

ONLINE MEETING OF THE FLYWAYS WORKING GROUP

(28 February 2023)

CMS/FLYW2/Doc.2/Rev.1

STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE FLYWAYS MANDATES UNDER CMS

(Prepared by the Secretariat;
revised as document CMS/FLYW2/Doc.2/Rev.1 on 6 February 2024)

Background

1. The Conference of the Parties at its 13th meeting (COP13, Gandhinagar, India, 2020) adopted Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) *Flyways*, in which it:
 1. *Reaffirms the Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023 (the POW) included as Annex 1 to this Resolution and urges Parties and signatories to CMS instruments, and encourages non-Parties, organizations and stakeholders to implement the POW as a matter of priority;*
 10. *Further requests the continuation of the open-ended Flyways Working Group extending membership to incorporate expertise from geographical regions and relevant CMS bodies currently absent;*
2. COP13 also adopted, *inter alia*, Decisions 13.41 b) and 13.43, which read:

13.41 Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

b) support the work of the Flyways Working Group, in particular by organizing meetings of the Working Group and to develop and disseminate guidance to help Parties to provide information on implementation of the Flyways work programme in their National Report;

13.43. Directed to Working Groups & Task Forces

The Flyways Working Group shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

a) facilitate and monitor the Americas Flyways Task Force's work;

b) review relevant scientific and technical issues, international initiatives and processes;

c) review and update the Programme of Work, as a basis for the continued prioritization of the CMS activities on flyways, in line with the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species and aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as a contribution for the 2050 vision for biodiversity;

d) with support of the Secretariat, develop guidance for Parties on using their National Report

to provide information on contributions to implementation and outcomes of actions of the Programme of Work;

e) help to facilitate coordination between various CMS Working Groups and Task Forces (e.g. Illegal Killing of Birds, Poisoning, Landbirds, Energy) and enhance synergies in implementation;

f) report progress to the Scientific Council.

3. Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) [Flyways](#) reaffirmed the global [Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023](#) (POW), covering all major flyways, to identify and promote implementation of activities at the international and national levels that will effectively contribute to an improvement in the status of migratory birds and their habitats worldwide.

Activities to implement Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) and Dec. 13.41

4. With reference to the [Res. 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\)](#) paragraph 10, the CMS Secretariat has supported the activity of the Flyways Working Group by updating and extending membership to incorporate expertise from geographical regions and relevant CMS bodies currently absent. Consultations on confirming the membership were undertaken via e-mail correspondence between December 2022 and February 2023.
5. Bearing in mind the expiry of the current [POW](#) in 2023, as well as in preparation of COP14, scheduled to be held on 23-28 October 2023 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, the CMS Avian Species Team undertook in 2023 a strategic review of [the CMS Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Flyways](#), supporting the work of the Flyways Working Group, as instructed by COP13 through Decision 13.41 b).
6. The review has focused on those CMS instruments, Working Groups and Task Forces that implement activities compatible with a Flyway approach to the conservation of migratory bird species at global level. Special focus has been given to the relevant CMS instruments such as: a) [The Working Group on Flyways](#) b) [The Americas Flyways Framework Task Force](#) c) [The Central Asian Flyway](#) d) [The African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan \(AEMLAP\)](#), and the [African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group](#) e) [The Energy Task Force \(ETF\)](#) and f) [The Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean \(MIKT\)](#). Annex 2 collates the mandates, documents assessed and key findings of flyways-relevant Working Groups and Task Forces. Annex 3 gathers the mandates, relevant documents analysed in the review, maps of overlaps and gaps, and key findings of flyways-relevant CMS instruments. Annex 4 puts together the mandates, documents assessed and key findings of multilateral and bilateral CMS instruments covering individual species or groups of species.
7. The key goal of this review is to assess the effectiveness and capacity of the CMS Flyways instruments, identify the challenges to implementation and monitoring of the POW and related reporting, with a view to discuss and outline steps to address them, as well as to understand how the Flyway instruments can be better incorporated and improved within the future revision of [the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species \(SPMS\)](#).

Recommended actions

8. The Flyways Working Group is invited to:
 - a) take note of the strategic review of the CMS Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) *Flyways*

undertaken by the CMS Secretariat

- b) give feedback on the Flyways Situation analysis contained in Annex 1 of this document;
- c) make recommendations on the Flyways work priorities for the following triennium.

ANNEX 1: SITUATION ANALYSIS OF THE FLYWAYS MANDATES UNDER CMS

Introduction

1. The CMS Avian Species Team undertook in 2023 a strategic review of [the CMS Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Flyways](#), with a special focus on those CMS instruments, Working Groups and Task Forces that implement activities compatible with a Flyway approach to the conservation of migratory species at global level.
2. Special focus has been given to the relevant CMS instruments such as: a) [The Working Group on Flyways](#), b) [The Americas Flyways Framework Task Force](#), c) [The Central Asian Flyway](#), d) [The African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan \(AEMLAP\)](#), and the [African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group](#), e) [The Energy Task Force \(ETF\)](#), and f) [The Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean \(MIKT\)](#).
3. The key goal of this review is to assess the effectiveness and capacity of the CMS Flyways instruments, identify the challenges to implementation and monitoring of the POW and related reporting, with a view to discuss and outline steps to address them, as well as to understand how these can be better incorporated and improved within the future revision of [the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species \(SPMS\)](#).
4. It is important to note that findings may not equally apply across all CMS flyway initiatives and, in particular, not generally to the CMS instruments which have their own institutional establishments such as the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA).
5. The results of the situation analysis of the Flyways mandates under CMS are to be presented to the CMS Flyways Working Group for the group to take note and discuss.

Methodology

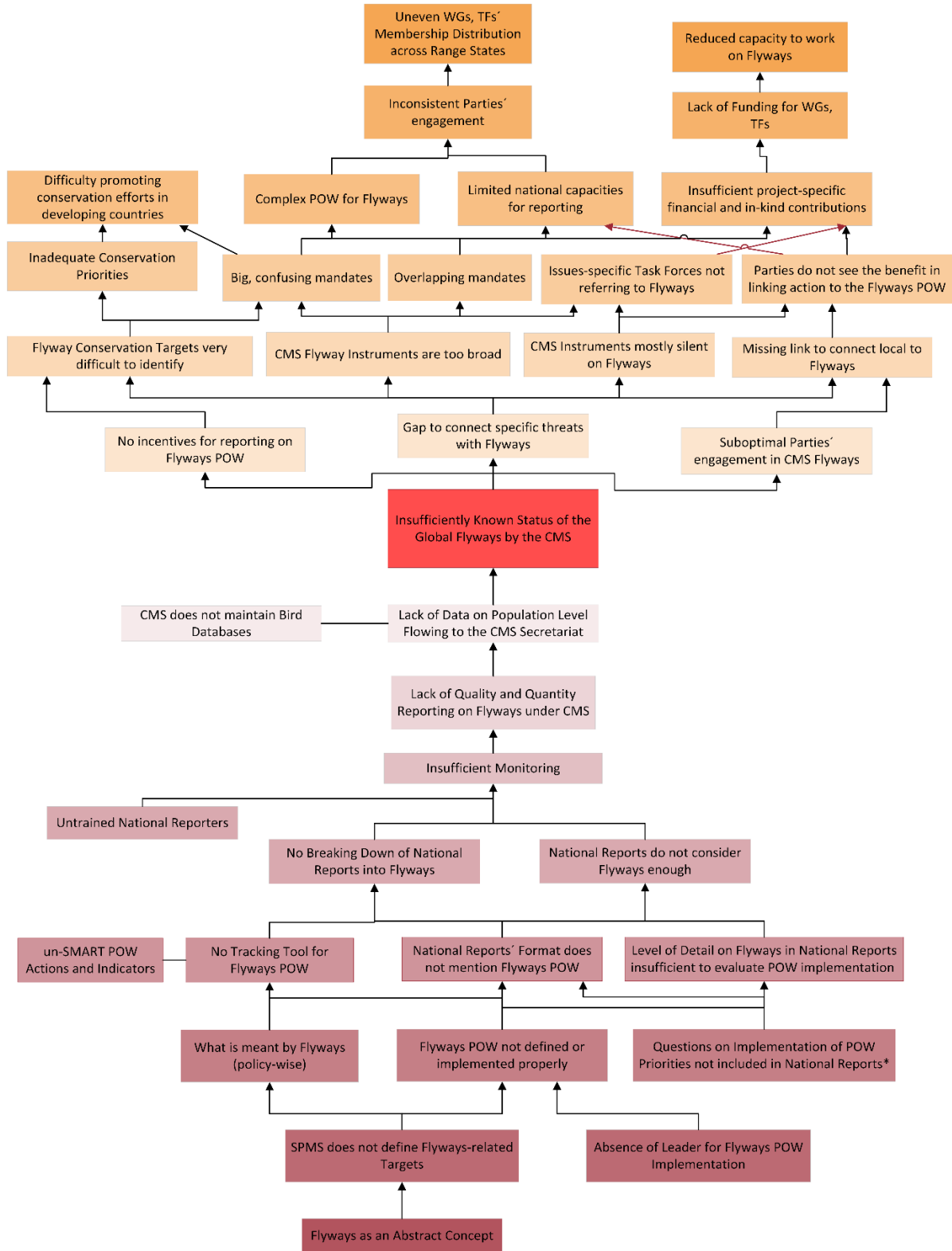
6. The CMS Avian Species Team carried out the situation analysis by first conducting a stakeholder analysis.
7. The assessment of the Working Groups and Task Forces relevant to the Flyways mandate has been done by analysing their mandates and relevant documents, such as programmes of work or workplans. Working Groups and Task Forces included in the analysis were: [the Working Group on Flyways \(FWG\)](#), [Multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species conservation \(ETF\)](#), [the Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean \(MIKT\)](#), [the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway \(ITTEA\)](#), [the Americas Flyways Framework Task Force](#), [the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group](#) and associated [African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan \(AEMLAP\)](#), and [the Working Group on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds](#).

8. Furthermore, three flyways have been analysed in the stakeholder analysis – the African-Eurasian Flyway, the Americas Flyway, and the Asia-Pacific Flyway (Central Asian Flyway, East Asian-Australasian Flyway and Central Pacific Flyway). Flyways-relevant CMS instruments in each of the three flyways have been assessed, as well as the existing gaps and/or overlaps within each Flyway and among them. Specifically, the stakeholder analysis included:
 1. In the African-Eurasian Flyway: [Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds \(AEWA\)](#);
 2. In the Americas Flyway: [the Americas Flyways Framework](#) and [Action Plan for the Americas Flyways 2018-2023](#);
 3. In the Asia-Pacific Flyway: assessment of the Central Asian Flyway, the relationship between [EAAFP Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds](#) and [ITTEA](#), and assessment of the Central Pacific Flyway;
 4. Other CMS instruments: [Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels \(ACAP\)](#).
9. The stakeholder analysis included the multilateral and bilateral CMS instruments covering individual species or groups of species. Due to the limited time and personnel capacities, the stakeholder analysis has not been able to include other flyways-related instruments not adopted under the CMS. Therefore, the analysis covered specifically: a) [Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia \(Raptors MOU\)](#) b) [Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew \(*Numenius tenuirostris*\)](#), c) [Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane \(*Grus leucogeranus*\)](#), d) [Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle European Population of the Great Bustard \(*Otis tarda*\)](#), e) [Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler \(*Acrocephalus paludicola*\)](#), f) [Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Bird Species and Their Habitats](#), g) [Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of High Andean Flamingos and Their Habitats](#), h) [Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Ruddy-headed Goose \(*Chloephaga rubidiceps*\)](#).
10. The CMS Avian Species Team concluded the stakeholder analysis by assessing the relationship between the CMS Flyways Documents and the three assessed Flyways. CMS Flyways Documents analysed were: [CMS Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Flyways](#); [the Programme of Work on Migratory Species and Flyways 2014-2023 \(POW\)](#); [CMS COP13 Decisions 13.41-13.46](#); and [the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 \(SPMS\)](#).
11. The situation analysis proceeded by the CMS Avian Species Team carrying out an internal, organizational Flyways SWOT analysis, as well as updating the CMS Flyways Working Group's membership. Consultations on confirming the membership were undertaken via e-mail correspondence between December 2022 and February 2023. As of February 2023, the FWG consists of 34 members, including representatives of the CMS Parties, organizations, institutions, as well as COP Appointed Councillors.

