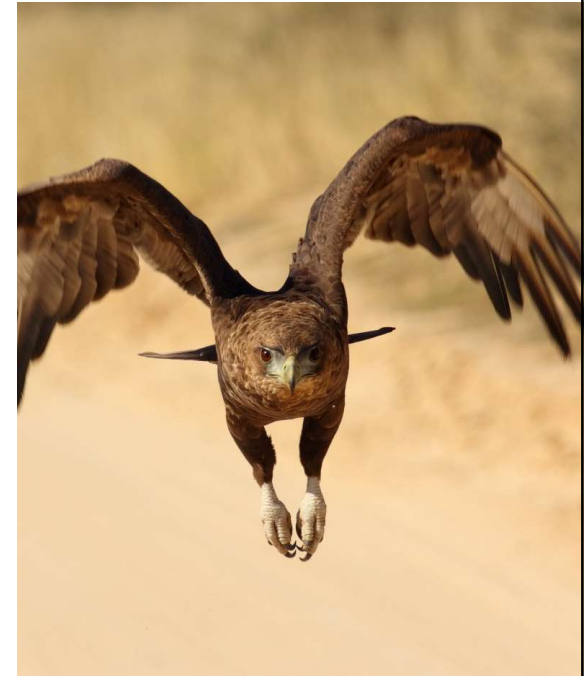




Central Asian Flyway Situation Analysis

*Presented by
Dr Taej Mundkur
International Consultant, BirdLife International*

Meeting of the Range States of the Central Asian
Flyway, 2-4 May 2023, New Delhi, India



Objectives of the Central Asian Flyway Situation Analysis

- Produce an up-to-date overview of the status, threats and opportunities of migratory birds in CAF through a literature review and consultation with national focal points and experts and international experts.
- To serve as an accepted baseline for priority setting of migratory bird conservation actions in the CAF and place these priorities in the context of the wider development agenda for the region.
- To support planning and work of the CMS CAF Secretariat and CAF Range States and to be presented to CMS COP 14.



Methodology of study

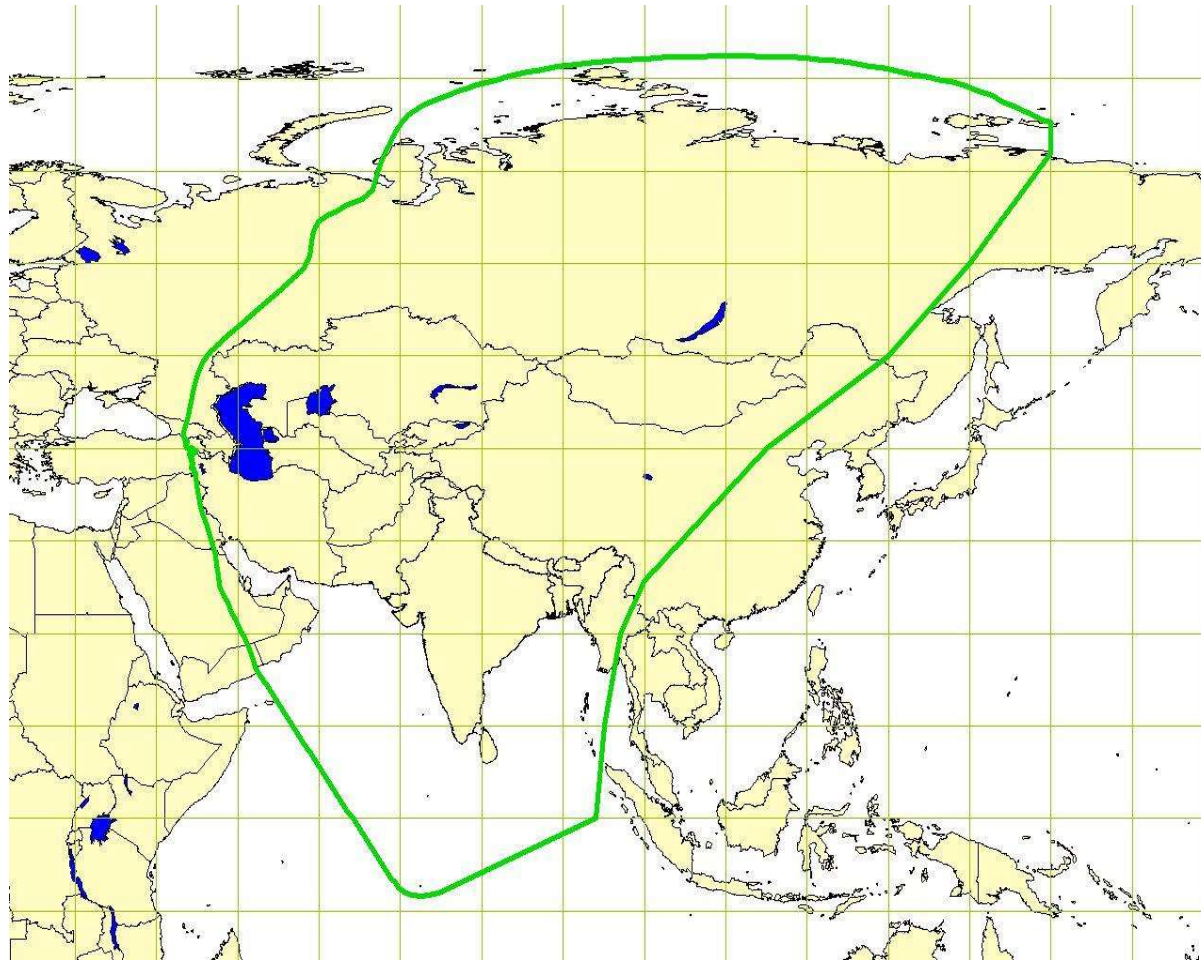
- ❑ Implemented by BirdLife International in consultation with CMS Secretariat (May 2022-Feb 2023)
- ❑ BirdLife team worked with national focal points & experts in CAF countries to collate information
- ❑ Consultation using a **standard online national questionnaire**, translated into Arabic, Chinese, Mongolian & Russian to facilitate local feedback
- ❑ **Use of international databases** including BirdLife International Datazone (species & Important Bird Areas), IUCN Red List & International Waterbird Census Portal, Critical Site Network Portal & Waterbird Populations Portal managed by Wetlands International
- ❑ Identification of **resolutions, strategic plans, action plans, work programmes, & species conservation action plans** from international conventions, agreements & frameworks.
- ❑ **Rapid literature survey** to collect essential information on research & conservation action for migratory birds & their habitats.

