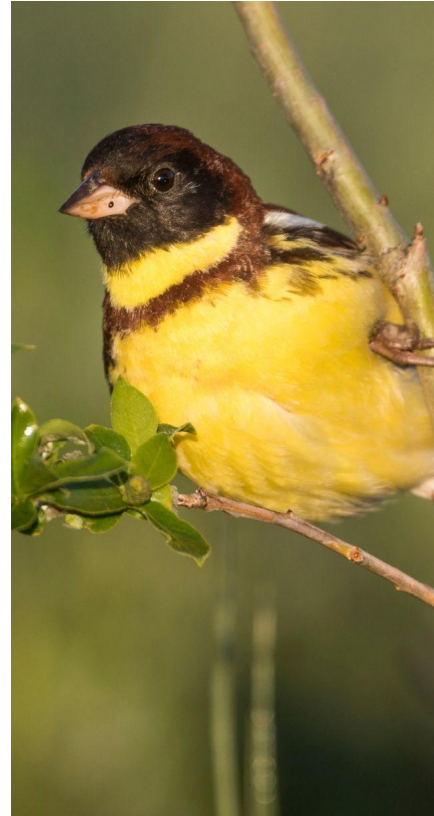
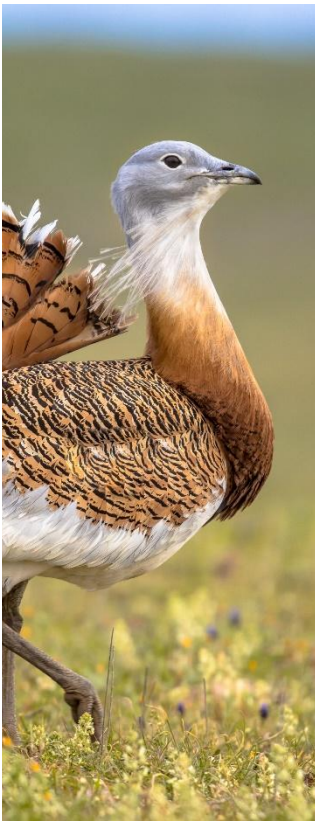




East-Asian Australasian Flyway Situation Analysis: Virtual Forum

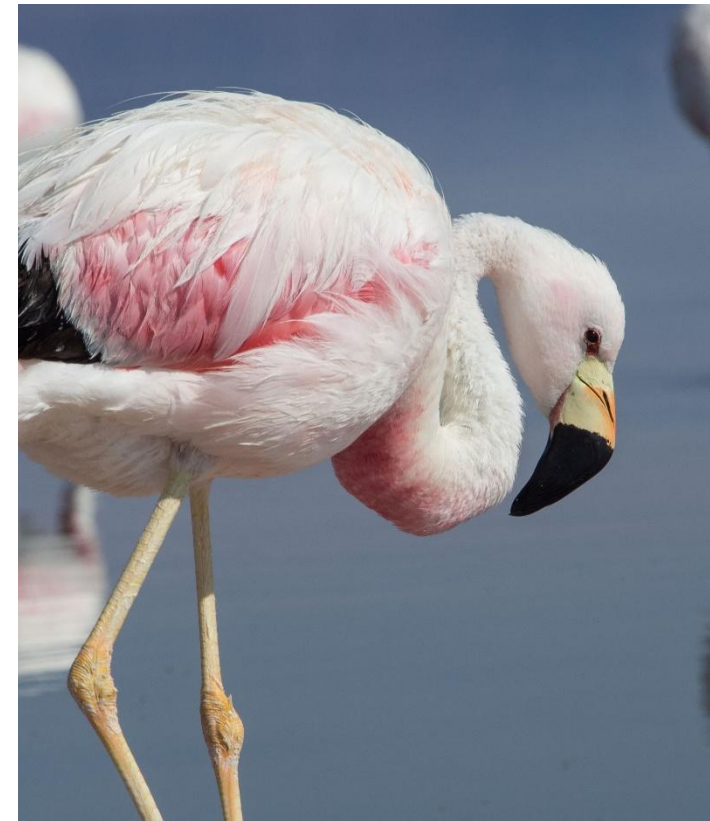
24 June 2026





Opening remarks

Ivan Ramirez, CMS Secretariat





General introduction

Samantha Vine



Project team



Samantha Vine



Pepe Clarke



Dr Jenny Lau



Dr Sarah Pearson



Adobe Stock

Acknowledgment

This Situation Analysis is building on decades of work by individual experts and organisations, particularly:

East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) - *a flyway-wide framework to promote dialogue, cooperation and collaboration between stakeholders across 22 countries*

BirdLife International - *124 partner organisations, dedicated to uniting and strengthening conservation across borders.*





Forum overview

Purpose:

To foster engagement and support consultation in relation to the EAAF Situation Analysis.

Topics:

1. Preliminary findings
2. Discussion: Barriers to conservation
3. Discussion: Regional perspectives
4. Next steps

Please feel free to contribute to the discussion by raising your hand or typing in the chat.



Context and approach

Pepe Clarke



Adobe Stock

PURPOSE

To advance conservation of migratory birds across the East Asian-Australasian Flyway by producing a comprehensive situation analysis. This analysis will inform recommendations for effective conservation action.

22

range states

50+

million migratory
waterbirds

56

threatened species

This study aligns with and aims to support the implementation of CMS Decision 14.137 (directed to CMS Parties) and Decision 14.140 (directed to the Flyways Working Group) to share information on implementation gaps and needs through appropriate coordination with other countries in the region, as well as identifying global synergies and gaps across different flyway-related initiatives.

CONTEXT

- No flyway-wide assessment currently consolidates species trends, threats and conservation responses
- Species covered: shorebirds, waterbirds, seabirds, landbirds and raptors
- 5 CMS parties in the flyway. Ramsar and CBD frameworks span all 22 range states
- EAAFP provides framework for collaboration between state parties (18) and other partners (24).

Summary of methods

1

Literature review

- Scientific and grey literature
- IUCN Red List, BirdLife DataZone, EAAFP and partner databases
- Legal and policy instruments: global, regional and national

2

Consultation

- Virtual forum (24 June)
- Online survey (July)
- Structured interviews (July-August)
- Targeted data requests

3

Analysis

- Integrated assessment of species, sites, threats and policy frameworks
- Status and effectiveness of conservation actions (law, policies, programs)

4

Report and outputs

- Publication-ready situation analysis report (30-50 pages)
- Accessible summary of findings and priority recommendations
- Delivered to CMS Secretariat in late 2026



