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A Summit
for the
Flyways

April 23rd-26th 2018
Abu Dhabi,
United Arab Emirates



DECLARATION & OUTCOMES

A Summit for the Flyways

Outcomes

Declaration of the Global Flyways Summit

Connecting Nature, Connecting People

From 23-26 April 2018, government, donor, private sector, research, NGO and international convention representatives, from more than 70 countries and 100 organisations, gathered in Abu Dhabi for the first Global Flyways Summit. This **unprecedented meeting** brought together actors and decision-makers from all eight flyways of the world to address the critical declines in many migratory bird populations. The outcomes of the Summit were informed by the release of the **State of the World's Birds 2018**; of the world's 11,000 bird species, one in five are migratory, of which nearly 40% are in decline, with one in nine being threatened with global extinction.

In an increasingly globalised world, **migratory birds connect peoples, ecosystems and nations** and are critical indicators of the state of the environment and global life support systems. Their conservation depends on safeguarding the **large-scale connectivity** of habitats and ecological processes. Flyway conservation therefore epitomises the sort of global cooperation we urgently need, across nations, conventions, policy processes and sectors, to achieve wider **biodiversity, climate and sustainable development goals**.

Participants of the Summit resolved that **urgent actions** must be taken to fully implement existing conservation strategies, action plans and commitments and that experience gained should feed into the development of an **ambitious and effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework** incorporating the concept of 'ecological civilisation' and contributing to delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to place nature at the centre of both government and corporate decision-making and individual action. Key messages from the Summit include:

Migratory birds are flagships and indicators for nature conservation:

- Migratory birds **connect** us through their marathon journeys, often spanning the globe and inspiring people across countries and continents. They are especially **vulnerable** due to threats along the length of their flyways. The wonder and spectacle of bird migration symbolises the triumph of wildlife over the many obstacles and challenges along these journeys, but increasingly these obstacles are man-made and ever-more severe.
- Major **threats** to birds travelling along flyways include agricultural and coastal development leading to loss or degradation of habitat, inappropriately sited or operated wind turbines and powerlines

"The International Fund for Houbara Foundation was proud to host such a global gathering of experts to discuss the most important issues affecting the world's migratory birds. Due to its location, the United Arab Emirates is an important refuge for a variety of migratory species, and a commitment to conserving the environment has been a constant theme throughout the history of our nation. This emanates from the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, whose firmly held belief was that it was essential to preserve nature for succeeding generations. International cooperation is critical if we are to achieve this collective goal, which is why this summit was so important in determining a sustainable path for the future of flyways conservation"

**His Excellency Majid Ali Al Mansouri, Managing Director,
International Fund for Houbara Conservation**

resulting in collision, electrocution or displacement, unsustainable harvesting including illegal killing and taking of birds, other poisoning and climate change.

Effective flyway conservation depends on concerted, coordinated and cooperative action at a truly local to global and global to local scale, within and between flyways, involving key stakeholders including local communities and all conservation approaches and frameworks such as:

- Ensuring a robust **evidence-base**, with clear **scientific underpinning** of priority-setting, decision-making and conservation action, involving local people to help monitor birds and their habitats on the ground.
- Identifying, protecting, managing, restoring, connecting and monitoring **networks of key sites**, such as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (a subset of Key Biodiversity Areas) triggered by migratory birds, including via site networks such as those of the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership Flyway and Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and ensuring **landscape-** scale sustainable land use (especially agriculture).
- Ensuring cumulative impacts on migratory species are taken into account in **land use and seascape planning** and execution of development plans, programmes and projects, including through **strategic environmental assessment** at flyway scale, and by engaging with governments, business and other stakeholders.

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■ Ensuring **mainstreaming** of migratory bird and other biodiversity conservation into sectors such as energy, infrastructures and extractive industries.

■ Supporting **Multilateral Environmental Agreements** (MEAs), especially the UN Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), operating in a more coordinated way, to ensure agreement and implementation of actions at national and intergovernmental level, including through establishing multi-stakeholder thematic and species working groups, task forces and networks to facilitate and coordinate action and share experience and information.

■ Strengthening the **governance** of flyway conservation, especially for the Americas and Central Asian flyways, the West Asia-East African component of the African-Eurasian Flyway and intra- African flyways, with international institutions anchoring the cooperation between all countries and stakeholders along the flyway.

■ Strengthening and enforcing, where needed, relevant **national and regional policies, laws and legal frameworks** such as the European Union's Nature Directives and the US's Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

■ **Raising awareness, understanding and support** for migratory birds to increase the public drive and political imperative for their conservation.

The summit discussed eight top priorities for flyway conservation, agreeing on a number of key actions including:

Coasts: A multi-stakeholder Global 'Caring for Coasts' Forum, mandated by the relevant MEAs, should be established to bring together relevant stakeholders, to advance sustainable approaches to coastal ecosystem protection, management and restoration for migratory species and ecosystem services including climate change resilience. It should support existing partnerships and mechanisms for flyway- scale conservation, such as flyway site networks, and be underpinned by regional situation analyses of coastal habitat status and trends (e.g. for the Arabian region).

Energy: The needs of migratory birds must be mainstreamed into the onshore and offshore renewable energy and power transmission sectors, at all phases of energy production (planning, generation, transmission and distribution). Awareness of the issues and solutions must be raised early on among stakeholders, such as energy ministries, investors, project developers, donors and utilities companies, emphasising the business case for integrating bird/bat conservation. Targeted guidance needs to be developed, communicated and followed with stronger compliance mechanisms and greater power and remit of environmental ministries. The CMS Energy Task Force can facilitate this.

Illegal killing: All governments must commit to zero tolerance of illegal killing, taking and trade of wild birds. Increased effort is needed to strengthen, comply with and enforce relevant legislation and judicial

processes, and engage with stakeholders, local communities and wider society to change attitudes. The Bern Convention Tunis Action Plan for Europe and CMS Mediterranean Task Force, which have taken as a baseline the BirdLife review of illegal killing of birds, and adopted a Scoreboard to assess national progress, including through national action plans involving all stakeholders, are important tools for facilitating this. Other regions, most urgently Asia, need similar mechanisms.

Bustards: Bustards are flagships for agro-pastoral/grassland landscapes and their conservation requires managing key protected areas appropriately, supporting wider land-use that is sympathetic to bustard conservation, preventing illegal killing, raising awareness, more effective international cooperation and, for Houbara Bustards, ensuring that hunting is regulated and sustainable as part of an integrated in situ and ex situ approach. Urgent action is needed for tropical Asian species, particularly for Great Indian Bustard.

African-Eurasian Vultures: Delegates reinforced the importance of the CMS Vulture Multi-species Action Plan and highlighted the need for a 'community of implementers' bringing together all stakeholders. There is a particular urgency to put in place rapid response mechanisms for communities and governments to jointly tackle the threat of poison baits, and safety testing for veterinary pharmaceuticals to reduce this proven risk. 'Vulture Safe Zones' are crucial in South Asia; similar, appropriately adapted landscape approaches show great promise in other regions, particularly Africa.

Saker Falcon: Reaffirmed importance of the Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP), including a management and monitoring system, particularly in relation to its transparent and consensus-building approach. Noting excellent progress on its flagship projects, SakerGAP implementation needs to be scaled up and extended to other range states, especially in addressing the primary threat of electrocution.

Capacity building: Just as flyway conservation needs a network of sites, it needs a network of people and organisations taking action in every country along each flyway. To support civil society organisations, including BirdLife Partners, to identify, advocate for and carry out flyway conservation, there is a need to identify key capacity development gaps and success stories and develop and implement strategies to build on such efforts.

Donor Alliance for Bird Conservation: Donors* present at the Summit expressed their interest in collaborating more effectively through an alliance to leverage their efforts in promoting bird conservation along global flyways and to use birds as ambassadors of biodiversity and human wellbeing. Donors recognise the need to bring additional resources to this effort and welcome the offers of the US National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and Qiaonyu Foundation to host meetings in the next twelve months to build and expand an alliance. Donors look forward to working with BirdLife International as a convener on this collaboration.

