

# Addressing bird hunting in the Southeast Asia region – updates and next steps

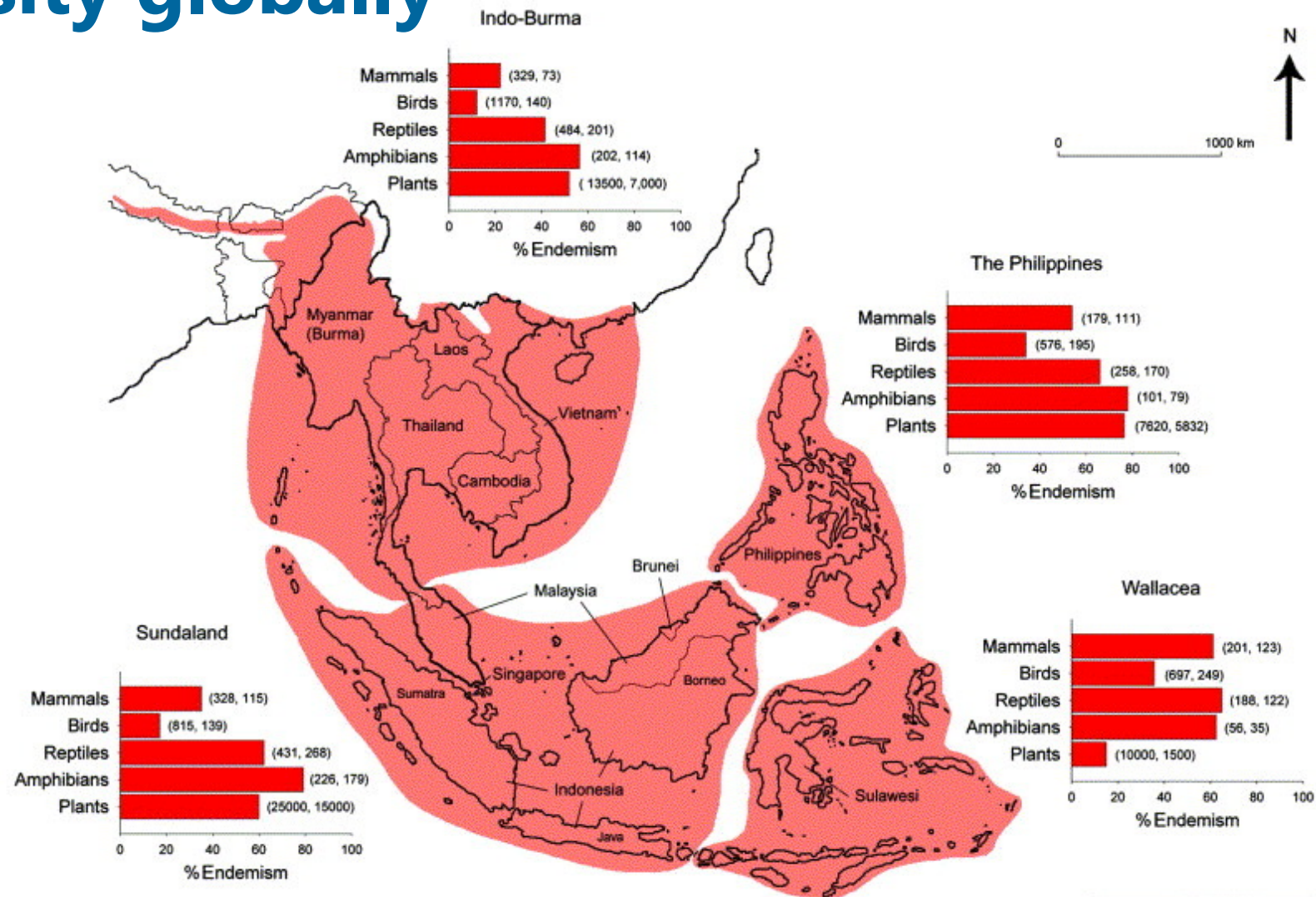




# Outline

- Background on the bird hunting situation analyses in Southeast Asia
- Updates on key findings
- Updates on new publications
- Next steps for the situation analysis
  - Review of draft report
  - External review
  - Publication
- Next steps for conservation action