Timeline for Central Asian Flyway Situation Analysis preparation

- ❑ Literature review & national consultations through questionnaires (July-Nov 2022)
- ❑ Collation and preparation of draft report (Dec-Feb 2023) <cms_caf4_doc.3.4_caf-situation-analysis_e.pdf>
- ❑ Presentation and discussion at CAF Range States Meeting (May 2023)
- ❑ Gap filling and seeking additional feedback (May 2023)
- ❑ Finalisation of Situation Analysis (July 2023)
- ❑ Submit to CMS Secretariat as an information paper to be uploaded for CMS COP14 (Aug 2023)

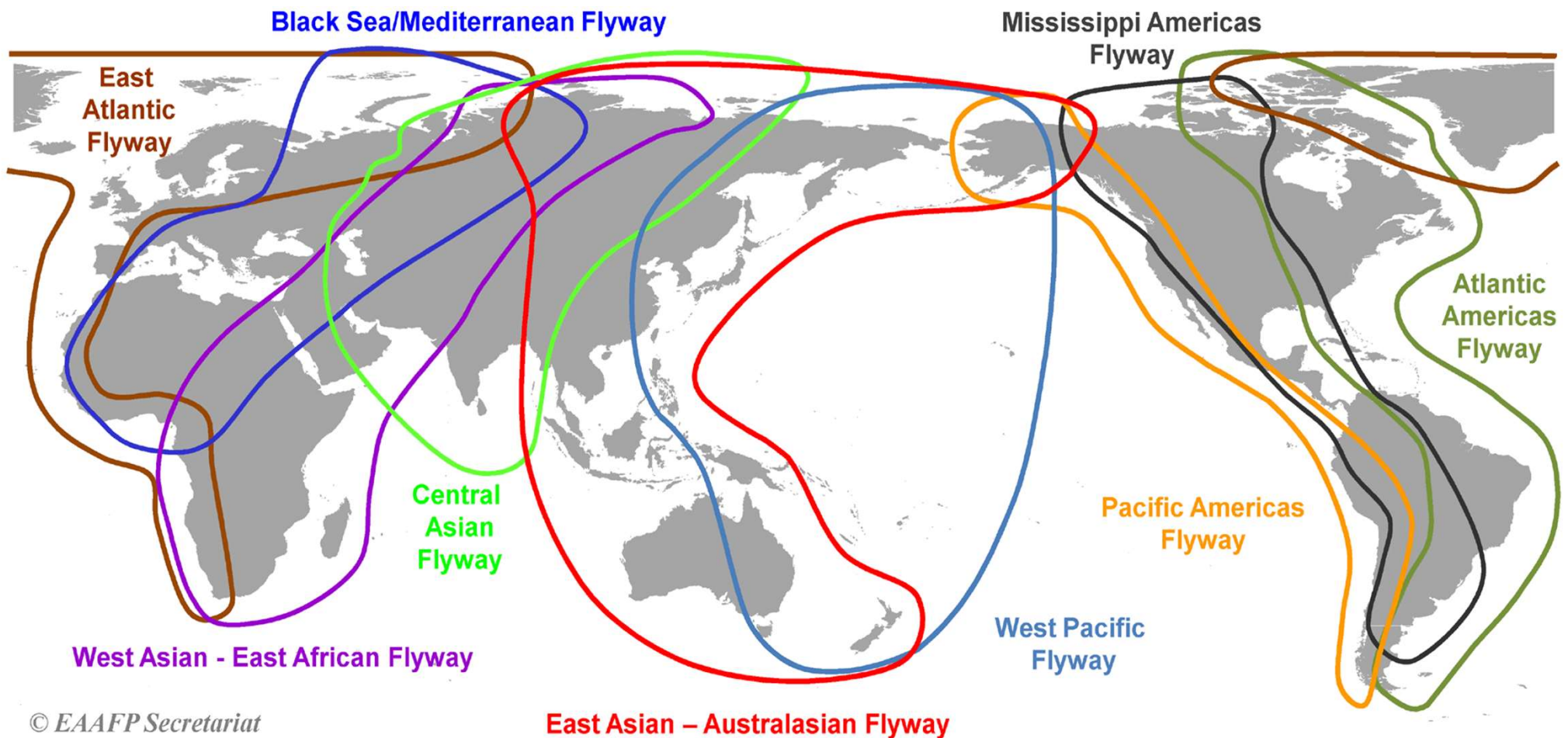


Geographic boundary of the CAF Situation Analysis



The CAF boundary adopted for the CAF Situation Analysis, as depicted in the CMS CAF Waterbird Action Plan. The political boundaries on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by BirdLife International or CMS

Major Flyways of migratory birds of the World

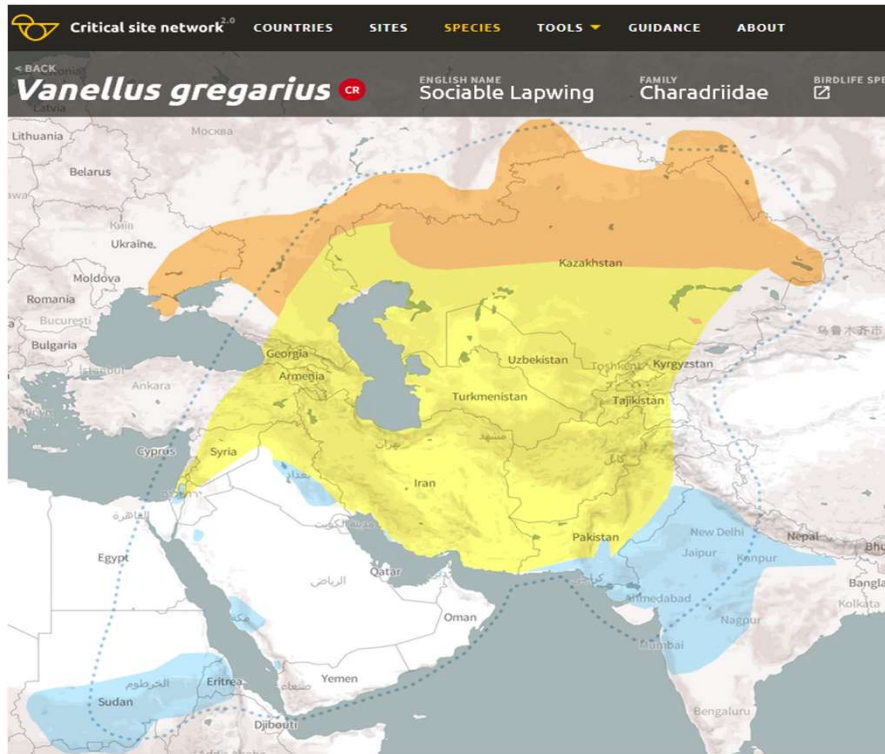


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Overview of the Central Asian Flyway Situation Analysis

- ✓ Covers 30 countries & territories in Asia
- ✓ Supports 606 species of migratory bird (84 families), incl. waterbirds, raptors & other landbirds & seabirds.
- ✓ At least 48 species are globally threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (2022)
- ✓ Populations of 40% species are declining
- ✓ Birds depend on a variety of natural & human habitats, incl. forests, grasslands, wetlands, deserts, agriculture, urban & rural areas.
- ✓ The region is home to over a sixth of the world's human population
- ✓ Includes nations with the fastest growing economies but also with many poor people.
- ✓ Different migratory birds have a range of cultural & spiritual values to local people.

Migration range of birds in the Central Asian Flyway



Sociable Lapwing, a temperate breeding migrant to South Asia & north east Africa
<http://critical-sites.wetlands.org/en>

Migration range of birds in the Central Asian Flyway



Legend

Native resident	Native breeding	Native non breeding	Passage	Season uncertain	Reintroduced
Introduced	Possibly extant	Possibly extinct	Extinct	Origin uncertain	Assisted colonisation

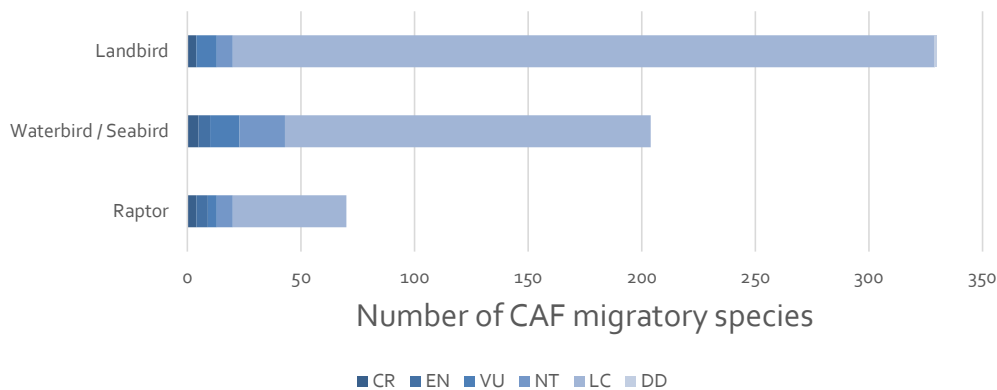
“Reverse” migration pattern of Endangered Pallas’s Fish-eagle breeds in south Asia and migrates north to Central Asia