*Qiaonyu Foundation, International Fund for Houbara Conservation, MAVA Foundation, Jensen Foundation, The David & Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund

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Bustard conservation: status, trends and achievements

Bustards are one of the most threatened bird families, with 31% of the 26 species threatened with extinction, a further 27% considered Near Threatened, and several species in very rapid decline. Much greater global attention and action is needed for bustards to reverse their rapidly deteriorating situation. The threats and solutions needed are broadly similar across many of these species, and the following actions were highlighted as being priorities for bustard conservation overall:

- Manage **farmland habitats** (particularly extensive, contiguous areas) in ways that are compatible with bustard ecology
- Bury the most dangerous **powerlines**, re-route or mark other powerlines with anti-collision devices, and research further the most effective designs for such devices
- Minimise the impacts of **roads and fences**; and ensure that the needs of bustards are reflected in Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments
- Wherever possible and appropriate, manage **protected areas** for bustards (especially for the threatened species)
- Ensure that **illegal killing/poaching** is strictly prevented; and ensure that **hunting** of Asian and African Houbara is regulated and sustainable
- **Raise awareness** through education and communications to build understanding and support for bustard conservation
- Develop **multi-stakeholder global action plans** integrating the range of solutions needed and identifying immediate and long-term actions

Bustards are excellent **flagship species** for steppe/grassland/farmland bird communities, hence conserving bustards helps to conserve grassland habitats and biodiversity more generally. Furthermore, all bustard species depend on '**cultural landscapes**', so conserving bustards requires supporting rural livelihoods to deliver bustard-compatible land-management.

Strong commitment and excellent progress has been made with the conservation of Houbara species, with major efforts being led by the

IFHC. However, given the serious declines in a number of bustard species, particularly Great Indian Bustard, eastern populations of Great Bustard, Little Bustard, and Bengal and Lesser Florican, greater international coordination and cooperation are needed. The session recommended exploring the potential and opportunity to advance the conservation of these species under the UN Convention on Migratory Species, including considering adding some of these species to the CMS appendices, and potentially following the approach that has been taken to support conservation of vultures through developing a **CMS multi-species action plan**.

Building on examples of particular successes and positive outcomes, the following species-specific priority actions were identified (see also Annex 1):

Lesser Florican

1. **Improve breeding success** through: establishing carefully designed predator-proof-fencing in protected areas with breeding floricans; prohibiting livestock grazing in breeding sites during July–August; and removing free-ranging dogs from breeding sites
2. **Manage habitat in protected areas** supporting floricans to promote mosaics of short and tall grass, and by removing excessive shrubs such as *Prosopis*
3. **Reduce habitat loss outside protected areas** by a) consolidating priority sites as Conservation Reserves; b) curtailing infrastructure/industrial growth in important landscapes, even if categorised as 'wastelands' by government; and c) incentivising florican-friendly land-uses
4. Garner public support through **outreach programs** to link florican conservation with improved livelihood/health outcomes
5. Undertake **research and monitoring** to improve knowledge of the status of different populations and to better understand non-breeding ecology using tracking/telemetry

Bengal Florican

1. Strictly prevent encroachment on key **protected areas**, and

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ensure that the species' conservation needs are considered as fully as those of other high profile species in evidence-based management

2. **Outside protected areas**, work with farmers to ensure bustard-friendly practices (e.g. in Cambodia, farm dry-season rice in a way that enables Bengal Florican to breed successfully, potentially with legume fallows and maintaining deep-water rice and extensive grazing regimes elsewhere)
3. Encourage local communities and other stakeholders to manage a **network of private or community grasslands and other habitats** suitable for this species
4. Undertake **habitat restoration** to aid recolonization of birds to former breeding locations, especially in corridors connecting key breeding populations
5. Mitigate the risk of collision from **powerlines** (including through determining the most effective means of marking lines)
6. Eliminate targeted and incidental **poaching**
7. Promote the species as a **flagship for the terai grassland and floodplain ecosystems** in India and Nepal
8. Consider adding the species to the **CMS appendices**
9. **Improve the understanding** of nesting ecology, habitat requirements, non-breeding season movements and threats to birds in the Indian subcontinent, particularly in north-east India

Great Indian Bustard

1. **Improve breeding success** by ensuring that breeding areas are seasonally strictly protected, through patrolling and use of carefully designed predator-proof fencing
2. Reduce mortality risk through: a) mitigating impacts of **infrastructure (particularly powerlines)** in high-risk areas; b) raising public support for companies to implement the government decree requiring them to address risks in sensitive areas; and c) strengthening planning requirements/implementation to consider potential impacts on this species
3. Build local support through linking bustard conservation with improved **livelihoods**, including through relevant incentives
4. Develop a **conservation breeding program** to 'buy time', act as insurance and for reintroduction, and/or explore 'head-starting' for increasing reproductive success. The former should not lessen the urgency of in situ measures to retain opportunities for subsequent reintroduction. Addressing existing threats, particularly powerlines, is a prerequisite for reintroduction and head-starting.
5. Consider adding the species to the **CMS appendices**

6. **Improve understanding** of the size of the population in Pakistan and its connectedness to Indian populations; **consider trans-boundary conservation initiatives**

Great Bustard and Little Bustard

1. Reduce **powerline** collisions by a) burial, re-routing and marking; b) requiring the route and design of any new powerlines to take into account their potential impact on bustards
2. Reform the **EU Common Agricultural Policy** to include incentives for farming that support suitable habitat for Great and Little Bustard and other grassland birds particularly in relation to the management of Special Protection Areas
3. Strengthen the current network of **EU Special Protection Areas (SPAs)** for bustards, particularly in Spain, and manage SPAs appropriately, including through agri-environment measures that promote key breeding and post-breeding habitat
4. **Eliminate poaching and poisoning** through: a) enforcement of existing laws; b) development of flexible mobile enforcement units that can respond to bustard movements; c) increased training; d) media outreach; e) support to local engagement in conservation; and f) funding to support these
5. Implement additional **locally relevant measures** including control of dogs, limiting steppe fires, and protecting suitable habitat
6. Implement the **CMS Action Plan** for the central European population of Great Bustard, and update and implement the Action Plan for Asian populations.
7. Consider adding Little Bustard to the **CMS appendices** and developing an **action plan**

African and Asian Houbara

1. Adopt an integrated approach, combining **in-situ and ex-situ conservation** measures
2. Devote research and resources to understanding and reducing the impact of **unregulated hunting and illegal killing**
3. Address **trapping for falcon training** (e.g. through promoting use of captive-bred birds)
4. Mitigate **powerline** collision risk, including investigating the most effective design of markers
5. Strengthen **international collaboration** for Houbara conservation, including greater collaboration in research activities

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Annex 1. Table of conservation actions and research needs for the most threatened bustard species.

	Key sites	Wider landscapes	Powerlines & other infrastructure	Illegal killing & hunting	Other interventions	Communications	Research needs
Lesser Florican	Predator-proof fences; prevent grazing; eliminate dogs; promote grass mosaics; remove shrubs	Curtail infrastructure & industrial growth; incentivise florican-friendly land-uses				Outreach linking florican conservation with improved livelihood/health outcomes	Status of different populations; non-breeding ecology
Great Indian Bustard	Seasonal strict protection; patrol; predator-proof fences	Strengthen planning requirements & implementation	Prioritize high risk areas where infrastructure development (particularly powerlines) is controlled		Develop conservation breeding program to 'buy time', act as insurance and for reintroduction; and/or explore 'head-starting'	Build local support by linking bustard conservation with improved livelihoods. Build public support to force powerline companies to respond to government decree	Pakistan population size & connectedness to Indian populations; movements (radio-telemetry studies)
Bengal Florican	Strictly prevent encroachment; integrate species' needs into management plans. Consider habitat restoration in former breeding locations	Ensure bustard-friendly farming (e.g. in Cambodia, farm dry season rice appropriately)	Mitigate collision risk (incl. through determining the most effective means of marking lines)	Eliminate poaching		Promote the species as a flagship for the terai grassland and floodplain ecosystems	Habitat requirements, nesting ecology, non-breeding season movements and threats to birds in India and Nepal
Great & Little Bustard	Protect key sites, implement agri-environment measures to improve breeding habitat	Reform CAP to incentivise farming that supports suitable habitat; regulations and/or incentives for compatible farming	Reduce powerline collisions by burial, re-routing and marking; and require the route and design of any new powerlines to consider their potential impact on bustards	Eliminate poaching and poisoning through law enforcement; mobile enforcement units; training; and funding to support these	Revise & implement Action Plan for Asian populations of Great Bustard; locally relevant measures incl. dog control, fire management; promote conservation in Morocco	Media outreach to support local engagement	Population censuses in key countries; movements in Eastern Europe and Asia; causes of reproductive failure in Asia
African & Asian Houbara	Protect key sites	Manage important areas sensitively	Mitigate powerline collision risk	Address unregulated hunting illegal killing & trapping for falcon training (e.g. through promoting use of captive-bred birds)	Adopt an integrated approach, combining in-situ and ex-situ conservation. Strengthen international collaboration	Local engagement	Strengthen collaboration in research activities; investigate powerline markers design

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Implementing the Vulture Multi-species Action Plan

The conservation status of African-Eurasian vultures has seen major changes for the worse in recent years. Implementation or expansion of effective conservation action is urgently needed across the range of these birds, as a top global priority for bird conservation.

