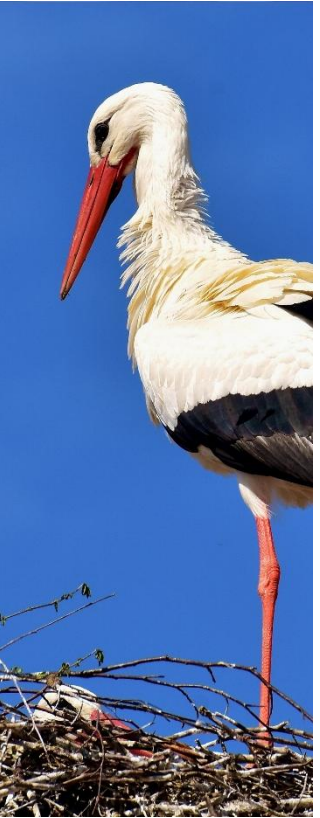




Flyway related updates since COP15

Iván Ramírez, Head of Avian Unit, CMS
Tilman Schneider, Assoc. Programme Officer

Flyways WG Meeting, 22 September 2026, Online



COP15 was a milestone for Flyways conservation





COP15 Key outcomes

- New Monitoring Framework for the Samarkand Strategic Plan
- Renewed and strengthened mandates on global and regional Flyways work
- Adoption of Bustard MsAP and Steppe Eagle AP
- Renewed mandate for global action and expansion of Task Forces against IKB
- New Global Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Take of Species launched
- Maintaining mandate of Preventing Poisoning WG, Lead Task Force renewed
- New seabird sp added to Appendixes and new Resolution on Marine Flyways and Seabirds
- Strengthened mandates on infrastructure/Energy Task Force and Climate Change linked to flyway conservation

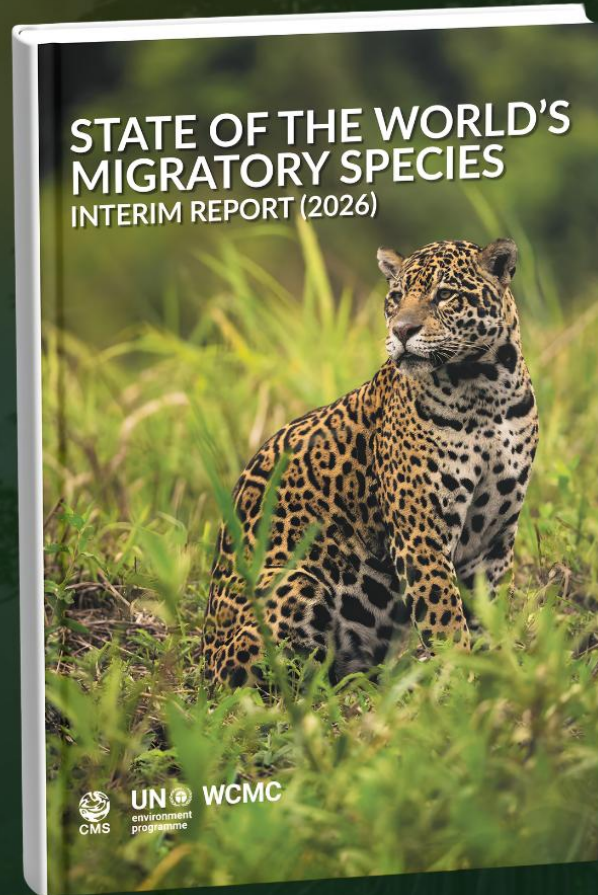
COP14

STATE OF THE WORLD'S MIGRATORY SPECIES



Convention on the Conservation of
Migratory Species of Wild Animals

COP15 CMS update of the World's Migratory Species Report



NEW REPORT

49% of CMS-listed species are in decline, up 5% since 2024

24% of these species face extinction, 2% more than in 2024

26 species have moved to higher extinction risk categories but 7 have improved



COP15: Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species: New Monitoring Framework

Table 2. Goal 2: The habitats and ranges of migratory species are maintained and restored, supporting their connectivity.

