Results 2009-2019



Internationally important numbers (1%) of:

Far Eastern Curlew

– 4 sites



Eurasian Curlew

– 1 site



Bar-tailed Godwit

– 4 sites



Great Knot

– 1 site



Dunlin

– 1 site



EAAFP Staging sites (0.25%)



Grey Plover

– 2 sites



© W.P. Dissanayake OBC

Eurasian Curlew

– 1 site



© S. Brooks NZ Birds Online

Whimbrel

– 1 site



© S. Bose OBC

Terek Sandpiper

– 1 site



© P. Battley NZ Birds Online

Common Greenshank

– 1 site



© R. Smith NZ Birds Online

West/Yellow Sea

A WETLAND INVENTORY FOR DPR KOREA



- Total 24 sites
 - 5 islands
 - 19 coastal
- Threats to sites include:
 - Landclaim
 - Aquaculture
 - Over-exploitation

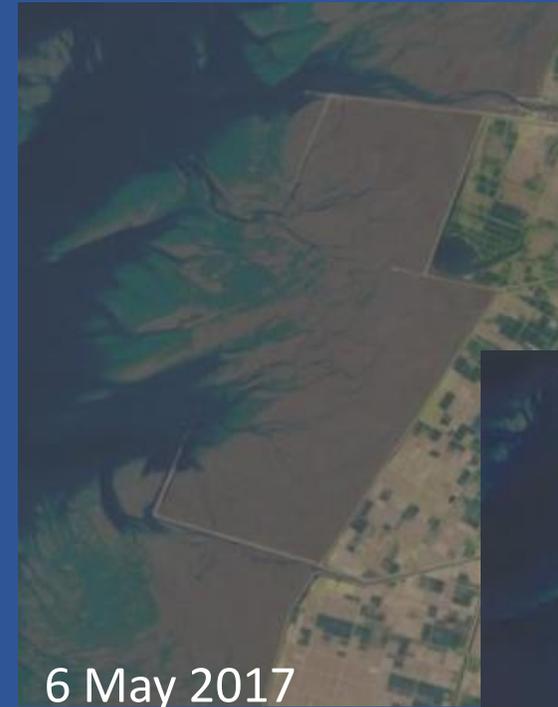
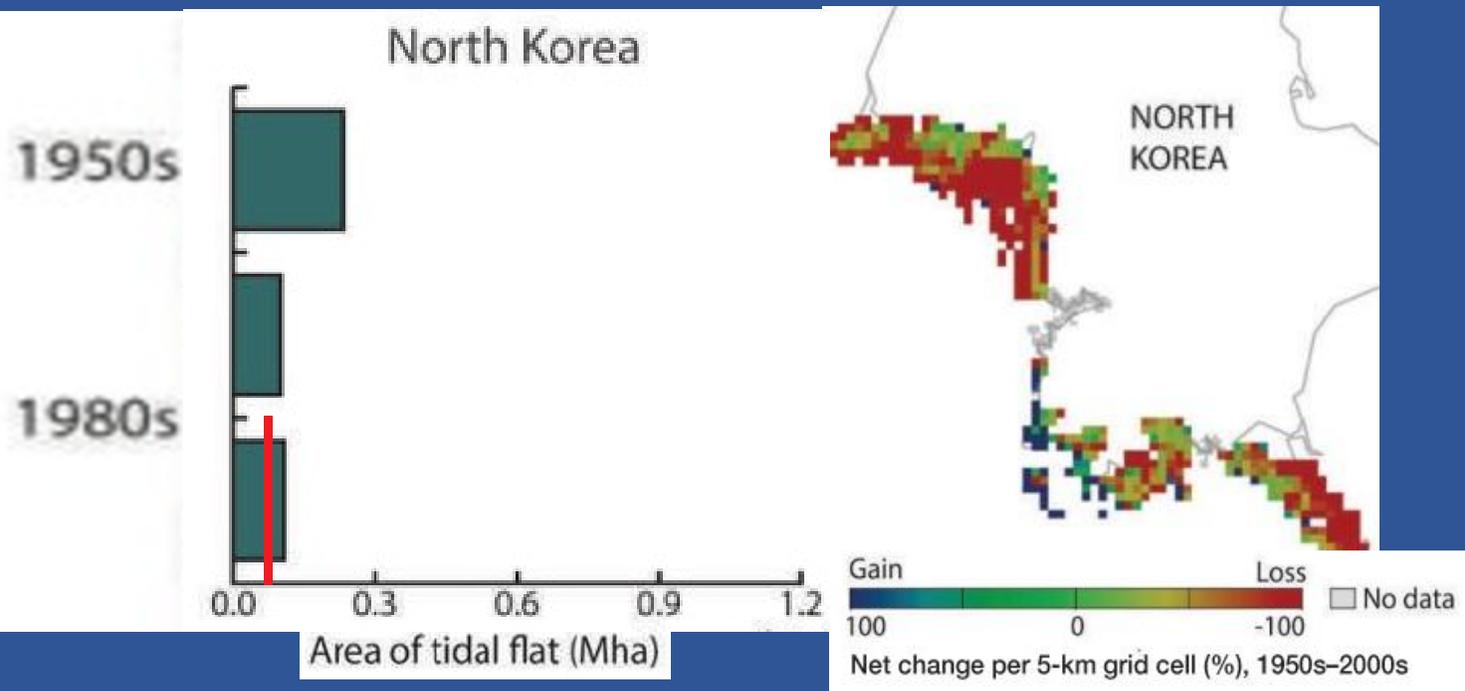