The **CMS Multi-species Action Plan to Conserve African-Eurasian Vultures** (Vulture MsAP), adopted by CMS Parties in 2017, provides an agreed framework for actions to halt the current population declines in all the 15 Old World vulture species.

Successful recovery programmes in Europe (where vultures are generally increasing and recolonising former range), and some important progress with tackling threats in South Asia, demonstrate effective conservation action for vultures and recognition of the many socio-economic benefits associated with healthy vulture populations. This session therefore aimed to advance implementation of the CMS Vulture MsAP by, first, cementing alliances and donor or policy support for implementation of essential MsAP activities and, second, promoting the adoption of landscape approaches to threat reduction for vulture conservation.

Outcomes of the session

1. The Summit affirmed and reinforced the importance of the immediate, sustained and comprehensive **implementation of the CMS Vulture MsAP** in all its components.
2. A **well-coordinated 'community of implementers'** is needed to bring together all stakeholders, including Governments, conservationists, protected area managers, livestock breeders, hunters and veterinarians, drawing on synergies between them, including for example veterinary pharmaceutical and agrochemical companies and those involved in anti-poaching efforts for elephants and conservation of carnivores affected by poisoning.
3. Effective coordination of implementation of any species action plans is crucial if opportunities are to be maximised. This is all the more true for the Vulture MsAP, as it covers so many species, threats and range states; **resources to support coordination** are urgently needed.
4. **Eleven 'Flagship projects'** were identified to support the future



Photo Lappet-faced Vulture. Ecoprints/Shutterstock

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implementation of key parts of the MsAP, as cost-effective priorities that should urgently be funded, with a range of activity types, scales and budgets.

- Six projects to facilitate implementation of the MsAP across all range states: a communications tool kit, a Vulture MsAP online tool, guidance on developing National or Regional Vulture Conservation Strategies and establishing Vulture Safe Zones, establishment of an international framework for coordination of implementation, and a Total Economic Evaluation of the ecosystem services provided by Old World vultures.
- Four projects to reduce critical threats: development of rapid response systems to stop vulture poisoning in Africa and Europe, combating the trade in vultures and their body parts for belief-based use in Africa, safety-testing veterinary NSAIDs on vultures, and mapping the sensitivity of vultures (among other large birds) to energy infrastructure.
- One project along two flyways, to serve as models for multi-country and -regional action for vultures: conservation of the Egyptian Vulture along its Western and Eastern Flyways.

This list is not exhaustive, and many other valuable projects could be proposed. Such donor-funded projects are essential, for example in trialling solutions and removing technical barriers to implementation. They should be designed also to contribute towards long-term solutions to the challenges of vulture conservation focused on **long-term engagement and commitment of the private sector and Government while mobilising local communities.**

5. To tackle the threat of **poison baits, Rapid Response Mechanisms and Protocols** involving local communities and Governments (including enforcement agencies and veterinary authorities) have proven to be an effective and practical response and are needed, especially in Africa and Europe, where these threats are most acute. Actions to tackle underlying drivers of poisoning, especially human-wildlife conflict and the ivory trade in Africa, are also being implemented but are still more challenging and, particularly for elephant poaching, not achievable by conservation actions focused only on the vultures; see Outcome 2 above.
6. **Safety testing for veterinary pharmaceuticals**, especially non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), is urgently needed to effectively manage and reduce the proven risk to vultures that these drugs present. Drugs found or known to be toxic to vultures should be prohibited or withdrawn for the treatment of livestock, and substituted with readily available safe alternatives. Immediate support and/or implementation of these actions by both national and multilateral (e.g. EU) institutions is essential.

The summit was pleased to hear from Portugal that the national parliament had just voted for a resolution not to approve the veterinary use of diclofenac (an NSAID known to be toxic to

vultures), and that the professional veterinary body had stated that it opposes licensing. It is hoped that full prohibition will follow and that other countries will follow this lead.

7. **Lead toxicity** caused by the ingestion of ammunition fragments in carcasses and offal is a well-documented threat to scavenging birds world-wide. The urgency to implement the Vulture MsAP objective 'to ensure that CMS Resolution 11.15 on the phasing out the use of **lead ammunition by hunters** is fully implemented' was further emphasised by a recently published study from Africa (since the adoption of the Resolution and the Vulture MsAP) showing a high incidence of elevated lead levels in living vultures, affecting around one third of those tested, and clear evidence of an association with recreational hunting.
8. **Vulture Safe Zones** form a crucial landscape approach to vulture conservation which has been defined in South Asia. The concept builds on successful efforts to remove vulture-toxic veterinary pharmaceuticals from vulture habitat in that region, in order to allow the recovery and in some cases high profile reintroduction of vulture populations. Management of Vulture Safe Zones is now beginning to include tackling other threats to vultures.
9. **Landscape approaches** to vulture conservation are shaped by environmental, social and economic factors which vary by region. Appropriately adapted models based on South Asian Vulture Safe Zones show great promise and could be applied in other regions, particularly Africa. A trial of such a landscape approach in Zambia has adopted a community-based and landowner management model in response to a wider and different range of threats and has proven attractive to local and national stakeholders. Additional approaches to combating poisoning in Southern Africa and Kenya provide more models. Further development of such approaches in Africa is strongly recommended. In Europe, by contrast, implementing and enforcing existing national policies and using regional legislative frameworks (e.g. EU Birds and Habitats Directives, the EU Natura 2000 network, veterinary legislation and regulation on the disposal of livestock carcasses) may be sufficient.
10. Vultures are also seriously threatened by mortality caused by collision and electrocution with **power transmission and energy generation infrastructure**. Many of the outcomes of the Summit session on mainstreaming flyway conservation into these sectors are directly relevant to vulture conservation as set out in the Vulture MsAP, and should be considered among the vulture conservation outcomes of the Summit.
11. **High ecosystem service values of vultures** are widely recognised and not in doubt, but studies are needed to quantify and promote them. In particular, there is a need to identify where and to what extent vulture conservation leads to 'win-win' situations in which human societies also benefit.

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Conserving critical networks of coastal wetlands for migratory waterbirds

Human pressure on coastal wetlands is increasing worldwide. Land claim, human disturbance, pollution, invasive species, unsustainable harvest, reduced sediment flows from upstream damming and a range of other threats are driving the declines of many waterbird species. Climate change impacts including changes to Arctic breeding habitat and rising sea-levels are exacerbating the effects of other threats. The effective conservation of networks of coastal wetlands is crucially important to safeguarding migratory waterbirds around the world. The wise use of coasts will not only ensure survival and recovery of waterbirds but also will sustain ecosystem services provided to humanity, in particular climate resilience.

The Coastal Wetlands and migratory waterbirds session at the Flyways Summit synthesised our current understanding of the threats to coastal waterbirds and their habitats in each major global flyway, and explored successful approaches to improve the identification, protection, management and restoration of critical sites. By bringing together key stakeholders, we further developed committed alliances to support and implement priority actions to conserve coastal wetland networks and the migratory waterbirds and ecosystem services they support.

The session was attended by over 75 delegates and identified the following actions as being a priority for the conservation of coastal wetlands and associated migratory waterbirds. There is urgent need to:

- establish a **Global Coastal Forum** that strengthens recognition, protection, sustainable management, restoration and governance of coastal wetlands through high priority initiatives, encouraging stronger policy and funding mechanisms;
- strengthen capacity within flyways to advance **strategic communications** - aligning economic development with coastal management for human well-being and bird conservation;
- develop global, regional and national science-based assessments on the **state of coastal wetlands, the threats affecting them, the benefits (economic, social, cultural and environmental) of and recommendations for their protection, conservation management and restoration** to support policy, engagement and communications;



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■ empower **local communities and campaigning initiatives by developing networks** between local communities at different key sites along a flyway to better support coastal wetland conservation and in integrated management, including sustainable use at local, national and flyway levels; and

■ promote **integrated ecosystem-based coastal zone planning and governance** (taking into account the land/sea interface) with improved collaboration between management agencies to mainstream coastal birds and habitats including into Marine Protected Areas and water catchments.