12. Through a thorough study of the problems identified in the Flyways mandate under the CMS, the CMS Avian Species Team developed a Problem Tree, linking the identified problems in a causal relationship.

13. Prior to proceeding to further steps in the strategic review (Objectives Tree, Prioritisation analysis, Logframe), the Flyways Working Group is invited to take note and give feedback on the following Problem Tree and its analysis.

Flyways Problem Tree



* FWG had proposed questions on implementation of priority actions be included in the National Reports for COP11 and COP12, but was informed that it was not possible to add specific questions in the national reports.

Summary of the Flyways Problem Tree

14. The main identified problem is the insufficiently known status of the global flyways by the CMS. This is caused by a lack of flyway population data flowing to the CMS Secretariat. Moreover, the CMS Secretariat does not maintain bird databases, which is correlated to the lack of quantitative data on population levels in Flyways.
15. However, these obvious problems have two deep-rooted causes.
16. The first identified difficulty is to pin down what Flyways actually are and what they contain, in terms of policymaking. The concept is usually defined in geographical terms.¹ Thus, the concept leaves open the question on how the Flyways approach is to be implemented through concrete decisions that would eventually contribute to flyways conservation. Moreover, it needs to be clarified what value does this international level of approach add to any national and/or local species conservation agenda (assuming these are not covered by "traditional" species-, habitat-, and threat-based approaches.)
17. The second deep-rooted cause is related to the abstractness of the Flyways concept. It concerns the lack of clarity and detail on how to report on Flyways under the CMS. [The CMS national reports' format](#) does not mention [Flyways POW](#), and the national reports' format could not be updated to include specific questions for Parties to report on implementation of the [POW](#) priorities (which also has no clear leader for its implementation) for the triennium, based on the [Dec. 13.43.d](#) mandate. Consequently, the level of detail in national reports is insufficient to result in flyways work prioritisation or engagement. Our analysis concludes it is very difficult, with the current CMS reporting instruments, to get an accurate and updated picture on the status of the global flyways.
18. Some of the related problems identified are listed below:
 - There is a gap in connecting specific, local threats to the flyway level, which also results in the Parties' lack of engagement in the topic.
 - Another very relevant problem is that CMS instruments dealing with Flyways are very often overlapping, and again with very low reporting capacity and very big mandates to cover. This means Parties and members of these flyway instruments have difficulties in prioritising or mobilising funds for specific areas.
 - Without clear prioritization and links between specific, local issues and flyways level that are based on sufficient, quality data, migratory bird conservation at the flyway level cannot be properly addressed.
 - Un-SMART² actions and indicators in the [POW](#) itself.

Flyways Problem Tree Analysis

Main problem

- 19. The main problem of the Flyways mandate is the insufficiently known status of the global flyways by the CMS, due to the lack of data and flyways-related information on implementation flowing to the CMS Secretariat.

¹ See [Flyways POW 2014-2023](#), p. 31,32

² SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound

Causes

- 20. The deep-rooted cause for the unknown status of the global Flyways is the notion of Flyways as an abstract concept. It is difficult to pin down what Flyways actually are and what they contain in terms of policymaking. Everything can be covered by their definition, yet nothing concrete, palpable. Thus, the concept leaves open the question on how the Flyways approach is to be implemented through concrete decisions that would eventually contribute to flyways conservation.

- 21. As [the current Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023](#) does not set flyway-related targets, [a new Strategic Plan for Migratory Species](#), as a cornerstone document, should ideally address flyway-related targets to pin down the policy-making direction on Flyways.

- 22. The inability to concretize Flyways on a strategic level feeds into the confusion of what the Flyways conservation means policy-wise. What value does this level of approach add to any national and/or local species conservation agenda (assuming these are not covered by "traditional" species-, habitat-, and threat-based approaches)? [Flyways Res. 12.11. \(Rev.COP13\)](#) does not define what the approach brings to the table and how it can be practically implemented nationally and locally. Flyways are defined in geographical terms, not policy or legal terms.³ Yet, from a policymaking perspective, there are multiple frameworks that can be set up to facilitate international cooperation on flyways. However, without an agreed, concrete definition and scope of a conservation approach on Flyways, it is very difficult to implement a comprehensive programme, such as the [CMS Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023 \(POW\)](#), properly. The [POW](#) remains an umbrella mandate, but implementation depends on the creation and implementation of specifically targeted initiatives and instruments. Moreover, multiple stakeholders within and outside of the CMS family are responsible for the [POW's](#) implementation, making it unclear who is the leader in this process. [The CMS Secretariat](#) (a primarily facilitating and coordinating body serving the Parties of the Convention) or [the Flyways Working Group \(FWG\)](#) (a think tank under [the Scientific Council](#)) are not implementing bodies and as such can support the coordination of implementation processes, but are not well placed to lead as implementers of the [POW](#).

- 23. What is not properly defined cannot be properly measured. There is no tracking tool to measure the implementation of [the Flyways POW](#). [The national reports' format developed by the 52nd meeting of the Standing Committee](#) does not mention the [POW](#). Moreover, the level of detail on Flyways that is required by the Parties in their national reports could prove insufficient to evaluate [POW](#) implementation to an adequate extent. Moreover, the [POW](#) includes a lot of action and reporting that go beyond CMS, meaning that even if national reports provided sufficient information on the flyways implementation by Parties, there would still be significant gaps in tracking the implementation of the [POW](#).

- 24. As per [COP Decision 13.43.d](#)), the FWG *shall, subject to the availability of external resources, with support of the Secretariat, develop guidance for Parties on using their National Report to provide information on contributions to implementation and outcomes of actions of the Programme of Work*. In response to [COP Decision 13.41](#), the Secretariat,

³ See [Flyways POW 2014-2023](#), p. 31,32

with limited and internal resources, has worked on an additional guidance document which suggests options to Parties for reporting on progress in their National Reports in response to the provisions contained in [Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Flyways](#). The guidance document is pending finalization and publishing. But it remains to be determined to what extent the additional guidance can support assessment of the implementation of [the Flyways POW](#), as the national report format itself has not been designed as a tool for tracking progress of [the Flyways POW](#); and through which capacities and mechanism the information, once provided, should be analysed and fed into the monitoring of the [POW](#) and evaluation of its success. The task of developing guidance on reporting on the [POW](#) is subject to the availability of external resources, but this is a high priority task if sufficient quality data on Flyways are to be gathered.

25. Feeding into the inability to properly track the implementation of the [POW](#) is the issue that many of the actions and indicators are un-SMART in their framing; international baselines to which targets refer often do not exist. Moreover, several actions described in the [POW](#) require unrealistically immense resources. A more pragmatic and prioritized approach of actions in 'bite-sized' portions seems to be more appropriate.
26. As touched upon above, the national reports do not consider reporting on Flyways-related action sufficiently and precisely enough. The reporting on provisions stemming from [the Res. 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Flyways](#) is not going to provide necessary information on the Flyways in a SMART way. Because the reporting mechanisms and guidance are not adequately developed, there is an unused opportunity of being able to break down the national reports into the Flyways sections, analyse the threats, habitats and species population in considered flyways and have a full picture on their status.
27. Without guidance on what to report, the monitoring by the Parties (and relevant stakeholders) does not match the information needed to measure progress of the [POW](#) implementation. Additionally, training of national reporters with regard to reporting on Flyways and the [POW](#) could often be insufficient.
28. Insufficient monitoring then naturally leads to the absence of quality and scarce quantity of national reports relating to Flyways matters.
29. Consequently, the coordinating bodies do not have relevant data on population level in flyways of interest. Moreover, even if highly desired, there would not be an added value in having bird databases hosted at the Secretariat as not enough data flows to the Secretariat.
30. It is thus no surprise that the status of the global flyways is unknown, as it is unclear what flyways actually are in terms of policy-making and who should lead in promoting [the Flyways POW](#), on top of which comes the frequently un-SMART formulation of actions and indicators, the broadness of actions and consequently unrealistic high need for resources, and the unsorted issue of lack of quality reporting due to the multiple underlying causes.

Effects

31. The unknown status of the global flyways results in a plethora of consequences that are now ubiquitous in many of the CMS instruments, with some exceptions especially with

regard to the CMS instruments which have their own institutional mechanisms and establishments.

32. First, because of the lack of population data and a clear picture of the status of flyways protection, it is difficult to link specific threats on the ground to the consequences that are manifested at a higher, flyway level. Moreover, by not being able to provide the Parties with compelling data on the status of flyways and how their actions contribute to their conservation, engagement in CMS Flyways discussions is suboptimal. If statistics on the flyways of interest are not available, Parties and stakeholders might become less interested in reporting on [the Flyways POW](#) as it does not result in useful outputs - reporting would be done for the sake of reporting.
33. Secondly, as national reports do not result in tangible outputs, the relevance of providing detailed information is further lowered, which makes it difficult to gather concrete, relevant data to more easily identify Flyways conservation targets. Inability to link specific threats and corresponding measurable threat-addressing targets, actions and indicators to the flyways level feeds into this problem, as well. The mentioned inability also hampers the CMS instruments to be specific in their mandates, targets and actions, leading to other CMS instruments not referring to flyways at all. There are no appropriate feedback mechanisms from specific instruments (incl. initiatives, action plans etc.) to [the Flyways POW](#). Moreover, due to the insufficient connections of the specific initiatives to the Flyways, it is difficult to link local, direct threats and issues to the Flyways.
34. Thirdly, having difficulties in identifying conservation targets, it is even more challenging to identify adequate conservation priorities. Furthermore, being unable to identify targets, one cannot narrow down the CMS Flyways instruments, whose mandates are often big and confusing, and often they overlap in scope and/or taxonomy. On the other hand, because many CMS instruments are silent on flyways, issues-specific Task Forces ([MIKT](#), [ETF](#), etc.) do not refer to [the Flyways POW](#) and tend not to link their specific mandates to the overarching flyways conservation that they are actually serving. The silence of the CMS instruments, together with the missing link between the local issues and flyways perspective, also then leads to the Parties not being able to see any benefits to linking the actions which they actually took to the targets and actions proposed by [the Flyways POW](#).
35. Fourthly, because of inadequate and/or un-SMART conservation targets and big, confusing mandates, there is a continuous difficulty in promoting conservation efforts in developing countries that are lacking in both staff and financial resources, as well as other capacities. It is unrealistic to expect of them to implement such comprehensive mandates, especially without seeing the benefits that they will be contributing to and measurable outputs. The big, often overlapping mandates also result in the unrealistic [POW](#) that cannot be adequately implemented. Moreover, having to cover and coordinate so many responsibilities, under the condition of little interest in flyways conservation, leads to very limited national capacities for reporting on Flyways, due to financial and staff shortage. Related to the lack of financial resources, the inability of the Task Forces to refer to Flyways by connecting them with specific, local threats that Parties are likely to care about may potentially result in insufficient project-specific financial and in-kind contributions by Parties and stakeholders.