# Southeast Asia – a region important for biodiversity globally



TRENDS in Ecology & Evolution

# Hunting a key threat to wildlife in SE Asia

- Hunting the **greatest immediate threat** to Southeast Asia's biodiversity, especially vertebrates
- There is also widespread targeted hunting of **high-value species**
- Wildlife hunting in SEA cannot be considered *sustainable*
- Focus on **cross-border trade** is insufficient to address overexploitation of wildlife because **hunting of wildlife is significant at national and local scale**



Wild meat in Indonesian markets (Source: The Straits Times)



# Scale of bird hunting in Southeast Asia

- Large numbers of waterbirds taken across the region for food (and domestic trade for wild meat)
- Also large scale trapping of passerines in many parts of region (China and Southeast Asia)
- Little systematic survey of bird hunting and trade (at local level) for food and other uses



Wild birds harvested by farmers from rice fields in SE Asia (Source: Anon)

# Reasons why people consume or trade wildlife in Southeast Asia

- Perceived **health/medicinal** value of wild meat
- Local poverty, **limited livelihood** opportunities
- Improved access to forests, wetlands and markets
- Improved (or cheaper) **hunting tools** (e.g. nets, snares)
- Increasingly local and regional demand for wild meat, medicinal products, and wild animals as pets
- Hunters often take common species for their own consumption, but also take rarer species opportunistically and sell surplus meat and **commercially valuable parts**.





# We need to better understand bird hunting in Southeast Asia

- **Understand the magnitude/extent** of hunting and the underlying motivations
- Understand the **legal dimensions and content** of bird hunting
- **Assess the relative impact** of hunting pressure on **species**
- **Establishing critical baselines** for measuring impact of future conservation action.
- Form an evidence base to **allow for identification of priorities and strategies** to guide policy development and support government action



# Objectives of situation analysis on bird hunting

- To develop an **assessment and synthesis of wildlife protection and protected area legislation** in each Southeast Asian country
- To identify the **scale of (lethal) hunting of birds and develop a quantitative assessment of species being hunted.**
- To develop **road-map(s) for subsequent efforts** and action plans at the national level to tackle illegal hunting and trade
  - Strengthen monitoring
  - Contribute to the work of the CMS-EAAFP Task Force on the Illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory birds



# Activities under the situation analysis

- **Reviewing national legislation** on wildlife protection, hunting and natural resource (NTFP) use
- **Identifying current hotspots** of bird hunting/sale across the country
- **Field surveys** of currently known hotspots of bird hunting and bird markets for wild meat
- **Consultation and interviews** with stakeholders (local people, site managers)
- **Compiling of information** from diverse data sources on bird hunting
- **Provide recommendations** to support government action & build road-map for future conservation intervention including advocacy, CEPA, community engagement and enforcement

# Compiling data on bird hunting

- Data collected **species by species**
  - **Minimum and maximum estimate** of no. of individuals killed or taken/year
  - **Reason(s)** for killing/taking
  - **Type(s) of illegality involved** (protected species under national legislation, within a protected area, illegal method, etc.)
- Information on **worst locations or hotspots**
- Datasets available online for **peer-review by external experts, feedback used for revision by national data compilers**

**Protected: Review of illegal killing and taking of birds in the Mediterranean**

Posted on October 25, 2012 by Anne-Laure Buisson

BirdLife International is currently implementing a "Review of Illegal Killing, trapping and trade of wild Birds in the Mediterranean". This scientific review is the first comprehensive quantitative Pan-Mediterranean situation analysis of the scope and scale of illegal killing of birds

This scientific review will serve as a basis for:

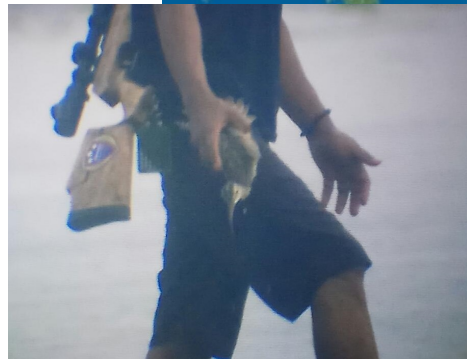
- setting conservation priorities in relation to illegal killing of migratory birds in the Mediterranean
- advancing a clear advocacy agenda working with governments and international conventions
- focussing a future programme of investment in and support to BirdLife Partners to address illegal killing
- monitoring of changes over time to assess the impact of conservation measures including the Birds Directive, Bern Convention, CMS/AEWA/Raptor MOU, and BirdLife actions.