Target	Indicator(s)	Baseline(s)	Potential Action(s)
Target 2.1. By 2029, all important habitats for migratory species listed in CMS Appendices are identified, assessed and monitored to ensure the functionality and ability to support migratory species throughout their life cycles. <i>Explanation:</i> Using best available science and information, actions are taken to ensure that all habitats, sites and ranges for migratory species are identified, assessed and monitored to understand their functions and migratory processes.	2.1.1: Percentage of Parties that have fully or to a large extent identified all important habitats and sites for CMS-listed species at the national level (Party-level; Data source: CMS National Reports). 2.1.2: Percentage of CMS-listed species for which at least one important site has been recognized through an existing site identification initiative (Global; Data source(s): Key Biodiversity Area database, IMMA, ISRA and IMTA databases, other relevant site identification initiatives). 2.1.3: Percentage of Key Biodiversity Areas triggered by CMS-listed species that have been monitored in the previous ten years (Global; Data source: Key Biodiversity Area database; other recognized site identification schemes, where sufficient monitoring data are available).	2.1.1: As of 2023, 14% of reporting Parties indicated that critical habitats and sites for migratory species had been fully identified in their country; an additional 45% of reporting Parties indicated that these critical habitats and sites had been identified to a large extent (Data source: Analysis of CMS National Reports to COP144; Q.XIII.1). 2.1.2: 61% of CMS-listed species are trigger species for at least one Key Biodiversity Area (Data source: State of the World's Migratory Species; underpinning data analysed in 2023). Baseline information on the number of IMMAs, ISRAs and IMTAs that have been identified for CMS-listed species has not yet been compiled. 