- 36. Fifthly, on the one hand, the complexity of the [Flyways POW](#) and lack of national capacities for reporting on Flyways feed into the inconsistent engagement of Parties. That in turn leads to some of the Parties being unable to contribute to the WGs and Task Forces, causing an uneven membership distribution in those bodies. On the other hand, low voluntary financial contributions to CMS result in a lack of funding to the necessary coordinating WGs and Task Forces that should emphasize the Flyways conservation approach. Insufficient funding results in reduced capacity to work on and coordinate the Flyways.

Further information on the mandates, relevant documents assessed in the review, as well as key findings, is available in the annexes 2 (Flyways-relevant Working Groups and Task Forces), 3 (Flyways-relevant CMS Instruments) and 4 (Multilateral and Bilateral CMS Instruments covering Individual Species or Groups of Species) of the Meeting document (CMS/FLYW2/Doc.2): Strategic Review of the Flyways Mandates under the CMS.

ANNEX 2: FLYWAYS-RELEVANT WORKING GROUPS AND TASK FORCES¹

Working Group on Flyways (FWG)

- Mandate:
 - originally established based on [CMS Resolution 9.2 Priorities for CMS Agreements](#), continued based on the mandate from [CMS Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Flyways](#)
- Relevant documents:
 - [Website](#)
 - [CMS Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Flyways](#)
 - [Annex 1 to Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways \(2014-2023\)](#)
 - [CMS COP13 Decisions 13.41 and 13.43](#)
 - [A Review of Migratory Bird Flyways and Priorities for Management. 2014. UNEP/CMS Secretariat, Bonn, Germany. 164 pages](#)
- Key findings:
 - Global open-ended Working Group
 - Basis for its activities in the Flyways POW 2014-2023 is broad
 - Multiple meetings of the FWG
 - Potential to address geographical overlaps between different flyways instruments, as well as to address and fill the gaps
 - Potential to serve as a forum for sharing information and best lessons-learned among different flyways instruments and initiatives
 - Potential to provide implementation prioritisation by Parties and other stakeholders for the intersessional periods

Multi-stakeholder Task Force on Reconciling Selected Energy Sector Developments with Migratory Species conservation (ETF)

- Mandate:
 - [CMS Resolution 11.27 \(Rev.COP13\) Renewable Energy and Migratory Species](#)
- Relevant documents:
 - [Website](#)
 - [CMS Resolution 11.27 \(Rev.COP13\) Renewable Energy and Migratory Species](#)
 - [CMS Resolution 10.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Power Lines and Migratory Birds](#)
 - [Framework ETF Workplan 2021-2024](#)
 - [Joint Report of the CMS Secretariat. and ETF Coordinator on Activities and Progress Against The Workplan \(2022\)](#)
 - [ETF Modus Operandi](#)
 - [Updates From the ETF Powerline Working Group and The CMS Raptors MoU](#)

¹ The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on the maps in the Annex are not warranted to be error free nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

[Electrocution Discussion Group \(ETF6, Feb. 2022\)](#)

- [Updates from the ETF's Technical Working Group \(ETF6, Feb. 2022\)](#)
- Key findings:
 - Potential to mainstream flyway conservation with energy infrastructure developments
 - Lack of reference to the energy sector and ETF in the CMS Resolution 12.11 (Rev.COP13) *Flyways*
 - Potential to increase Flyways references, and specifically Flyways POW references, in the ETF work, as addressing the impact of renewable energy on migratory bird species contributes to their overarching conservation at the flyway level
 - Potential to increase synergies with existing CMS Flyways instruments and initiatives, as well as Flyways-relevant Working Groups and Task Forces

Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)



Figure 1. Map of the CMS Parties Members of the MIKT

- Mandate:
 - [CMS Resolution 11.16 \(Rev.COP13\) The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds](#)
- Relevant documents:
 - [Website](#)
 - [CMS Resolution 11.16 \(Rev.COP13\) The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds](#)

- [CMS COP13 Decisions 13.27-13.31](#)
 - [Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030 on Eradicating Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade in Wild Birds in Europe and the Mediterranean region](#)
 - [MIKT Workplan 2021-2025](#) and [its Annex](#)
 - [Modus operandi](#) based on Terms of Reference in [CMS Res. 11.16 \(Rev.COP13\)](#)
 - [Annex 1 to CMS Resolution 11.16 \(Rev.COP13\): Scoreboard to assess the progress in combating illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds \(IKB\)](#)
 - [Future periodic assessment in the framework of the Rome Strategic Plan and Frequency and format of future joint meetings \(2021\)](#)
- Key findings:
 - MIKT contains decision-making power
 - MIKT complements the work of the AEWA, AEMLAP and Raptors MOU
 - Potential to increase Flyways references, and specifically Flyways POW references, in the MIKT work, as addressing the issue of illegal killing, taking and trade of migratory bird species in the Mediterranean contributes to the overarching conservation at the flyway level
 - Challenge to secure additional and long-term support beyond 2023 for securing a permanent MIKT coordination unit, as well as strengthening the engagement of stakeholders for implementation of the Rome Strategic Plan 2020-2030

Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (ITTEA)

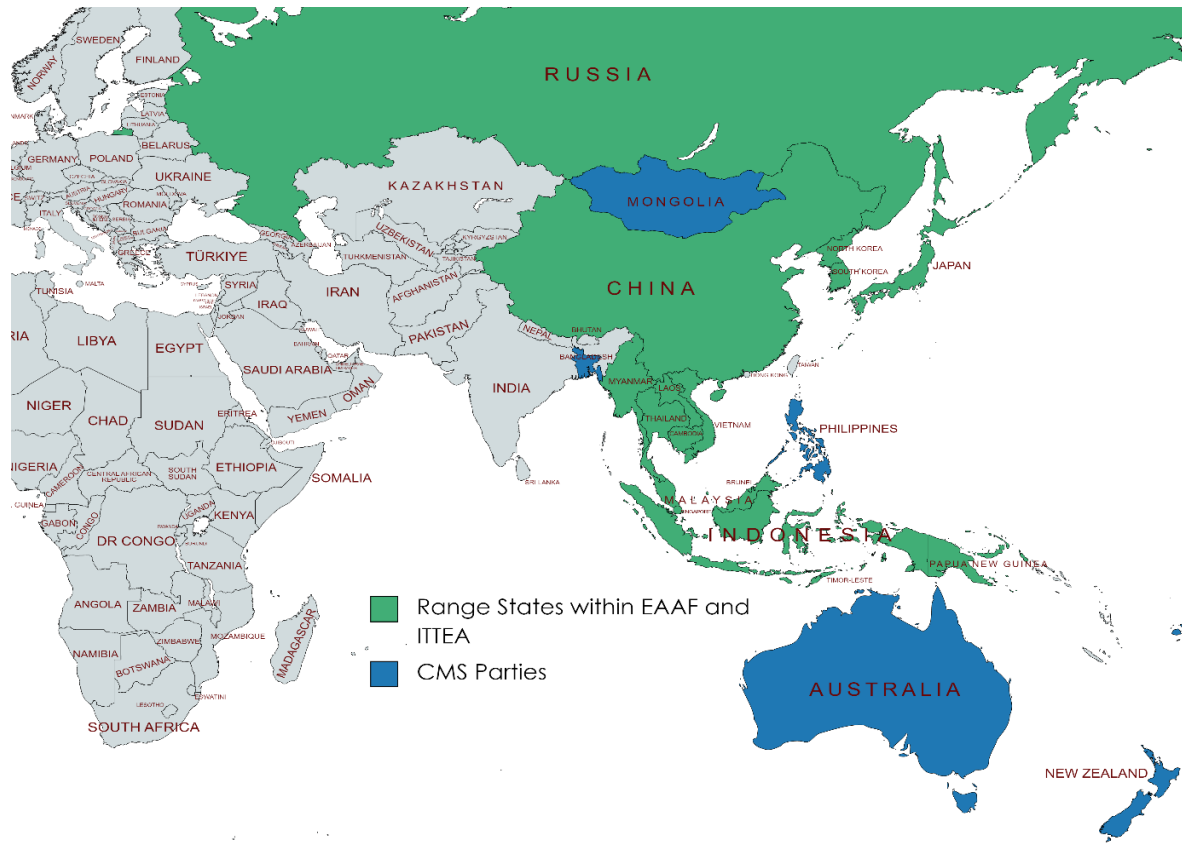


Figure 2. Map of Range States and CMS Parties within ITTEA and EAAF

- **Mandate:**
 - [CMS Resolution 11.16 \(Rev.COP13\) The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds](#) and [Annex 2 to CMS Res. 11.16 \(Rev.COP13\): Terms of Reference of the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway \(ITTEA\)](#)

- **Relevant documents:**
 - [Website](#)
 - [CMS Resolution 11.16 \(Rev.COP13\) The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds](#)
 - [Annex 2 to CMS Resolution 11.16 \(Rev.COP13\): Terms of Reference of the Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway \(ITTEA\)](#)
 - [CMS COP13 Decisions 13.32 and 13.33 on ITTEA](#)

- **Key findings:**
 - ITTEA covers all migratory bird taxa as identified by CMS, except waterbirds, which are covered by the EAAFP Task Force
 - Potential for increased synergies with the EAAFP Secretariat to ensure increased engagement of the governments in the region
 - Challenge to ensure engagement from Range States that are not CMS Parties
 - Geographical overlap between ITTEA and EAAFP Task Force
 - Reporting and species work should be carefully coordinated
 - Overlap between ITTEA and CAF
 - Reporting and species work should be carefully coordinated