Preliminary findings



East-Asian Australasian Flyway



Image credit: Australian Government DCCEEW

East-Asian Australasian Flyway

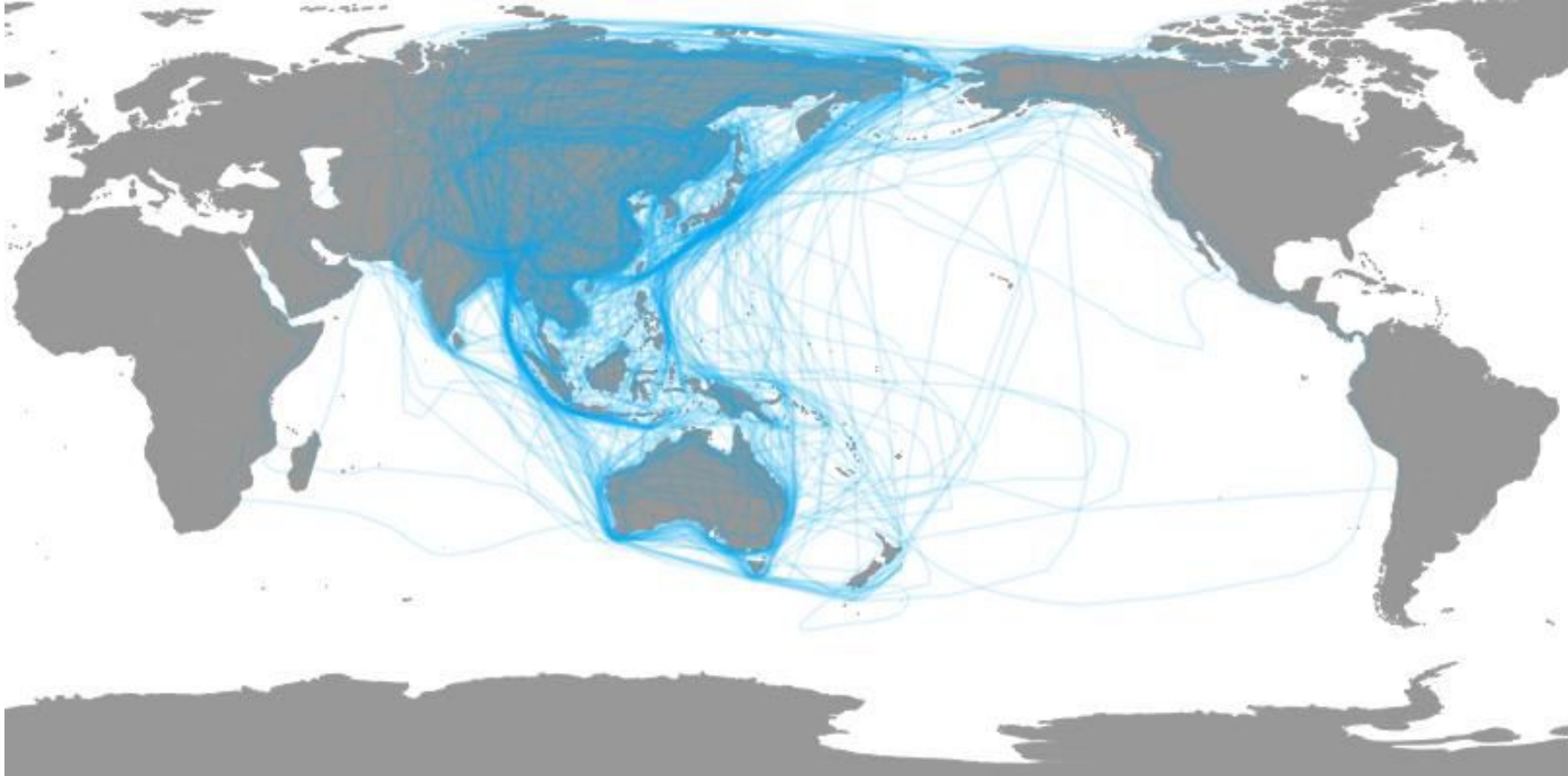


Image credit: Wetlands International & EAAFP Secretariat 2022

Waterbirds undertake complex migration patterns that extend outside the 22 flyway countries

CMS definition of migratory species

"Migratory species" ... a significant proportion of whose members cyclically and predictably cross one or more national jurisdictional boundaries

- not limited by migration distance
- inclusive of altitudinal migrants

Terms of reference for Situation Analysis

Scope of Situation Analysis

... all CMS Appendix I and II bird species, relevant species contained in Res. 14.20 Potential Avian Taxa for Listing and EAAF Partnership (EAAFP) Appendix III listed waterbird species

In this presentation, '*CMS Appendix I and II bird species*' and '*relevant species contained in Res. 14.20 Potential Avian Taxa for Listing*' have been combined as 'CMS-listed'.

EAAF Partnership (EAAFP) Appendix III listed waterbird species

-26 taxonomic groups

Taxonomic Group	English Name
Anatidae	Swans, geese and ducks
Podicipedidae	Grebes
Phaethontidae	Tropicbirds
Heliornithidae	Finfoots
Rallidae	Rails, gallinules and coots
Gruidae	Cranes
Gaviidae	Divers/Loons
Hydrobatidae	Northern storm petrels
Oceanitidae	Austral storm petrels
Procellariidae	Shearwaters and petrels
Ciconiidae	Storks
Threskiornithidae	Ibises and spoonbills
Ardeidae	Herons, egrets and bitterns
Pelecanidae	Pelicans
Fregatidae	Frigatebirds
Sulidae	Gannets and boobies
Phalacrocoracidae	Cormorants and shags
Haematopodidae	Oystercatchers
Recurvirostridae	Stilts and avocet
Charadriidae	Plovers
Jacanidae	Jacanas
Scolopacidae	Sandpipers
Glareolidae	Pratincoles
Laridae	Gulls, terns and skimmers
Stercorariidae	Skuas and jaegers
Alcidae	Auks, murre and puffins

EAAFP Appendix III - Waterbirds

-14 taxonomic groups

Taxonomic Group	English Name
Anatidae	Swans, geese and ducks
Podicipedidae	Grebes
Phaethontidae	Tropicbirds
Heliornithidae	Finfoots
Rallidae	Rails, gallinules and coots
Gruidae	Cranes
Gaviidae	Divers/Loons
Hydrobatidae	Northern storm petrels
Oceanitidae	Austral storm petrels
Procellariidae	Shearwaters and petrels
Ciconiidae	Storks
Threskiornithidae	Ibises and spoonbills
Ardeidae	Hérons, egrets and bitterns
Pelecanidae	Pelicans
Fregatidae	Frigatebirds
Sulidae	Gannets and boobies
Phalacrocoracidae	Cormorants and shags
Haematopodidae	Oystercatchers
Recurvirostridae	Stilts and avocet
Charadriidae	Plovers
Jacanidae	Jacanas
Scolopacidae	Sandpipers
Glareolidae	Pratincoles
Laridae	Gulls, terns and skimmers
Stercorariidae	Skuas and jaegers
Alcidae	Auks, murre and puffins

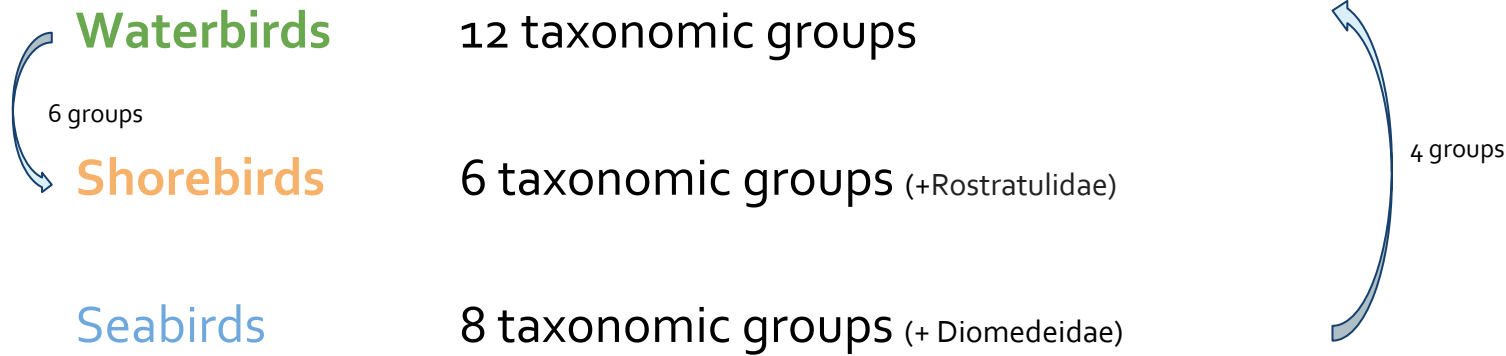
EAAFP Appendix III - Seabirds

-12 taxonomic groups

Taxonomic Group	English Name
Anatidae	Swans, geese and ducks
Podicipedidae	Grebes
Phaethontidae	Tropicbirds
Heliornithidae	Finfoots
Rallidae	Rails, gallinules and coots
Gruidae	Cranes
Gaviidae	Divers/Loons
Hydrobatidae	Northern storm petrels
Oceanitidae	Austral storm petrels
Procellariidae	Shearwaters and petrels
Ciconiidae	Storks
Threskiornithidae	Ibises and spoonbills
Ardeidae	Hérons, egrets and bitterns
Pelecanidae	Pelicans
Fregatidae	Frigatebirds
Sulidae	Gannets and boobies
Phalacrocoracidae	Cormorants and shags
Haematopodidae	Oystercatchers
Recurvirostridae	Stilts and avocet
Charadriidae	Plovers
Jacaniidae	Jacanas
Scolopacidae	Sandpipers
Glareolidae	Pratincoles
Laridae	Gulls, terns and skimmers
Stercorariidae	Skuas and jaegers
Alcidae	Auks, murre and puffins

