



## ASIA-PACIFIC ILLEGAL TAKING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE (ITTEA)

Bluethroat in mist nest © Bird Conservation Society of Thailand

### The problem

The illegal hunting, taking, and trade of migratory birds is a significant threat to migratory birds across the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF). The illegal taking of wild birds and/or their trade, has already caused the population decline of threatened species. Along with habitat loss, overexploitation remains a top contributor to biodiversity loss, yet there are still significant knowledge gaps, especially for migratory birds, that undermine the ability to make informed management and/or conservation decisions. International cooperation and joint prioritized action offer the best opportunity to counter the threats impacting migratory birds and to create a common framework to revert current trends.

### The Task Force

**Mandate:** CMS COP Resolution 11.16 (Rev. COP14) *The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds.*

Following the decisions of the 12th and the 13th meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CMS, held in Manila in 2017 (COP12) and in Gandhinagar, India, in 2020 (COP13), the Secretariats of CMS and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) have worked to establish the Task Force, resulting in the first meeting of the ITTEA in Brisbane, Australia in March 2023. The meeting was attended by government representatives and observers from

EAAFP Range States. At COP14 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in 2024, the Task Force was renamed as the Asia-Pacific Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds Intergovernmental Task Force. The Task Force is modelled on successful and ongoing similar initiatives, such as the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)<sup>1</sup>.

### OBJECTIVES, PRIORITY ACTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Chair** - Australia; **Vice-Chair** - Bangladesh

The Task Force's activities are guided by a prioritized Programme of Work (POW) that:

- Promotes and facilitates the implementation of relevant decisions and plans adopted under CMS, EAAFP and other frameworks relevant to the region such as the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI) and bilateral migratory bird agreements
- Promotes information exchange and best-practice sharing
- Seeks innovative approaches and opportunities for fundraising and resource mobilization for priority actions
- Support priority actions, including:
  - i) a situation analysis of species, threats, conservation and management instruments of the EAAF;
  - ii) legal and law enforcement capacity building for addressing illegal taking of wild birds; and
  - iii) awareness raising for impacts of threats to migratory birds and recommended conservation.
- Upcoming activities include:
  - i) establishing baselines for scale and scope;
  - ii) developing an online scoreboard for national selfassessment;
  - iii) expansion of public awareness raising activities on the impact of illegal taking of wild birds.

<sup>1</sup> See: <https://www.cms.int/en/taskforce/mikt>

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## Goal and Scope of the Task Force

The main goal of the Task Force is to ensure that no illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory birds takes place in the East Asian-Australasian Region. The Task Force will bring together the relevant government institutions and other stakeholders to tackle this threat through an inclusive approach and by promoting international cooperation.

The Task Force will be regional, covering all states of the EAAF: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste (East Timor), United States of America, and Viet Nam.

The Task Force aims to further extend the work started by the existing Task Force of the EAAFP, which is focused on waterbirds only. The new CMS Task Force extends actions to other migratory birds, such as landbirds and raptors, and both CMS and EAAFP will work closely together to reduce duplication, enhance synergies, and promote efficient and effective collaboration.

The Task Force was established thanks to the generous support of the Government of Australia.

## Recent Reports

- [Exploratory surveys to clarify the status of the Far Eastern Curlew on the Sarawak Coastline in Borneo, Malaysia - Malaysian Nature Society Kuching Branch](#)
- [Assessment of hunting pressure on Far Eastern Curlew and other shorebirds in Russian Far East: Summary of the fieldwork in 2019-2022 - BirdsRussia](#)
- [Bird hunting in mainland Southeast Asia: Situation analysis and recommendations for conservation action - BirdLife International](#)



Countries covering the East Asian-Australasian Flyway  
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Photos: Yellow-breasted Bunting © Sergey Yeliseev; Spoon-billed Sandpiper © tareq's Photography

## About CMS

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), also known as the Bonn Convention, works for the conservation of a wide array of endangered migratory animals worldwide through negotiation and implementation of agreements and species action plans. It has 133 Parties (as of 1 January 2023).

CMS engages all relevant stakeholders in addressing threats to migratory species in concert with all other aspects of wildlife conservation and management.

## CMS Instruments

Animals receive protection under CMS through listing on its two Appendices, through global or regional agreements and through action plans.

For more Fact Sheets please visit: <http://www.cms.int/en/publications/factsheets>



<https://www.facebook.com/bonnconvention>



<https://www.twitter.com/bonnconvention>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/convention-migratory-species/>



<https://www.instagram.com/cms.migratory.species>

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