

SECOND JOINT MEETING OF THE CMS ASIA PACIFIC ILLEGAL TAKING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE AND THE EAAF TASK FORCE ON ILLEGAL HUNTING, TAKING AND TRADE OF MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS

(Cebu, Philippines, 9 November 2025)

UNEP/CMS/ITTEA-EAAFP2/Outcome.1

UPDATED PROGRAMME OF WORK 2026 - 2030 OF THE ASIA PACIFIC ILLEGAL TAKING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE (ITTEA)

*(Post-session Draft, prepared by the CMS Secretariat)
(Last Updated 26 January 2026)*

Summary:

This document presents an updated Programme of Work for the Task Force for the period 2026-2030. The document was revised following discussion and review of progress and priorities at the Second Official Joint Meeting of the CMS Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (ITTEA) and EAAFP Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds in November 2025 in Cebu, Philippines. The original POW for the period of 2023-2027 was adopted after the First Official Joint Meeting of the CMS ITTEA and EAAFP Task Force on ITB in March 2023 in Brisbane, Australia.

UPDATED PROGRAMME OF WORK 2026- 2030 OF THE ASIA PACIFIC ILLEGAL TAKING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE (ITTEA)

1. The priority actions in this Programme of Work (POW) are based on the knowledge established and needs for action with regard to the issue of illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory birds (ITB) in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway region, as identified by relevant studies and presented in peer-reviewed publications.¹
2. Illegal hunting, taking, and trade is a shared issue and the implementation of the POW requires cooperation among governments, international organizations, law enforcement agencies, local communities, the responsible stakeholders, and nature conservation NGOs to maximize impact.
3. The present POW includes a zero-tolerance approach to ITB, and the adoption of a full proactive role at the national level in fighting against these illegal activities, supported by international exchange of experience and cooperation as appropriate.
4. This POW contributes to the achievement of:
 - a. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly goal 15 related to biodiversity which sets a target to take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products;
 - b. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly its Goal A and Target 4.
 - c. The Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032²;
 - d. The CMS Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023, adopted through CMS Resolution 11.14³ *Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways*, and reaffirmed through CMS Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14);
 - e. The Regional Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement 2026-2030, operating in concert with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime Vision 2030⁴ and ASEAN Community Vision 2045⁵.
5. The Programme of Work is divided into four themes:
 - Conservation and Monitoring – Improve understanding of the scope, scale, motivations, and impacts of illegal take in the EAAF Region
 - Legal and Enforcement Issues – Improve understanding of the legislative framework related to illegal take in the EAAF Region and providing guidance to improvement
 - Education and Public Awareness – Improve level of awareness and education of illegal take in non-governmental stakeholders and the public in the EAAF Region that leads to active participation in combatting illegal take

¹ Yong et al. (2023) *Bird hunting in mainland Southeast Asia. Situation analysis and recommendations for conservation action*; Yong et al. (2022) "The specter of empty countryside and wetlands—Impact of hunting take on birds in Indo-Burma." *Conservation Science and Practice*: e212668; Heim et al. (2021) "East Asian buntings: Ongoing illegal trade and encouraging conservation responses." *Conservation Science and Practice* 3.6: e405.

² <https://www.cms.int/document/samarkand-strategic-plan-migratory-species-2024-2032>

³ Superseded by Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP14) *Flyways*: <https://www.cms.int/document/flyways-8>

⁴ https://icccwc-wildlifecrime.org/sites/default/files/files/2022-11/ICCCWC_VISION_2030.pdf

⁵ https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/05.-ASEAN-Community-Vision-2045_adopted.pdf

- Fundraising – Increasing available resources for tackling illegal take in the EAAF Region
6. A budget for carrying out POW activities will be necessary and voluntary funding to implement these is invited and welcome.
 7. The implementation of the POW will require coordination. A budget to cover the services of the Task Force Coordinator from 2026 onwards will be required.
 8. Delivery of the workplan is subject to sufficient resources for the Members and Observers of the Task Force and the Secretariats. Raising such resources is added as an important action point in the workplan.
 9. The responsible bodies specified are not an exhaustive list, remaining open to include additional ones as necessary.
 10. Progress on implementation of the POW will be monitored through meetings of the Task Force, and including through a scoreboard implemented every three years to track national trends in ITB and enforcement measures to eliminate it.
 11. This version of the POW was based on the previous POW 2023-2027 as an update for the period 2026-2030 as discussed at the Second Official Joint Meeting of the CMS Asia Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force (ITTEA) and EAAFP Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds in November 2025 in Cebu, Philippines.