<http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/pallass-fish-eagle-haliaeetus-leucoryphus>

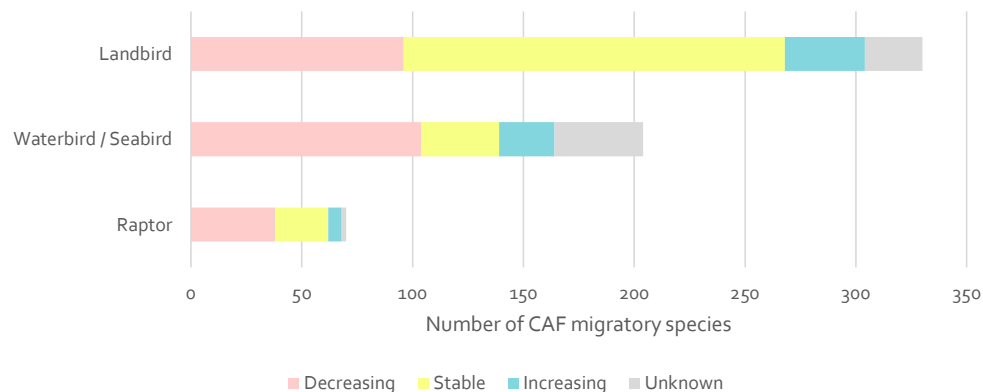


Status of species of the CAF Situation Analysis

Species group by Red List category



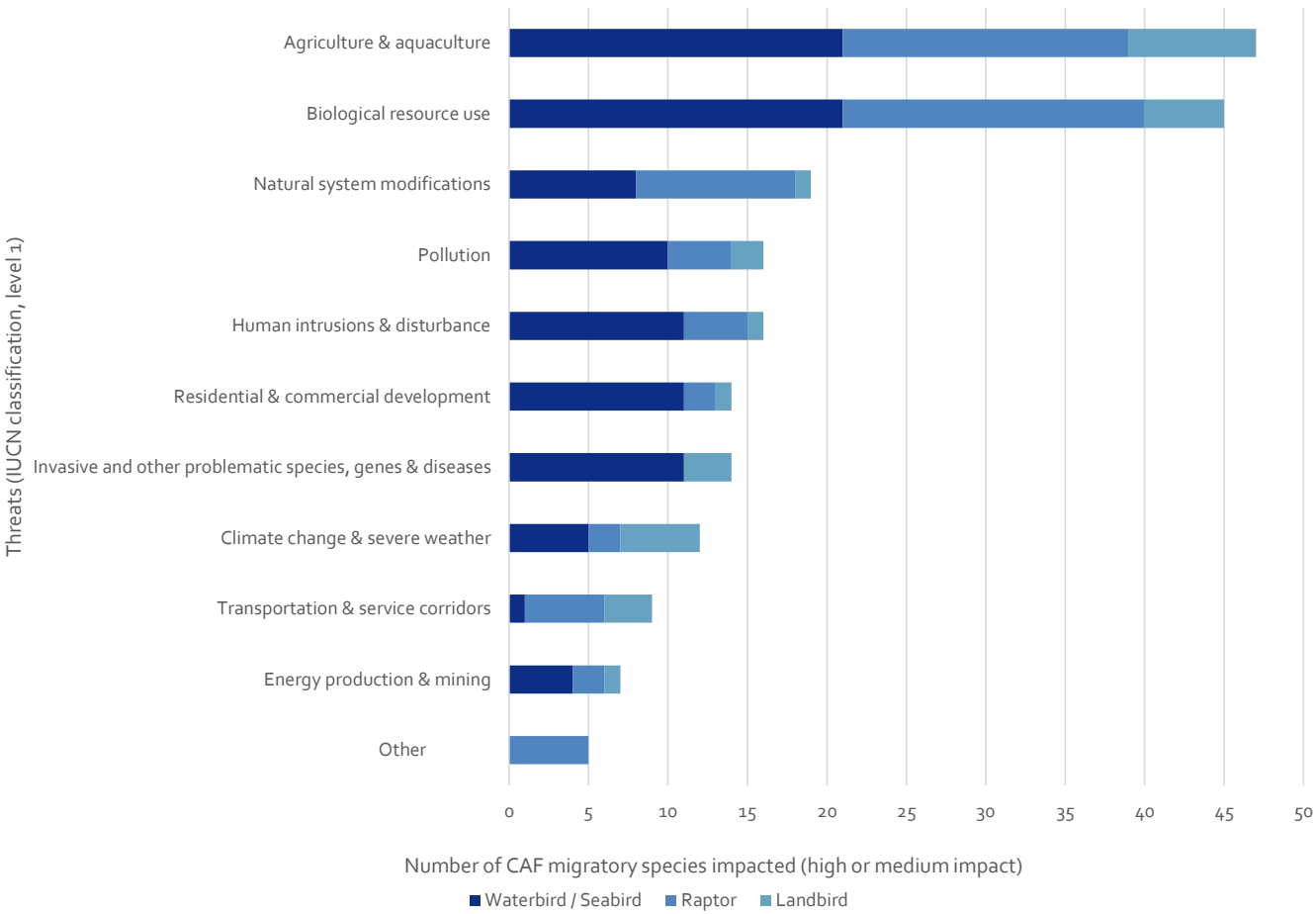
Species group by Red List population trend



Red List status	Number	%
Critically Endangered CR	13	2.1
Endangered EN	10	1.7
Vulnerable VU	25	4.1
Near threatened NT	36	5.9
Least Concern LC	521	86.0
Data Deficient DD	1	0.2
Total	606	

