



East Asian- Australasian Flyway Situation Analysis

Update for the Sixth Meeting of the Flyways Working Group



PURPOSE

To advance conservation of migratory birds across the East Asian-Australasian Flyway by producing a comprehensive situation analysis.

22

range states

This analysis will inform recommendations for effective conservation action

It 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, important sites, 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)



Adobe Stock

Acknowledgment

The 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.*



Our Approach

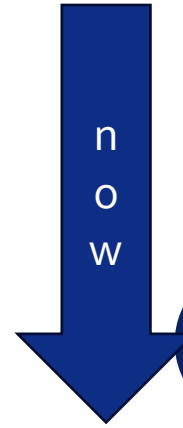
The situation analysis adopts a **state-pressure-response** framework, drawing on the approach used in the CMS *State of the World's Migratory Species*

The status and trends (state) of migratory species is reviewed along with an assessment of threats (pressure)

'Response' 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

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 (August-September)
 - Sent to over 163 individuals
- Structured interviews (July-September)
 - ongoing
- Targeted data requests

3

Analysis

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

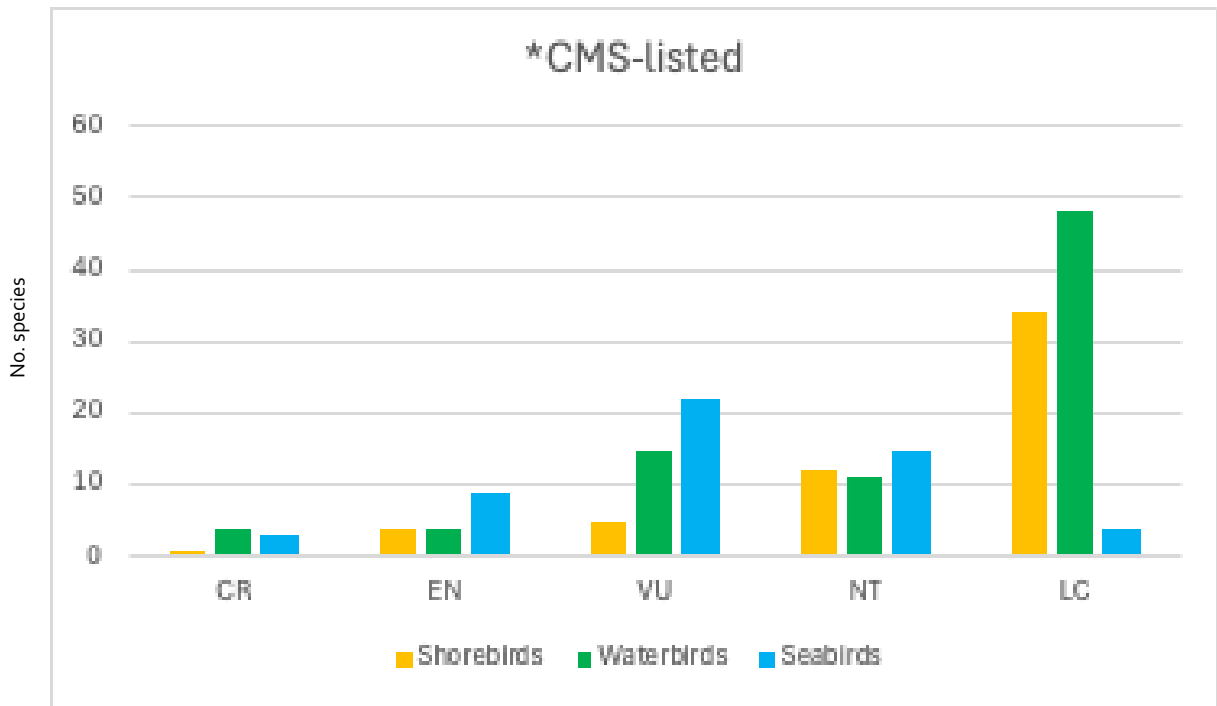
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Report and outputs