2.1.3: 33% of the 9,469 Key Biodiversity Areas that have been triggered by one or more CMS-listed species have undergone a monitoring assessment (Data source: State of the World's Migratory Species; underpinning data analysed in 2023).	2.1.a) Sites and areas that provide important habitats for CMS-listed species – and the migratory pathways that connect them – should be identified across their entire life cycle. Parties should work collaboratively with relevant partners and organizations to support their recognition as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) or Important Marine Turtle Areas (IMTAs) when the relevant qualifying criteria are met, or their inclusion within other regional or national site networks, as appropriate. (Key mandates: Resolution 12.13, Resolution 14.7, Resolution 14.16 (Rev.COP15).) 2.1.b) Parties should establish, support and/or expand regular monitoring of ecological networks and sites of importance for CMS-listed species, to allow for early detection of changes in site condition, rapid identification of threats and timely action to maintain site integrity. (Key mandates: Resolution 14.16 (Rev.COP15).)

4 The analysis was based on based on the 55 National Reports that were received by 11/06/2023 (representing 41% of the 133 CMS Parties).

Vision: By 2032, migratory species are thriving and live in full, restored and connected habitats.

Goal 1. The conservation status of migratory species (MS) is improved

Goal 2. The habitats and ranges of MS are maintained and restore supporting their connectivity.

Goal 3. Threats affecting MS are eliminated or significantly reduce

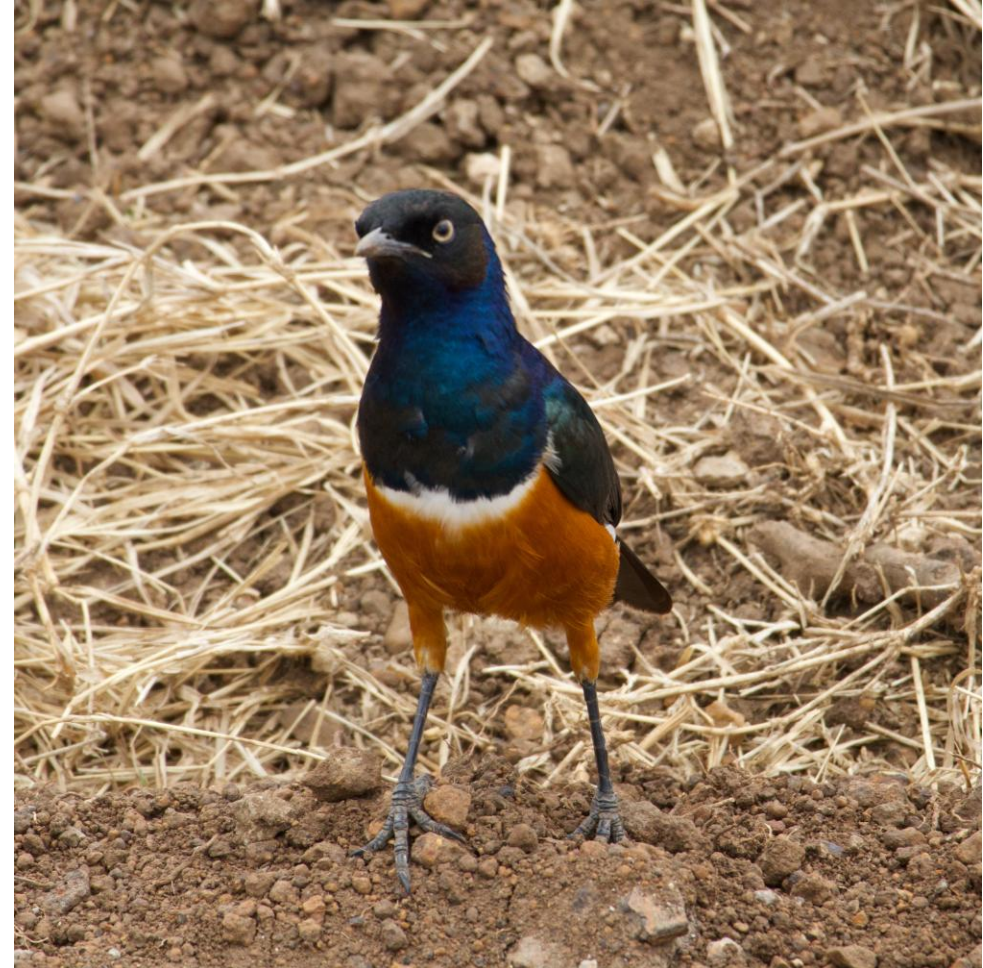
Goal 4. Implementation of CMS is supported by adequate knowledge capacity and resources.