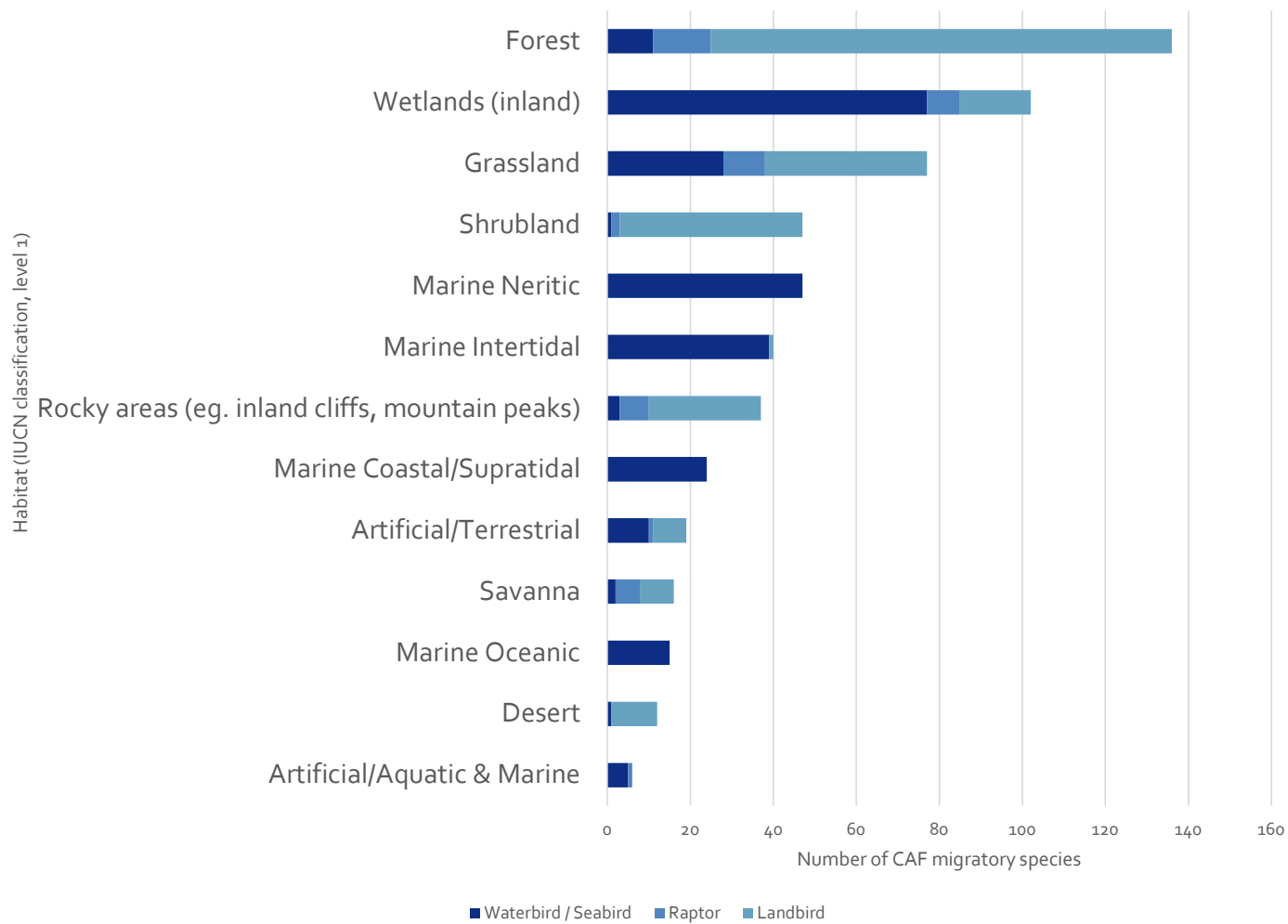
Trend	No of species	%
Increasing	67	11.1
Decreasing	239	39.4
Stable	231	38.1
Unknown	69	11.4

Threats to CAF migratory species, by species type



© Taej Mundkur

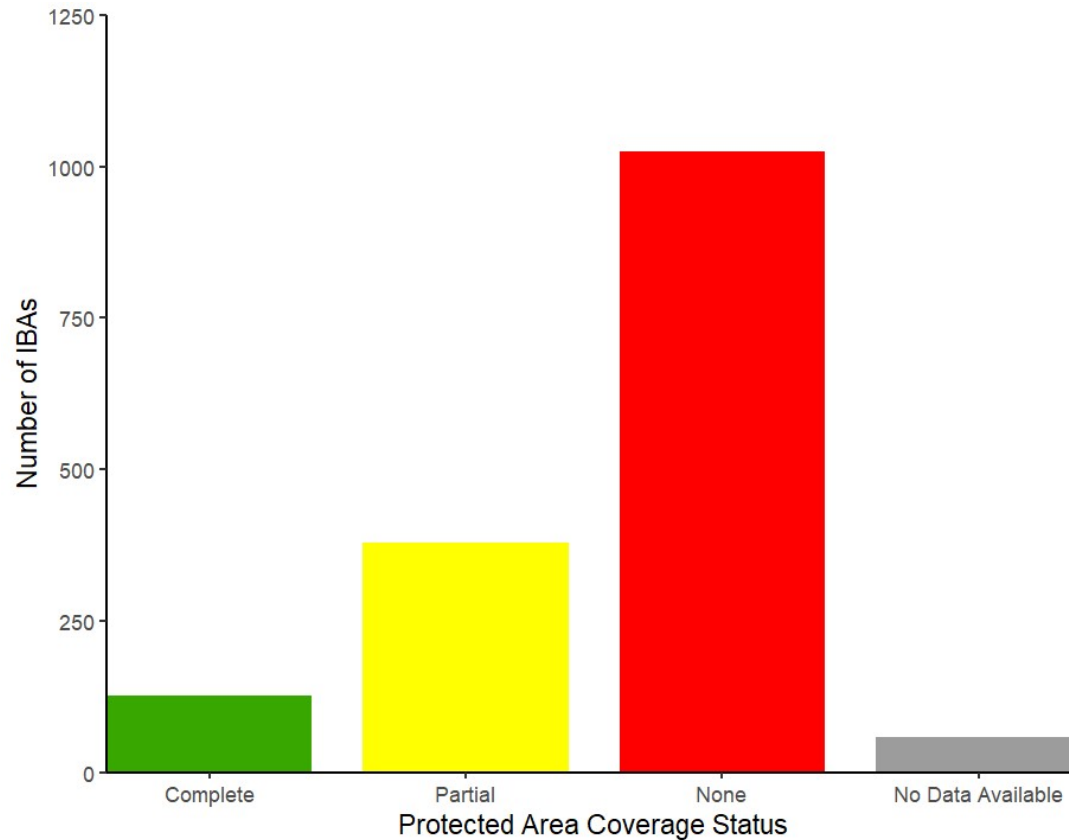
Habitats of major importance to CAF migratory species



Summary of main threats to habitats used by migratory birds during their annual cycle (national questionnaires)

Threats & pressures	Relative severity	Species/groups affected
Habitat loss/destruction	Severe-mod	All
Habitat degradation (loss of quality)	Mod-severe	All
Urbanization	Mod	All
Road/highway construction	Mod	Farmland birds, forest birds, waterbirds, & cliff-nesting raptors.
Unsustainable land/resource use	Mod	All
Mineral exploration/extraction	Low-mod	All, esp. bustards, ground nesting passerines
Sand mining from rivers	Mod	Ground-nesting waterbirds & landbirds
Marine/coastal debris (incl. plastics)	Mod	Coastal waterbirds, seabirds
Other forms of solid or liquid pollution	Mod	Farmland birds, waterbirds, & raptors.
Too much/too little water	Severe-mod	All
Fire damage to habitat	Mod	Forest-dependent, farmland & grassland birds.

Number of Important Bird Areas for migratory birds in the Central Asian Flyway



Thresholds of protected area coverage globally (WDPA, October 2022).