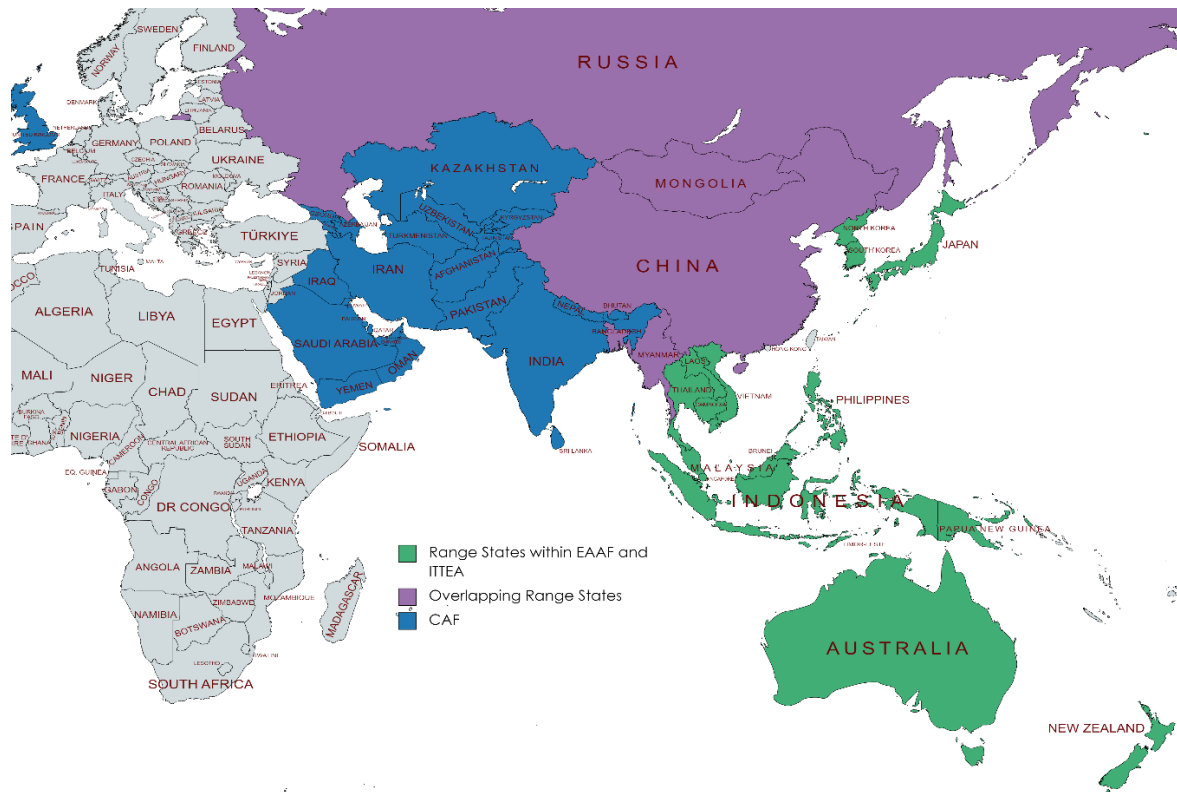


Figure 3. Map of ITTEA-CAF overlap

Americas Flyways Framework Task Force

- Mandate:
 - originally on [repealed CMS Resolution 11.14 Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways](#), continued on [CMS Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Flyways](#)
- Relevant documents:
 - [CMS Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Flyways](#)
 - [CMS COP13 Decisions 13.41, 13.42 and 13.44](#)
 - [Annex 2 to CMS Resolution 12.11: Americas Flyways Framework: A Framework for the Conservation of Migratory Birds in the Americas](#)
 - [Annex 3 to CMS Resolution 12.11: Action Plan for the Americas Flyways 2018-2023](#)
 - [First meeting of the Americas Flyways Task Force](#)
- Key findings:
 - One meeting of the Task Force, in 2018, in which the ad-hoc Task Force prioritized actions within the Action Plan
 - Task Force coordinates and monitors the implementation of the Americas Flyways Action Plan
 - Flyways Working Group monitors the work of the Task Force, as the Task Force reports and provides recommendations to the FWG about implementation of the Americas Flyways Action Plan

African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Working Group (AEML WG)

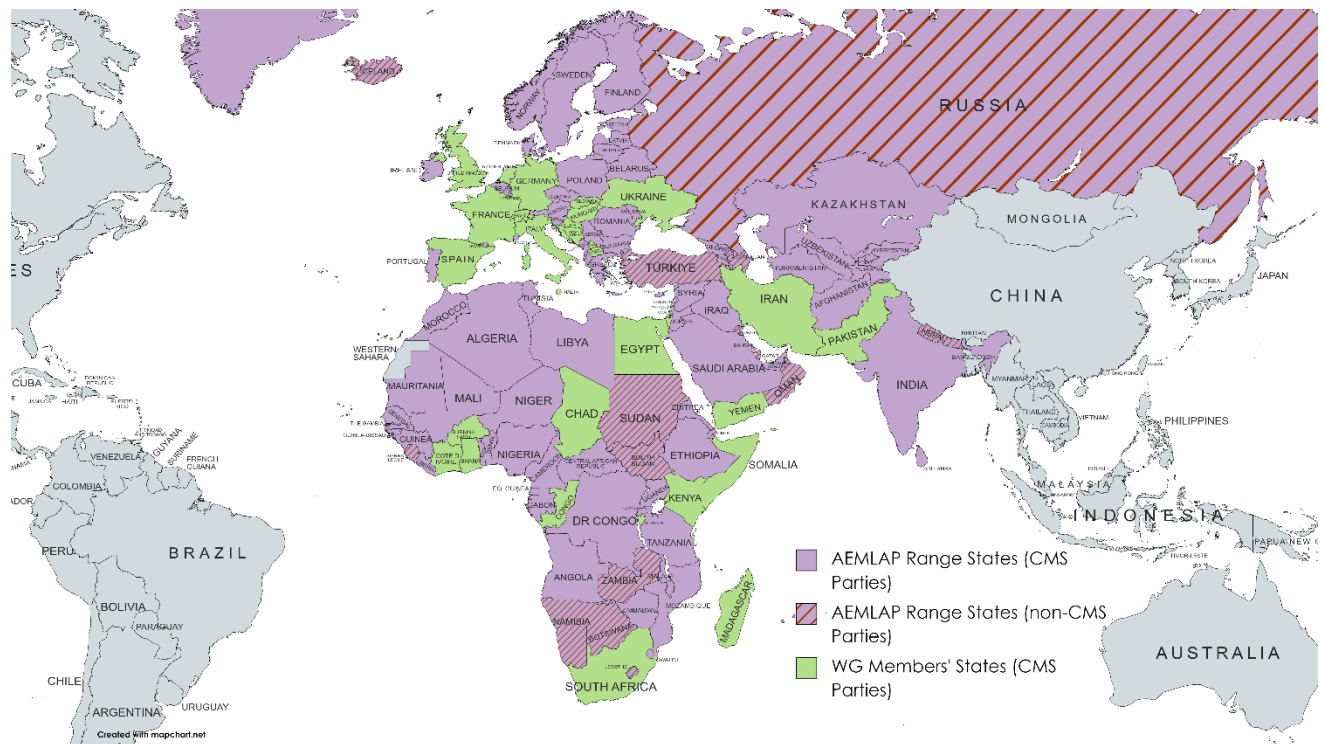


Figure 4. Map of distribution of AEML WG's members

- Mandate:
 - originally by [repealed CMS Resolution 10.27 Improving the Conservation Status of Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region](#)
 - continued based on [CMS Resolution 11.17 \(Rev. COP13\)/Rev.1 Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region \(AEMLAP\)](#)

- Relevant documents:
 - [Website](#)
 - [CMS Resolution 11.17 \(Rev. COP13\)/Rev.1 Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region \(AEMLAP\)](#) adopted AEMLAP
 - [Annex to CMS Resolution 11.17 \(Rev.COP13\)/Rev.1 African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan \(AEMLAP\): Improving the Conservation Status of Migratory Landbirds Species in the African-Eurasian Region](#)
 - [Annex 3 to CMS Resolution 11.17 \(Rev.COP13\)/Rev.1 Species List \(p. 23-46\)](#)
 - [CMS COP13 Decisions 13.34 to 13.38 on AEMLAP](#)
 - [Annex 1 to Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways \(2014-2023\)](#)
 - [Programme of Work \(POW\) for the Working Group \(WG\) of the African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan \(AEMLAP\)](#)
 - [African-Eurasian Migratory Landbird Workshop](#) (Accra, 2012)
 - [Connectivity between countries established by landbirds and raptors migrating along the African–Eurasian flyway](#) (Guilherme, 2022)

- Key findings:
 - AEML WG adopts a flyway-scale approach
 - AEML WG POW (2021-2026) aims to:
 - together with AEWA, safeguard Aquatic Warbler (Action B 1.1.4)
 - increase participation in the ETF meetings (to ensure ETF addresses landbird priorities)
 - increase participation in the MIKT meetings (to ensure landbird priorities are addressed and to support addressing illegal killing, taking and trade of birds in sub-Saharan Africa)
 - Weaknesses identified in AEML WG POW (2021-2026) include, *inter alia*:
 - Insufficient implementation due to large programme, multiple threats and long species list
 - Lack of role and link with other ongoing CMS decisions and resolutions such as, *inter alia*, Flyways
 - Migratory Landbirds Study Group (MLSG), an international network of specialists and organizations working on research, monitoring and conservation of migratory landbird species

African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan (AEMLAP)



Figure 5. Map of AEMLAP Range States

- **Mandate:**
 - Action plan in the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species, Article IV, paragraph 4
- **Relevant documents:**
 - [Website](#)
 - [CMS Resolution 11.17 \(Rev.COP13\)/Rev.1 Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region](#) adopting AEMLAP
 - [Annex to CMS Resolution 11.17 \(Rev.COP13\)/Rev.1 African-Eurasian Migratory Landbirds Action Plan \(AEMLAP\): Improving the Conservation Status of Migratory Landbirds Species in the African-Eurasian Region](#)
 - [Annex 3 to CMS Resolution 11.17 \(Rev.COP13\)/Rev.1 Species List \(p. 23-46\)](#)
 - [CMS COP13 Decisions 13.34 to 13.38 on AEMLAP](#)
 - [Annex 1 to Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways \(2014-2023\)](#)
 - [Abuja Declaration on Sustainable Land Use for People and Biodiversity including Migratory Birds in West Africa](#) (Abuja, 2016)
- **Key findings:**
 - 128 Range States, out of which 21 are not CMS Parties (as of 18 April 2023)
 - Action Plan is comprehensive, with the flyways-approach well adopted
 - Complements the work of the AEWa and Raptors MOU in the African-Eurasian Flyway, also encompassing the Aquatic Warbler MOU and Middle European Great

Bustard MOU

- Species overlap present in Annex 3 of the Action Plan (species covered by AEWA, Raptors MOU or other instruments have been included, but indicated as such)
- The main threat is the habitat loss
 - Potential to emphasize the use of strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments to address the impact of land-use change on migratory bird species' habitats
- Overlap between AEMLAP and CAF, and AEMLAP and Raptors MOU
 - Reporting and species work should be carefully coordinated