Many of the issues highlighted in the flyway specific breakout groups below relate to issues already identified as priorities within existing international conservation frameworks. This suggests that the overarching need is actually more focussed, better coordinated and better resourced implementation.

More detailed conclusions reached include the following issues.

A. Global Coastal Forum

There is a need to develop a Global Coastal Forum as requested by the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species at COP 12, October 2017 in Manila. This Global Coastal Forum should be established jointly with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It should have an agreed Terms of Reference which specifies: membership; arrangements for chairing; modes of engagement with existing international advisory structures and fora; and a mechanism for agreeing a programme of work, including indicators and targets, for the initial period 2019-2021. At an early stage, there will need to be clarity on resourcing. The following were identified as possible elements to include in a programme of work:

1. Protection of coastal wetlands and avoidance of damaging impacts

- **Identify and protect** as World Heritage or Ramsar Sites, critically important coastal sites for migratory birds in each flyway, based on assessment of best available knowledge
- Undertaking/promotion of **Strategic Environmental Assessments** for 'at risk' coasts – especially where impacts may be international in scope and/or derived from more than one sector. This should include sensitivity mapping, for example for coastal and offshore renewable energy development and coastal tourism development.

2. Processes that mitigate or manage damaging impacts on coasts

- Promote **mainstreaming of existing guidance** into sectoral awareness, including promotion of access to knowledge; identification of knowledge gaps such as habitat mapping needs; production of sectoral specific guidance (including from existing guidance synthesised from multiple MEAs, updated as necessary).

- Identify **priority stakeholder sectors** with a particular impact/dependency on coasts and global representative bodies that are feasible to engage including as relevant to: *Livelihoods* (for 'Working Coastal Wetlands' of socio-economic and cultural importance); *Government sectors* (including authorities concerned with biodiversity, water, agriculture, tourism, fisheries, planning and coastal defences); *Business* including construction; tourism, ports, dredging, sand extraction and insurance; and *Coastal and Offshore renewable energy; Agriculture; Fisheries and Aquaculture; and Tourism*.

- The joint development of **guidelines for the rapid assessment of coastal wetlands biological diversity**

3. Processes related to wetland restoration and creation

(discussions have taken place via CBD/Ramsar proposed Global Coastal Restoration Initiative)

4. Communication and Public awareness raising initiatives

(to be elaborated, learning as much as possible from existing coastal wetland campaigns eg the one currently underway for the coastal wetlands of the Mediterranean region, coordinated by MedWet as Ramsar Regional Initiative).

B. African-Eurasian Flyway: Arabian Peninsula Coastal wetlands

1. **Regional assessments of the state of the coastal wetlands** have been shown to be influential in stimulating policy initiatives at various scales, as shown for example by IUCN's 2012 situation analysis of the Yellow Sea and East Asian - Australasian Flyway, significantly helping to advance policy development there. There is great value in undertaking such assessments in other coastal regions, with an urgent need for a "situation analysis" of the Arabian Peninsula and surrounding areas, possibly extended later to include other areas of relevance in the East African-West Asian flyway.
2. An **initial concept document** should be prepared to assist in scoping and fund-raising for a situation analysis. It should outline next steps in relation to initiating the analysis and means of raising the profile of the issue at Ramsar COP 13. A preliminary list of government, NGO, private sector organisations and international agencies to be involved in the analysis should be prepared.
3. Agreement on immediate need for national and regional coordination and capacity building for waterbird and wetland monitoring, through a strategic planning process with preliminary results being profiled at Ramsar COP 13.
4. Need for creation of a network of experts in waterbird monitoring that could be called on by all countries in the region to help with surveys, training and capacity building, experience sharing and responding on site/species conservation issues of urgent importance.

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C. African-Eurasian Flyway: East Atlantic Flyway

1. Further consolidation and coordination is needed of **waterbird monitoring schemes and databases** among various actors involved in migratory waterbird conservation.
2. Creation of, and further strengthening (where these exist) of effective **flyway network partnerships**, building on the multiple existing frameworks such as the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement, Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative and Mediterranean Waterbirds network, including to **strengthen capacity** at government and civil society organisation levels.
3. Enhanced communication and outreach at all scales, from national to flyway including awareness and education campaigns to increase appreciation of coastal wetlands.
4. Initiatives that promote the mainstreamed integration of flyway conservation imperatives into existing governmental and sectoral policies and collaboration across borders are essential.
5. The need for landscape level planning to be embedded in national policies and plans to deliver climate change adaptation benefits for migratory waterbirds and people, as illustrated through the Climate Resilient Flyways Project.

D. East Asian – Australasian Flyway

1. **Education** is critical to long-term awareness-raising and this can be promoted by curriculum development, and good storytelling related to conservation challenges and successes, building on current research and monitoring findings.
2. There is an urgent need to strengthen **site protection networks** within the flyway, developing the capacity for site managements and building links between individual sites and local schools and communities adjacent to these areas, as well as links between sites.
3. With rising sea-levels, there is a need to promote initiatives that seek to **restore past coastal wetlands** lost to land claim, for example by managed realignment – moving sea defenses inland. All of the above require a need to engage with multiple sectors of society including:
 - **Local communities and local governments** including through initiatives relating to, schools, farmers, fishing communities, bird photographers and other local birdwatching initiatives, where awareness-raising champions are identified for each group and assisted to communicate messages.
 - **International policy fora**; there should be outreach to

relevant fora (CBD, Ramsar, ASEAN, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Davos), higher-level and government engagement beyond the environment sector including advocacy at diplomatic level including via Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative; with China, as host to the 2020 CBD COP, there is a significant opportunity to raise the profile of the issue in the region and globally.

- **The business sector.**
- **The media.**

E. Americas Flyway

1. The **collaborative partnership of flyway scale strategies and plans** needs to scale up implementation (e.g. Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative, Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy, the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative of the Arctic Council's Working Group on the Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna, Audubon/BirdLife Climate Action Plan for the Americas). This is currently constrained by lack of funding, but the development of public-private partnerships could assist in increasing collective capacity to both engage with financial institutions and policy processes. Further actors that are critical to this are national governments and the agro-industry.
2. There is an urgent need to ensure the needs of coastal waterbirds and their habitats are fully integrated into **Marine Protected Areas** planning and management processes. This could be undertaken by: high level policy discussions with key funders and executing agencies; improved data analysis and availability; and integrating data into national processes and mechanisms (such as national information systems where they exist).
3. The **Americas Flyway Strategies should be given greater visibility in global policy processes** (e.g. those related to CBD, CMS, Ramsar, and especially to the delivery of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and national implementation of the Paris Agreement) including to help direct funding mechanisms that support priority coastal site protection and management.

F. Central Asian Flyway

Actions were agreed to advance implementation of the **CMS Central Asian Flyway (CAF) Waterbird Action Plan**, building on the decision of the **Indian government to establish an interim secretariat** (based in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and staffed by the Bombay Natural History Society) to facilitate the process towards submitting a proposal for amendment of the AEWA annexes in 2021 (AEWA MOP8).

The meeting made the following recommendations:

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1. The **Indian Government, CMS and AEWA Secretariats should scope the process** as soon as possible.
2. The Indian Government, with the CMS and AEWA Secretariats, should convene an **Intergovernmental Consultation Group (ICG)** to meet first before December 2018 (AEWA MOP7).
3. The **ICG should develop three documents:**
 - Proposal for amendments of the AEWA annexes;
 - Medium-term (6-year) plan for further development and implementation of the CAF AP with accompanying resourcing plan ensuring its self-sustainability;
 - Finalise the 2013 assessment of the implications for AEWA of expanding its scope to include the CAF region.
4. The ICG to lay the foundations of an alliance for ensuring the **self-sustainability of the CAF AP under AEWA.**
5. The Indian Government should write to CAF Range States inviting them to develop **national CAF action plans** following their current example.
6. The Indian Government should also write to AEWA/CAF Range States inviting them to consider accelerating their **accession to AEWA** to provide stronger support for the CAF integration into AEWA in 2021 e.g. via a preliminary accession procedure (see point 9 below).
7. The Indian Government should attend **AEWA MOP7 (December 2017)** in South Africa to update Parties on the progress of the CAF process.
8. At **CMS COP13 in 2020** in India, the Indian Government should present an update of the CAF process.
9. India (and hopefully other CAF ranges states) should undertake a **preliminary accession procedure** to AEWA to take effect immediately after MOP8 in 2021, and the AEWA Secretariat will clarify that accession procedure.