One of the key objectives of this initiative is to **compile existing and new information on the worst locations for illegal killing, the practices used and numbers of individuals per species illegally killed/trapped.** In order to achieve this, 26 BirdLife Partners in the Mediterranean region (= BirdLife Partner from Georgia) have compiled the relevant data on illegal killing in their country in a specific excel template. For more detailed information on the approach, please consult the [Guidance for collecting data on illegal killing](#) used by BirdLife Partners. Preliminary results are now available for wider review.

We would like to invite relevant Governments, international conventions, hunting organisations and others to review these results and provide any feedback, corrections or comments. Please download the templates (one per



# Hunting and trapping of wild birds widespread across Southeast Asia



# Hunting of birds widespread across mainland Southeast Asia

- Widespread evidence of hunting across Indo-Burma region
- More than 500 species hunted in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Thailand
- Evidence from news reports, youtube videos on hunting, and direct survey observations
- Hunting widespread in agricultural areas where little enforcement for wildlife (e.g. paddy fields)

# Estimated hunting take for shorebirds

Species	Latin	Lower	Upper
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	2700	27000
Eurasian Curlew	<i>N. arquata</i>	900	9000
Far Eastern Curlew	<i>N. madagascariensis</i>	5	10
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	900	9000
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>L. limosa</i>	900	9000
Great Knot	<i>C. tenuirostris</i>	900	9000
Red Knot	<i>C. canutus</i>	5	50
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>C. falcinellus</i>	900	9000
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>C. acuminata</i>	5	20
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>C. ferruginea</i>	900	13500
Long-toed Stint	<i>C. subminuta</i>	1350	11250
Spoon-billed Sandpiper	<i>C. pygmaea</i>	1	5
Red-necked Stint	<i>C. ruficollis</i>	2700	27000
Sanderling	<i>C. alba</i>	4500	36000
Dunlin	<i>C. alpina</i>	10	100
Asian Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus semipalmatus</i>	100	1350
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1800	9000
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	3600	27000
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	5	50
Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>T. brevipes</i>	5	50
Spotted Redshank	<i>T. erythropus</i>	900	8100
Common Greenshank	<i>T. nebularia</i>	9000	45000
Common Redshank	<i>T. totanus</i>	3600	22500
Wood Sandpiper	<i>T. glareola</i>	6750	27000
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>T. stagnatilis</i>	4500	18000
Nordmann's Greenshank	<i>T. guttifer</i>	1	10

Estimates by Nguyen Hoai Bao, Nguyen Quang Hao, Yong Ding Li & Le Trong Trai



# Key groups of species hunted



**Shorebirds** in  
intertidal flats and  
fishponds



**Rails and crakes** in  
paddy fields



**Hérons and bitterns** in  
paddy fields



**Passerines** in paddy fields,  
marshes and forests



# Evidence of large-scale trade of waterbirds for food



Widespread and open trading of wild birds in food markets in Vietnam (left) and Myanmar (right)

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## PERSPECTIVE

# The specter of empty countrysides and wet of hunting take on birds in Indo-Burma

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Conservation  
A Journal of the Society for

TABLE 1 Snapshot market surveys focused on sampling bird diversity and abundance in major/provincial markets trading birds for wild meat across Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam from October 2019 to March 2020

District (market)	Total abundance (individuals)	Identified species	Forest species	Wetland/paddy associated species	Sampling effort
Cambodia					
Kampong Cham					
Banthey	120	8	0	7	1 day (October 2019)
Prey Veng					
Prey Veng <sup>a</sup>	c. 300	12	0	10	3 days (October 2019)
Lao PDR					
Bolikhamsay					
Paksan	60	5	2	3	2 days (November 2019)
Khamkert <sup>b</sup> (Lak Sao)	135	22	16	1	3 days (November 2019)
Khammouane					
Hinboun	42	12	9	1	1 day (January 2020)
Xiangkhouang					
Paek <sup>b,c</sup>	c. 10,500	20	16	3	3 Days (November 2019)
Salavan					
Salavan	42	16	14	1	1 day (March 2020)
Champasak					
Khong	16	7	2	0	1 day (March 2020)
Myanmar					
Mandalay Region					
Mandalay <sup>a</sup>	143	6	0	5 <sup>d</sup>	2 days (October 2019)
Sagaing Region					
Monywa	122	5	0	5 <sup>d</sup>	3 days (October 2019)
Rakhine State					
Sittwe	4	4	0	4	1 day (December 2019)
Viet Nam					
Hanoi					
Mo Cho	188	3	0	1 <sup>d</sup>	1 day (October 2019)
Lang Hoa Lac	560	13	0	13	2 days (October 2019)