Goal 5. Implementation of CMS is supported by effective governance including use of best available science and information, and collaborative working.

Goal 6. The profile of CMS and synergies with other relevant international frameworks are enhanced.

Monitoring Framework: Next steps

- National Reports format being revised now
- Once final formats agreed, CMS will assess what are the fields that still need to be measured through an additional monitoring tool
- Activities delivered by Parties and stakeholders on flyway conservation can be used to report against the indicators approved in COP15

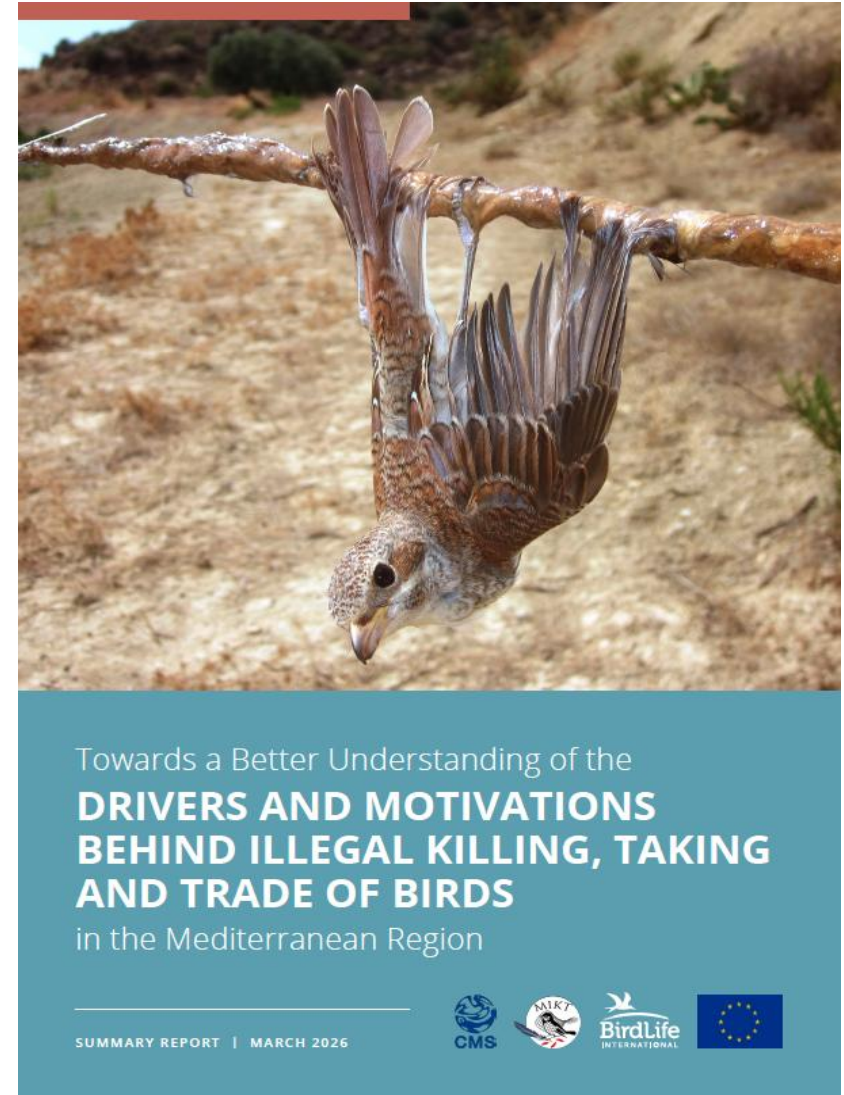


COP15 Flyways Resolution and Decisions

- **Flyways – Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP15):**
 - Strengthen implementation of the new Flyways WG POW 2026-2029, and the instruments for regional flyways
 - Promotes Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) through effective management and restoration, high priority to securing ecological connectivity through the conservation of sites and habitats, expanding and strengthening existing flyway site network
 - Requests to support enhanced understanding of patterns of bird migration including through analyses and relevant research techniques
- **Decisions 15.150 to 15.155 Flyways & 15.157 to 15.159 Seabirds & Marine Flyways**
 - Strengthen global flyway conservation through coordinated implementation, partnerships, knowledge exchange, and alignment across CMS instruments and related initiatives
 - Enhance regional cooperation and capacity-building in the Americas and Central Asian Flyways
 - Advance science-based conservation through promoting mapping tools, review of relevant literature, identification of priority sites/habitats/main threats, and spatial planning

Other flyways relevant outcomes since COP15

- **Illegal Taking - Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP15):**
 - Strengthens development and implementation of national action plans as key tools to combat IKB
 - **MIKT:** strengthening scoreboard process.
 - **ITTEA:** has also advanced its work on IKB baseline data and a draft scoreboard framework
 - **SWAITB:** Terms of Reference approved; Decisions strengthen the process and implementation of its Action Plan
 - **IKB global:** renewed mandate for IKB assessments for Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia, and for expanding the assessment of the use of mist nets



Other flyways relevant outcomes since COP15

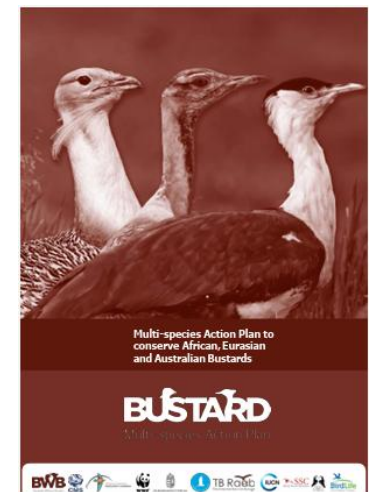
COP15: New Global Initiative on Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Migratory Species

- Collaborative global effort under CMS that will bring together governments, orgs., scientists and indigenous peoples and local communities
- Four key areas of work:
 - 1) improve data and monitoring
 - 2) strengthen legal and policy frameworks
 - 3) enhance community engagement
 - 4) raise awareness