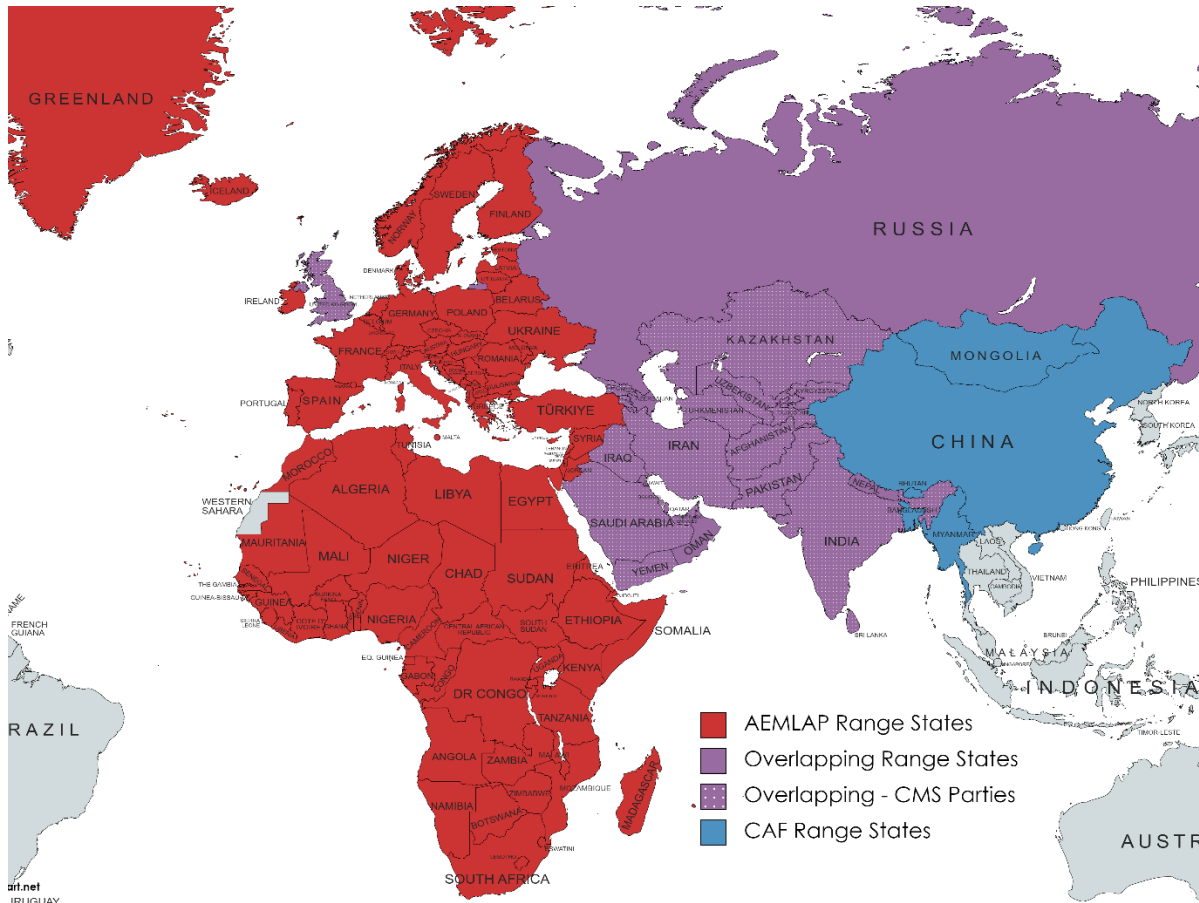


Figure 6. Map of AEMLAP-CAF overlap

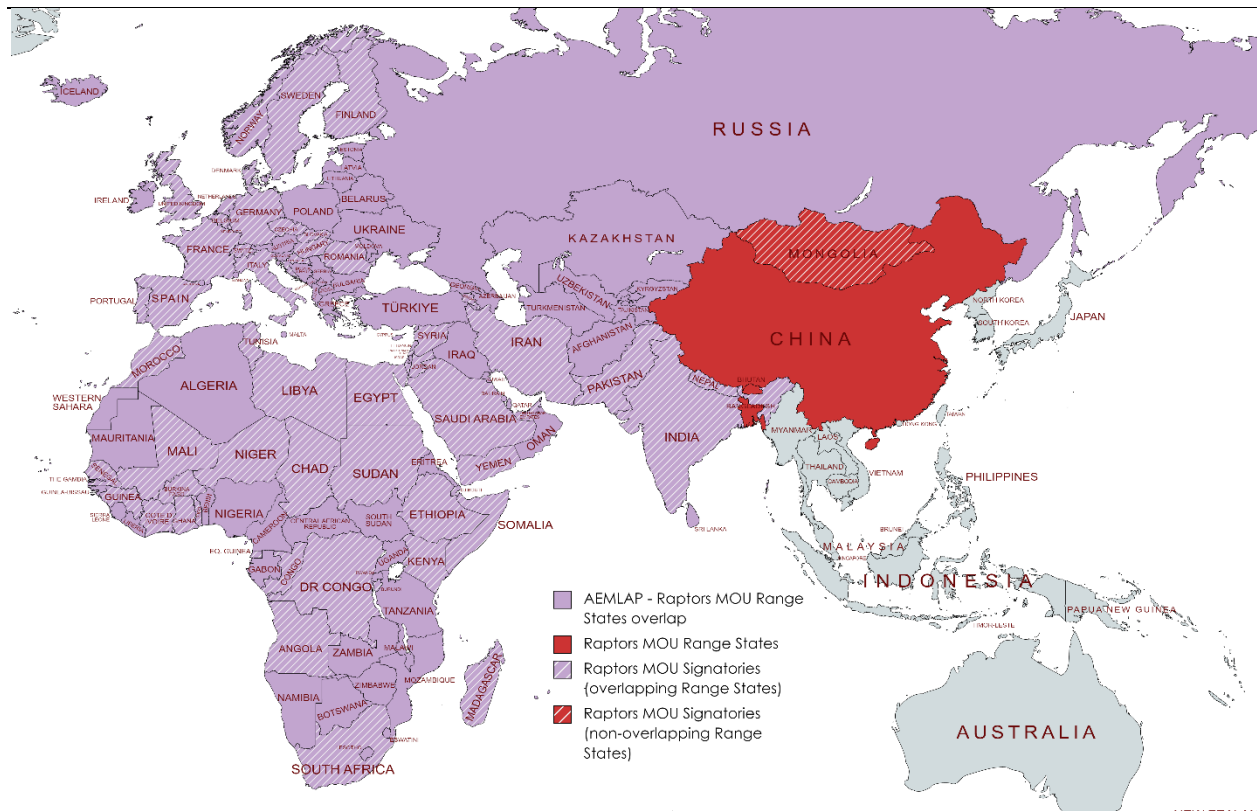


Figure 7. Map of AEMLAP - Raptors MOU overlap

Working Group on Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds (PPWG)

- Mandate:
 - originally on [repealed CMS Resolution 10.26 Minimizing the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds](#)
 - continued on [CMS Resolution 11.15 \(Rev. COP13\) Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds](#)
- Relevant documents:
 - [Website](#)
 - [CMS Resolution 11.15 \(Rev. COP13\) Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds](#)
 - [Annex to CMS Resolution 11.15 \(Rev.COP13\) Terms of Reference of the Preventing Poisoning Working Group](#)
 - [Programme of Work 2017-2020 for the CMS Preventing Poisoning Working Group](#)
 - [Guidelines to Prevent the Risk of Poisoning to Migratory Birds \(2014\)](#)
- Key findings:
 - PPWG has no decision-making power, but an advisory role
 - PPWG POW expired in 2020, with the last meeting of the WG held in 2017
 - The mandate on work on preventing poisoning from CMS Resolution 11.15 (Rev.COP13) is strong
 - Potential to further advise and guide work on preventing poisoning
 - Lack of resources to ensure coordination of the WG

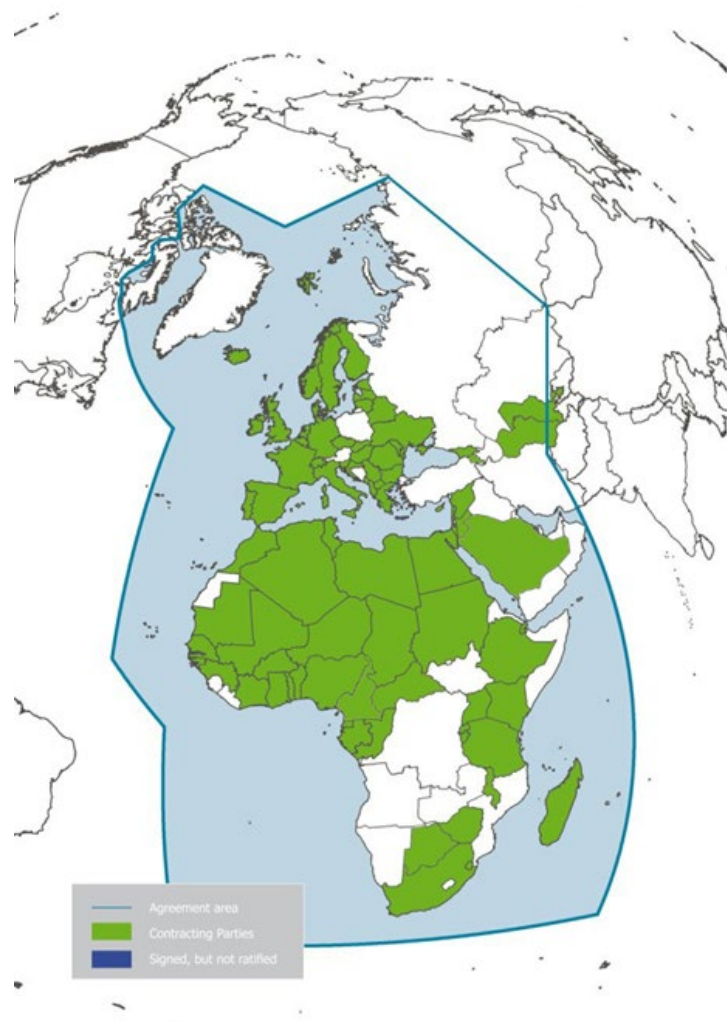


Figure 9. Map of the Agreement Area of AEWA

- Mandate:
 - Agreement in the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species, Article IV, paragraph 3
- Relevant documents:
 - [Website](#)
 - [Agreement Text and Annexes](#)
 - [AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027](#)
 - [Progress of Implementation of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 \(Period 2019-2022\)](#) (Sep 2022, MOP8)
 - [Resolution 8.3 State of Implementation of AEWA and its Strategic Plan 2019-2027](#) (Sep 2022, MOP8)
 - [Single Species Action Plans under AEWA \(some jointly with EAAFP and CMS\)](#)
 - AEWA Resolutions dealing with energy
 - [Resolution 5.11. Power Lines and Migratory Waterbirds](#) (2012)
 - [Resolution 6.11. Addressing Impacts of Renewable Energy Deployment on Migratory Waterbirds](#) (2015)

2. Americas Flyway

Americas Flyways Framework



Figure 11. Americas Flyways Range States and CMS Parties

- Mandate:
 - Initiative in the framework of Convention on Migratory Species, Article IV, paragraph 4
- Relevant documents:
 - [Annex 2 to CMS Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Americas Flyways Framework: A Framework for the Conservation of Migratory Birds in the Americas](#)
 - [Annex 3 to CMS Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Action Plan for the Americas Flyways 2018-2023](#)
 - [CMS COP13 Decisions 13.41, 13.42 and 13.44](#)
 - [Annex 1 to Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways \(2014-2023\)](#)
- Key findings:
 - Covers all migratory birds in the Americas
 - 36 Range States, out of which 16 are CMS Parties (as of 18 April 2023)
 - Action Plan for the Americas Flyways expires in 2023
 - Geographical overlap with many different initiatives within and without CMS
 - Potential of the Framework and its Task Force to serve as a coordination forum

- 5 out of 30 CAF Range States are also Range States of ITTEA (2 are CMS Parties involved in ITTEA)
- Reporting and species work should be carefully coordinated

