

The Importance of the Yellow Sea





BIRDS KOREA

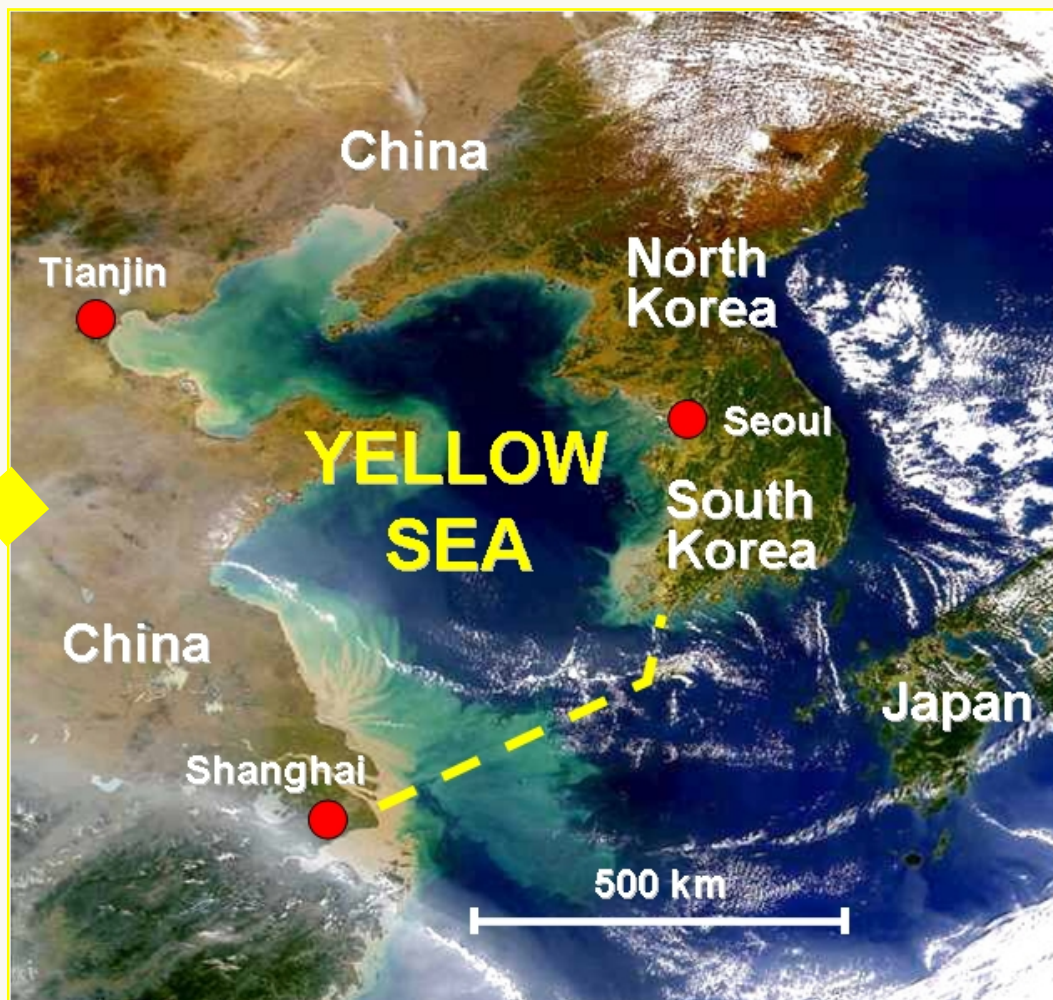
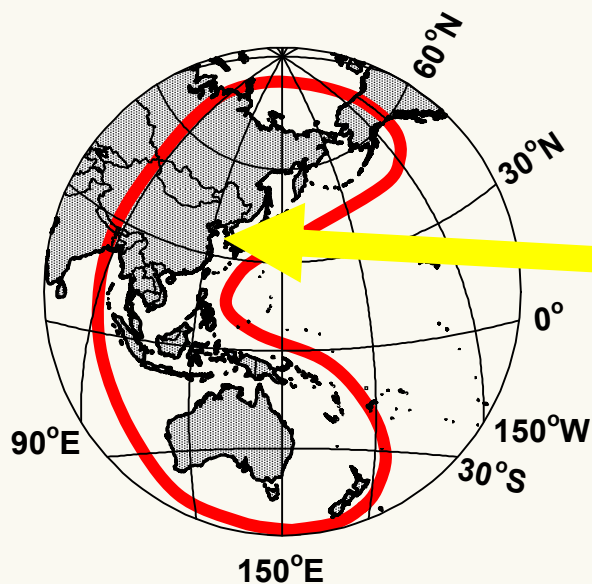
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THE YELLOW SEA





