

USE OF INNOVATIVE SOLUTION TO IDENTIFY IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS IN ABU DHABI



INTRODUCTION

EAD's use of satellite technology for tracking migratory bird species started in 2005. EAD has tagged more than 30 Greater Flamingos till date, to understand their movement, migration and habitat use.

METHOD

Flamingos are tagged with 30-45 gram GPS transmitters, which send signals to orbiting satellite. Raw data from satellites are relayed to Argos data processing centre in France before being sent to end users.

CONCLUSION

Use of satellite telemetry helped EAD to identify the flamingo breeding colony in Bul Syayef. EAD then used flamingo location and breeding information and advanced spatial analyses to identify the most optimum marine protected area. It led to the declaration of the site as a Ramsar site in 2016 and MPA in 2017.