Other flyways relevant outcomes since COP15

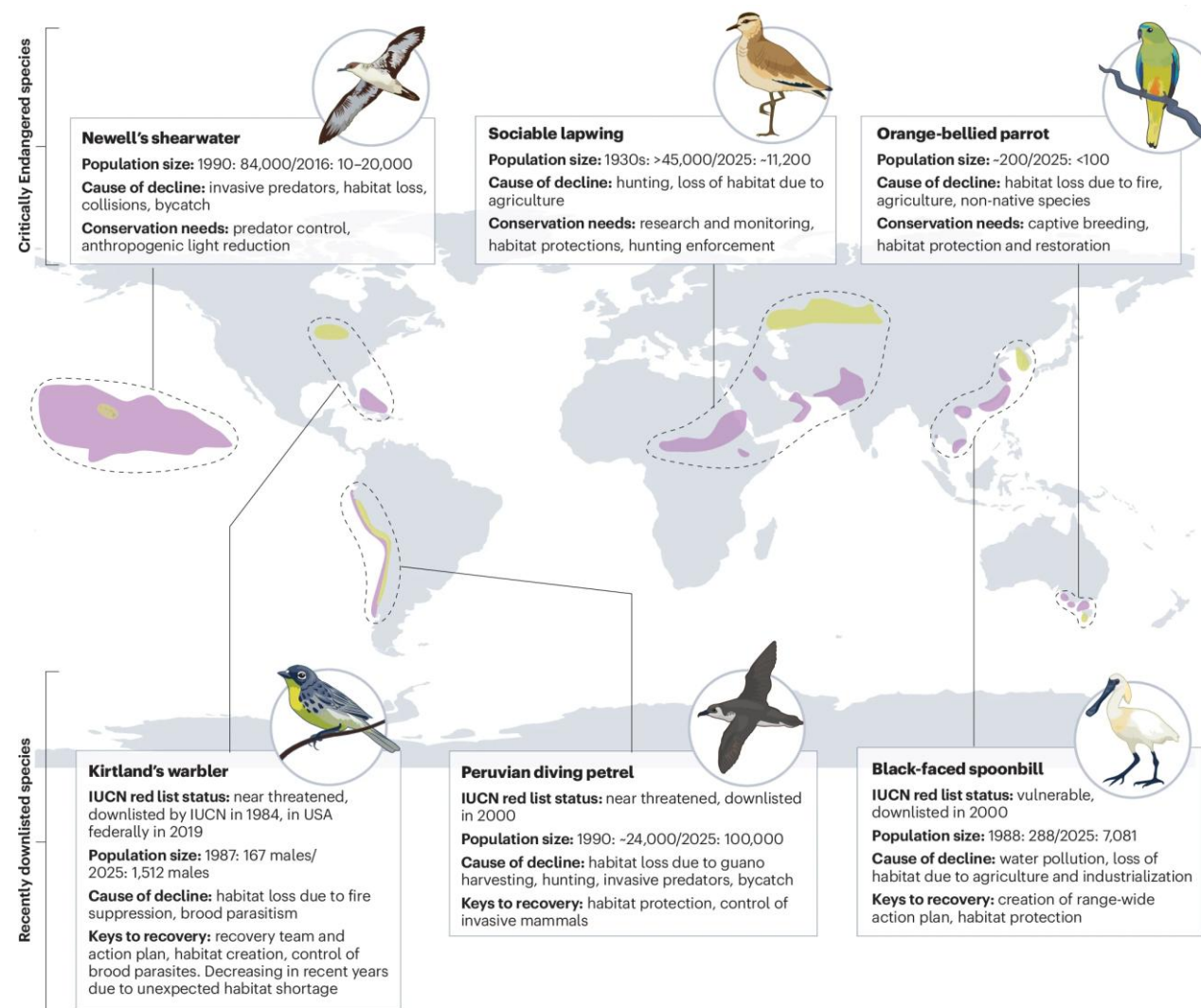
- **African-Eurasian Flyway**
 - **Landbirds Action Plan - Resolution 11.17 (Rev.COP15)**
 - highlights the new AEML WG Programme of Work (POW) 2026-2032
 - **Decisions 15.166 to 15.169** to strengthen the implementation of the WG's POW
- **Central Asian Flyway Initiative – Decision 15.152**
 - Support to Govt. of India and Secretariat to setup **Coordination Unit** by end of 2026
- **Global**
 - **Multi-Species Action Plan to Conserve African, Eurasian and Australian Bustards (Bustard MsAP) (2026-2037)**
 - **Decisions 15.162 to 15.165** to strengthen coordination, support, PR activities, capacity-building and awareness



Moving ahead....