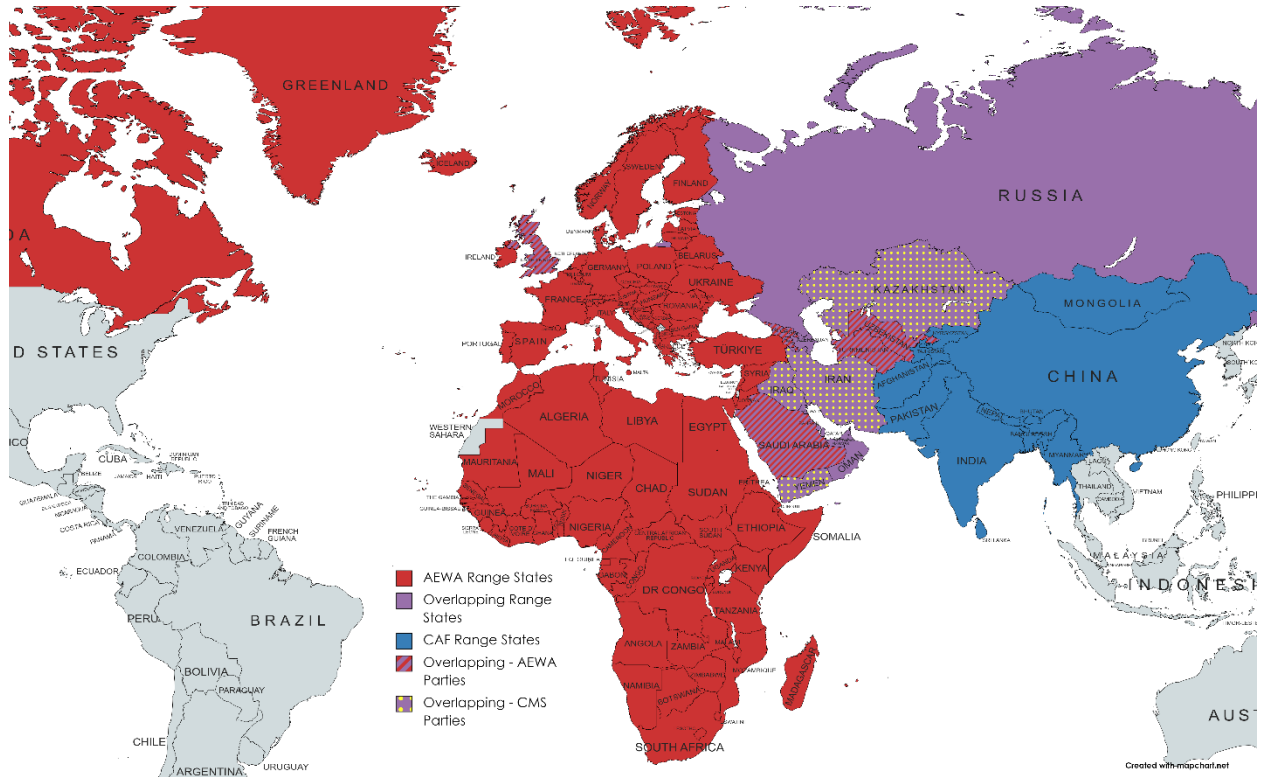


Figure 13. Map of CAF-AEWA overlap

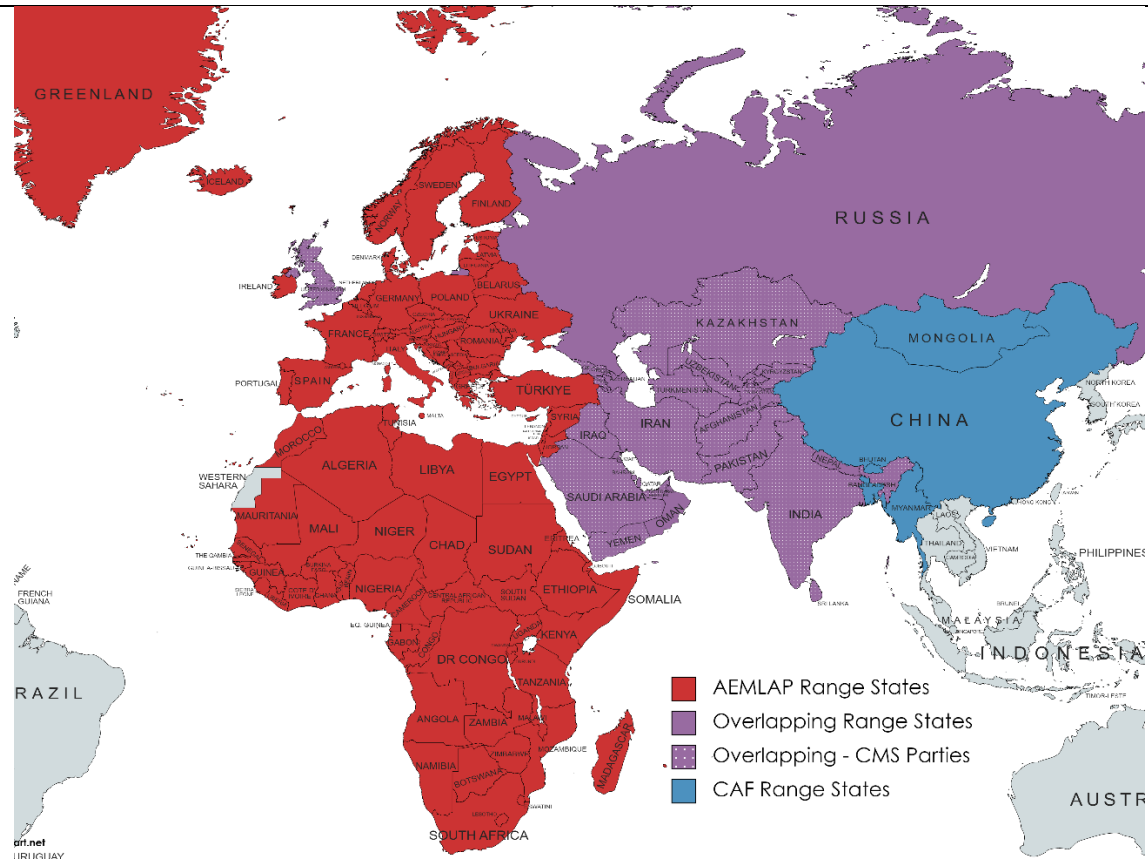


Figure 14. Map of CAF-AEMLAP overlap

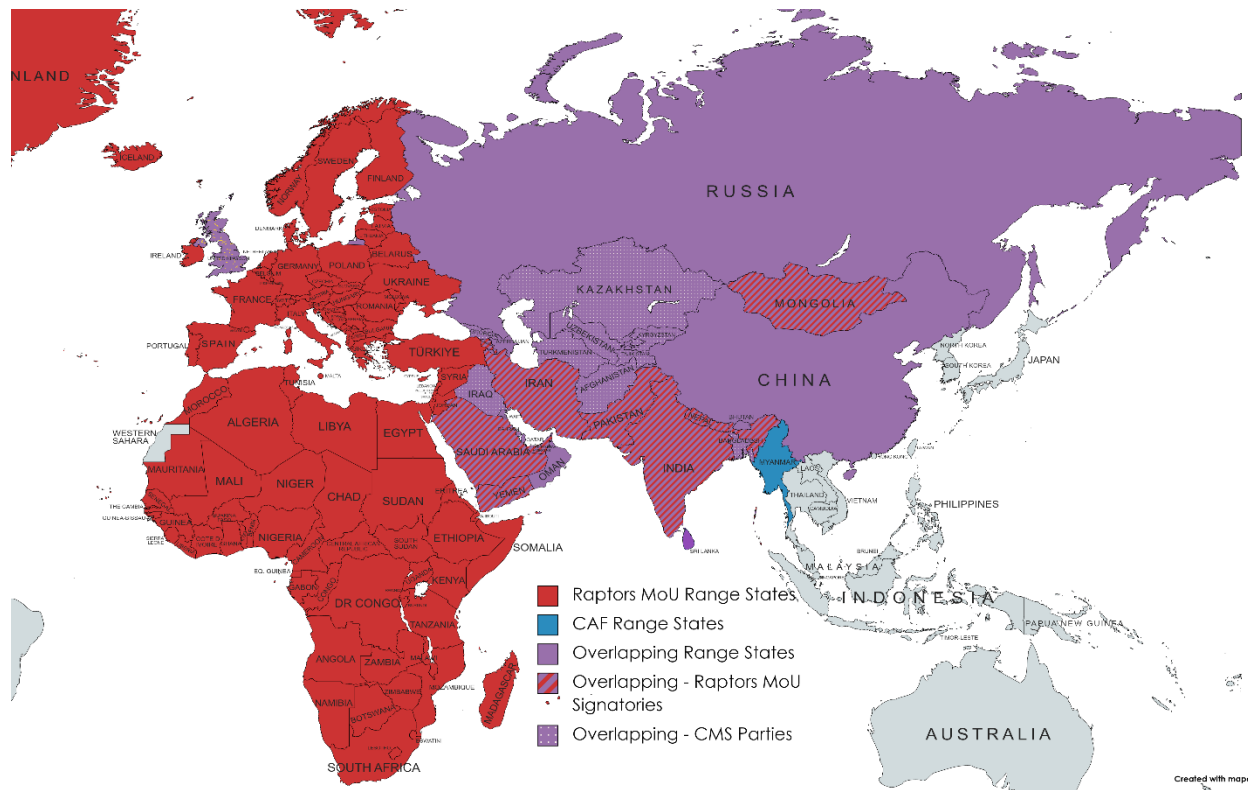


Figure 15. Map of CAF-Raptors MoU overlap



Figure 16. Map of CAF-ITTEA/EAAF overlap

East Asian-Australasian Flyway

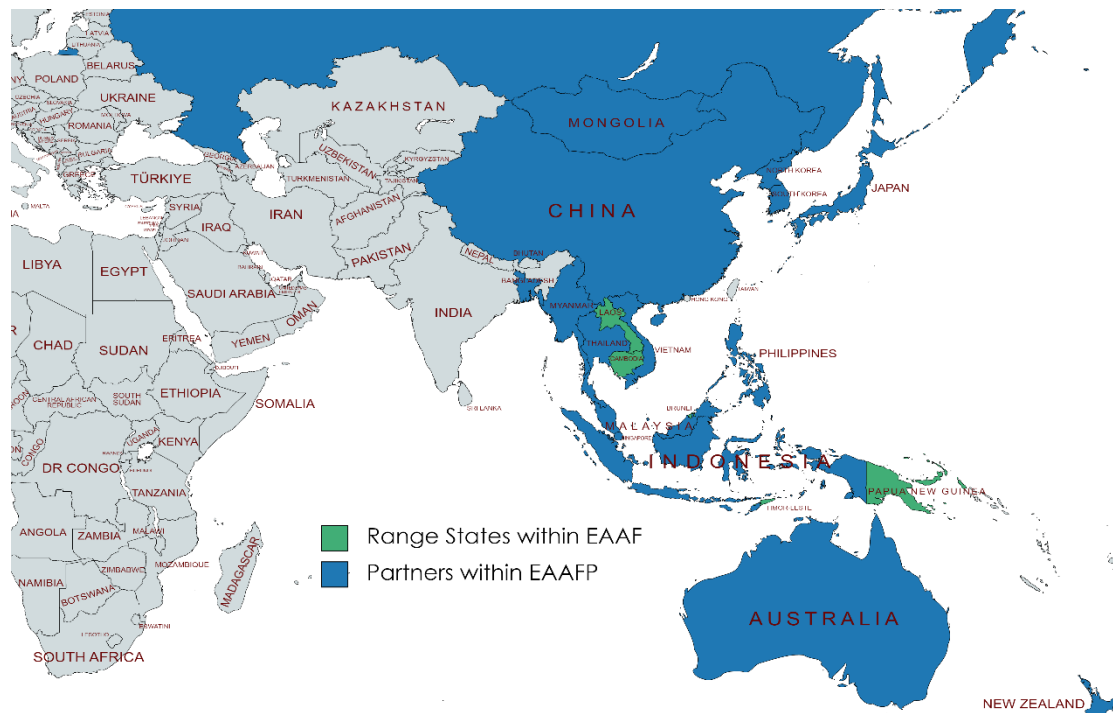


Figure 17. Map of EAAF Range States and EAAFP Partners

- Relevant documents:
 - [Website](#)
 - [Partnership for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and the Sustainable Use of their Habitats in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway](#)
 - [EAAFP Strategic Plan 2019-2028](#)
 - [Annex 1 to Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways \(2014-2023\)](#)