Pyongyang, DPR Korea

2018



Tidal flats on West Sea coast, DPRK



1,500ha tidal flats lost



Murray et al. 2014. *Front. Ecol. Environ.* 12: 267-272

Since 2000 estimated 26,000ha have been claimed (c20% of remaining)

Wetland Site 11, Is. Honggon Mudflat

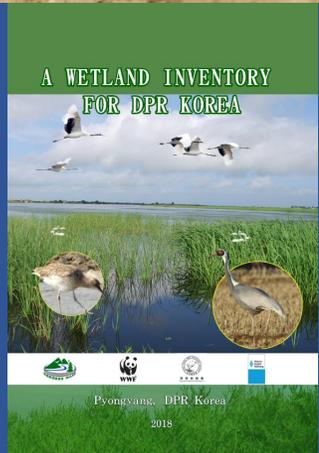


© D.S. Melville

Threats:

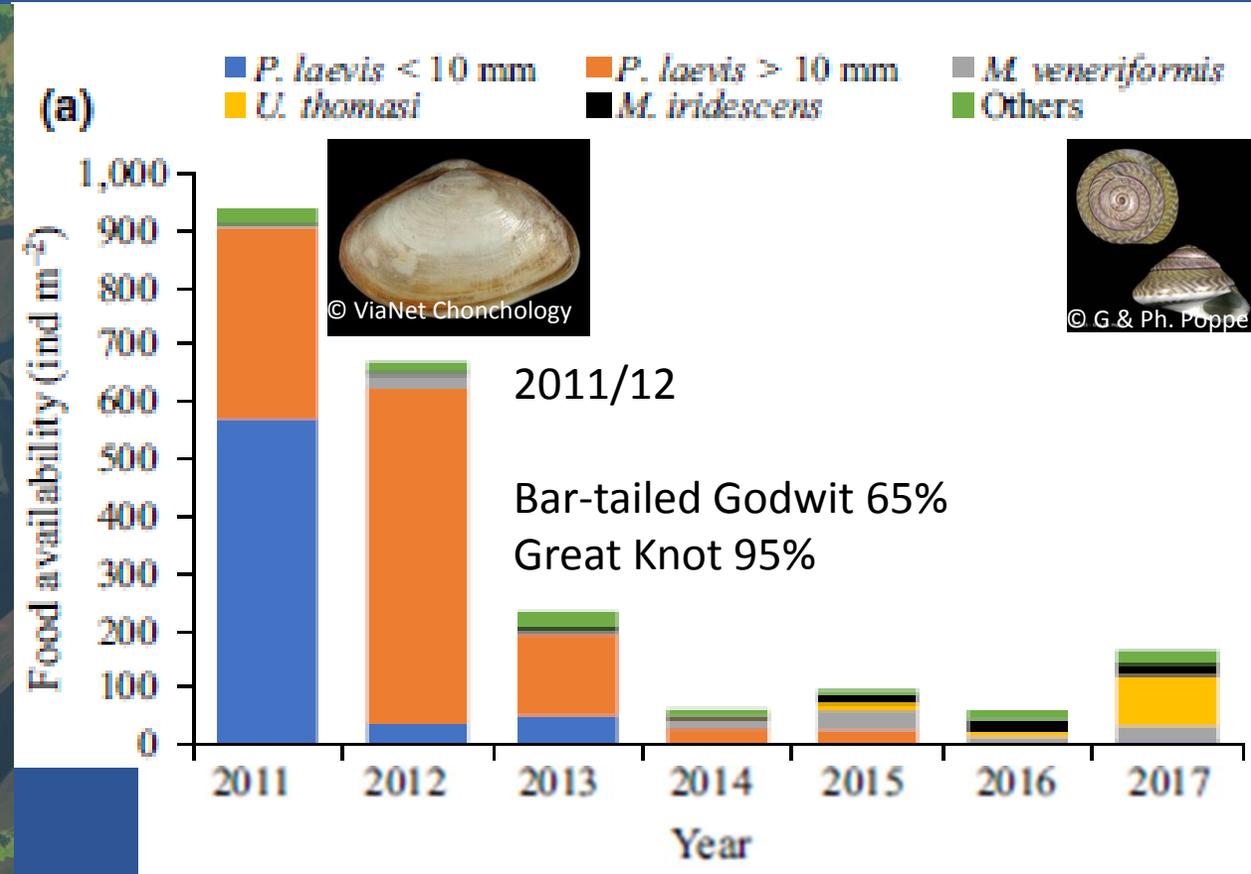
Current – ‘Now the sea-farming including jellyfish and shellfish farming have directly influence on the inhabitation of waterbirds’.

Potential – ‘In future if the tideland removed salinity are developed into rice field, the area of inhabitation of waterbirds would decrease rapidly’.