Acronyms

CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
EAAF	East Asian-Australasian Flyway
EAAFP	East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership
ITB	Illegal take of birds
NGO	Non-governmental organization
POW	Programme of Work
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool

PROGRAMME OF WORK MATRIX

Objective 1: To understand the scope, scale and motivations behind illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory birds through a situation analysis of illegal take of migratory birds in the flyway					
Target	Action	Indicators	Responsible Bodies + Scope	Timeline + Next Steps	Priority
1.1. The scale, drivers, and modus operandi and impacts of illegal take and the species affected are clarified in each EAAF Range state	1.1.1. Establish a baseline for scale and scope of illegal take in Range states in EAAF.	Number of countries with agreed Baseline for 2022 (or other appropriate date based on data availability and quality) Aim to use 2022 as baseline unless data availability and quality make it more accurate to use another date	National authorities, with support from CMS and EAAFP Secretariats and expert and advisory groups	2026-2028 Expand monitoring to increase available data for baselines (especially for Philippines, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Mongolia)	Core
	1.1.2. Update resources available via established information exchange platform (ITTEA website) for all Task Force Members to better understand status and trends of illegal take in the EAAF across the region.	Number of communication events/meetings/materials on information exchange produced per year Number of visits to online tools and resources per year Number of members reports on status and trends	National authorities, with support from relevant NGOs, expert and advisory groups, and CMS and EAAFP Secretariats	2026-2030 Ongoing website updating; get feedback on specific topics for virtual meetings	Core
	1.1.3. Conduct food and wildlife market surveys to identify which species are targeted and at what volume they are traded	A list of species found at food and wildlife markets is created An estimate of volume of trade per species per market is made	National authorities, local authorities, local community leaders, with support from relevant NGOs, and expert and advisory groups	2026-2028 Secure funding and identify local partners for market surveys and capacity building	Core

	1.1.4. Conduct survey of mistnets and improvised traps ⁶ using a shared template and methodology and disseminate results and recommendations of survey	Number of countries with an estimate of approximate trapping effort Number of dissemination activities for mistnet survey	National authorities, with support from relevant NGOs, and expert and technical advisory groups	2026 Submitted mistnet report under review; determine if more specific surveys needed.	Core
	1.1.5. Identify hotspot sites where illegal take is most intense using collected survey data	Number of countries with a list of illegal take hotspot sites	National authorities, with support from relevant NGOs, and expert and technical advisory groups	2026-2029 Ongoing data collection in support of ITB hotspot identification	Core
	1.1.6. Conduct survey of hunter motivations at hotspots for illegal take using a shared template and methodology	Number of countries with a completed survey of hunter motivations at hotspots of illegal take	National authorities, with support from local authorities, relevant NGOs, and expert and technical groups	2026-2030 More capacity and funding needed for surveys, especially in Philippines, Indonesia, Mongolia.	High
1.2. The monitoring of ITB is improved thanks to the coordinated action of the Task Force members	1.2.1. Create and disseminate a national level scoreboard as a self-assessment tool to measure ITB as it pertains to regional priorities and needs (with consideration of similar scoreboards used in the framework of CMS) If appropriate: a) Identify Range state-specific issues that require	Number of Range states endorsing scoreboard Number of Range states submitting completed scoreboards, with input, as appropriate, from relevant NGOs and expert or advisory groups If appropriate:	National authorities, with support from CMS and EAAFP Secretariats, relevant NGOs, and expert and advisory groups	2026 Undergo commenting, revision, and finalization from draft scoreboard developed by BLI.	Core

⁶ See CMS Decision 13.30 on prevention of illegal trapping of birds through contribution to global situation analysis on production, sale, use, and regulation of mistnets and other sorts of nets for bird trapping: <https://www.cms.int/en/page/decisions-1327-1331-task-force-illegal-killing-taking-and-trade-migratory-birds-mediterranean>

	national-level focus and further development of targeted National Action Plans b) Develop site-specific monitoring and patrols in collaboration with local communities	a) Number of Range states with species-specific issues assessed and identified, number of Range states with species-specific working groups formed to develop targeted action plans b) Quantity and quality of information on site-specific issues, number and activities of site-specific teams developing targeted action plans (compared to total number of sites), quantity and quality of inputs from local communities considered as part of action plan development, number of meetings held with community leaders (target: at least once per quarter)			
	1.2.2. Develop and disseminate a monitoring tool kit to law enforcement officers or other supporting stakeholders, with translations to local languages where necessary	A monitoring tool kit is made available to law enforcement officers in local languages Number of reports produced using the monitoring tool kit per year/per country Number of law enforcement officers who have used the monitoring tool kit	National authorities, local authorities, local community leaders, with support from relevant NGOs, and expert and advisory groups	2026-2028 Secure funding needed for conducting training activities.	Core

