



Meeting of the Range States of the Central Asian Flyway

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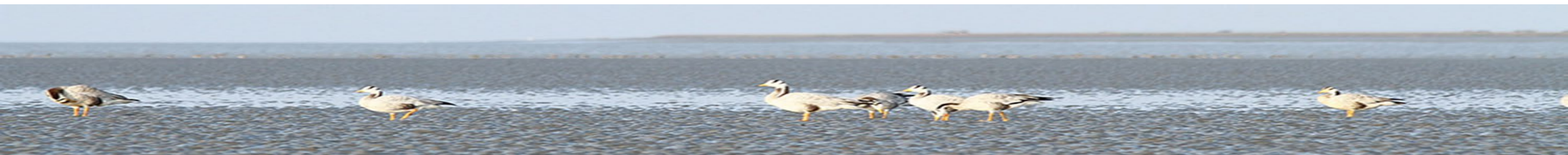
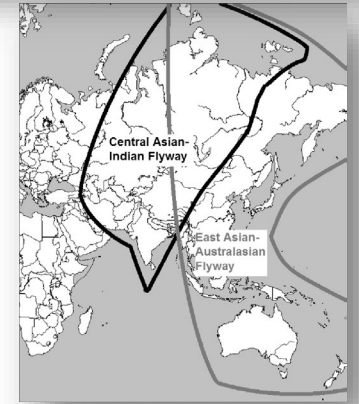
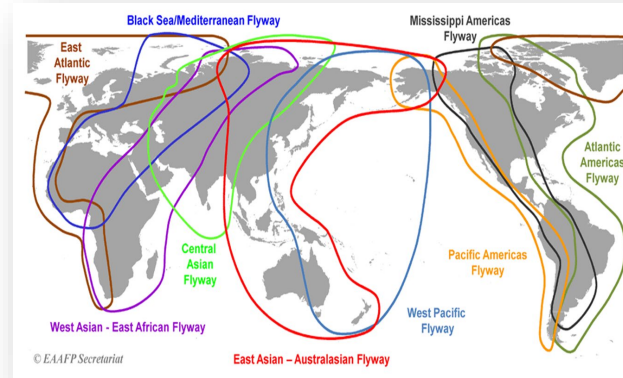
Background

Bangladesh's unique geographic location in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basin with the year-round flow, the monsoon and tropical climate have made it a very important site for migratory birds. Bangladesh falls in two such major bird migratory flyways – **the East-Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF)** and **the Central Asian Flyway (CAF)**. Bangladesh has been an EAAF Partner since 2010.

Bangladesh has an extraordinary diversity of birdlife due to its location in between those two flyways. There are over 700 species of birds have been identified in Bangladesh. Among them 690 species of birds are categorized (337 residents, 208 winter visitors, 12 summer visitors, 14 passage visitors, and 119 vagrants) under 22 orders and 91 families, including 322 passerines. Among the total number of birds 39 species are threatened in different categories (IUCN Bangladesh, 2015).

In Bangladesh 353 species of migratory birds (51.16%) (including 171 passerines) under 20 orders and 62 families have been recorded so far (Khan, 2018).

To conserve the wildlife and its habitat, government of Bangladesh has declared 50 Protected Areas (PAs) including 20 National Parks, 25 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 02 Marine Protected Area, and 02 Special Biodiversity Conservation Area, 2 Safari Park, 1 Aviary Park



Flyway Sites and Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Bangladesh

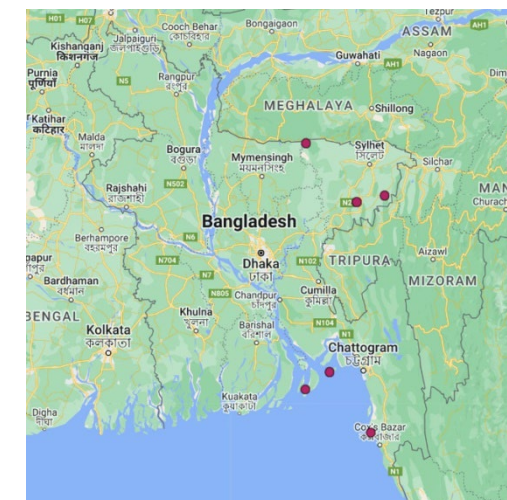
The East Asian-Australian Flyway (EAAF) sites are (i) Gangguirar Char, (ii) Nijhum Dwip, (iii) Sonadia island, (iv) Tanguar Haor, (v) Hakaluki Haor and (vi) Hail Haor. Millions of birds of at least 178 species use this migration path every year. In fact, this flyway is used by more water-bird species in total, and more globally threatened or near threatened species (34 species, 19% of the total), than any other of the world's flyways (BirdLife International, 2020). Bangladesh has many important bird areas Some of them are declared as IBAs by BirdLife International.