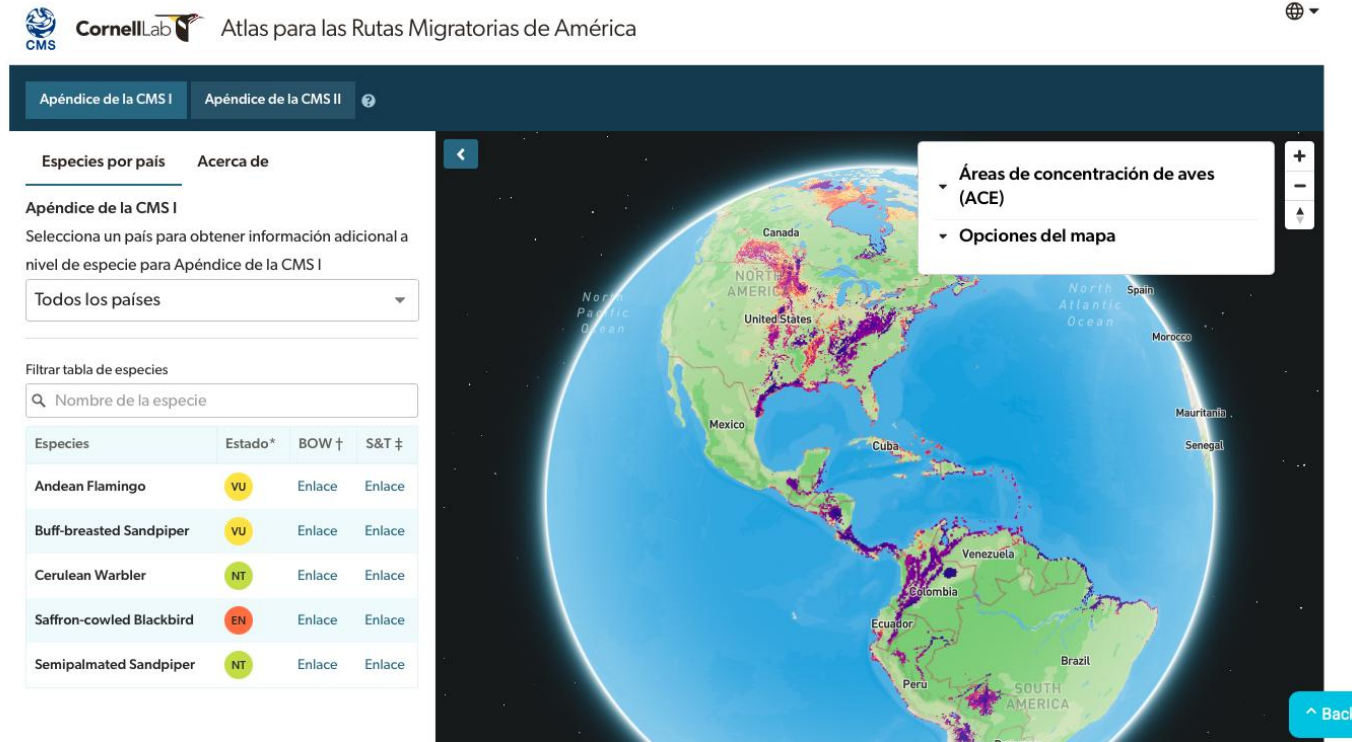
Migratory birds keep receiving a lot of attention



Marra, P. P. et al. (2026). Status, threats and conservation of Earth's migratory birds. *Nature Reviews Biodiversity*.

Americas Flyways Initiative

- Dec 15.151:
 - A **working group** of Party & Stakeholders representatives in the region is actively developing and tailoring a proposal for a new CMS Initiative for the Americas Flyways with the goal of submitting it to COP16
- A meeting for finalizing the proposal is tentatively planned to be held in the second half of 2027



Several other frameworks working very actively

- AEWA Standing Committee
- CMS Grasslands MOU
- ACAP Advisory Committee
- EAAFP MOP and Scientific meetings
- WHSRN work in the Americas
- BLI led initiatives alongside investment Banks in EAAF, African-Eurasian and Americas Flyways
- Recent announcement of Global Flyways Granting Mechanism
- GEF 9 process



Consultancies



Situation analysis of EAAF - Ongoing

Currently negotiating potential extension



Flyways and Action Plans Coordinator - *Closed*

Support the coordination of the FWG and the implementation of multiple Avian and Aquatic Single Species Action Plans:

- Christmas Island Frigatebird (*Fregata andrewsi*);
- Far-Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascarensis*);
- Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) in the South Pacific Ocean;
- Whale and Dolphin Action Plan for the Pacific, under the CMS Pacific Cetaceans MOU.



Marine flyways Situation analysis - *Closed*

BirdLife International selected to carry it out
Currently negotiating next steps



Review of the conservation status of migratory terns - *Open*

Flyway-wide assessment of three tern species in the EAAF and WPMF:

- Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*)
- Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*)
- Black-naped Tern (*Sterna sumatrana*)

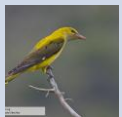
Upcoming Meetings



National Action Plan against IKB Workshop for North Africa, 29th
Set-2nd October 2026, Tangier, Morocco



Raptors MOU MOS₄ - 30 November-02 December 2026 in Victoria
Falls, Zimbabwe



**AEMLAP-UNCCD Joint Meeting on Land Degradation Neutrality
(LDN)** - 03-04 December 2026 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe



High Andean Flamingos MOU MOS₂ – Nov 2026 (TBC) in Arequipa,
Peru



Gracias. Thank you!