	1.2.3. Establish and share a hotline and/or digital submission portal for reporting illegal take of migratory birds and information or protocol dissemination. ⁷	Percentage of reported cases followed up with appropriate legal actions by relevant authorities Ratio of total illegal take cases detected as compared to number of cases detected thanks to work of law enforcement Percentage of investigated cases compared to reported incidents	National authorities, local authorities, local community leaders, with support from relevant NGOs	2026-2030 Secure funding needed for capacity and infrastructure building.	High
	1.2.4. A centralized database of reported incidents and response by authorities is established ⁸	Number of Range states with centralized database of hunting incidents and responses	National authorities	2026-2030 Secure funding needed for capacity and infrastructure building.	Medium

Objective 2: To understand and develop national legislative frameworks on illegal taking of birds that are appropriate, effective, and efficient, and to develop guidance to fill in legislative, enforcement, and sentencing gaps

Target	Action	Indicators	Responsible Parties + Scope	Timeline (2026-2030)	Priority
2.1. All Task Force members have appropriate national legislation in place and enacted to address ITB	2.1.1. Develop guidelines on effective legislation on illegal take of migratory birds, ⁹ and disseminate to all Range states	Guidelines of effective legislation produced and available at Task Force website Number of Range state authorities incorporating guidance into their legislation	National authorities, Secretariats of CMS and EAAFP	2026 Legislative review for range states needed before guidelines	Core

⁷ For general public observations (not formal reporting to authorities), "[Tangled and Trapped](#)" project on iNaturalist currently provides an informal, citizen science method for tracking records from primarily mainland SE Asia on a specific aspect of ITB (netting and trapping).

⁸ No individual Party has established any centralized databases for illegal taking of birds, though TRAFFIC maintains a global open-source [wildlife trade portal](#) and USA has curated [USFWS Law Enforcement Management Information System \(LEMIS\) wildlife trade dataset](#).

⁹ These guidelines may include examples of previous effective models of legislation for combatting illegal take.

				can be developed	
2.2. Gaps and deficiencies in existing legislation and enforcement frameworks are identified and recommendations proposed to adequately address challenges	2.2.1. Complete an independent expert review on the status of national and community hunting regulations related to migratory birds in the EAAF	Report produced including information on percentage (%) of Task Force member countries with adequate/inadequate legislation Recommendations are implemented at national/international level Scoreboard reporting indicates improved legislative regulations in place over years	National authorities, with support from CMS and EAAFP Secretariats. Legislative reviews will require relevant experts and advisory groups	2026 Secure funding to complete hunting regulation reviews.	Core
	2.2.2. Deliver specific training workshops for members of law enforcement, the judiciary, and prosecutors to implement guidelines.	Number of training workshops held per year. Survey results from course participants pre- and post-training, to test for understanding of laws and regulations around illegal take of migratory birds	National authorities, with support from CMS and EAAFP Secretariats	2026-2030 Identify range states with priority needs for law enforcement capacity and secure funding	Core
	2.2.3. Develop a whitelist to distinguish between huntable from non-huntable or protected species	Number of Range states applying whitelist to update protected species lists, hunting licensing requirements, or other relevant national legislation	National authorities, with support from relevant NGOs, expert and advisory groups	2027 Support national authorities for whitelist development	Medium
	2.2.4. Develop species or multi-species Action Plans to address ITB where appropriate. ¹⁰	Number of countries with National Action Plans incorporated into national legislation or annual activity plans	National authorities, with support from relevant NGOs, and expert and advisory groups	2027-2030 Ongoing support of existing SSAPs and national	Medium

¹⁰ Relevant avian SSAPs adopted by CMS: [Christmas Island Frigatebird](#), [Great Bustard](#), [Far Eastern Curlew](#), [Yellow Breasted Bunting](#)

				authorities to incorporate into national laws or plans.	
2.3. Legislation on wildlife and environmental crime is properly implemented and enforced	2.3.1. Develop or improve communication pipelines between government actors or law enforcement at different scales (national and local): - establish a template reporting format and protocol; - create regular schedule for compiling of local incident reports (e.g. through SMART app or software) - conduct training-of-trainers workshops and refresher courses on reporting tools in each country to increase patrol and reporting capacity, along with nurture peer-to-peer relationships between enforcement authorities from around the country and on different scales via informal communication tools (e.g. WhatsApp)	At least one annual report on wildlife and environmental crime completed by national authorities. At least one training-of-trainers workshop and one refresher course per country on reporting tools (e.g. SMART app or software) is conducted National authorities provide more precise data to Task Force on priorities using reports provided by local authorities	National authorities, local authorities, local community leaders	2026-2030 Develop reporting template to encourage national authorities to provide more precise data to Task Force on priorities using reports provided by local authorities.	Core
	2.3.2. Develop or improve a communication pipeline between governmental actors or law enforcement and non-governmental subject matter experts to	Number of countries with a Point of Contact in law enforcement on ITB per year Number of trainings on ITB provided to Government officials	National authorities, relevant NGOs and expert and advisory groups	2026-2030 Secure funding for law enforcement and	Core