Waterbirds, Shorebirds and Seabirds

In our preliminary analyses, we have created 3 groups that better reflect species' ecology, particularly in relation to habitat



Taxonomic Group	English Name
Anatidae	Swans, geese and ducks
Podicipedidae	Grebes
Phaethontidae	Tropicbirds
Heliomithidae	Finfoots
Rallidae	Rails, gallinules and coots
Gruidae	Cranes
Gaviidae	Divers/Loons
Hydrobatidae	Northern storm petrels
Oceanitidae	Austral storm petrels
Procellariidae	Shearwaters and petrels
Ciconiidae	Storks
Threskiornithidae	Ibises and spoonbills
Ardeidae	Herons, egrets and bitterns
Pelecanidae	Pelicans
Fregatidae	Frigatebirds
Sulidae	Gannets and boobies
Phalacrocoracidae	Cormorants and shags
Haematopodidae	Oystercatchers
Recurvirostridae	Stilts and avocet
Charadriidae	Plovers
Jacaniidae	Jacanas
Scolopacidae	Sandpipers
Glareolidae	Pratincoles
Laridae	Gulls, terns and skimmers
Stercorariidae	Skuas and jaegers
Alcidae	Auks, murres and puffins

Migratory shorebirds

- e.g., Sandpipers, Plovers, Curlews etc
- Wading birds that utilise a broad range of habitats including intertidal mud flats, beaches, rocky shorelines
- Feed on invertebrates found in mud, rocks, sandy shorelines
- Long-distance migrations via important staging sites in east and south-east Asia



Migratory waterbirds

- e.g., Ducks, geese, large waders
- Inhabit diverse water bodies including wetlands, estuaries and swamps
- Diverse diets and migration patterns
- includes four 'seabird' groups (gulls, terns, cormorants etc) that share habitat with many coastal/inland waterbird species and face similar pressures



Migratory seabirds

- e.g., Albatrosses, Giant-petrels, Petrels, Shearwaters
- Piscivores (feed on fish)
- Birds of the open oceans, with many breeding on islands
- Diverse migration patterns

Preliminary work to identify species

The team acknowledges the important, ongoing work of the EAAFP secretariat and partners, and BirdLife International as integral to the Situation Analysis.

We also acknowledge the important, ongoing work of flyway governments and agencies, CMS secretariat, scientists, environmental organisations, conservation practitioners and volunteers.

Preliminary work to identify flyway species

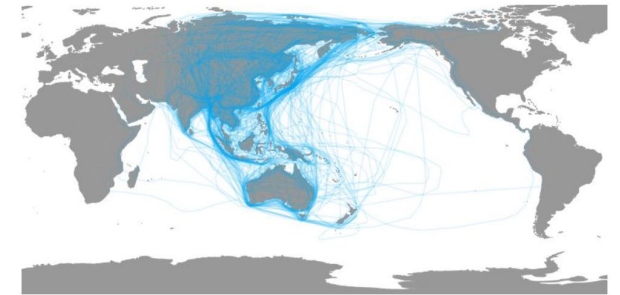
Provisional species lists collated from the following sources

Migratory shorebirds and waterbirds

Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway (First Edition - 2022) Wetlands International/EAAFP

Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds
of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway

First Edition



Taej Mundkur and Tom Langendoen



Financially supported by
East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership
Norwegian Environment Agency



Preliminary work to identify flyway species

Provisional species lists collated from the following sources

Migratory shorebirds and waterbirds

Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway (First Edition - 2022) Wetlands International/EAAFP

Migratory seabirds

EAAFP Seabird Group's 2014 priority list (aligned with current CMS adopted taxonomy)

Collation of key species information

For each species we have collated information on:

- CMS status - currently listed (Appendices I, II, I/II) **or** under consideration for listing (CMS Resolution 14.20)
- Current Red List status and trend
- Migration status (full, partial, altitudinal)
- Cross-referenced against information in BirdLife International's DataZone and EAAFP studies.

The provisional lists will be reviewed and refined during the consultation process.

Summary statistics: Migratory shorebirds

- 60 migratory shorebird species in the EAAF
- 56 are CMS-listed
 - CMS I/II 4
 - CMS II 52

Summary statistics: Migratory waterbirds

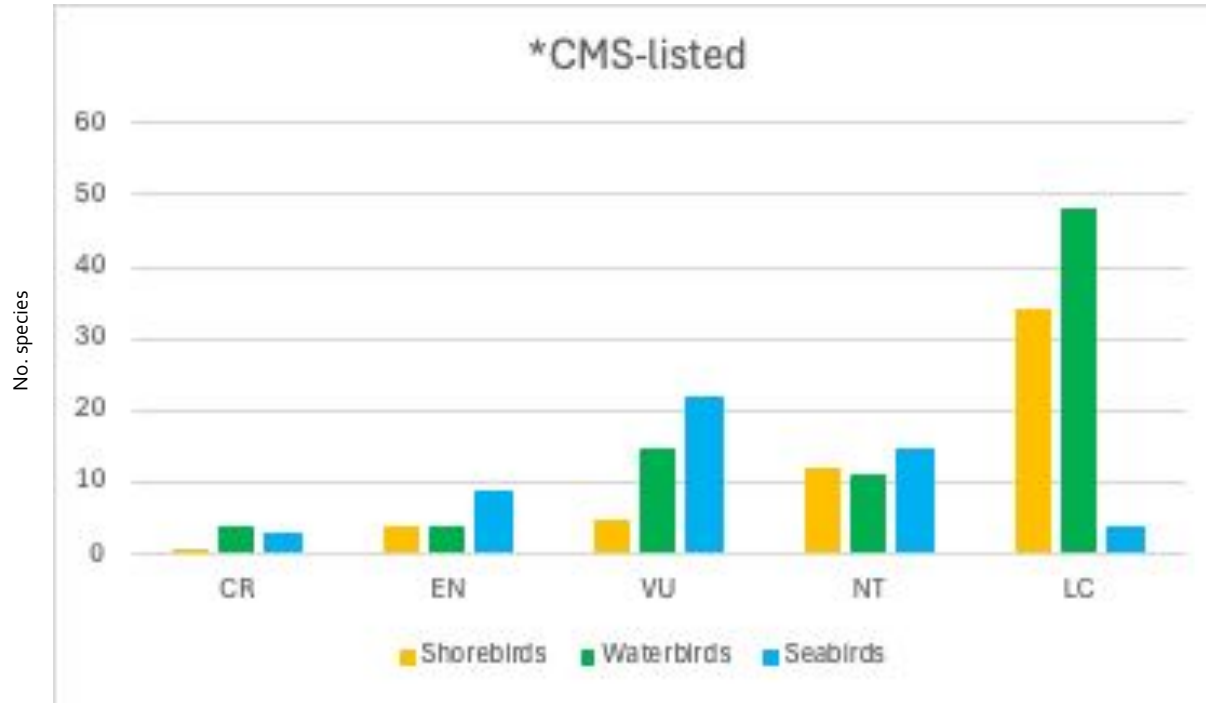
- 155 migratory waterbird species in the EAAF
- 70 are currently CMS-listed
 - CMS I 7
 - CMS I/II 12
 - CMS II 51
- 12 are under consideration for listing as per CMS Resolution 14.20

Summary statistics: Migratory seabirds

- 112 migratory seabird species in the EAAF
- 52 are CMS-listed
 - CMS I 5
 - CMS I/II 1
 - CMS II 30
- 16 are under consideration for listing as per CMS Resolution 14.20