- Key findings:
 - Most of the EAAFP Range States are not CMS Parties
 - Out 22 EAAFP Range States, 5 are CMS Parties (as of 18 April 2023)
 - Potential to increase engagement of Range States which are not CMS Parties
 - Single Species Action Plans under EAAFP (some jointly with AEWA and CMS)
 - Geographical overlap between EAAFP Task Force and ITTEA
 - Reporting and species work should be carefully coordinated
 - Synergies between the CMS Secretariat and other EAAFP Partners
 - Overlap between ITTEA and CAF
 - Reporting and species work should be carefully coordinated



Figure 18. Map of EAAF/ITTEA Range States and CMS Parties

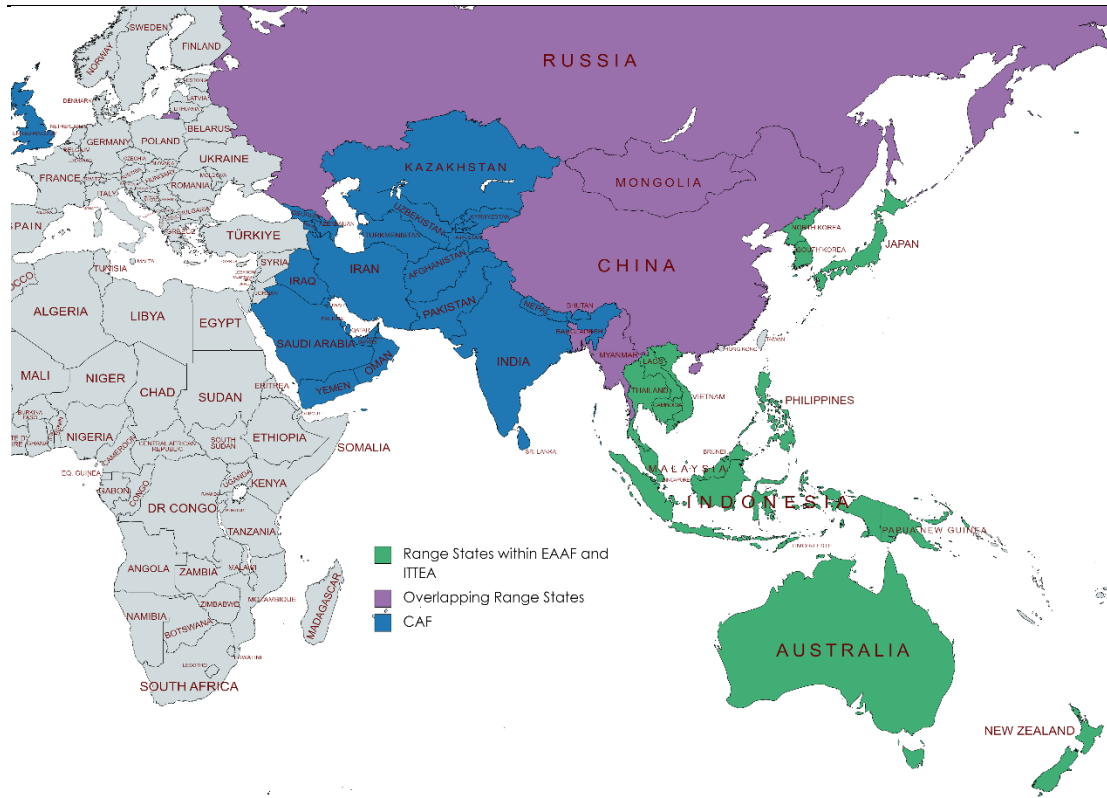


Figure 19. Map of EAAF/ITTEA-CAF overlap

Central Pacific Flyway

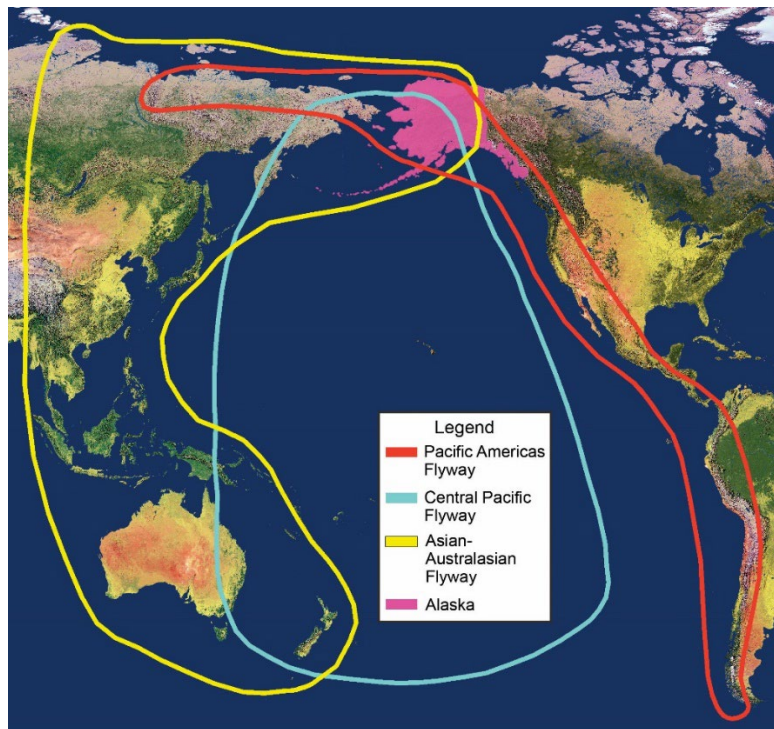


Figure 20. Central Pacific Flyway (Source: US Geological Survey)

- Relevant documents:
 - [Annex 1 to Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways \(2014-2023\)](#)
 - [Strategic Review of Flyway Paper \(CMS Sec., 2007\)](#)
- Key findings:
 - No Flyway instrument yet
 - Partly overlaps with EAAFP
 - Includes Australia, New Zealand and many islands belonging to CMS Parties (islands belong to 7 CMS Parties) (as of 18 April 2023)
 - Most of the birds present in the flyway are on CMS Appendix II, with some present on Appendix 1 as well (e.g. Bristle-Thighed Curlew (*Numenius Tahitiensis*))
 - Potential to promote the Convention in the flyway with unique biological characteristics

4. Other CMS instruments

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP)

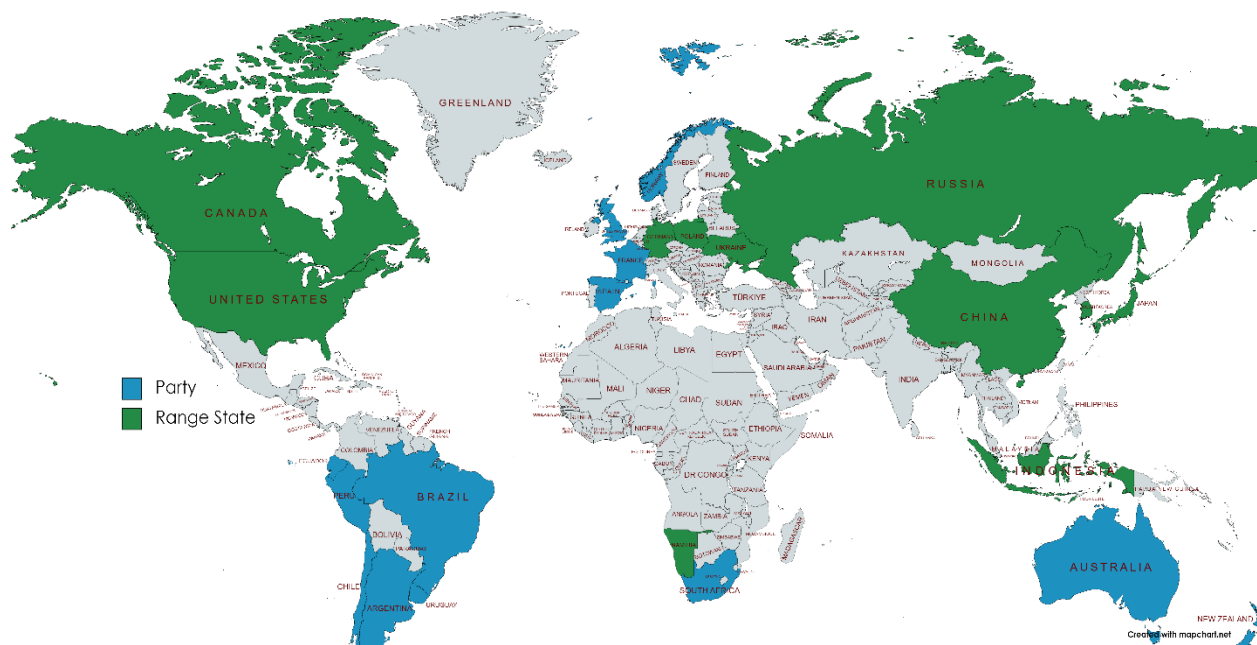


Figure 21. Map of ACAP Range States and Parties

- Mandate:
 - Agreement in the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species, Article IV, paragraph 3
- Relevant documents:
 - [Website](#)
 - [Agreement Text](#)
 - [Advisory Committee Work Programme 2023-2025](#)

- [MOP7 Indicators to Measure the Success of the Agreement](#)
- Key findings:
 - 25 Range States, out of which 13 are Party to the Agreement (as of 18 April 2023)
 - Potential is to ensure more active engagement of Range States not currently participating in the Agreement's work

ANNEX 4: MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL CMS INSTRUMENTS COVERING INDIVIDUAL SPECIES OR GROUPS OF SPECIES¹

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Raptors MOU)



Figure 22. Map of Raptors MOU Range States and Signatories

- Mandate:
 - MOU in the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species, Article IV, paragraph 4
- Relevant documents:
 - [Website](#)
 - [MOU Text](#)
 - [Annex 1 to the MOU Species list](#)
 - [Annex 2 to the MOU Geographical Scope](#)
 - [Annex 3 to the MOU Action Plan](#)
 - [Annex 1 to Resolution 12.11 \(Rev.COP13\) Programme of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways \(2014-2023\)](#)
 - [Technical Advisory Group to the Raptors MOU \(TAG\) Workplan 2023-2026](#)
 - [First Review of the Raptors MOU Action Plan \(Pritchard 2020\)](#); Short version available [here](#).
 - [Connectivity between countries established by landbirds and raptors migrating along the African–Eurasian flyway \(Guilherme, 2022\)](#)