The Importance of the Yellow Sea

- q **A vital stopover and refuelling region for migrating waterbirds on both northwards and southwards migration**
- q **It has the largest area of tidal mudflats in the world**
- q **It supports over 2 million shorebirds on northward migration and over 1 million on southward migration**
- q **It has at least 9 megasites that support over 100,000 shorebirds on migration.**
- q **It is very important to shorebirds arriving from Australia – up to 40% of Australia’s shorebirds utilize the rich tidal flats of the Yellow Sea to gain sufficient fat to make the journey to the breeding grounds in Siberia and Alaska.**



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THE YELLOW SEA

China

Korea

**A vital region for Australia's
migratory shorebirds**



Threats to shorebird habitat



Photo © Ken Gosbell / AWSG



Photo © Ken Gosbell / AWSG

- **Aquaculture**



.... Human pressure on mudflats



Photo © Ken Gosbell / AWSG



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Threats posed by reclamation





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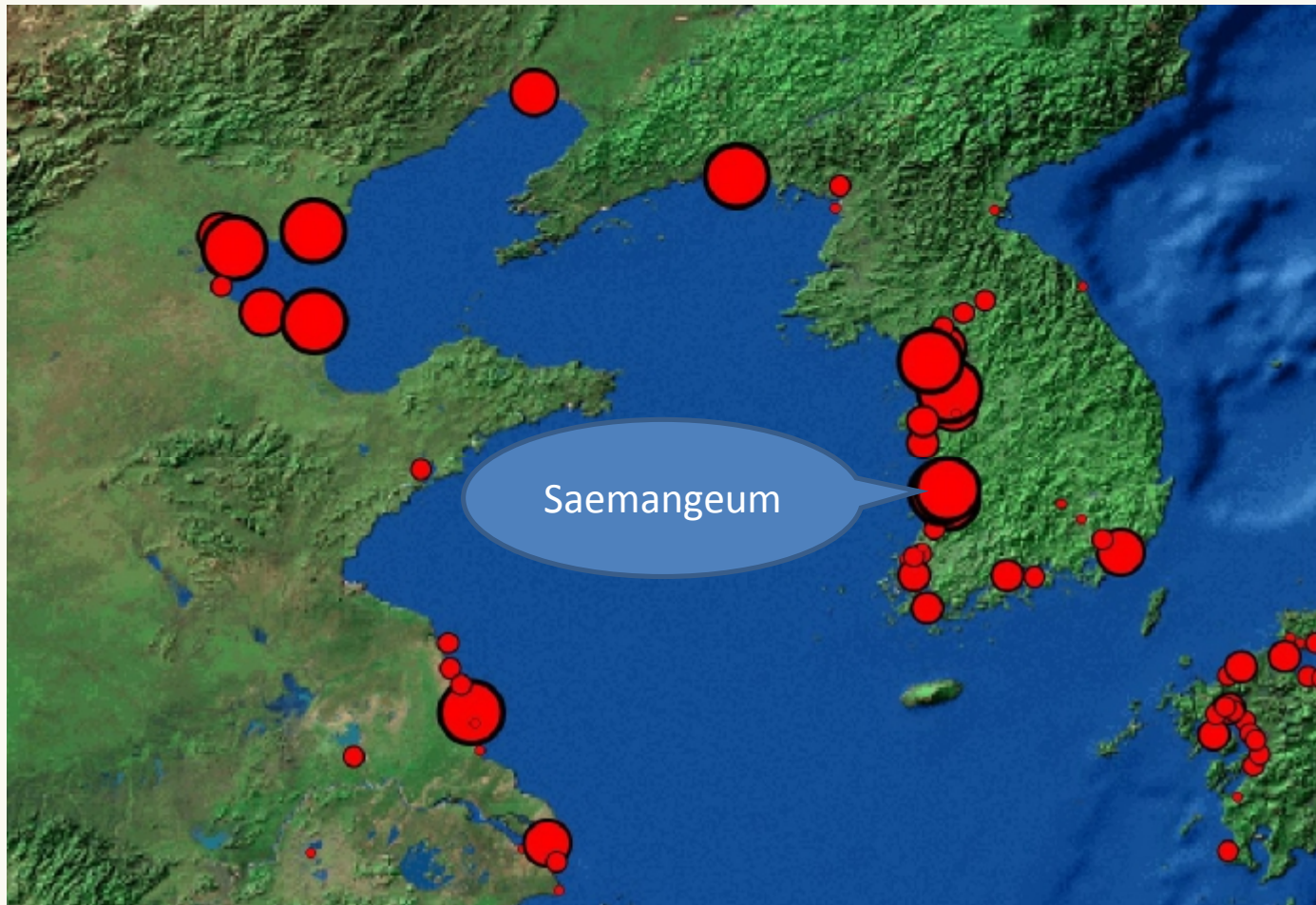
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Internationally Important Sites for Migratory Waterbirds in the Yellow Sea Ecoregion