IUCN Red List Status

Migratory shorebirds, waterbirds and seabirds



Red List Status

*Currently CMS-listed or under consideration for CMS listing

CR: Critically Endangered

EN: Endangered

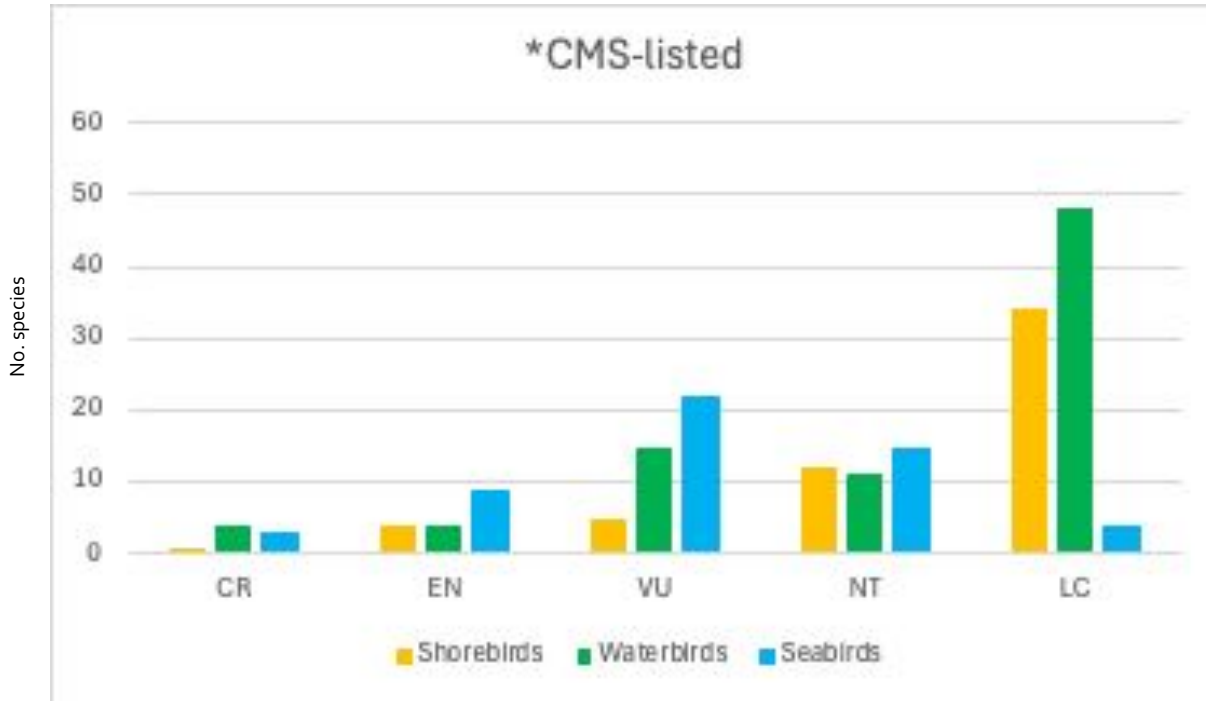
VU: Vulnerable

NT: Near Threatened

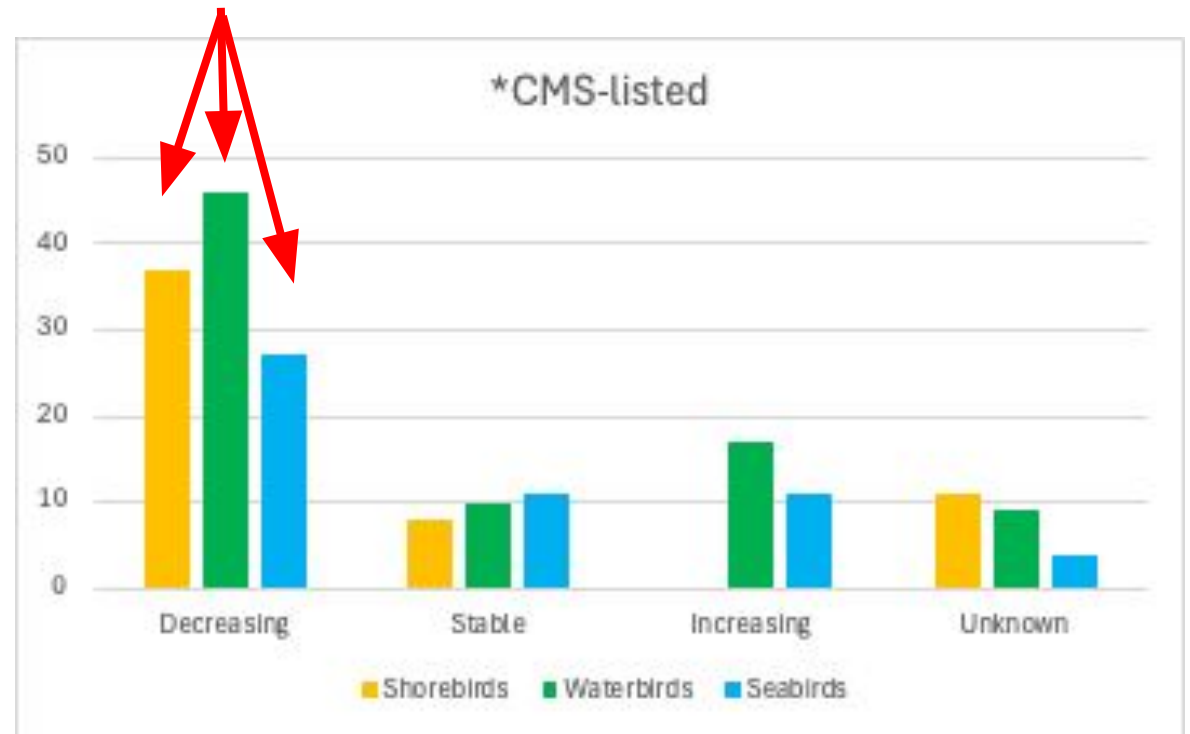
LC: Least Concern

IUCN Red List Status & Trend

Migratory shorebirds, waterbirds and seabirds



Red List Status



Red List Trend

*Currently CMS-listed or under consideration for CMS listing

A high proportion of migratory species are in decline but may not be currently listed as threatened on the IUCN Red List

Migratory landbirds and raptors

- East-Asian Australasian Flyway concept is not as straight-forward for these migratory birds - they migrate in many directions/pathways including long-distance migrations into 'other' flyways.
- Very few landbird species migrate from East Asia into Australasia (exceptions include White-throated Needletail, Pacific Swift)
- EAAFP is considering its approach to these migratory birds - at the EAAFP MOP 12, the partnership made a decision to establish an ad hoc committee to *review conservation issues of migratory land birds and their habitats in East Asia and Australasia and options for addressing them.*
- The statement excludes the word 'flyway'.
- Situation Analysis team would like to work with the ad hoc committee, Chaired by Dr. Simba Chan, to ensure alignment and complementarity in our efforts.

Preliminary work to identify flyway species

Migratory landbirds and raptors

1. BirdLife International Datazone list for the EAAF (41 countries, inclusive of the 22 countries in our study)
2. Supplementary list no. 1 from Yong et al (2021) *The State of Migratory Landbirds in the East Asian Flyway: Distributions, Threats, and Conservation Needs*



Contents

Species

Introduction

State

Pressure

Response

Sites

Introduction

At a glance

Globally threatened bird species

54

Countries within flyway

41

Total IBA/KBA Area
2,560,146 km²

Average protected area coverage of IBAs/KBAs
35%

frontiers
in Ecology and Evolution

REVIEW
published: 13 April 2021
doi: 10.3389/fevo.2021.613172



The State of Migratory Landbirds in the East Asian Flyway: Distributions, Threats, and Conservation Needs

Ding Li Yong^{1*}, Wieland Heim², Sayam U. Chowdhury^{3,4}, Chang-Yong Choi⁵, Pavel Ktitorov⁶, Olga Kulikova⁶, Alexander Kondratyev⁶, Philip D. Round⁷, Desmond Allen⁸, Colin R. Trainor⁹, Luke Gibson¹⁰ and Judit K. Szabo^{9,11}