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GLOBAL FLYWAYS SUMMIT, APRIL 23-26 2018

Mainstreaming flyway conservation with wind energy and power transmission sectors

The deployment of renewable energy, such as wind energy or solar power generation, is expanding rapidly, and an increasing number of renewable energy technologies are becoming cost-competitive. Alongside this, the scale and reach of power transmission infrastructure is expanding in order to deliver energy to growing urban centres and remote rural populations. These technologies are playing an important role in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and delivering clean energy for all, helping to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13 and 7 respectively.

However, while the potential benefits of renewable energy and improved power transmission are huge, like any other development this can have negative impacts on biodiversity if facilities are not planned and implemented appropriately. For example, poorly-sited wind farms have been shown to have detrimental impacts on birds, particularly migratory soaring birds which make use of wind currents along their flyways.

Wind energy and power transmission infrastructure can lead to impacts including: collision leading to direct mortality; electrocution where pylons are poorly designed; disturbance and displacement from around the turbines or exclusion from the whole wind farm; barriers to movement disrupting ecological links between feeding, wintering, breeding and moulting areas; and change to or loss of habitat due to wind turbines and associated infrastructure.

The Energy session at the Global Flyways Summit explored the issues relating to biodiversity associated with wind energy and power transmission and identified practical solutions for governments, conventions, business and civil society. By bringing together key stakeholders, the session further developed committed alliances to share, support and implement priority actions to accelerate mainstreaming flyway conservation into the wind energy and power transmission sectors.



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The threats and solutions needed are broadly similar across many migratory species, and the following actions were highlighted as being priorities for migratory bird conservation:

- With global demand for energy forecast to greatly expand by 2035, and with much of this energy coming from renewable sources, it is critical that renewable energy infrastructure is **sited and operated** with biodiversity considerations taken into account.

- **Tools that map sensitive areas** for migratory species (such as BirdLife's Sensitivity Mapping Tool) should be employed as part of robust Strategic Environmental Assessments so that early stage planning decisions are taken with the best available information.

- It is important to emphasise the **business case** for integrating bird (and bat) conservation into renewable energy development. This must be achieved early on and before renewable energy planning decisions are made to secure support from industry and across government (e.g. to reduce risk and lower costs). Industry, government and international financial institutions are more willing to listen and engage positively in finding solutions before and during the planning stage and before irreversible or costly decisions, or political commitments, are made.

- **Stakeholder awareness** and capacity on the need to mainstream migratory species in the (renewable) energy sector must be increased – among energy ministries, investors, project developers, utility companies and donors. This includes **fostering linkages and communication platforms**, ensuring that any additional useful information is readily available and received early on in the planning process.

- There is a need to **communicate** the risks associated with renewable energy developments such as wind turbines on migratory species and to stress the importance of ongoing and further **research**.

- There is an urgent need to develop, collate and communicate relevant and available **tools and guidance** to facilitate the implementation of migratory bird and other biodiversity safeguards for both current and future renewable energy development.

- There is a need to work with the energy sector to help develop **sustainable energy policies and processes** before funds and sites are committed for renewable energy infrastructure development.

- Targeted policies and regulations should be enforced with stronger **compliance mechanisms** and greater power and remit of environmental ministries. Investors want a clear and strong regulatory environment to minimise the risk of investment.

- **Adequate funding** needs to be made available for to support all of the above activities, including research, communication, coordination, capacity building, planning and implementation.

- There is a need to **share data**, on both biodiversity and

development activities, including data from impact assessments and monitoring and experience with the application of mitigation measures, where possible putting it in the public domain.

- For developments already underway or in place, and where significant risks have been identified, technology to **mitigate biodiversity impacts** should be applied, such as the use of radar to detect birds and shutdown on demand for facilities during migration season or at particular times of day, and its long-term effectiveness monitored.

- A **holistic view** is required to include migratory bird safeguards together with an overall package of all environmental considerations that a company has to consider.

- There are a number of **policy entry points**, with a range of stakeholders and in a range of fora, including multilateral environmental agreements and other international policy processes, for mainstreaming and awareness-raising of migratory bird safeguards and solutions.

- **Collaboration** is needed to find common ground and solutions. The multi-stakeholder Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Energy Task Force, with environment and energy ministries, energy and utility companies, development banks, academia and NGOs amongst its membership, is supporting delivery of several of the above priority actions, and another example is Europe's Renewables Grid Initiative.

- There is an urgent need to **scale-up and build on existing initiatives**, such as the Energy Task Force's work on best practice guidelines, the **Spanish Ornithological Society's** work on Black Vultures and Storks to monitor flight paths and generate collision risk models, and the **UNDP-GEF-funded 11-country** Migratory Soaring Birds Project in the Red Sea/Rift Valley flyway. Building on the examples presented in the plenary and talks, breakout groups explored three thematic priority issues, as follows.

1. Next steps for policy, including through the CMS Energy Task Force and the biodiversity mainstreaming agenda of the forthcoming Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP14)

The main challenges and solutions for the CMS Energy Task Force and the CBD in promoting and implementing mainstreaming of biodiversity into the energy sector were discussed, with the following issues and recommendations identified:

- Lack of compliance mechanisms for biodiversity conventions. Targeted guidance needs to be developed, communicated and enforced with stronger compliance mechanisms under relevant and able government ministries.

- Limited power and remit of environmental ministries. With energy often seen as a topic beyond their purview, the remit of environmental ministries needs to be broadened and included in cross-ministerial committees with joint responsibility for spatial and

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development planning and policy.

■ Poor national regulations or poor enforcement where they are in place. Legislative and regulatory review and guidance, and sharing lessons learnt from other countries, can help, as well as investor-led initiatives to improve implementation and accountability. The linkages and opportunities for synergy with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development were also discussed, with the following outcomes presented:

■ For renewable energy development to be truly sustainable it needs to meet multiple international commitments, including those outlined by, but not limited to, the 2030 Agenda, UNFCCC and CBD, and should be promoted as often as possible during these fora.

■ The UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2018 will discuss the following goals, among others, providing the opportunity to highlight linkages:

- **Goal 7.** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
- **Goal 12.** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- **Goal 15.** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

■ Translating and mainstreaming relevant biodiversity provisions and safeguards into national policies and plans, such as national development plans and energy strategies as well as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), is essential if on-ground mitigation is to occur.

■ The role played by Egypt's government and NGOs in the UNDP-GEF Migratory Soaring Birds Project and as a key member of the CMS Energy Task Force provides both an excellent national case study and an example to be highlighted as host of the CBD COP14, where mainstreaming of biodiversity into sectors such as energy will be the topic of the High Level Segment.

Concrete actions that can facilitate dialogue and enhanced cooperation among governmental ministries responsible for planning and budgeting and the relevant sectors and entities responsible for biodiversity were discussed. The following suggested actions were identified:

- Stronger messaging to the wider international audience on the environmental impacts and means of mitigation of renewable energy and power infrastructure.
- Utilising existing platforms, such as the CMS Energy Task Force, to constructively advocate for the implementation of mitigation actions

to prevent bird deaths. Multi-stakeholder, multi-national, cross-convention and cross-government collaboration, such as through task forces, may be required to streamline and fast-track common standards, guidance and tools that can be used to implement and report to multiple conventions and policy processes.

■ Advocating the business case for integrating bird/bat conservation into renewable energy and power infrastructure expansion.

■ Developing an information package for universities to include within their climate change mitigation, sustainability and renewable energy modules.

Key entry points for stakeholder engagement were discussed, with a range of CMS Energy Task Force linked meetings and communications suggested as follows:

- CBD COP14, Egypt, November 2018, CBD SBI2 preparatory meeting, Canada, July 2018, and the mainstreaming agenda
- UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, US, July 2018 and annually
- Responsible Business Forum, Singapore, October 2018, and similar fora
- - UN Environment Assembly, Kenya, March 2019
 - Utility Energy Forum, USA, April 2019
 - Africa Utility Week, South Africa, May 2019
 - CMS COP13, India, 2020
 - CBD COP15, China, 2020, and the wider post-2020 biodiversity framework development process

2. Sensitivity mapping, tools, and guidance

New research, guidelines and mapping tools which aid in the mitigation of impacts resulting from renewable energy infrastructure were presented. The group discussed the strengths and current limitations of some of the tools and approaches that are currently available:

- **Sensitivity maps** are currently geographically limited and only partially accessible to stakeholders.
- There are gaps in **institutional expertise** regarding site or species data, with greater funding, capacity and sharing of data needed, and challenges being the variability and coverage of data.
- **Legislation** often suffers from a lack of policy coherence, enforcement, funding and awareness.
- Often only generic **guidance** on monitoring and mitigation is available, insufficiently tailored to the species or sector, and needing to be better communicated and enforced.