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Tidal flats at Kangwha Island, Republic of Korea





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The tidal flats of the Yellow Sea are the most important staging areas for shorebirds on migration to and from Australia

- q **13 species of shorebirds in decline in Australia**
- q **Significant declines – Curlew Sandpiper and Eastern Curlew**
- q **Species such as the Great Knot population are totally dependent on Yellow Sea during migration**



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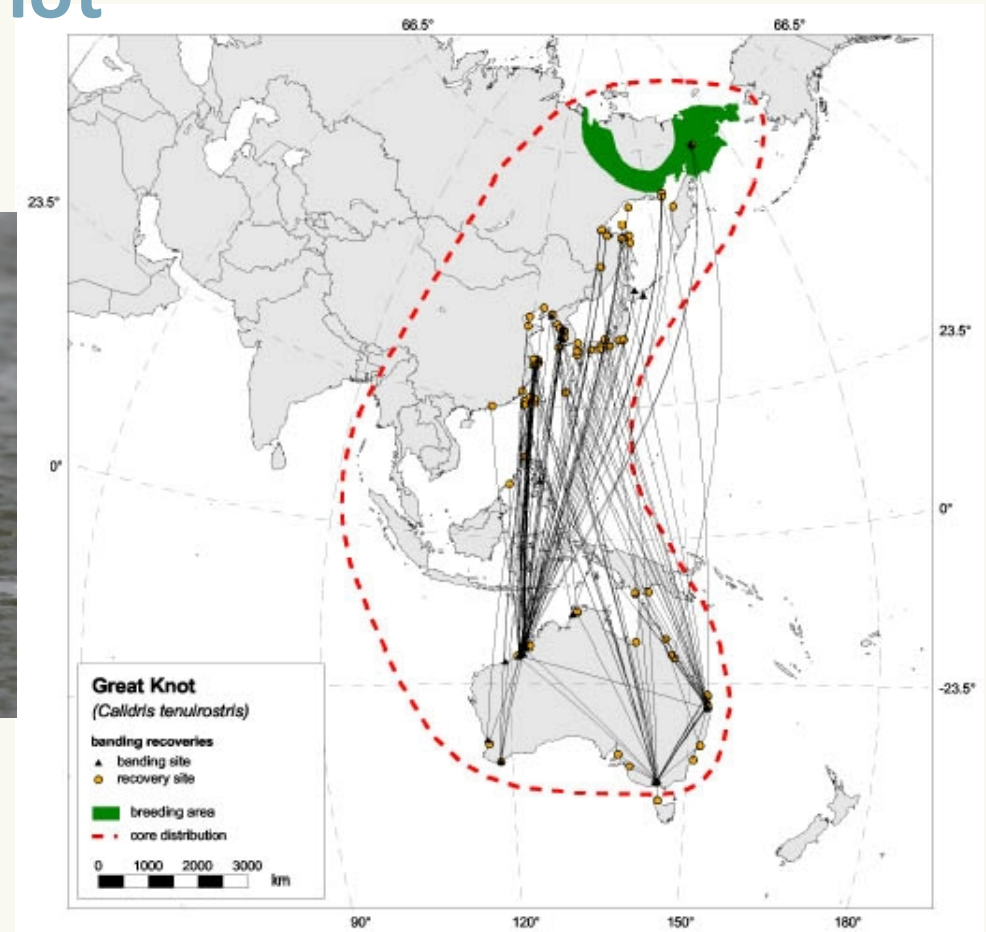
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Banding and Legflag sightings tell the story of migration of Great Knot





Critical Issues related to Yellow Sea Habitats

- q **Reclamation of coastal wetlands**
- q **Economic development takes precedence**
- q **Inadequate Environmental Impact Assessment**
- q **Inadequate funding for the protection of coastal wetlands**
- q **Limited policy and planning provisions for protection of coastal wetlands**
- q **Ineffective legislation and regulations for migratory waterbird habitat**
- q **Lack of clear Government agency responsibility for the management of coastal wetlands**
- q **Low awareness of migratory birds and the importance of protecting the coastal wetlands**



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