¹ BirdLife International (Asia), Tanglin International Centre, Singapore, Singapore, ² Institute of Landscape Ecology, University of Münster, Münster, Germany, ³ Bangladesh Spoon-billed Sandpiper Conservation Project, Dhaka, Bangladesh, ⁴ Conservation Science Group, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom, ⁵ Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Bioresources, Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea, ⁶ Institute of Biological Problems of the North, Russian Academy of Sciences, Magadan, Russia, ⁷ Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand, ⁸ Streaked Reed Warbler Project, Manila, Philippines, ⁹ College of Engineering, IT and Environment, Charles Darwin University, Casuarina, NT, Australia, ¹⁰ School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen, China, ¹¹ Programa de Pós-Graduação em Biodiversidade e Evolução, Instituto de Biologia, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Salvador, Brazil

Migratory landbirds and raptors

- Most species identified to date are either endemic to East Asia or are highly dependent on habitats in East Asia to complete their life cycle.
- However, the dataset includes species that migrate into Eurasia, Central Asia, Africa or have circumpolar migration routes
- Dataset will be refined during the consultation process

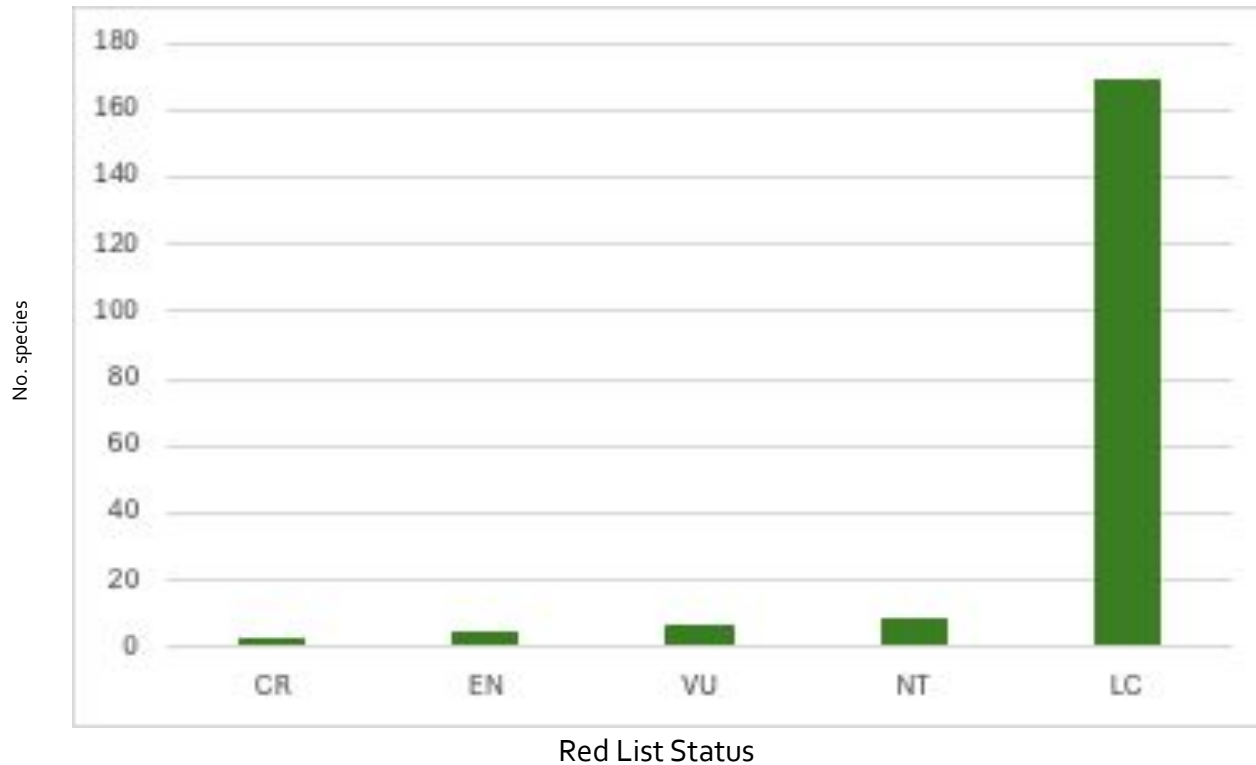


Summary Statistics: Migratory landbirds

- 193 CMS-listed migratory landbird species in the EAAF
 - CMS I 1
 - CMS I/II 2
 - CMS II 180
- 10 are under consideration for listing as per CMS Resolution 14.20