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■ **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** is a well-established approach, but can suffer from a lack of partiality, limited local capacity and poor enforcement.

■ **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** and **Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA)** are needed but are less well-established, with their cost, need for cross-government and multi-stakeholder input, and implementation requirements limiting their uptake. CEAs are particularly challenging at a flyway scale given the multiple range states involved and multiple threats to migratory birds on their migration routes.

■ Finally, there is uncertainty around the implementation of **post-construction mitigation methods**, with a need for improved awareness, guidance and enforcement.

The discussions also identified the following needs:

■ Filling knowledge gaps (such as for the Americas/Asia, taxa other than birds, and energy installations other than wind) through data collection, availability, sharing and accessibility.

■ Development and enforcement of guidance and policy, standardised as appropriate, and refined, expanded, promoted and implemented through policy/legislative tools.

■ Increase in the capacity of national consultants, government agencies and developers to improve migratory bird/bat safeguards, by ensuring information and guidance is readily available and that skills are developed through training and learning opportunities (such as in energy EIAs, mitigation and post-construction monitoring) at national level. Resources are urgently needed for this to match the current high levels of investment in the sector.

■ Promoting stakeholder awareness by fostering linkages and communication platforms.

■ Funding to support all these activities.

3. Stakeholder engagement

Key stakeholders include energy ministries, investors, project developers, utilities, donors and civil society. Key stakeholder needs from the nature conservation community include:

■ Technical information on biodiversity impacts early on in the planning process, before decisions are made on the placement of energy and power infrastructure.

■ Information and guidance on the types of technologies available to mitigate bird deaths on existing and future developments.

■ A medium – provided by the CMS Energy Task Force - where developers, NGOs and governments can exchange experiences and collaborate to safeguard birds in wind power projects.

■ A detailed understanding of the vulnerability and mortality of birds/bats on windfarms and consequent development of sensitivity tools – which are not currently available globally or for all flyways - in various regions, particularly those where there is a forecast of significant investment.

■ Specialist advice on latest trends, biodiversity management practices, biodiversity networking and through input into biodiversity strategies.



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GLOBAL FLYWAYS SUMMIT, APRIL 23-26 2018

Zero tolerance of the illegal killing/hunting and taking of migratory birds

The illegal killing/hunting, taking and trade of migratory birds (IKB)¹ is a globally significant conservation issue and increasingly a priority on the national and international agendas. In the Mediterranean basin alone an estimated 11-36 million migratory birds are killed every year. IKB is strongly embedded in the cultural and socio-economic context and addressing it therefore calls for, in addition to strong legislation and enforcement, a change in the attitudes of people towards migratory birds and nature. To put an end to IKB requires long-term collaboration of a wide range of stakeholders from governments to intergovernmental agreements, hunting organisations, conservation NGOs and donors.

The IKB session at the Flyways Summit synthesised our current understanding of the scale and scope of IKB in each global migratory flyway, and explored successful approaches to end IKB. By bringing together key stakeholders, we built upon and further developed committed alliances for the delivery of priority actions to stop IKB in each of the major flyways.

The session was attended by over 75 delegates and identified the following actions as being **overall priorities** for addressing the illegal killing/hunting of migratory birds:

- Ensure global level understanding of the scope and scale of IKB. Prioritise **situation analyses** in Central and South-east Asia and in Sub-Saharan Africa to complement those already undertaken by BirdLife for the Mediterranean, rest of Europe and Middle East.
- Increase focus on supporting a lasting **change of attitude** towards greater respect for migratory birds and nature in general. In building communication strategies, combine science and compassion-based approaches, involving emotive visuals, whilst taking into account cultural contexts. Prioritise engagement with young people and families.

¹ There are regional differences in the agreed terminology, in English, for the problem of the illegal removal of birds from the wild; in Europe and the Mediterranean, the agreed term is "illegal killing and taking" to avoid confusion with legitimate hunting practices whereas in Asia-Australasia, the agreed term is "illegal hunting and taking" due to cultural sensitivities.



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- Strengthen **engagement** with hunters to champion conservation and zero-tolerance of illegal activities.
- Advocate for governmental commitment to address IKB through **National Action Plans** which should foster collaboration between civil society and governments, including in terms of capacity building, exchange of expertise and communication.
- Support the continued facilitation, with stronger policy and funding mechanisms, of national and international implementation via **intergovernmental Task Forces**, learning from the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Intergovernmental Task Force to Address Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT) and Bern Convention Action Plan 2013-2020 for the eradication of illegal killing, trapping and trade of wild birds (for Europe and North Africa), including the use of a **scoreboard** to assess national progress. Prioritise formation of a task force in Asia under CMS and the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP). Stimulate conservation action planning in Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq.
- A **zero tolerance** approach to IKB should be retained or introduced worldwide, with **clarity on definitions** of legal/illegal activities.

Building on the examples presented in the plenary and the breakout discussions, the following theme-specific priority actions were identified:

A. Changing hearts and minds

1. Seek input from **behavioral sciences** in developing attitude-change strategies adapted to local context and audiences.
2. Increase focus on emotion and maximise science-based evidence in **narratives that combine emotion, science and follow-up action**.
3. Ensure clear legal frameworks for conservation are in place allowing for successful engagement with **local communities**. Use participatory and culturally sensitive approaches and identify and support alternative livelihoods where relevant. Involve community leaders (religious, cultural etc.) and identify and support local IKB champions within communities
4. Stimulate **young people** to connect to nature by embedding environmental education programmes into official school curricula, setting up of youth conservation forums to foster active involvement, and engage with families as a win-win long-term investment.

B. Reducing IKB in the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, Iran

1. Important that data and results of **IKB review** are shared to improve understanding of the scale of IKB in the region. The first review is an important starting point but **improvement in**

data is needed for future editions.

2. There is **no single solution to IKB** in the region so different approaches and resources are needed, adapted to the national/local conditions, but where possible **improving collaboration/coordination** nationally, regionally and internationally, including for:
 - **Education and awareness** to improve recognition of IKB as a problem for bird populations, amongst Government and practitioners and via cultural and religious leaders, the school curriculum and movie spots (especially for the younger generation),
 - **Regulations and enforcement** which need to be reviewed and strengthened where necessary at least to bring them into line with international commitments (licensing and permissions vary between countries) and communicated with the public.
 - Understanding the **socioeconomic dimensions** to IKB, including the movements of hunters between countries.
 - Engaging with **hunters, including falconers** especially via existing clubs (or through prompting the establishment of associations), to build trust, recognise responsible hunters and encourage their role in stopping IKB.
 - **Protected areas (safe havens, refuges)** designation and management locally for responsible hunting, linked to livelihoods.
 - **Developing capacity** of relevant authorities and **exert pressure** as necessary (political and emotional) but not confrontational.
 - Developing more systematic **monitoring** protocols, building on existing schemes with appropriate capacity development, including using social media photo detection, alerts/reports and other intelligence to hotlines (e.g. WhatsApp groups), focused on blackspots and encouraging legitimate hunters also to report transgressions.

C. African – Eurasian Flyway: Med, Africa & Central Asia

1. **IKB in African Eurasian Flyway – Tunis Action Plan/MIKT**
 - Tackling IKB should be presented as a conservation concern of **relevance for the whole flyway** (due to connectivity along the flyway).
 - **Mobilize political will/resources/funding** to fully implement the Tunis Action Plan and MIKT programme of work and potential projects contributing to it.
 - Promote development of **National Action Plans** on IKB,

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building on good examples (e.g. Italy), including through highlighting incentives for their development (both “negative” like infringement procedures, and “positives” like fulfilling international obligations) and coordinated where possible with CBD and other relevant processes (e.g. subchapter in national biodiversity strategies and action plans of CBD or African Union).

- Encourage collaboration via projects and capacity building sessions between governments and existing **flyway network partnerships**, like the **Mediterranean Waterbirds network’s** projects on illegal killing in North Africa.
- Need for joined up approach between civil society and governments (example through **national stakeholder workshops**) on **monitoring and law enforcement**, including capacity building of law enforcement officers.

2. Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia

- **IKB reviews in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia** would help ‘complete’ our understanding of the scale and scope of IKB at the level of the African–Eurasian Flyway and would be the first such flyway-scale review. It is advised to split the work in geographic units of manageable size (for example Sahel, Southern Africa). The Sub-Saharan IKB review should also include intra African migratory birds.
- Reviews to build on **multiple inputs** such as waterbird census, AEW African Action Plan, CMS Raptors Memorandum of Understanding, IUCN work on bushmeat, CMS work on terrestrial and aquatic wild meat, BirdLife’s work as well as ongoing projects (e.g. in West Africa).
- Review process must **include all stakeholders from the start**, especially governments, taking steps to ensure **national capacity** is available to input.
- The review process should encourage governments to use the **IKB scoreboard** approach.