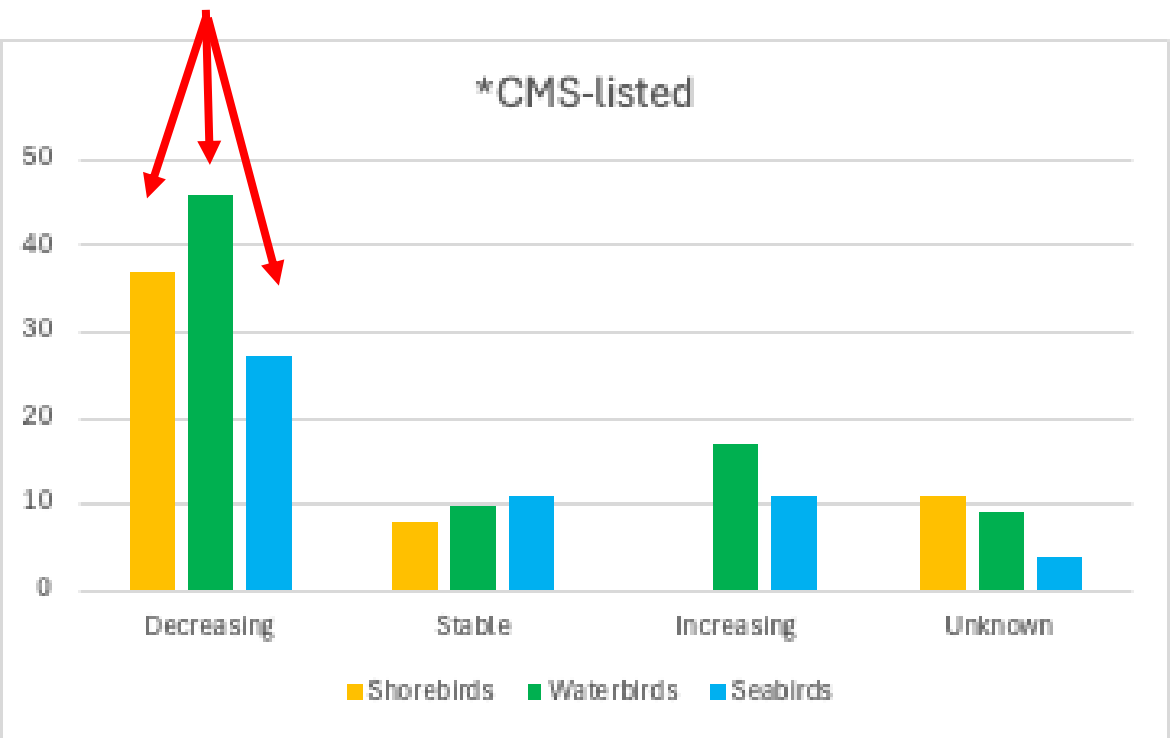
- Publication-ready situation analysis report
- Accessible summary and presentation of findings and priority recommendations
- Delivered to CMS Secretariat in late 2026