IUCN Red List Status: *CMS-listed migratory landbirds



*Currently CMS-listed or under consideration for CMS listing

CR: Critically Endangered

EN: Endangered

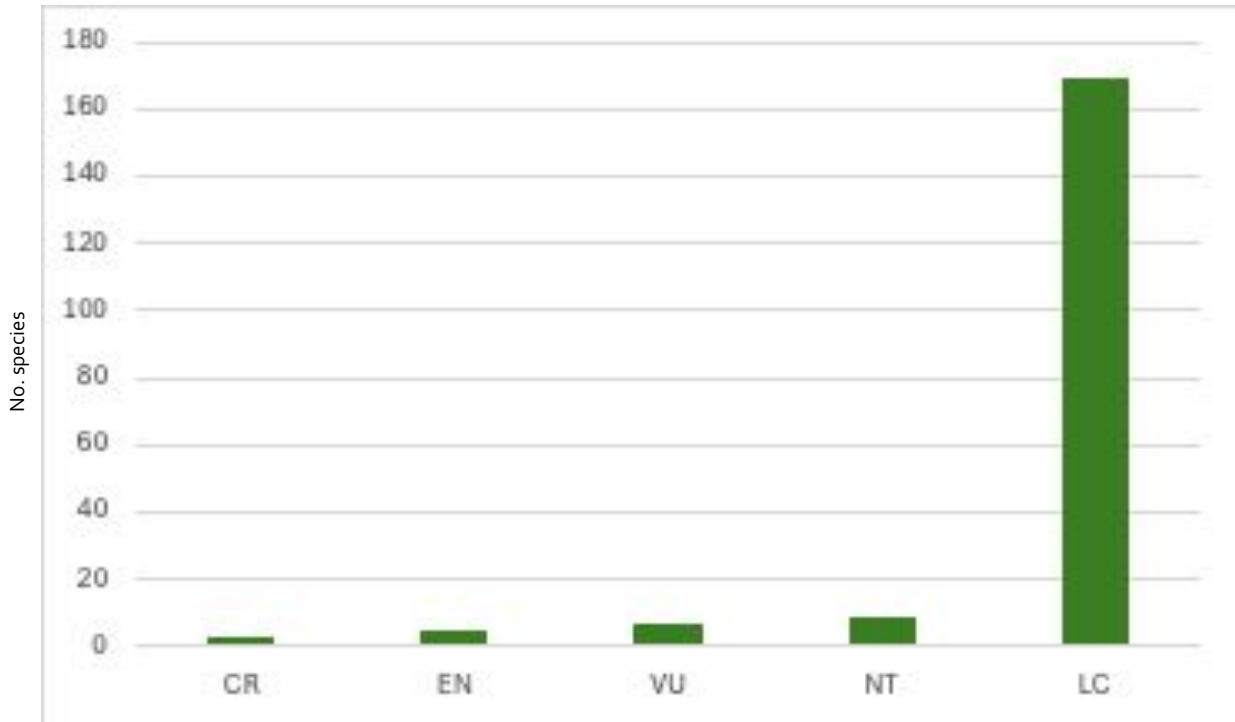
VU: Vulnerable

NT: Near Threatened

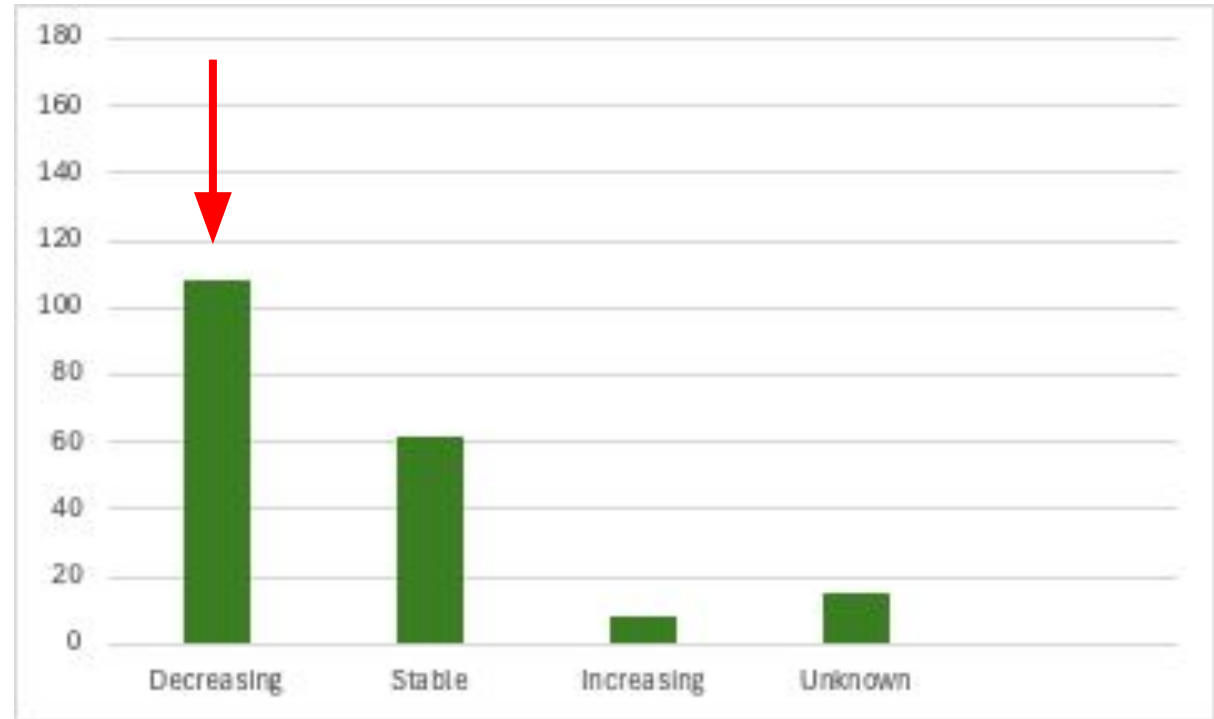
LC: Least Concern

Low numbers of CMS-listed species are red-listed as threatened or near-threatened.

IUCN Red List Status and Trend: *CMS-listed migratory landbirds



Red List Status



Red List Trend

*Currently CMS-listed or under consideration for CMS listing

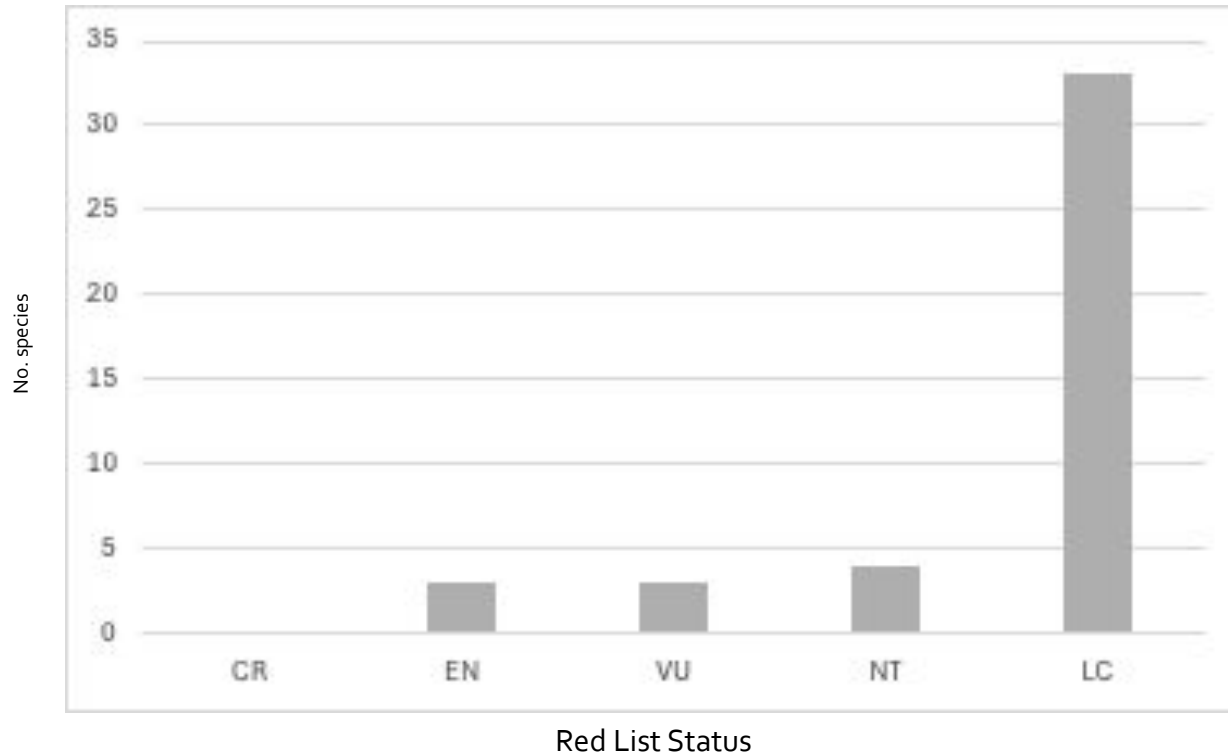
... but the majority of CMS-listed species are recognised as declining.

Summary statistics: Migratory raptors

- 43 CMS-listed migratory raptor species in the EAAF
 - CMS I 0
 - CMS I/II 7
 - CMS II 35