	better share information related to ITB activity and trends or target taxa	by experts or relevant NGOs per year At least one webinar per quarter on relevant species or challenges from expert groups to provide latest updates on target taxa. Dedicated informal channels for communication created (e.g. WhatsApp groups) Number of meetings/workshops between experts and enforcement officers held		awareness raising activities.	
	2.3.3. Develop and review national manuals for conducting more effective inspections or to improve detection and conviction rates Where possible and appropriate, establish specialized units for addressing wildlife crime	Number of revised manuals Number of training workshops for revised manuals and protocols Assessment score of practical detection and inspection skills of law enforcement teams during training workshops Number of patrols completed per month per site Number of incident reports submitted per month per site Average time to investigate following a report of an incident of illegal take The following should be calculated per month and with consideration for law	National authorities, with support from relevant NGOs, and expert and advisory groups	2026 Support national authorities in review of manuals for effective inspections; secure more funding to develop or review national manuals.	Core

		enforcement effort (number of patrols): • Number of arrests for illegal take • Number of investigations for illegal take • Prosecutions for illegal take • Convictions for illegal take • Ratio of prosecutions to convictions			
	2.3.4. Organize check-in meetings of local enforcement officers with local community leaders (non-law enforcement)	At least one check-in meeting per quarter to raise concerns to local law enforcement. Level of cooperation in enforcement activities between authorities and community members: • Quantity and quality of input from local community leaders in reports over time. • Ratio of reported issues from local leaders to number of issues addressed • Average amount of time law enforcement takes to address issue • Number of voluntary patrol rangers from local communities Quantity and quality of data national authorities can provide to Task Force on site-specific issues and priorities using reports provided by local authorities	Local authorities, local community leaders, with support relevant NGOs	2027-2030 Secure funding for law enforcement training and awareness raising activities.	Medium

2.4. The understanding of legal frameworks is improved along enforcement chain and judiciary	2.4.1. Disseminate existing sentencing guidelines and gravity factors to all levels of law enforcement and judiciary sectors	Level of understanding of sentencing guidelines and gravity factors by law enforcement and judiciary leading to push for development of more effective prosecution and sentencing guidelines. Degree of prioritization of wildlife crime, such as (as appropriate): a) Number or percentage of penalties that are appropriate and proportionate to relevant guidance, b) Average fine for offenses for illegal take of birds, c) Average jail time sentences for illegal take of birds, d) Severity of penalties in countries with standards below sentencing guidelines.	National authorities and judiciary, local authorities, with support from CMS and EAAFP Secretariats and relevant NGOs	2026-2028 Secure funding for translation of guidelines into local languages and training activities.	Core
	2.4.2. Regional and national training seminars on illegal take of migratory birds or on environmental crime for police officers, inspectors, rangers, prosecutors, and judges	Number/frequency of training seminars Number/frequency of knowledge assessments conducted Number of trained frontline law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges specialized in or with improved understanding of issue and impact of illegal take of migratory birds and environmental crime. Improvement will be determined by practical skills assessment during training seminars	National authorities and judiciary, with support from relevant NGOs	2026-2029 Identify range states with priority need for enforcement capacity building and what skills are needed.	Core

		Number of special units dedicated to detecting and investigating wildlife crime The following should be calculated per month and with consideration for law enforcement effort (number of patrols) in relation to illegal take: • Number of arrests • Number of investigations • Number of prosecutions • Number of convictions			
--	--	--	--	--	--

Objective 3: To establish active *in situ* prevention by stakeholders, including the public, of the illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds through improving level of awareness and education of ITB in the EAAF Region