<sup>a</sup>High counts of unidentified passerines, small bitterns, shorebirds (i.e. snipes), and quails (mostly de-feathered and difficult to identify).

<sup>b</sup>Markets known for wild meat being traded based on past surveys.

<sup>c</sup>Includes common snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, but potentially also other *Gallinago* species

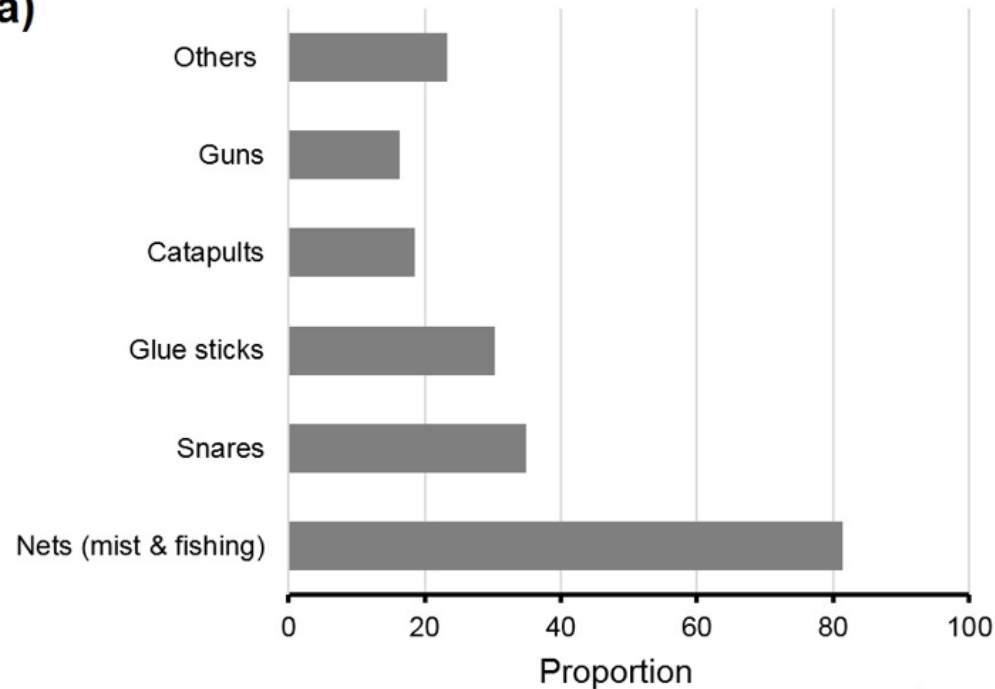
<sup>d</sup>Counts contain high abundance of Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* (many de-feathered and difficult to identify) but also expected to contain other swallow species.