- 1 is under consideration for listing as per CMS Resolution 14.20

IUCN Red List Status: *CMS-listed migratory raptors



*Currently CMS-listed or under consideration for CMS listing

CR: Critically Endangered

EN: Endangered

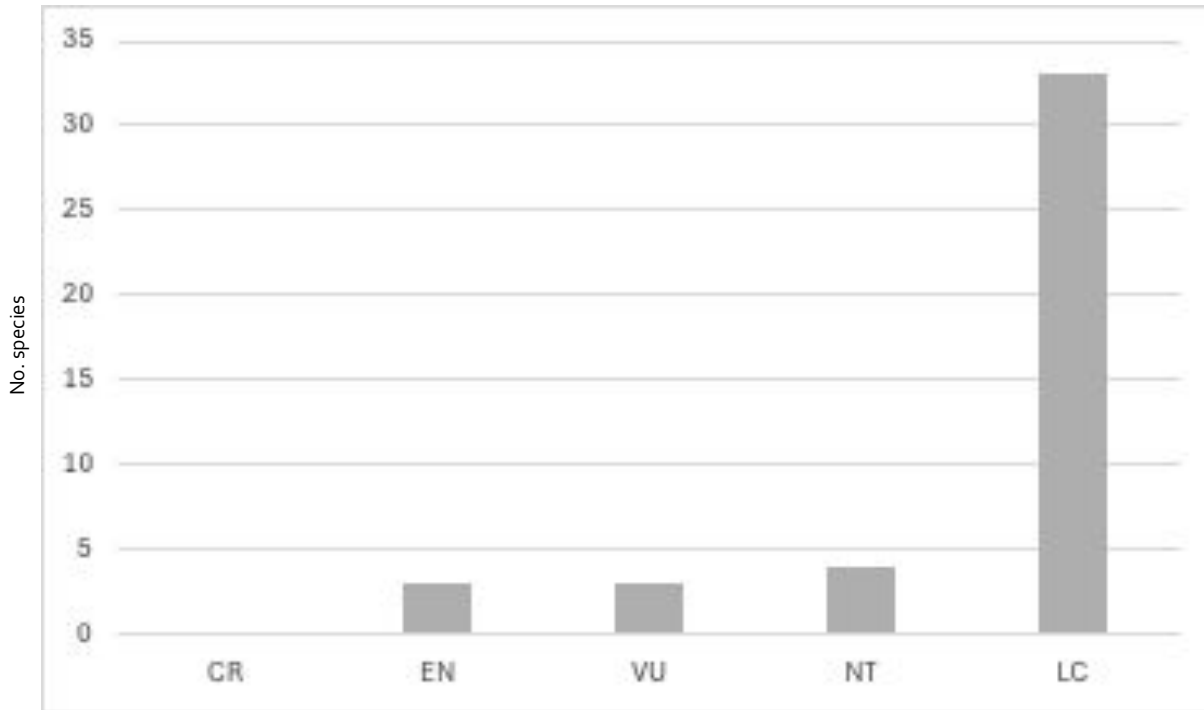
VU: Vulnerable

NT: Near Threatened

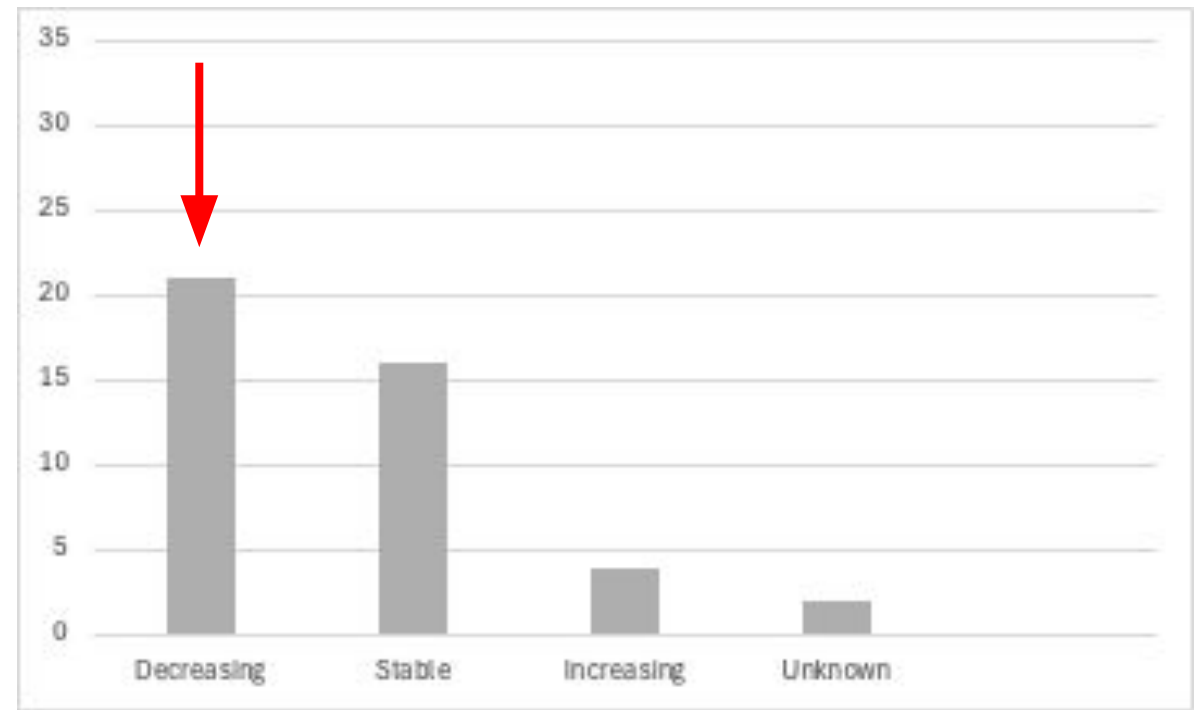
LC: Least Concern

Low numbers of CMS-listed migratory raptors species are red-listed as threatened or near-threatened.

IUCN Red List Status and Trend: *CMS-listed migratory raptors



Red List Status



Red List Trend

*Currently CMS-listed or under consideration for CMS listing

... but the majority of CMS-listed migratory raptors are recognised as declining.

Questions or comments?



Adobe Stock



Sites

Samantha Vine



Adobe Stock

Sites - Approach

Preliminary gaps analysis looking at the protection level of EAAFP Flyway Network Sites (FNS), Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for priority species, Ramsar and World Heritage sites for migratory birds

- 160 FNS +
- 15 additional Ramsar sites for birds +
- KBAs for ~220 species

Overlay Protected Areas (Ramsar, World Heritage and nationally protected areas etc) using World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas (WDPCA)

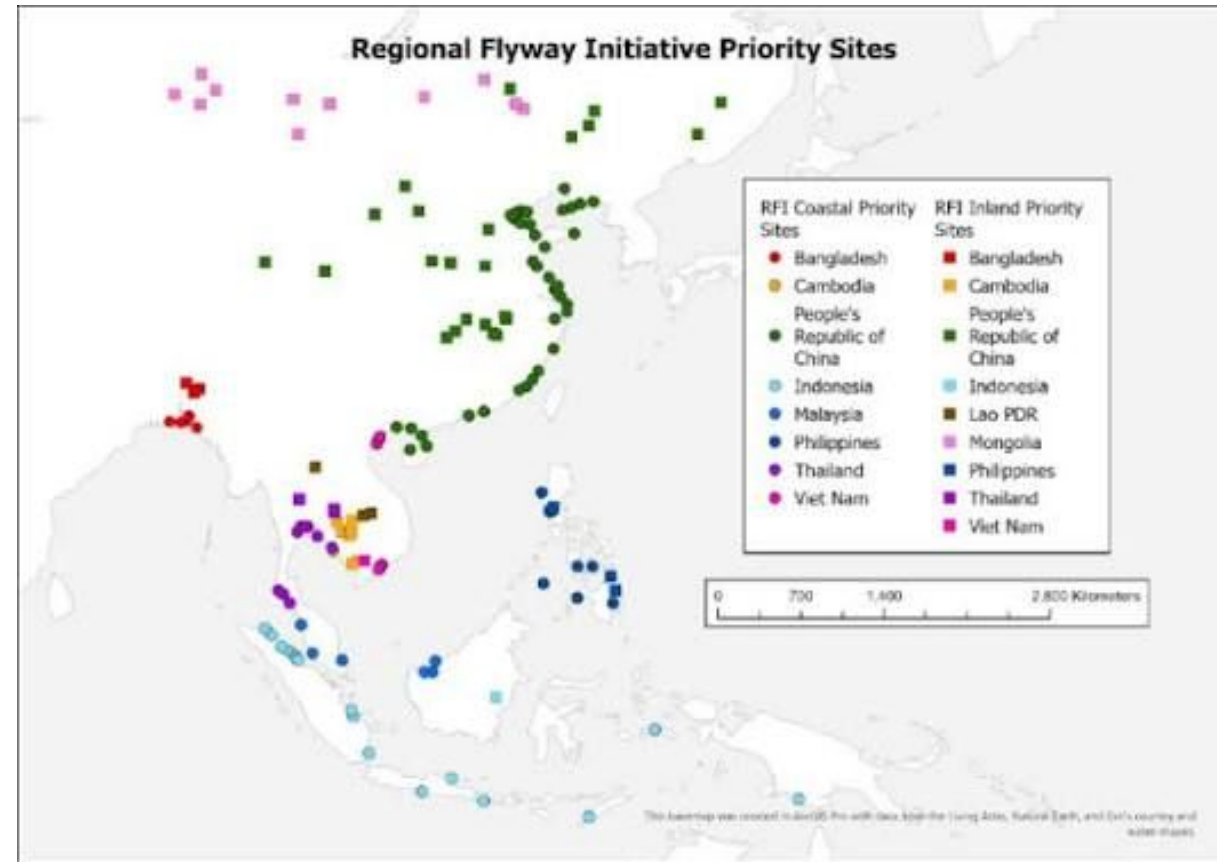
Estimates of around 80- 90% of FNS are Ramsar sites (waterbird focus)

Sites - Approach (cont'd)

Regional Flyway Initiative

Assessments by the Asian Development Bank's Regional Flyway Initiative (RFI) identified **147** high-priority wetland sites across **10** countries in the flyway.

Roughly 73% are protected or partially protected under domestic laws, leaving about 27% completely unprotected despite their high value to migratory **wetland** birds.



Questions or comments?



