

Yumeshima in Osaka Bay, Japan

To whom it may concern

BirdLife International joins national organisations including the Wild Bird Society of Japan, WWF Japan and the Nature Conservation Society of Japan in calling on the relevant authorities to take all possible measures to conserve and restore the remaining wetland environment in Osaka Bay.

Yumeshima in Osaka Bay is a stop-over site for shorebirds on the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The Spoon-billed Sandpiper, listed as Critically Endangered by IUCN, has been observed here. The site is complementary to the Nanko Bird Sanctuary, and autumn migration records of Spoon-billed Sandpiper indicate that the same individuals use both sites.

Over many years, such internationally important sites have been converted for industrial, agricultural or residential use, and shorebird populations have seriously declined, and now all efforts are needed to conserve and restore those sites that are remaining.

We understand that developments planned for the 2025 Osaka Expo and use of the site during and after the Expo may result in the loss of wetland habitat at Yumeshima. We ask that the Exposition Association, the City of Osaka, and other interested parties, ensure the preservation and restoration of the wetland environment of Yumeshima, drawing on the wisdom and technical knowledge of experts, citizen groups and companies exhibiting at the Expo, and together with the Nanko Bird Sanctuary make it a centre for the restoration of the coastal environment of the inner part of Osaka Bay.

We believe that the conservation and restoration of these ecosystems in Yumeshima would be an important contribution towards to achieving the new global goals for nature, as set out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which was agreed upon by the World, including Japan, at the end of last year.

Yours sincerely

Richard Grimmett

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