¹ The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on the maps in the annex are not warranted to be error free nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

- Key findings:
 - 132 Range States, out of which 63 are MOU Signatories (as of 18 April 2023)
 - Action Plan deals extensively with Flyways
 - TAG Workplan 2023-2026 includes the development of an East African Eurasian Flyway initiative, to, *inter alia*, address the monitoring gap
 - Poisoning and electrocution, as well as illegal killing, taking and trade, present the major threats to raptors
 - Strategic Environmental Assessments assessing impact of new energy projects on raptors conservation could be emphasized
 - Locust and quelea issue in Central and East Africa is a local threat that would have have a flyway impact if addressed
 - TAG Workplan 2023-2026 plans to address the issue by studying the impact of locust and quelea control programmes on raptors
 - Overlap between Raptors MOU and CAF, and Raptors MOU and AEMLAP
 - Reporting and species work should be carefully coordinated

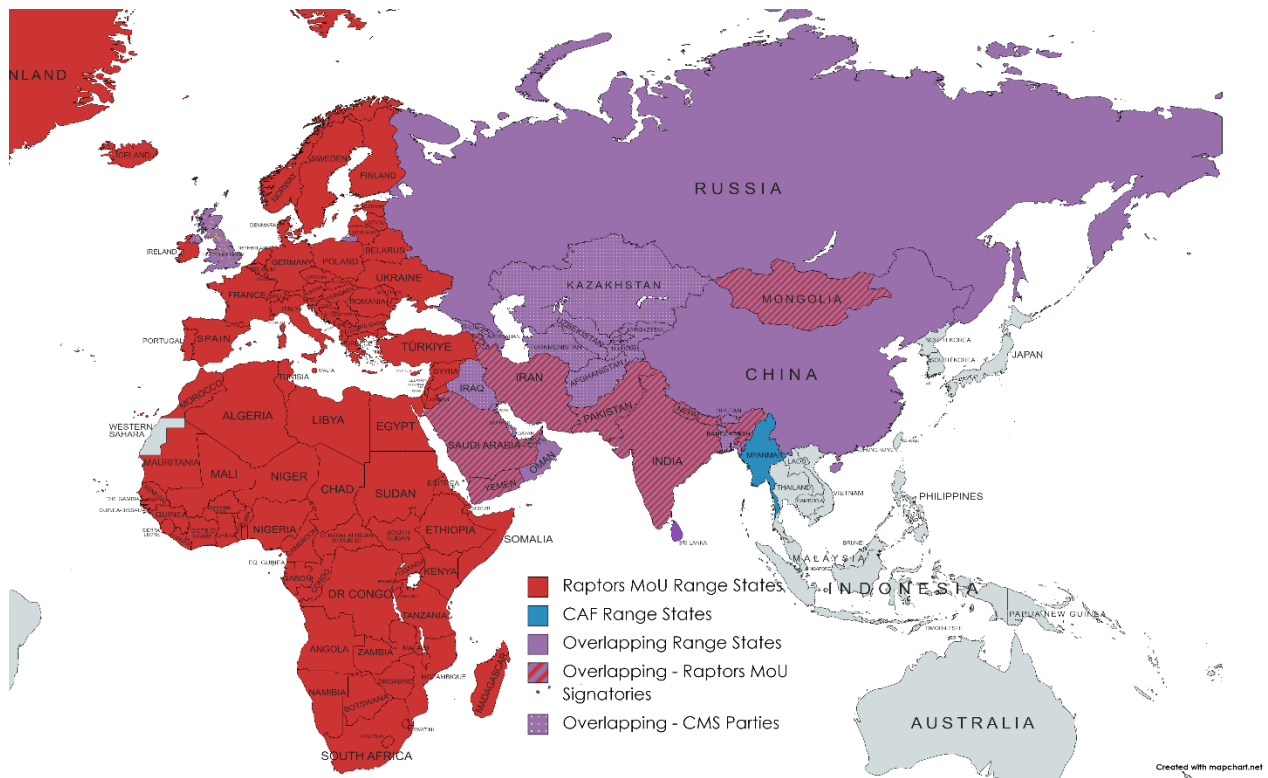


Figure 23. Map of Raptors MOU-CAF overlap

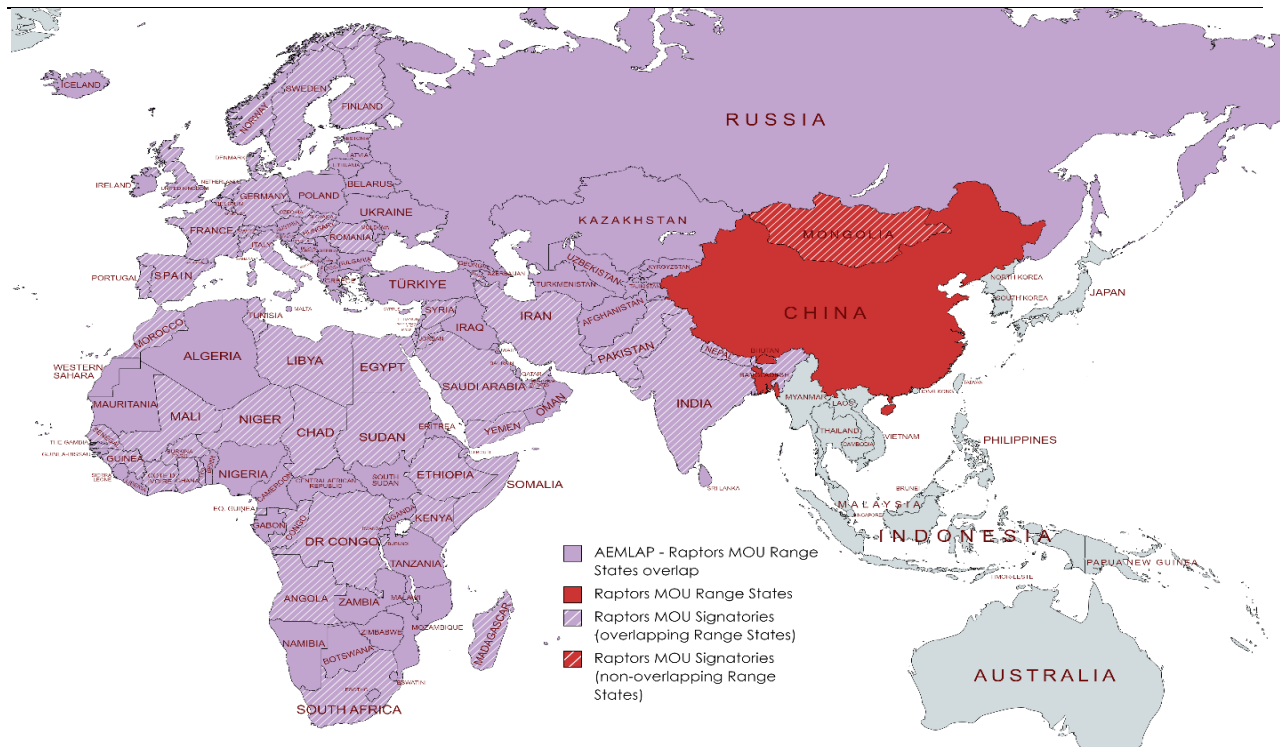


Figure 24. Map of Raptors MOU - AEMLAP overlap

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew (*Numenius tenuirostris*)



Figure 25. Map of Slender-billed Curlew MOU Signatories and Range States

- Mandate:
 - MOU in the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species, Article IV, paragraph 4
- Relevant documents:
 - [Website](#)
 - [MOU Text](#)
 - [MOU Action Plan](#)
- Key findings:
 - 18 out of 27 Range States are MOU Signatories (as of 18 April 2023), making full implementation difficult to achieve
 - Action Plan dates to 1994

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*)



Figure 26. Map of Siberian Crane MOU Signatories

- Mandate:
 - MOU in the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species, Article IV, paragraph 4
- Relevant documents:
 - [Website](#)
 - [MOU Text](#)

- [MOU Action Plan and Conservation Plans](#)
- Key findings:
 - All Range States are MOU Signatories (as of 18 April 2023)
 - Covers three flyways of the Siberian Crane
 - Birds only reported in Western and Eastern Flyway, no birds in Central Flyway
 - Establishment of the West/Central Asian Flyway Site Network for Migratory Cranes and other waterbirds in 2007 to protect key sites for Siberian cranes along the west and central flyways (the eastern flyway covered under the EAAFP Site Network)
 - Action Plan and Conservation Plans date to 2010
 - Annual implementation reports are required under the MOU
 - Challenges to ensure sustainable funding to support coordination, as well as hosting the 8th Meeting of the Signatories (MOS8), which was not held due to lack of funds, staffing capacities and the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Lack of financial resources for regular coordination

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle European Population of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*)



Figure 27. Map of Middle European Great Bustard MOU Signatories and Range States

- Mandate:
 - MoU in the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species, Article IV, paragraph 4

- Relevant documents:
 - [Website](#)
 - [MOU Text](#)
 - [MOU Action Plan](#)

- Key findings:
 - 22 Range States, out of which 16 are MOU Signatories (as of 18 April 2023)
 - Action Plan dates to 2016
 - Action Plan contains Flyways references
 - Synergies between the MOU and AEMLAP could be maximised
 - Identification of date, host country and funding for the 4th Meeting of the Signatories (MOS4) (originally to be held in 2020, but postponed) needs to be identified
 - Lack of funding for Aquatic Warbler Coordination Officer

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Bird Species and Their Habitats



Figure 29. Map of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Bird Species and Their Habitats MOU Signatories

- **Mandate:**
 - MOU in the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species, Article IV, paragraph 4
- **Relevant documents:**
 - [Website](#)
 - [MOU Text](#)
 - [MOU Action Plan](#)
- **Key findings:**
 - All 5 Range States are MOU Signatories (as of 18 April 2023)
 - Virtual meeting on monitoring the Action Plan held in 2020
 - Action Plan is valid until 2023
 - Challenge is to raise funds to support the implementation of the MOU, as well as to organize the 3rd Meeting of the Signatories (MOS3), which is expected to take stock of the implementation of the MOU Action Plan

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of High Andean Flamingos and Their Habitats



Figure 30. Map of High Andean Flamingos and Their Habitats MOU Signatories and Range States

- Mandate:
 - MOU in the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species, Article IV, paragraph 4

- Relevant documents:
 - [Website](#)
 - [MOU Text](#)
 - [Draft Action Plan](#)

- Key findings:
 - 3 out of 4 Range States are MOU Signatories (as of 18 April 2023)
 - Both species covered by the MOU are in CMS Appendix 1
 - Action Plan is not yet adopted
 - Only meeting of the MOU Signatories in 2016

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Ruddy-headed Goose (*Chloephaga rubidiceps*)

- Mandate:
 - MOU in the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species, Article IV, paragraph 4

- Relevant documents:
 - [Website](#)
 - [MOU Text](#)

- Key findings:
 - MOU between Argentina and Chile, both CMS Parties
 - Action Plan is not yet developed