IUCN Red List Status & Trend

Migratory shorebirds, waterbirds and seabirds

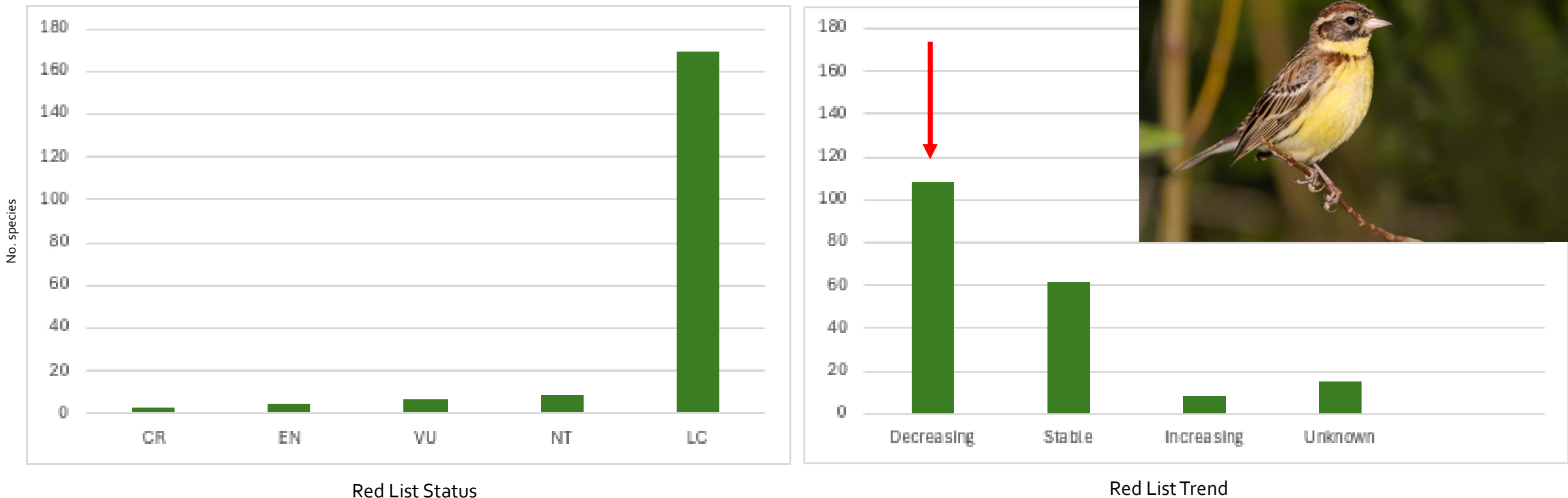


*Currently CMS-listed or under consideration for CMS listing



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

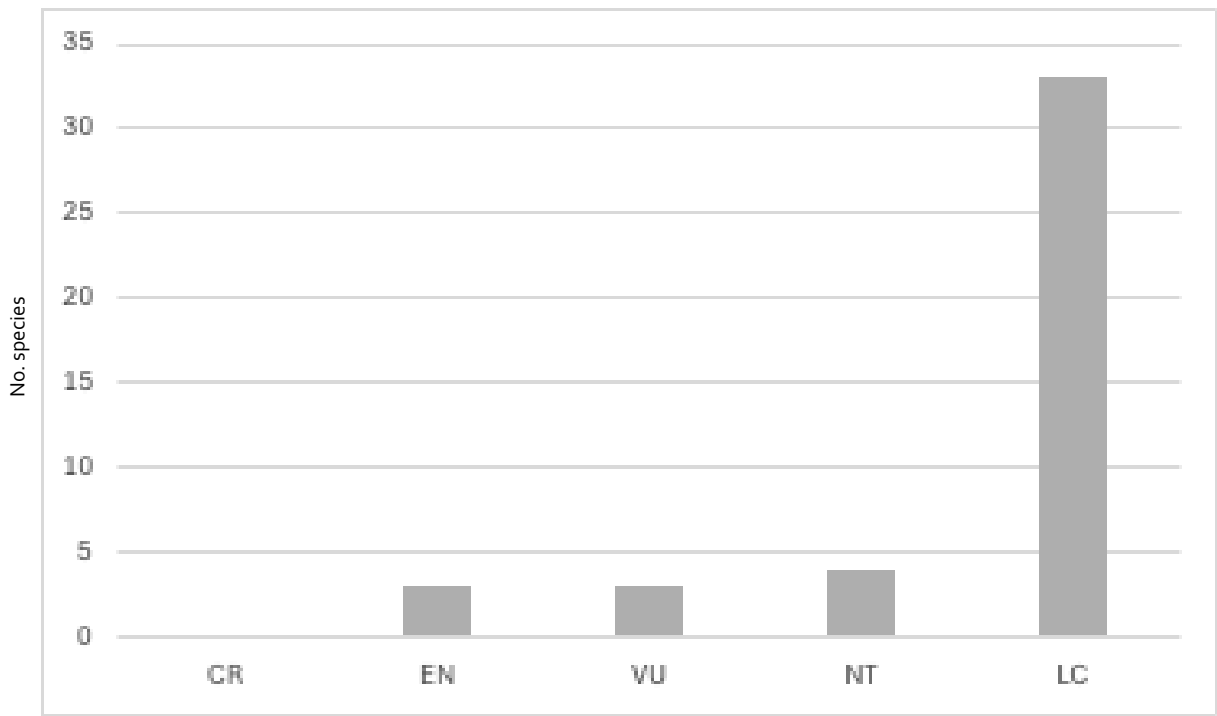
IUCN Red List Status and Trend: *CMS-listed migratory landbirds