3. IKB in African Eurasian Flyway – post 2020

- Promote the use of the MIKT/Bern Convention **IKB scoreboard** in a post 2020 context, broadening the scope from the Mediterranean and Europe to other parts of the flyway, from a regional to global perspective; problems and solutions in one part of the flyway will have an effect on other parts of the flyway. Level of ambition must be high but with realistic time frames for implementation.
- **Coordinated effort is needed between CMS/CITES/Bern Convention/CBD** and other relevant instruments, including the relevant national focal points and national action plans, ensuring that IKB chapters are included in CBD national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

D. East Asian – Australasian Flyway

1. There should be a **single task force to address the issue of illegal hunting/ taking/ trade in the East Asian Australasian flyway** to which both CMS and EAAFP and their parties/partners would contribute through their respective mandates, with EAAFP covering waterbird relevant elements only.
2. CMS, EAAFP, and the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI) of the Arctic Council and BirdLife are committed to driving this process forward including through establishment of an **interim steering group**, involving a few key governments and BirdLife, to oversee the process of establishing the task force and help guide any situation analysis work that precedes full task force establishment.
3. BirdLife should lead the **situation analysis** as per the CMS COP12 mandate and consult IUCN ASAP, TRAFFIC and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

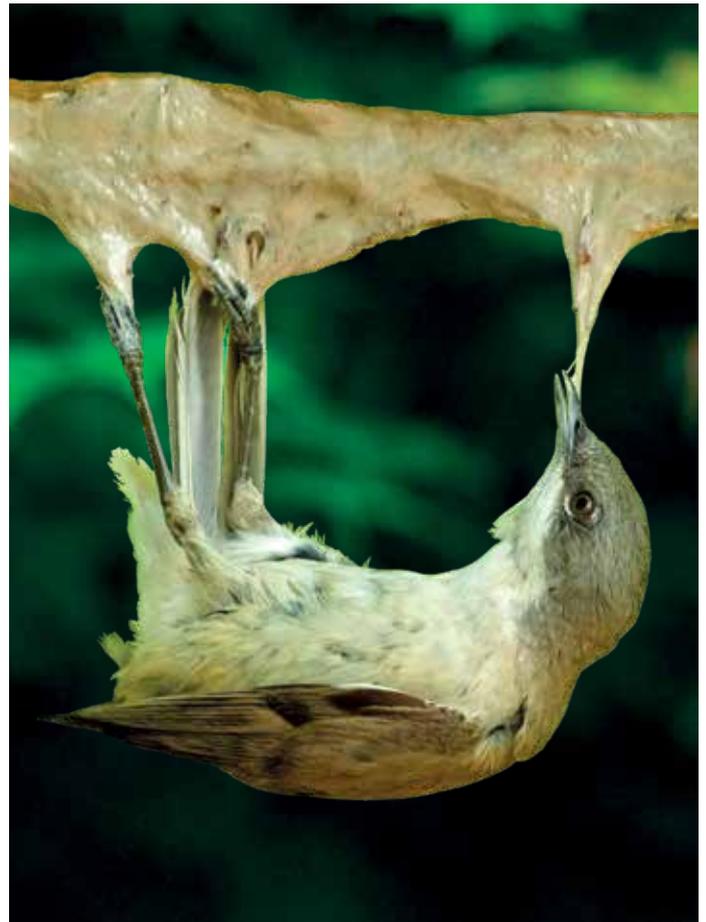


Photo Committee against Bird Slaughter

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GLOBAL FLYWAYS SUMMIT, APRIL 23-26 2018

Conserving the Saker Falcon – Implementation of the Global Action Plan

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* (globally Endangered) populations have suffered rapid declines driven by threats including electrocution on powerline poles, unsustainable trapping for falconry purposes and habitat degradation. The ten-year Saker Falcon Global Action Plan (SakerGAP), adopted by CMS Parties in 2014, brought together more than 80 countries, organisations, scientists, falconers and other stakeholders with the shared goal to re-establish a healthy, self-sustaining wild population throughout its range.

The session, convened by the CMS Raptors MOU, provided an overview of the SakerGAP, its opportunities and challenges; presented an update of conservation actions performed in the frame of an initial suite of five Flagship Proposals; outlined the draft SakerGAP Summary Implementation Plan with key priorities; summarised the conservation principles and safeguards relating to sustainable use of the Saker Falcon, the challenges and opportunities; and encouraged collaboration and support across participating sectors to conserve the species.

Programme

In his opening remarks, H.E. Mohamed Ahmed Al Bowardi, Managing Director of Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, recognised the role of the CMS Raptors MOU in developing a comprehensive international organisational framework and workplan to conserve the Saker Falcon. H.E. Al Bowardi announced the establishment of a USD 20 million Raptor Conservation Foundation, under the auspices of H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, with initial seed funding of USD 1 million to combat the threat of electrocution of falcons and other birds of prey on powerline poles.

In the SakerGAP overview session presented by Nick P. Williams (CMS Raptors MOU), the main points highlighted were the holistic, inclusive and multi-level conservation approach of the SakerGAP, which incorporates the concept of sustainable use for falconry purposes and an Adaptive Management Framework; the continuation of the Saker Falcon Task Force (STF) with a remit to facilitate implementation of the Action Plan; and integration of the SakerGAP into national biodiversity and other plans. It was noted that the SakerGAP was developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders, with shared interests and responsibilities to conserve the species on the breeding grounds and along its flyways.

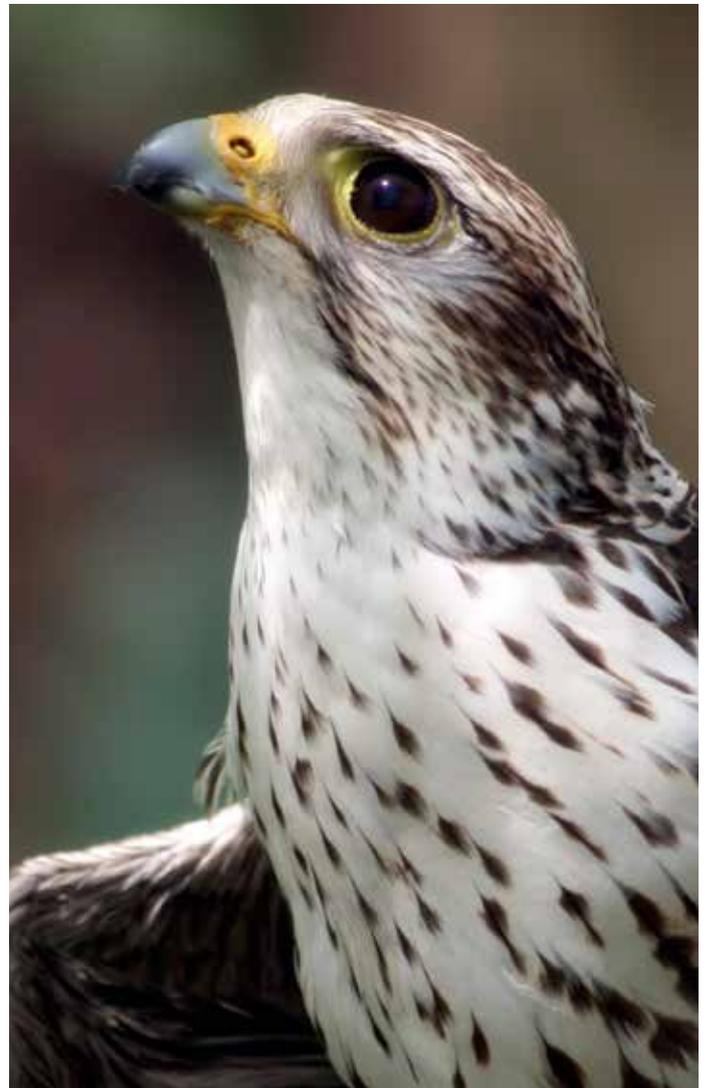


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To gain momentum for implementation, five Flagship Proposals (FPs) were elaborated and included in the SakerGAP, with the following aims: (1) To create a single Saker Falcon Online Information Portal; (2) To engage 10 Falcon Hospitals and 10 Trappers within a Saker Falcon Network; (3) To deploy 100 satellite tags on Saker Falcons; (4) To erect 1,000 artificial nest platforms for Saker Falcons; and, (5) To install or retro-fit 1,000,000 new or existing 'bird-safe' electricity poles.