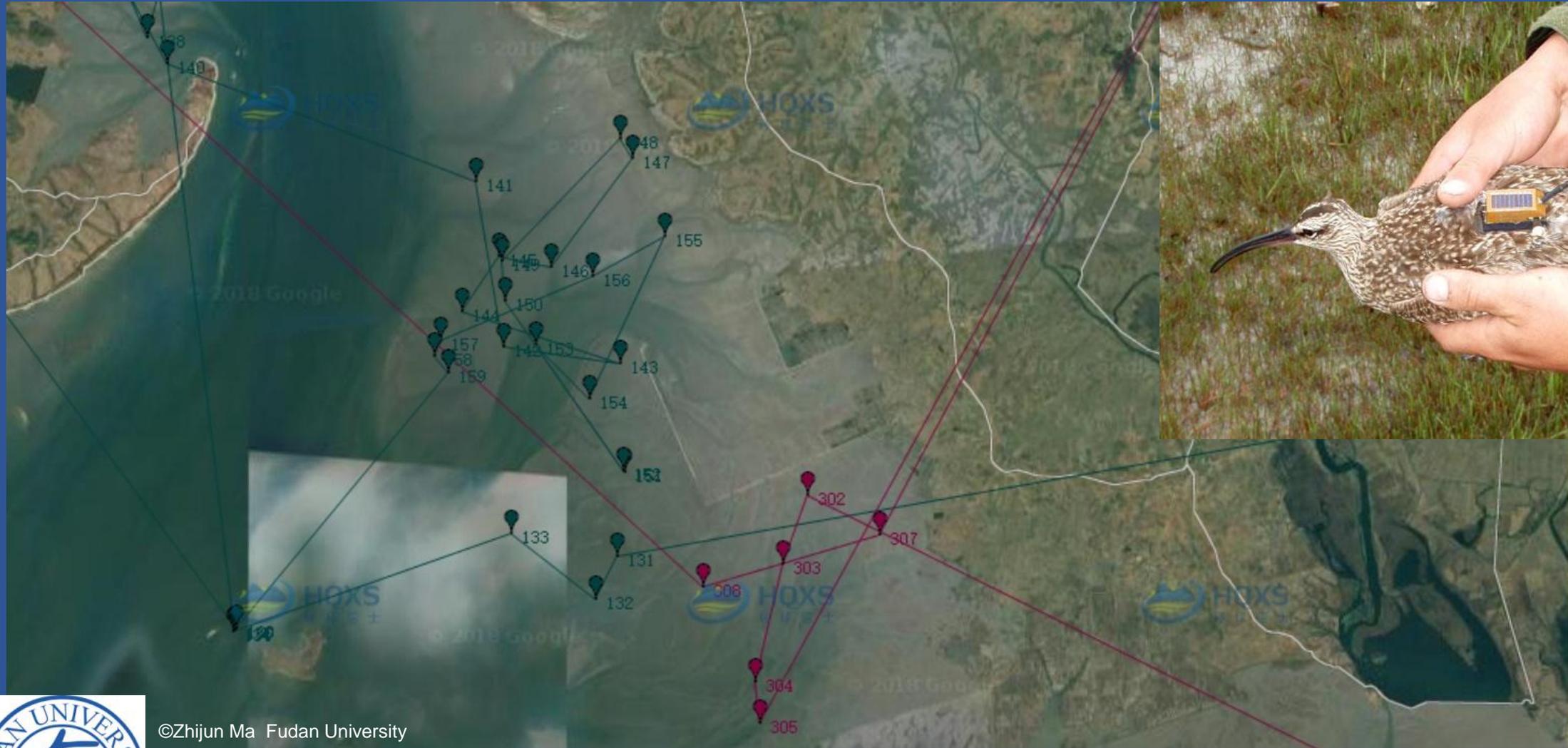


Not only direct loss of tidalflats – potential impacts on hydrodynamics and benthos

Yalujiang, China, mouth of Yalu/Amnok River



Intertidal habitat use by Whimbrels



© Fletcher Smith



©Zhijun Ma Fudan University

Moult grounds of Spoon-billed Sandpipers in DPR Korea



Other threatened species on the West Sea coast

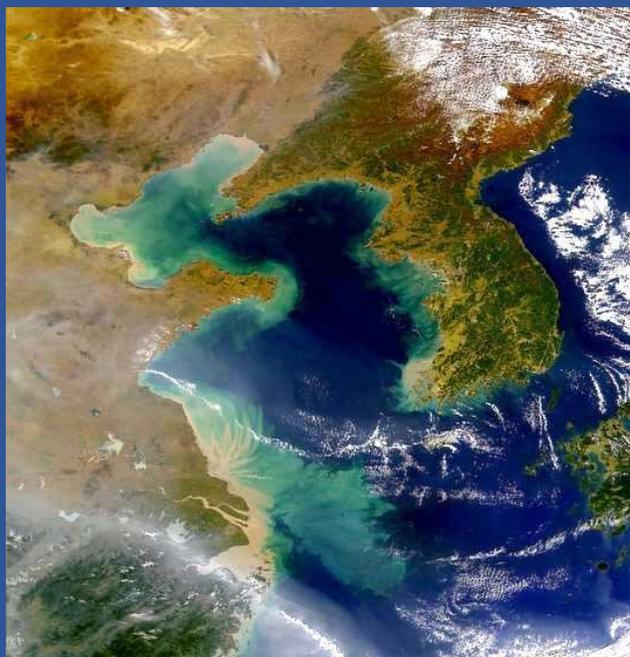




IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress
Hawai'i 2016

ENCOURAGES governments
along the EAAF to:

consider the possibility of a future **trilateral** World Heritage nomination for the intertidal zone of the Yellow Sea with support from surrounding countries



5 July 2019



Migratory Bird Sanctuaries
along the Coast of Yellow
Sea-Bohai Gulf of China
(Phase I)

Thank you!