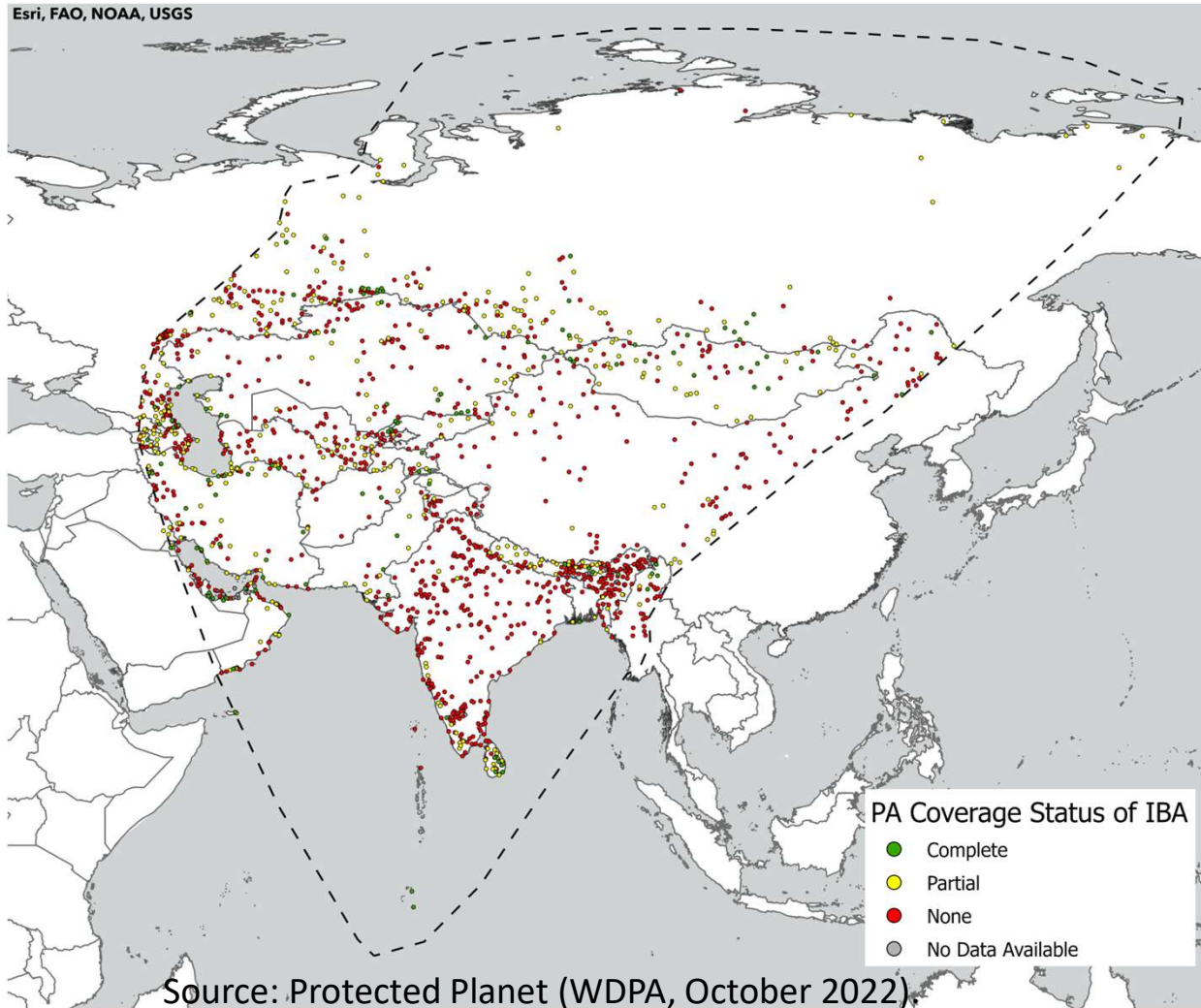
Coverage thresholds are as follows:

Protected ($>98\%$)

Partially Protected ($98\% \geq$ & $\geq 2\%$)

Unprotected ($<2\%$).

Map of Important Bird Areas for migratory birds in the Central Asian Flyway



Capacity for research & conservation action (national questionnaires)

Stakeholder group	Migratory bird research	Bird monitoring	Implement conservation action
National authorities responsible for habitat & mig bird management	Low	Mod-low	Mod
Local authorities responsible for habitat & mig bird management	Low	Low	Low
Research Institutions	Mod	Mod	Mod
Universities	Mod	Mod	Low
Schools	Low	Low	Low
NGOs	Mod	Mod	Mod
Volunteers / birding community	Low	Mod	Low
Local communities	Low	Low	Low



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Awareness Raising & Communication

Awareness levels about migratory birds & their habitats by different stakeholder groups

Stakeholder	Overall level
National authorities responsible for habitat & bird management	Moderate
Local authorities responsible for habitat & bird management	Moderate
General urban adult population	Low
General rural adult population	Low
School & college children	Low

Success levels of awareness raising activities in CAF countries in the past three years based*

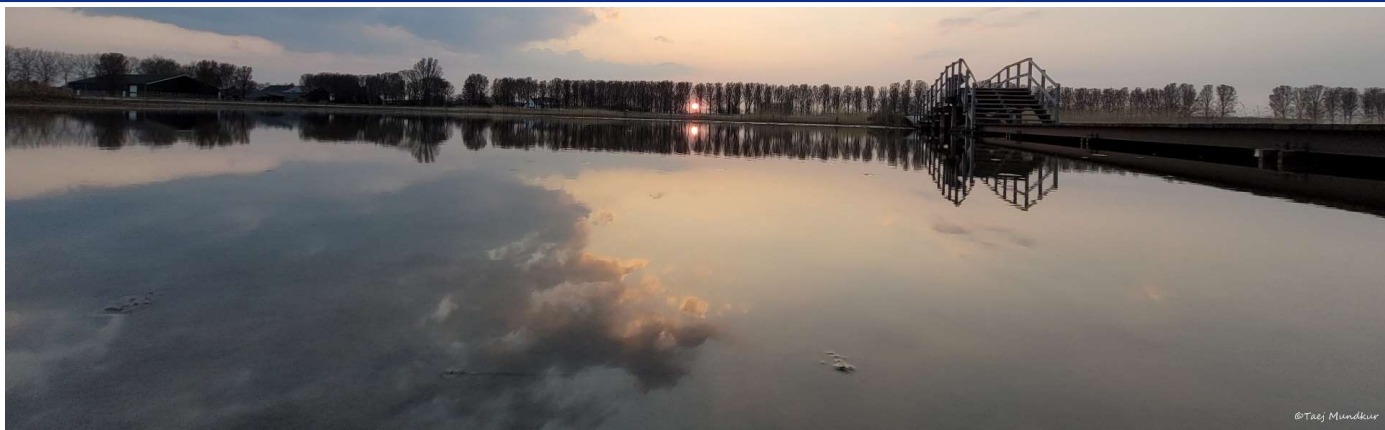
Awareness-raising activities implemented in the last 3 years
Public awareness-raising campaigns
Teaching programmes in schools or colleges
Community-based celebrations, exhibitions & other events
Press & media publicity, including social media
Interpretation at nature visitor centres, reserves & other sites
Dissemination of special publications, information resources

All but last row rated moderately positive



Documents/strategies/policies/planning relating to climate change & biodiversity (national questionnaires)

Existing policy & legislative frameworks	No. of survey responses (n = 24)
Legislation	38% (9)
Nationally determined contribution (NDC)	58% (14)
National adaptation plans (NAPs), National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), related significant national adaptation projects completed or under development	38% (9)
National biodiversity strategies & action plans (NBSAPs)	63% (15)
Regional, sub-national, or local policies	42% (10)
Site species management plans	33% (8)
Species management plans	8% (2)



Actions by different CAF stakeholders for migratory birds & their habitats in the last five years 1/3



National government agencies

- National Action Plan for Conservation of Migratory birds along with Central Asian Flyway 2018-2023 (IN)
- Creation & management of the National PAs (KZ, TM, MN)
- Protection of Houbara Bustard habitats by the Wildlife & Forestry Committee of the Ministry of Nature Resources (KZ)
- National legislation for construction of overhead power lines developed, approved & implemented nationwide (MN)
- Preparation of nominations of internationally imp. wetlands as Ramsar sites by the State Committee for Ecology (UZ)



Subnational government agencies

- Declaration of wetlands or important sites as sanctuaries, including a lake cluster of Pokhara Valley (NP).