❖ Madhupur National Park	❖ Jamuna-Brahmaputra river
❖ Tanguar Haor and Panabeel	❖ Sundarbans (East, South, West Wildlife Sanctuaries)
❖ AilaBeel	❖ Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta
❖ HakalukiHaor	❖ Muhuri Dam
❖ Lawachara National park	❖ Hazarikhil Wildlife Sanctuary
❖ Hail Haor	❖ Pablakhali Wildlife Sanctuary
❖ Rajkandi Reserved Forest	❖ Rampahar-Sitapahar Wildlife Sanctuary
❖ Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary	❖ Patenga Beach
❖ Himchari National Park	❖ SanguMatamuhari

Table: Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of Bangladesh

Name of the Flyway site	Area (Sq.Km)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Nijhum Dwip	163.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,898	
Sonadia island	49.24	-	6,855 (2015-16)	8,586 (2016-17)	9,491 (2017-18)	9,941 (2018-19)	7,158 (2019-20)		
Tanguar Hoar	97.29	-	52,274	45,425	39,849	51,217	128,404	43,368	
Hakaluki Haor	181.15	23,041	21,631	34,240	58,289	-	-	-	
Hail Haor	30.00	10,479	6,991	8,832	10,713	-	-	-	
Ganguirar Char	69.71		7,500 (2015-16)						6000 (2021-22)

Table: Count of water birds in the recent past years



Map of EAAF sites



Map of IBAs

Threats to the Birds and Flyway Sites

- **Hunting and poaching** : Hunting and poaching is one of the major threats for birds especially for charismatic species and large-size species those are particularly used for trophies or as pet animals.
- **Consumption:** Some people living near the wetlands and forest areas of the country, traditionally hunt birds for consumption. Mostly large sized birds such as Red Jungle Fowl, Kalij Pheasant, White-cheeked Francolin, Doves, Pigeons, Egrets and Herons, Purple Swamp Hen and Ducks are the target of the hunters.
- **Local and international Trade:** Bangladesh has been using as a transit for illegal wildlife trading due to its geographical position between India and Myanmar. Wildlife poaching and trafficking pose a great threat to the bird species of the country. According to the information from the Wildlife Crime Control Unit (WCCU) of the Forest Department from 2012- 2019 so far 22884 birds were seized (BFD, 2020).
- **Habitat degradation and fragmentation:** Nowadays it is the most important factor for the biodiversity loss. Due to various reasons wildlife habitats have been destroying and fragmenting in an alarming rate.
- **Illegal timber/fuel wood extraction:** It is one of the most important causes of forest destruction and most of the households, living in and around the forests, use fuel wood for daily cooking.
- **Unsustainable fishing:** fishermen and local people have been harvesting fisheries resources in unsustainable way. Use of different kinds of harmful fishing gears causing problem to the movement of water birds.
- **Water Pollution:** Untreated industrial water, excessive use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides, spillage from water vessels are polluting the wetland ecosystem. Ultimately the ecological balance breaks down and poses adverse effect to the wetland dependent bird populations.
- **Disturbance by tourist activities:** Excessive and uncontrolled tourist activities could pose a great threat to wild animals especially for small forest patches those are critical habitats for Endangered bird species. Tourist activities could interrupt normal daily activity of diurnal birds as well as could disturb the roosting sites of nocturnal birds.
- **Free-ranging Duck Rearing and Avian Influenza:** Free-ranging Duck Rearing has occurring in throughout the country. There is a high chance of disease bidirectional disease transmission especially the transmission avian influenza.