# Type of hunting tools used

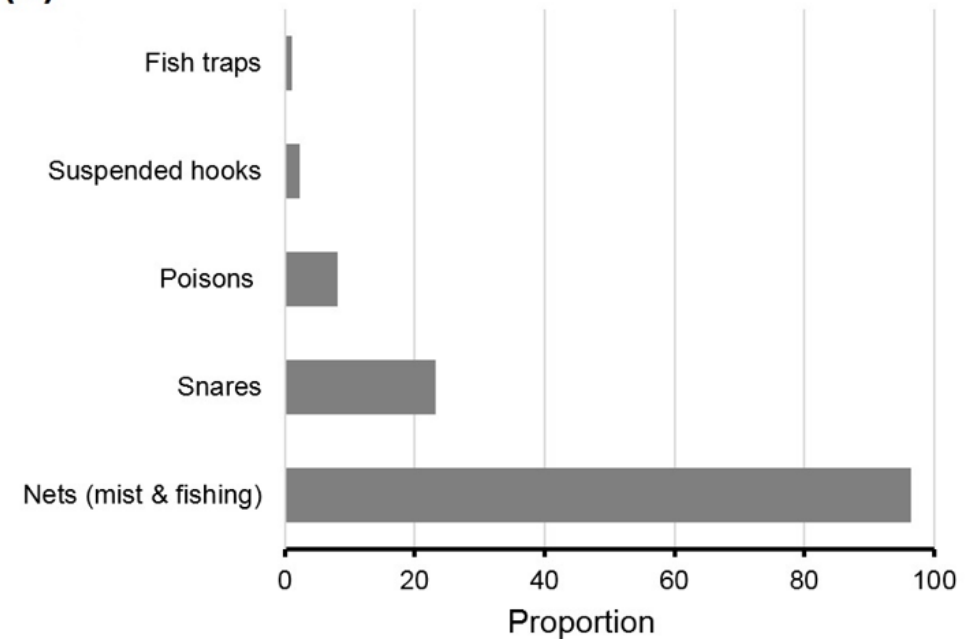
Coastal villages in Koh Kong Province  
(Cambodia)

(a)



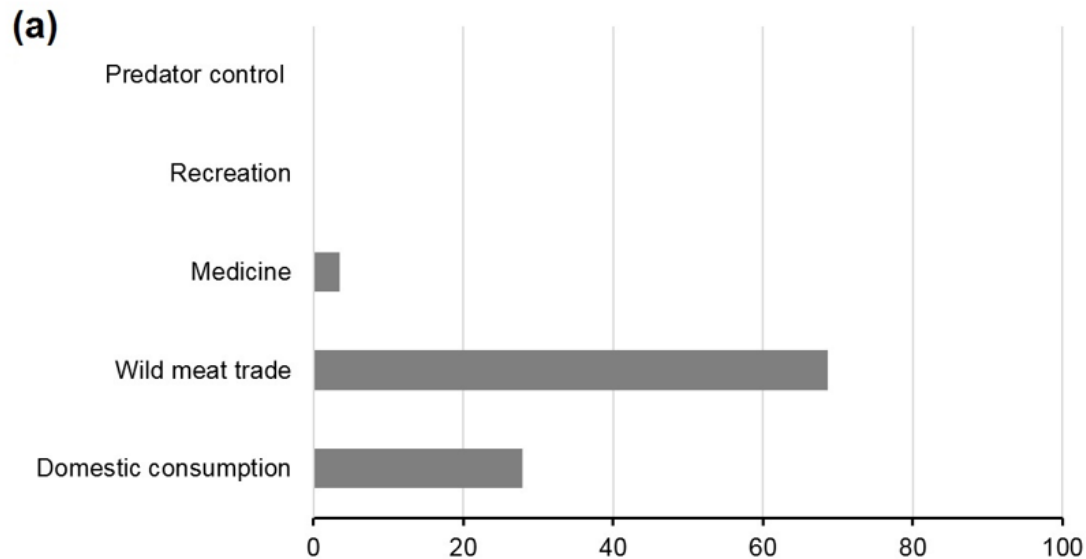
Inland villages in Bolikhamsay and  
Xiengkhouang (Laos)

(b)