Target	Action	Indicators	Responsible Parties + Scope	Timeline (2026-2030)	Priority
3.1. Awareness and understanding of policymakers on the environmental, social, and economic impacts of illegal taking is raised	3.1.1. Design and produce policy briefs and/or other informational media on impacts of illegal take of migratory birds targeted at national and local policymakers and other government representatives in local languages.	A policy brief or other informational resources on the topic of ITB and its impacts, relevant legislation, and policy recommendations is produced Availability of media toolkit and informational resources via multiple channels in languages understood by local and national audiences Number of countries with a national communication strategy on ITB Number of site-specific communication strategies on ITB for priority locations	National authorities, local authorities, with support of relevant NGOs, expert and advisory groups, and with support of CMS and EAAFP Secretariats	2026 Identify partner for development of full media kit and estimate required budget; translation of CMS material and other informational resources into local languages.	Core

	3.1.2. Host meetings and/or workshops with policymakers and government representatives on ITB and provide recommendations for action or policy updates	Number of meetings and/or workshops that trained policymakers or government representatives on ITB or relevant technical skills Number of recommended actions taken to mitigate or eradicate ITB Policymaker level of knowledge on illegal take of migratory birds increased, as determined by pre- and post-activity evaluations	National authorities, local authorities, with support of relevant NGOs, expert and advisory groups, and with support of CMS and EAAFP Secretariats	2026-2027 Identify priority offices for building political will; secure funding for workshops.	Core
3.2. Awareness of general audiences on the environmental, social, and economic impacts of illegal taking is raised	3.2.1. Design and produce a media toolkit on impacts of ITB targeted at general audiences	A media product or toolkit on the topic of ITB and its impacts is produced Media product is available in languages understood by target audiences	National authorities, relevant NGOs, with support from expert and advisory groups; hunters	2026 Identify partner for media kit development and estimate required budget.	Core
	3.2.2. Host and facilitate public events or townhalls with stakeholder communities and provide information on migratory birds, their importance and the impact of ITB on natural ecosystems and human society	At least one public education event or townhall for raising awareness Public level of knowledge on migratory birds and the impact of ITB increased, as determined by pre- and post-activity evaluations Public support of eradication of illegal take of migratory birds, as indicated by public surveys of support for legislation or activities to combat illegal take of migratory birds	National authorities, relevant NGOs, with support from expert and advisory groups; hunters	2026-2030 Identify priority stakeholder communities for building awareness and buy-in for action on ITB; secure funding for events.	Core

3.3. The hunting community understands the issue of illegal take and works collaboratively to combat it	3.3.1. Conduct hunter education and awareness activities	At least one public education event or townhall for raising awareness focused on hunters and their motivations is held at each hotspot for illegal take Hunter level of knowledge on migratory birds and the impact of ITB increased, as determined by pre- and post-activity evaluations	National authorities, relevant NGOs, with support from expert and advisory groups; hunters	2026-2029 Identify countries and sites where interventions should be prioritized; secure funding for activities.	High
	3.3.2. Promote hunter participation in monitoring and awareness raising activities	Frequency of refresher courses: at least one course per year on patrolling and reporting tools such as SMART app or software Number of hunters participating in surveillance efforts Number of detection reports by hunters of illegal take	National authorities, local authorities, local community leaders, relevant NGOs, hunters	2026-2029 Identify countries and sites where interventions should be prioritized; secure funding for activities.	High

Objective 4: To establish a sustainable funding base for countries' and stakeholder's actions to address illegal take of birds					
Target	Action	Indicators	Responsible Parties + Scope	Timeline (2026-2030)	Priority
4.1. The Task Force is sufficiently funded to conduct its Programme of Work	4.1.1. Review departmental budgets to determine where mandates dovetail with Task Force objectives, and identify where departmental funding may be drawn from to implement POW	Amounts allocated for implementation of activities to stem illegal take of migratory birds	National authorities	2026-2030 Build greater political will to increase priority for funding conservation actions	Core
	4.1.2. Establish and maintain a database of relevant external funding sources	Availability and frequency of updates of list of potential relevant external funding sources: updated at least once per quarter	National authorities, with support from relevant expert and advisory groups and CMS and EAAFP Secretariats	2026 Compile spreadsheet for sharing on ITTEA website	Core
	4.1.3. Apply for funding from external sources for implementation of conservation or research activities in POW	Amounts of external funds for implementation of POW activities	National authorities, local authorities, relevant NGOs, expert and advisory groups	2026-2027 Compile list of priority needs and projects; identify new funding opportunities and develop proposals.	Core
4.2. Improve quality of funding proposals from Task Force members through creation of a peer review or technical advisory system	4.2.1. Create protocol for request of technical review or peer review of grant proposal from expert and advisory groups or relevant NGOs	Quality of grant applications (based on review ratings) Ratio of awarded proposals to total proposals submitted	Expert and advisory groups, relevant NGOs, national authorities, with support from CMS and EAAFP Secretariats	2026 Work with web administrator to develop submission form or portal	Medium