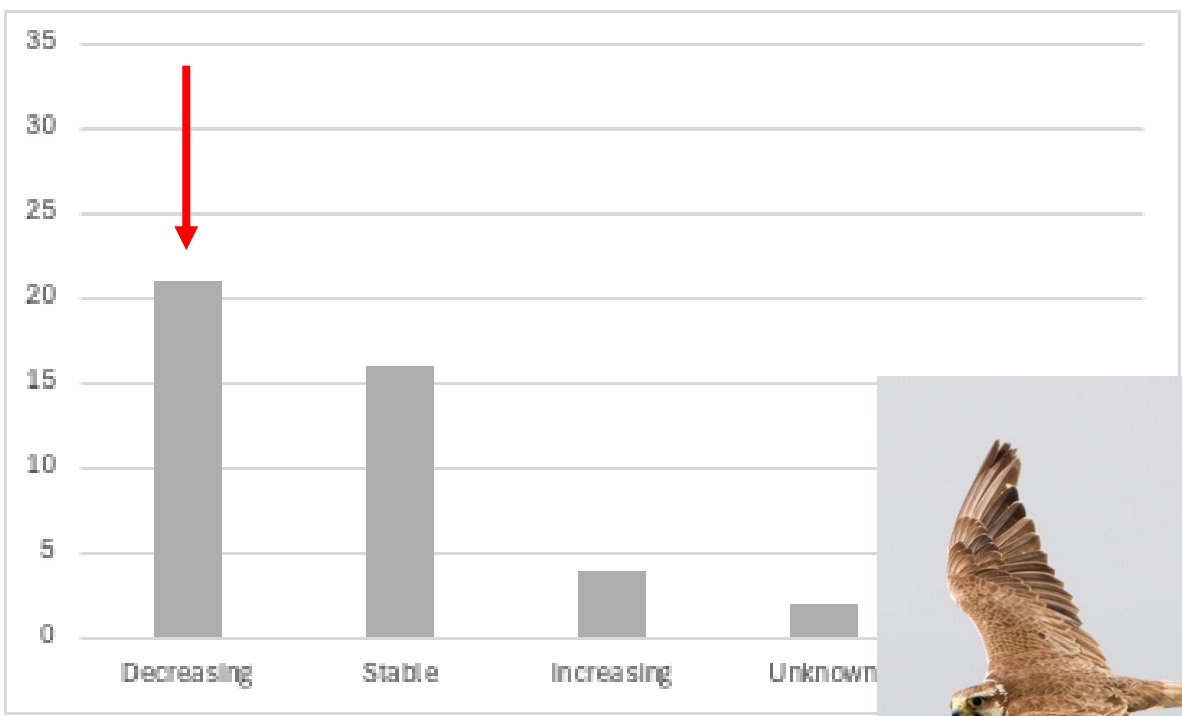
*Currently CMS-listed or under consideration for CMS listing

Low numbers of CMS-listed migratory landbird species are red-listed as threatened or near-threatened... but the majority of CMS-listed species are declining.

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

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



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

Sites

No single list of important sites for migratory birds across the flyway exists, nor any systematic analysis of their protection status

We are conducting a **gaps analysis** looking at the protection level of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for threatened species across flyway

This will be Comparable to the Regional Flyway Initiative which 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.



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

Response

Review of global and regional instruments and relevant national legislation.

Analysis of national frameworks and effectiveness informed by consultation with policy makers and stakeholders.

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