Research Institutions

- Research on birds by the Museum of Natural History (PK)

Actions by different CAF stakeholders for migratory birds & their habitats in the last five years 2/3

Universities

- Annual monitoring & satellite tagging of geese (North Kazakhstan State University)

NGOs

- Restoring habitat & protection of foraging sites of Black-necked Crane by RSPN (BT).
- Capacity building of state governments & implementation of NAP CAF by BNHS (IN)
- Taldykol lake protection campaign in Astana (KZ)
- Work with national agencies to develop & implement national legislation for construction of overhead power lines (MN)
- Recovery program for Houbara Bustard through release of birds, collaring, transmitters by Emirates Birds Breeding Center (UZ)



Actions by different CAF stakeholders for migratory birds & their habitats in the last five years 3/3

Birding community/ groups

- Protection to bird colonies by local community groups (BD)
- Awareness, seizure & confiscation of catapults & traps. Rescue & treatment of injured birds (NP)
- White-headed Duck lake in Almaty region protection campaign (KZ)

Foundations

- Various research & conservation activities carried out support of major international foundations, incl. International Crane Foundation, Peregrine Fund, Succow Foundation (MN, TM).

Community groups

- Establishment of community-managed vulture feeding sites at multiple locations (NP)
- Action by local communities & Community Controlled Hunting Areas (PK)

Business sector

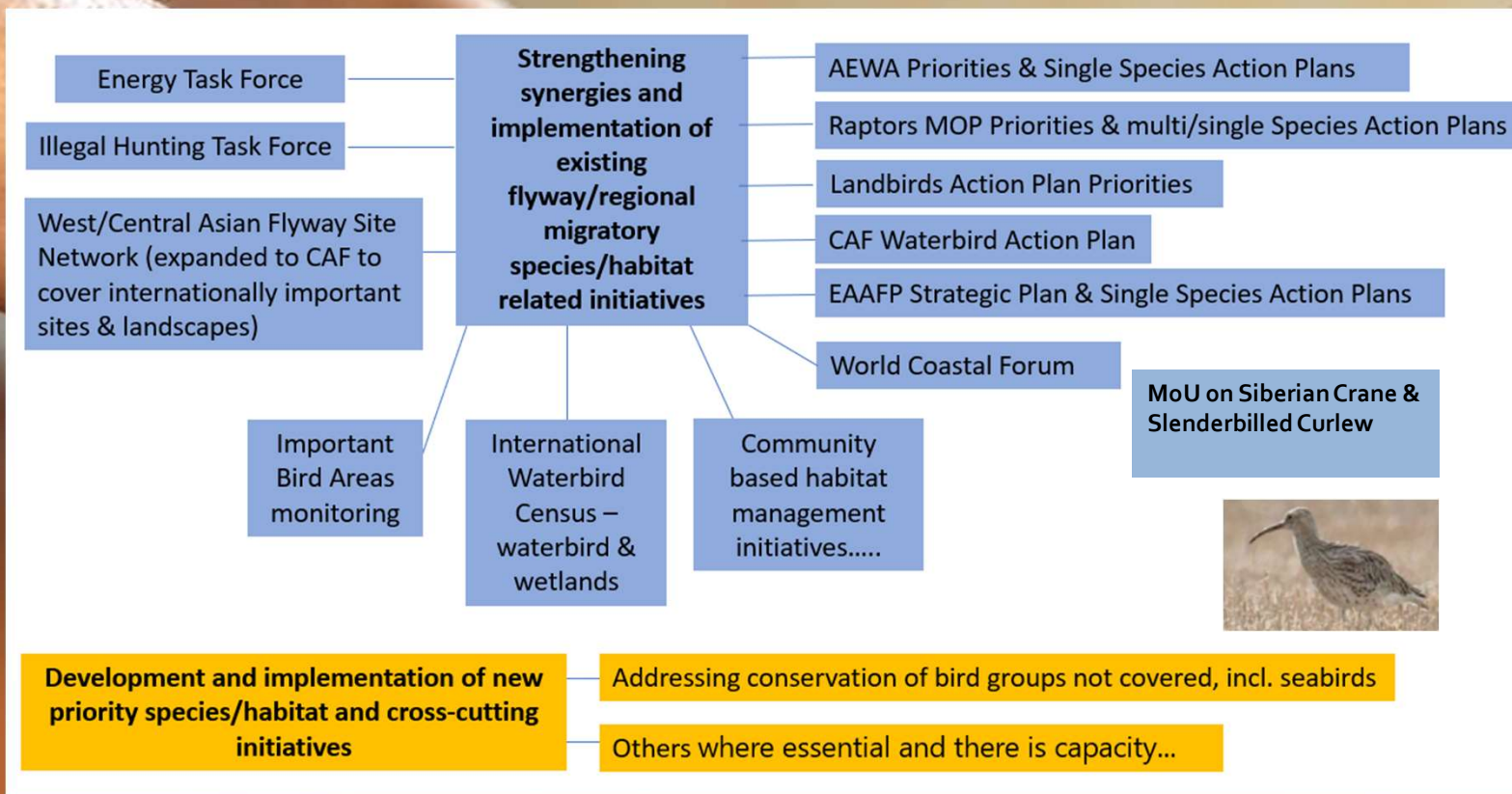
- Monitoring of waterbirds with oil companies (KZ)



Main recommendations of the CAF Situation Analysis

A. Development of a joint collaborative initiative

Improve coordination & build synergies among international frameworks, both formal & informal & key stakeholders (incl. governments, international NGOs, scientists & others)



Main recommendations of the CAF Situation Analysis

B. Species management

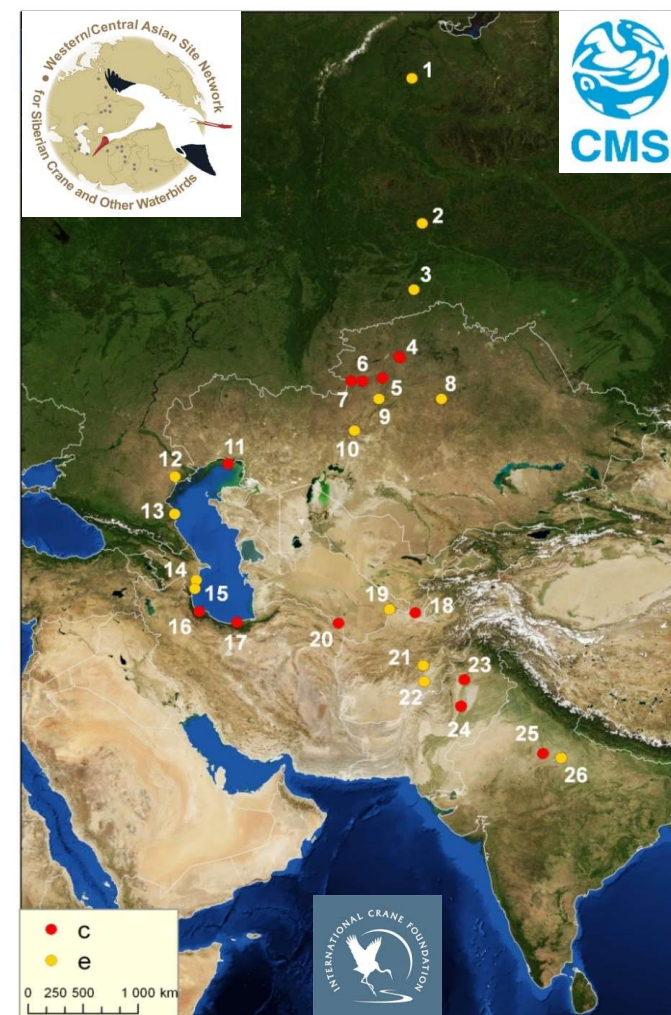
- implementation of existing single species or multispecies action plans for globally threatened species & development of others
- listing of eight globally threatened & one near-threatened CAF species under the CMS Appendices.