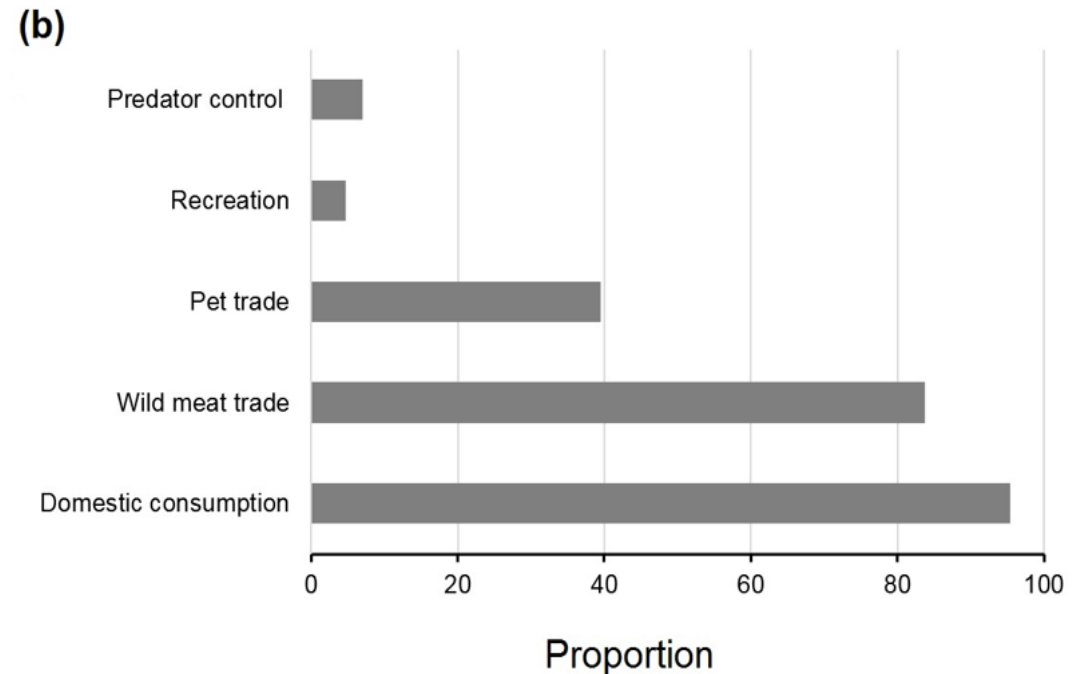


# Drivers of bird hunting in two Indo-Burma landscapes

Coastal villages in Koh Kong Province  
(Cambodia)



Inland villages in Bolikhamsay and  
Xiengkhouang (Laos)



# Mist-nets are easily available and widely used for hunting

Mist-nets are readily available in shops selling farming products in many parts of Southeast Asia



Mist-nets are rampantly planted along wetlands, especially fishponds and mudflats to catch birds, or destroy birds (perceived to be raiding fish farms)



Lesser Sand Plover



# Feedback of bird hunting survey findings to governments

- Myanmar
- Thailand
- Cambodia
- Vietnam
- Malaysia
- Lao PDR



# In summary...

- More than 500 species affected by hunting and trapping in Southeast Asia
- Bird hunting for the wild meat trade (and domestic consumption) a major threat to species in SE Asia, especially in mainland Southeast Asia/Indo-Burma
- Little monitoring in agricultural landscapes used by many waterbird species
- Regulation of hunting tools, especially nets, important in protecting waterbird populations
- Stronger government action needed in most Southeast Asian countries, in complement with local engagement



# Next steps for the situation analysis

- Draft outline of situation analysis project report with a focus on mainland Southeast Asian countries (completed, Dec 2021)
- Finalising field work and data compilation for insular SE Asia countries
- Publication of mainland Southeast Asia/Indo-Burma situation analysis (planned early 2023)
- Side event at EAAFP MOP11 (Mar 2023)
- Government consultations (ongoing)



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# Situation analysis



BirdLife  
INTERNATIONAL

## Bird Hunting in mainland Southeast Asia

A situation analysis and a  
country-by-country summary



# Country sections outline

- Overview of biodiversity laws
- Summary of species hunted
- Reasons and motivations for bird hunting
- Hunting practices
- Sites for further monitoring
- Conservation recommendations

**Table 2.** Estimates of take of the most heavily hunted bird species in Bangladesh.

Species	Scientific name	Lower estimate	Upper estimate	Main use(s)
Western Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia suratensis</i>	2,300	2,900	Food, pet bird trade
Indian Pond-heron*	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	700	1,200	Recreation, food
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	400	1,100	Recreation, food
Lesser Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	500	1,000	Food
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	400	850	Recreation, food
Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio indicus</i>	350	800	Recreation, food
Kentish Plover	<i>C. alexandrinus</i>	150	700	Food
Greater Sand Plover	<i>C. leschenaulti</i>	150	700	Food
Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	250	550	Recreation, food
Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>	150	500	Recreation, food
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	200	500	Recreation, food

\*Difficult to distinguish across at least two similar-looking species in non-breeding plumage



# Questions