Initiatives of the Government of Bangladesh for wildlife including migratory bird species

- Bangladesh is a signatory country for different International Conventions as Ramsar Convention, CITES , CBD , UNESCO , Kyoto Protocol etc.
- “Implementation of Wildlife (Conservation and security) Act-2012 for killing or hunting of migratory birds .
- **Wildlife Crime Control Unit** was formed with the objectives to stop hunting and poaching of wild animals
- The **wildlife advisory board** has been established in the light of the Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012
- **National Scientific Committee** has been formed consisting of eminent and famous experts in wild animals and plants working in any institution, government or non-government organization.
- **Institutional development:** The institutional framework of the Forest Department was highly focused on the conservation of Wildlife & Forest resources. Some new position has been created such as wildlife & biodiversity Conservation officer, wildlife inspector, Wildlife Ranger, Wildlife Scout to strengthen the conservation of wildlife.
- **Strategic Conservation Plan for Flyway Sites of Bangladesh”** has been developed in January 2023 under Sustainable Forests and Livelihoods (SUFAL) project.
- Bird Rescue and Recovery Team, Flyway Site Monitoring Cell may form by FD as recommendation by Strategic Conservation Plan for Flyway Sites of Bangladesh.
- Community patrol group and response team has been formed in different PAs for the prevention of illegal killing or hunting of migratory waterbirds.
- Awareness campaign for local stakeholders, school and college students.
- Declaration of Two vulture safe zone, Establishment of Wildlife rescue center
- Declaration of Sundarban and Tanguar Haor as a Ramsar site.
- SMART law enforcement monitoring has been continuing in Sundarbans since 2015 & it will be implemented for other 9 PAs areas.
- Bird Survey: Bird Survey has been completed in 32 important Bird Areas in Bangladesh
- **Bird Ringing:** 4 ringing camp has been conducted recently and total of 352 ring has been tagged.
- **Sample Collection and Analysis:** 261 swab sample has been collected and testing/ analysis is ongoing.
- **Habitat Mapping:** Determining the important wild bird habitats and formatting maps of wild and domestic bird interaction.
- **Satellite Tagging:** Identifying the wetland network in country, migration route and core breeding area in breeding site. Satellite tag has been tagged for 7 Dabbling Duck and 5 shore birds.
- Celebrating the day of migratory bird: Bangladesh has celebrated the day of migratory bird nationally for 2 days in recent couple of years.

Challenges for Flyway Site Management

- **Insufficient staff support:** Forest Department, Bangladesh is suffering for field level staff shortage. Many of the peripheral forest offices do not have enough staffs to carry out regular duties.
- **Insufficient logistics:** Most of the peripheral forest office has no support of vehicles. Only forest rangers and above posts get limited vehicle facilities but there is no vehicle support for beat officer and other staffs of the FD station.
- **No facilities for family life:** Very rare or no basic facilities are found in peripheral forest office for leading a family life. Extremely rare medical facilities, no facilities for school going children, no recreational facilities are available in most of the forest stations.
- One of the main challenges for the implementation of the flyway strategic plan is to convince affected human populations due to conservation initiatives.
- **Changing land and sea use:** Forest lands are being converting to agricultural lands. Forests are also been cleaning for households and industry. Jhum cultivation is going on in Hill forests and abandoning mass areas every year and shifting to new forest areas.
- **Public relations and conflict management:** The relationship between local people and the FD officials are not friendly in many areas.
- **Wildlife trade:** The destination of poached animals and their body parts are mostly foreign illegal markets due to their huge demand.
- **Climate change:** Climate change is being recognized as a global crisis threatening human survival and biological resources. The southern parts of the country are more vulnerable to climate change effects. It is a big challenge to change people's attitudes and resource use pattern regarding climate change issues.
- **Water management:** Water management system in the country is still in a poor condition. Most of the rivers are being filled up due to the reduction in water flow from the upstream and siltation. Due the construction of dam in the upstream of Indian part, most of the major rivers such as the Padma, Jamuna and Teesta are not getting enough flow of water during dry season.




CMS

Thank You