Main recommendations of the CAF Situation Analysis

C. Land-use management

- identification & management of sites of national or international importance to migratory bird species, establishment of a critical site network (>1700 sites)
- tackling land-use changes in intensive agriculture & traditional agriculture, including pastoralism & small-scale cropping systems
- water management at important wetlands
- Sustainable energy production & renewable energy
- re-vegetation (incl. reforestation), reducing desertification & carbon emissions from deforestation
- tackling disturbance from human activities, human-wildlife conflict



Main recommendations of the CAF Situation Analysis 2/3

D. Taking & trade of migratory birds

- collisions from powerlines
- tackling illegal taking
- poisoning, diseases
- taking & trade of migratory birds - regulation of legal taking



Main recommendations of the CAF Situation Analysis

E. Research & monitoring

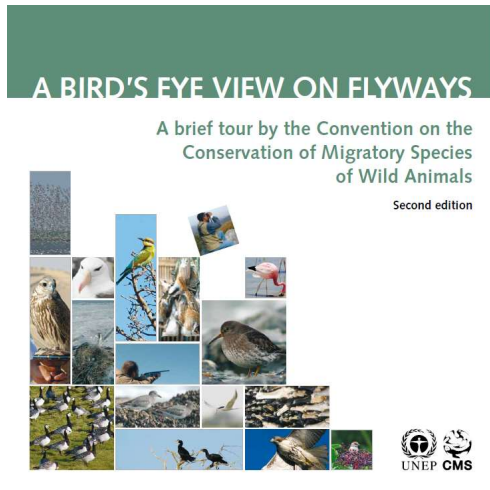
- monitoring of population trends, understanding causes of population change in migratory species, habitat use & management
- understanding migration patterns & connectivity along flyways
- building capacity
- improving exchange of information, collaboration & coordination between researchers



Main recommendations of the CAF Situation Analysis

F. Education & information

- Improving public awareness & understanding about migratory bird species



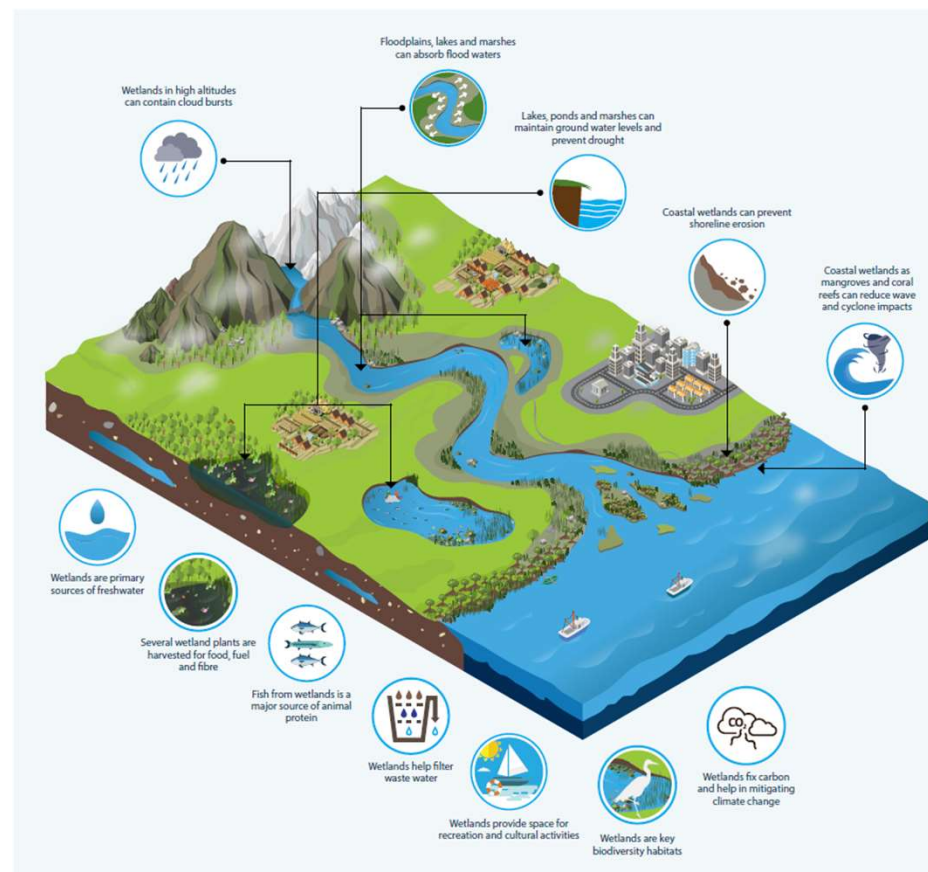
2-4 May 2023, New Delhi, India

Meeting of the Range States of the Central Asian Flyway

Main recommendations of the CAF Situation Analysis

G. Integrating action for climate & migratory species

- Review most vulnerable locations due to climate impacts, assess & apply landscape-scale restoration action
- Mainstream Nature-based Solutions (NbS) within national policies, planning & legislation to address the climate & biodiversity crises & contribute to wider delivery against the Sustainable Development Goals
- Review Global Environment Facility (GEF) & Green Climate Fund (GCF) for opportunities to deliver landscape-scale NbS
- Identify innovative & sustainable financing from local, national & international sources from all stakeholders, including from the private sector



Main recommendations of the CAF Situation Analysis

G. Integrating action for climate & migratory species

- Review most vulnerable locations due to climate impacts, assess & apply landscape-scale restoration action
- Mainstream Nature-based Solutions (NbS) within national policies, planning & legislation to address the climate & biodiversity challenges and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

We foresee that the CAF initiative as a practical tool to help governments deliver the detail of your NBSAPs, and hence your commitments to the Global Biodiversity Framework, and supporting you to deliver under existing CMS instruments and related initiatives

Identify innovative & sustainable financing from local, national & international sources from all stakeholders, including from the private sector