Adobe Stock



Threats

Sarah Pearson



Adobe Stock

Threats/Pressures - Method

- **Threat types** IUCN threat classification system
- **Literature review** Scientific and non-scientific
IUCN Red List, DataZone

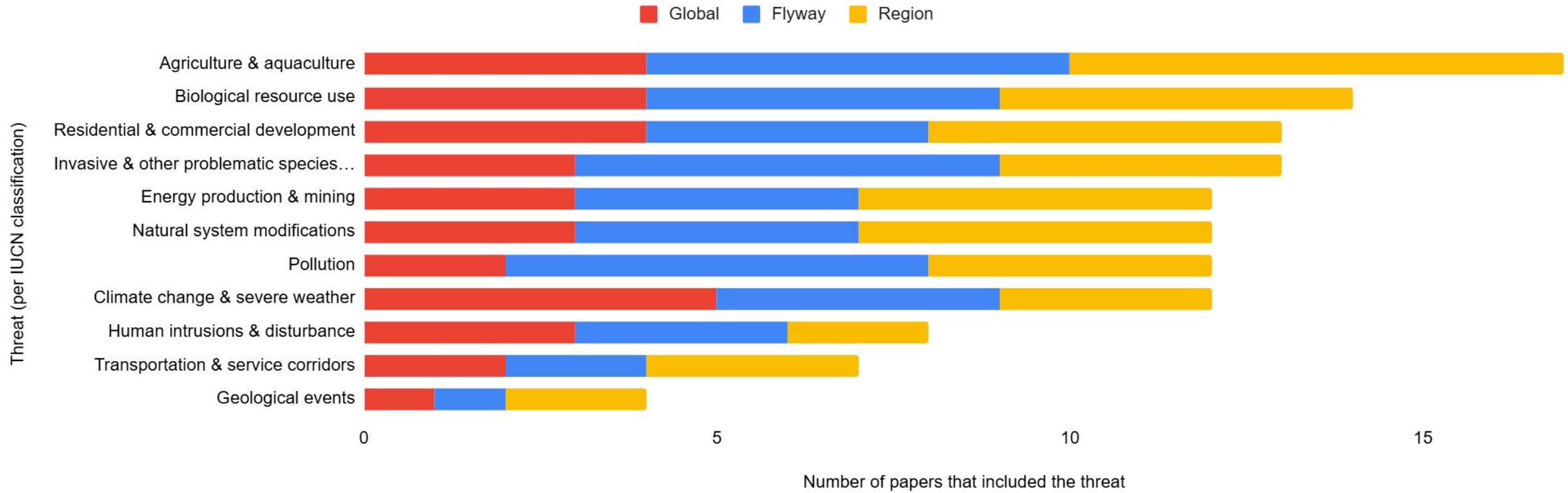
Threats/Pressures - Method

- **Threat types** IUCN threat classification system
- **Literature review** Scientific and non-scientific
IUCN Red List, DataZone
- **Consultation** Survey, interviews, data requests
- **Analysis** Key threats
Contributing factors (also known as indirect threats/pressures, drivers, opportunities, root causes)
Key themes and cause-and-effect relationships

Threats/Pressures - Progress

- Preliminary literature review complete
- Questions included within survey
- Frequently reported within literature:
 - Asia and Yellow Sea regions
 - Waterbirds and shorebirds
 - IUCN threat types

Frequency of threat types within 22 papers



Threats/Pressures - Next steps

- **Literature review** Additional literature
Contributing factors, opportunities, gaps, responses
- **Consultation**
- **Analysis**

Questions or comments?



Adobe Stock



Conservation action

Pepe Clarke



Adobe Stock

Conservation action

The situation analysis will adopt a state-pressure-response framework, drawing on the approach used in the CMS State of the World's Migratory Species.

The response chapter will assess the status and effectiveness of conservation action across five areas:

- Regional cooperation frameworks
- National laws and policies
- Policy implementation and institutional capacity
- Site protection and management
- Species recovery interventions

The team has commenced a review of global and regional instruments and relevant national legislation. Further analysis of national frameworks and effectiveness will follow, informed by consultation with policy makers and stakeholders.

Legal and policy: overview

The analysis will cover three levels:

- **Global frameworks:** CMS, Ramsar, CBD, CITES
- **Regional and flyway-level:** EAAFP, bilateral migratory bird agreements
- **National legislation** across 22 range states

Treaty participation

- Only five range states are CMS parties; however, non-parties participate in CMS-sponsored instruments and initiatives
- All 22 range states are parties to Ramsar and CBD, providing a universal baseline
- 18 range states participate in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership



Convention on Migratory Species

Only global treaty dedicated to migratory species.

Samarkand Strategic Plan 2024-2032 places flyway conservation at the centre of CMS avian conservation approach.

Currently five state parties in the EAAF: Australia, Bangladesh, Mongolia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

COP15 called on Parties and non-Parties to explore the feasibility of establishing a permanent flyway instrument for the EAAF, potentially under CMS auspices

International treaties



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Ramsar: Universal membership across all 22 range states; the primary international framework for wetland designation and management, with direct relevance to the intertidal and coastal habitats on which many EAAF species depend.

Convention on Biological Diversity: 22 Parties in the EAAF. Global Biodiversity Framework aims, *inter alia*, to ensure that 'extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold' and 'the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels' by 2050 (GBF Goal A).

Bilateral agreements: Six agreements in force (JAMBA, CAMBA etc); typically require protection of listed species, designation of protected areas and cooperative research and monitoring; the most legally specific instruments in the flyway; combined coverage leaves significant geographical gaps.



East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership

Primary **regional cooperation mechanism** for migratory waterbirds and shorebirds in the flyway; 18 government and 24 non-government partners; 160+ Flyway Network Sites; 19 working groups and task forces.

Partnership combines long standing implementation experience, well established government relationships and **operational reach across the flyway**, including in contexts where formal treaty engagement is limited.

Flyway Network Site system provides international recognition for sites of importance to migratory waterbirds, supporting government nomination, site manager cooperation, monitoring and community engagement.

CMS and EAAFP are complementary: CMS provides a global treaty framework for cooperation across flyways; EAAFP provides a highly valued **framework for cooperation and implementation**.

EAAFP MOP₁₂ established an ad hoc committee to review conservation issues of **migratory landbirds** and options for addressing them; recommendations due at MOP₁₃.

National laws and policies

Six thematic domains of analysis

Provisional classification, subject to refinement through consultation



Species protection and harvesting

Wildlife legislation, hunting regulation, bycatch



Habitat protection and ecological connectivity

Protected areas, Ramsar implementation, connectivity



Development, infrastructure and land use

EIA, coastal reclamation, offshore energy



Pollution and toxic substances

Lead, pesticides, marine pollution, light pollution



Invasive species, disease and wildlife health

Biosecurity, avian influenza frameworks



Climate change and adaptation

NDCs, national adaptation plans, blue carbon

Next steps: Conservation action chapter

1. Continue review of **relevant literature** and **legal and policy instruments** for EAAF range states.
2. The **consultation survey** will seek input from policy makers and stakeholders on the perceived effectiveness of legal, policy, institutional and programmatic frameworks.
3. We will explore the potential for **remote sensing and other empirical data** to inform understanding of policy and programmatic outcomes across the flyway.
4. In addition to the survey, we will seek input via **consultation interviews** with policy makers, partners and stakeholders across the flyway.

Questions or comments?



Adobe Stock



Discussion: Barriers to effective conservation



Critical gaps - Barriers to conservation across the EAA Flyway

In your view, what are the key barriers to effective conservation of migratory birds and their habitats across the East Asian-Australasian Flyway?

When considering your response, you may wish to think about:

Regional cooperation.

National policy.

Site management.

Knowledge.

Governance.

Implementation.

Please raise a hand if you would like to respond verbally, or type your contribution in the chat.



Discussion: Regional experiences



Regional perspectives

Based on your knowledge and experience with migratory bird conservation in your country and your region:

- What is working well? What are the key challenges?
- Which institution(s) are best placed to address these challenges?
- What actions are most needed at the regional, national and site level?
- What advice would you offer to the authors of the situation analysis?



Next steps

Samantha Vine



Stakeholder engagement and consultation

- *June* Webinar follow up
- *July* Consultation survey
- *July - August* Structured interviews
- *July - August* Data requests

Direct enquiries to samantha.vine@gmail.com



Closing remarks

Ivan Ramirez, CMS Secretariat



Thank you



CMS



Adobe Stock

Adobe Stock