Afghanistan- Wali Madaqiq (Freelance Consultant) **Armenia**- Tsovinar Hovhannisyanyan, ArAves nature conservation NGO **Bahrain**- Ali Mansoor Abbas (Supreme Council for Environment) **Bangladesh**- Muntasir Akash (University of Dhaka), Md. Jahidul Kabir (Bangladesh Forest Department), Sabir Bin Muzaffar (United Arab Emirates University), Allama Shibli Sadik (Bangladesh Forest Department), A B M Sarowar Alam (International Organization), Sakib Ahmed (IUCN Bangladesh Country Office), Md. Kamrul Hasan (Jahangirnagar University), Kazi Zenifar Azmiri (IUCN Bangladesh Country Office), Omar Shahadat (Bangladesh Bird Club), Mohammod Foysal (Bangladesh Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation Project), Dr. A.M. Saleh Reza (Rajshahi University), Delip K. Das (Jagannath University & Groningen University). **Bhutan**- Sherub (Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment Research), Yeshey Dorji (independent), Tshering Tobgay (Royal Society for Protection of Nature), Jigme Tshering (Royal Society for Protection of Nature), and Lungten (independent); **British Indian Ocean Territory**- Peter Carr, Milly Fellows, James Wood, Chagos Conservation Trust, Sarah Harvey, Sarah Puntan-Galea, Jonathan Hall; **China**- YANG Le, XU Feng, DING Peng, Prof Ma and Zhou Xiuqing of NFGA; **Georgia**- Zurabi Gurgeniidze, Society for Nature Conservation – SABUKO; **India**- Rohit Tiwari, Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Reginald Royston, District Forest Office, Hamirpur Wildlife Division, Himachal Pradesh, S Subramanya and Himmat Singh,, Indian Bird Conservation Network, Yuvan Aves, Palluyir Trust for Nature Education and Research, Rajah Jayapal, Senior Principal Scientist, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, Sujit Shivaji Narwade, Assistant Director, Parveen Shaikh, Scientist, Asad Rafi Rahmani, and Raju Kasambe, Bombay Natural History Society, Aqsa Rehman, Wildlife Institute of India, Praveen J, Nature Conservation Foundation, Vijaya Bharat, Jamshedpur Bird Watchers Society, PO Nameer, College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University; **Iraq**- Arif Alsalam (focal point of CMS Iraq); **Kazakhstan**- Sergey Sklyarenko, Ruslan Urazaliyev and Vera Voronova, ACBK; **Kuwait**- Jenan Behzad, Kuwait Environment Protection Society; **Maldives**- Lisama Sabry; Department of Environment, Maldives; **Mongolia**- Tsevenmyadag Natsagdorj from Wildlife Science and Conservation Center; Batmunkh Davaasuren from Wildlife Science and Conservation Center; Iderbat Damba from Institute of Biology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences; Badamkhand Dashnyam from Institute of Paleontology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences; Gantulga Bayandonoj from WWF-Mongolia; Onolragchaa Ganbold from Mongolian National University of Education; Tsogt Sukhbaatar from Mongolian University of Life Sciences; Dashnyam Batsuuri from Oyu Tolgoi LLC; Sarangerel Ichinkhorloo from Saraana Nature Conservation Foundation; **Myanmar**- Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association, Thiri Da Wei Aung, Nick Davidson, MDY Division Forest, Raphael Glemet, Wint Hte, Myo Thant Tun, Yé Wint Phyo, Zin phyo aung, and Dr. Christoph Zöckler; **Nepal**- Rajendra KC (Govt. of Nepal, Dept. of Forest and Soil Conservation), Hem B Katuwal (Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences), Hem S Baral (Independent ornithologist), Kriti Nepal (Bird Conservation Nepal [BCN]), Naku Chhettri (ICIMOD), Rajendra N Suwal (WWF Nepal), Tulsi R Subedi (Himalayan Nature), Ishana Thapa (BCN), Mohan B Shrestha (BCN), Karan B Shah (BCN), Sanjan B Thapa (SMCRF), Shailendra Pokharel (CODEFUND), Ramesh Chaudhary (Bird Education Society), Ram B Shahi (Bardia Nature Conservation Club), Dhan B Chaudhary (Jatayu [vulture] Restaurant Management Committee), Shankar Tiwari (Birder), Vimal Thapa (birder), Sanjaya T Shrestha (birder), Yubin Shtrestha (birder), Amrit K Paudel (Pokhara Bird Society), Samikchya Chaudhary (birder), Kamal R Gosai (Tri Chandra College, Tribhuvan University), Sanjeevan Yonjan (WCN), Chakra Timsina (Koshi Bird Society), Krishna P Bhusal (birder), Prabha Pandey (National Lake Conservation Development Committee), and Rajendra Gurung (birder); **Oman**- Aziza Saud Al Adhubi (Directorate General of Nature Conservation Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs); **Pakistan**- Prof. Zahid B. Mirza; Shahbaz Anwar, Pakistan Museum of Natural History; Muhammad Samar Hussain Khan, Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan; and IUCN Pakistan; **Russia**- Evgeny Murzakhanov, Ecological Center "Strizh", Ilya Smelyansky, ACBK, Irina Viushkova, Moscow State University, Sofia Rozenfeld, Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution of the Russian Academy of Sciences; **Saudi Arabia**- Moahmmed Zafarul Islam, Abdulkareem AlAnzy & Mohammed Shobrak (National Center for Wildlife); **Sri Lanka**- Sampath S Seneviratne (University of Colombo), Bharani Gayomini Panagoda (University of Colombo), and Saminda Fernando (The Open University of Sri Lanka). OceanFlick (NGO) and Base for Enthusiasts of Environmental Science and Zoology (BEEZ); **Turkmenistan**- Eldar Rustamov, Member of the Coordinating Committee of the Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia, Shirin Karryeva, Coordinator of CADI project in Turkmenistan; **United Arab Emirates**- Dr Salim Javid and Dr Shahid Khan (Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi); **Uzbekistan**- Mariya Gritsina and Timur Abduraupov (Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Science of Uzbekistan), Maxim Mitropolskiy (Safety and Control Ltd), Anna Ten (Juru Energy, international energy consulting and engineering company), Rustam Murzakhanov (Michael Succow Foundation, Germany); **Yemen**- Omar Ahmed Baeshen (Environment Protection Authority/ CITES National Focal Point)

Flyway level - Nicola Crockford, Willem Van Den Bossche, Mike Evans, Richard Grimmett, Dr Ding Li and Dr Vicky Jones of BirdLife International and Prof. Sampath Seneviratne of University of Colombo, and Spike Millington of the International Crane Foundation and Sayam Choudhury. Tom Langendoen and Wetlands International; Prof Lei Guangchun, Beijing Forestry University, Dr Nyambayar Batbayar of the WSCC, Mongolia, Dr Mimi Kessler of the Eurasian Bustard Alliance and Terry Townshend of the Paulson Institute.

BirdLife International - Dr Barend van Gernerden, Vinayagan Dharmarajah, Dr Anand Chaudhary, Ms Megha Rao, Ms Muna Al Taq, Ms Azhar Ananzeh, Dr Vera Voronova, Dr Alyona Koshina, Artyom Khorkov, Ruslan Urazaliyev, Dr Sergey Sklyarenko, Dr Ramesh Kumar, Dr Sivakumar Swaminathan, Dr S. Sathiyaselvam Ms Neha Sinha, Mike Evans, Dr Rhiannon Niven. Jonathan C. B. Macedo and Ariana Loehr. Jugdernamjil Nergui, Munkhjargal Myagmar, Ochirkhand Erdenedayar, Dr Yifei Jia of the Beijing Forestry University.

Dr Ivan Ramirez, Dr Tilman Carlo Schneider, Nikola Besek at the CMS Secretariat, Dr Umberto Gallo-Orsi of the Raptor MOU Secretariat, Sergey Dereliev at the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Secretariat, and Dr Alain Jacot of the African Eurasian Migratory Landbird Action Plan (AEMLAP) Coordination Unit, Doug Watkins at East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat.

Recommended actions

The meeting is recommended to:

- a) review the draft situation analysis report prepared by BirdLife International;
- b) provide comments on the draft report, as appropriate;
- c) consider the findings in determining priorities and actions in the CAF for migratory bird conservation and management, and the necessary steps towards their implementation.

Timeline for Situation Analysis finalisation

- Presentation and discussion at CAF Range States Meeting
- Gap filling and seeking additional feedback (May 2023)
Await feedback from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar & Tajikistan & official sources in Afghanistan & Russia
- Finalisation of Situation Analysis (July 2023)
- Submission to CMS Secretariat as an information paper to be uploaded for CMS COP14 (Aug 2023)



Let us ensure that the beautiful Siberian Crane and other migratory birds have a long term survival in the Central Asian Flyway through cooperative action



Thank you!