The session reported some excellent progress on these initiatives achieved by the STF, in collaboration with organisations and experts. FP1 and FP2, reported and presented by Prof. Robert Kenward, IUCN-CEM and Mr. Janusz Sielicki, International Association of Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF), respectively, had been completed in the form of www.sakernet.org. This online portal is available in four languages (Arabic, Farsi, Pashto and Russian) and was visited 7,000 times by the end of 2017. Eight Falcon Clinics expressed interest in future cooperation with a scheme to monitor wild Saker Falcon populations and trade through mark-recapture methods. As a contribution to FP3 (compiled by Mr. Mátyás Prommer, Herman Ottó Institute Nonprofit Ltd., and presented by Mr. András Kovács, Specialist Technical Advisor to the STF), over 70 Saker Falcons have been tracked by satellite tags in Europe (32) and Asia (38+) since 2014. Interpretation of the collected data is an important next step. Dr. Andrew Dixon (Emirates Falconers' Club) provided update on the progress of establishing artificial nest platforms for Saker Falcons and assessed their potential conservation management roles. Mr. Janusz Sielicki (IAF) summarised efforts to retrofit dangerous power lines across the range of the Saker Falcon (FP5) and emphasized the importance of permanent solutions.

The aim of the draft SakerGAP Summary Implementation Plan 2018–2020, presented by Dr. Robert Sheldon, SakerGAP Coordinator, is to operationalise the core objectives and actions outlined in the SakerGAP. It was prepared on the basis of the SakerGAP but supplemented by means of an extensive Questionnaire Survey. Initial results had been introduced by the Coordinating Unit of the Raptors MoU at the 4th STF Telecom on 26 March 2018. The draft Implementation Plan combines the Flagship Proposals, components of the Adaptive Management Framework and the Framework for Action, and consolidates them in to a single summary document. This Summary Implementation Plan will be used to both guide and track progress of the delivery of the SakerGAP, and should be considered a dynamic working document that can be updated regularly. Alongside the summary document, a comprehensive Implementation Plan is being developed that includes details of all actions applicable to the Range States, other partners and stakeholders. The morning session ended with breakout group discussions covering the topics of (1) Engaging national governments; (2) Enhancing co-ordination between Range States and across the flyway; and (3) Monitoring and research. Rapporteurs from Working Groups summarised participants' valuable ideas and suggestions, which will be fed into the SakerGAP Implementation Plan.

The afternoon session was allocated to the topic of sustainable use. In his introductory speech Dr. Adrian Lombard (IAF) presented

considerations relating to sustainable use of the Saker Falcon as a conservation tool and assessed the pros and cons of such an approach. Prof. Colin A. Galbraith (Chair of the STF) delivered a keynote presentation on sustainable use as proposed by the SakerGAP. The underlying principle had been established in Objective 2 of the SakerGAP to 'Ensure that where trapping and other forms of taking Saker Falcons from the wild are legal, they are controlled, and sustainable, thereby encouraging population growth and eventual stabilization'. During the session, the potential cumulative negative consequences of uncontrolled use of the Saker Falcon were considered, as were the essential and desirable ecological and conservation safeguards to ensure a sustainable limited harvest of birds. The presentations were followed by a plenary discussion about sustainable use of the Saker Falcon, which provided additional valuable inputs to promoting implementation of the concept established in the SakerGAP.

Key outcomes

The session reaffirmed the importance of the SakerGAP, particularly in relation to its transparent and consensus-building approach. It noted excellent progress on the Flagship Projects, but also that implementation needs to be scaled up on the basis of the SakerGAP Implementation Plan and extended into priority Range States, especially to address the primary threat of electrocution. For the effective long-term conservation of the species, it is essential to move from the current unregulated illegal taking of Saker Falcons to a situation which ensures that any taking of birds from the wild is regulated in a transparent manner and in line with the SakerGAP goal to re-establish a healthy, self-sustaining wild population throughout its range, including by adopting the safeguards established in the plan.

In addition to an enhanced level of resource mobilization involving Range States and stakeholders, full implementation of SakerGAP will require development of a governance framework. Participants applied their knowledge and experience to finding solutions to key challenges inhibiting effective delivery of the SakerGAP – the valuable outputs will be incorporated into the Implementation Plan.



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A Summit for the Flyways Outcomes

GLOBAL FLYWAYS SUMMIT, APRIL 23-26 2018

Capacity development for flyway conservation

The session aim was to take stock of the critical capacity development limitations and recommend strategies for capacity development at multiple scales within and across different flyway systems. Just as flyway conservation needs a network of sites, it needs a network of people and organisations taking action in every country along each flyway.

Objectives

The Summit provided a forum for civil society organisations, including BirdLife Partners, to identify key capacity development gaps and success stories and develop and implement strategies to build on such efforts. Specifically, the session was organised to:

- Share experiences of innovative capacity development approaches that deliver successful conservation outcomes.
- Identify critical questions/challenges on flyways system conservation that can be addressed with capacity development interventions at multiple levels, local, flyway and global.
- Develop recommendations to strengthen capacity development work for flyway conservation.

Key outcomes

The session participants structured their discussion to reach consensus on each of the following three-steps to addressing capacity development needs for flyway conservation both within and beyond the BirdLife Partnership.

A. Identified key capacity gaps.

After reaching consensus on defining capacity development for flyways conservation at multiple levels, gaps were identified at each level:

1. At individual level:

- **socio-economic expertise** to articulate links between flyways conservation, sustainable development and wellbeing;
- **policy development and implementation to mainstream** flyways conservation,



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- **communications** to raise awareness and stimulate engagement and education to bring in the future generation.

2. At institutional level:

- **Organisational development** issues such as governance and management;
- **Resource mobilisation** including fundraising and nature based enterprises

3. At systemic (network) level:

- compelling messages and premises that **resonate with different stakeholders**;
- effective networking that allows **sharing of knowledge, tools and resources**.

B. Identified ongoing efforts to build upon.

1. **Tools and training programmes:** e.g. the Wings over wetlands flyways training kit; Capacity for Conservation website; Conservation Leadership Programme training, BirdLife guides for governance, strategic planning, local conservation groups.

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2. **Experiences in capacity building along flyways networks:** e.g. BirdLife Capacity Development Programme, the HIMA approach in the Middle East, Partner-led East Atlantic Flyway Initiative, Training in anti-poisoning protocol in East Africa, capacity-building for migratory soaring birds conservation.
3. **Funding mechanisms** for capacity building relevant to flyways e.g. AEWA small grants Fund, Champions of the Flyway, British Birdwatching Fair, BirdLife Capacity Development Fund.

C. Recommended strategies for capacity development

Priority actions were grouped into four main categories:

1. **Strengthen communications capacity** to reach more people and trigger relevant action
 - Build capacity in design and implementation of **strategic national communication campaigns**, including the development of compelling messages that resonate with the private sector (e.g. extractives, agribusiness, pharmaceuticals), donors, governments and conservation stakeholders.
 - Scale up capacity in **awareness raising at local and national level** on the roles that migratory birds (e.g. vultures) play in the ecosystem and the implications of their loss on human wellbeing/livelihoods. This may involve taking target audiences into the field and using appropriate 'vocabulary' to deliver messages that convey the pride/passion of the local communities in the value of their resources and the role they play in their protection.
 - Bring together communicators on **flyways e.g. through setting up Flyways Communication Working Groups along each flyway**, to share and exchange information, resources, knowledge between partners, and build each other's capacity.
2. Enhance use of existing **capacity development tools and approaches**, and develop new ones.
 - Improve use of existing tools for **assessment of needs and development and monitoring of institutional and individual capacities** for Flyways conservation.
 - Extend training and capacity building efforts to the **enforcement agencies** that have mandate (e.g. judges and police) to address wildlife crimes affecting migratory birds.
 - Develop joint research initiatives involving academics and students from multiple flyways countries, including building **capacity to use technology in conservation** e.g. use of drones in surveying.

3. Funding for Capacity Development

- **Create/capitalize a Capacity Development Fund**, through donations by individual and institutional donors, bilateral support mechanisms and the private sector, to provide medium-to-long-term capacity development grants to organisations working on Flyways conservation.

3. Strengthen networks and foster stronger collaboration

- Facilitate **Cross-Regional Advisory Groups on Flyways conservation** to enhance networking and promote capacity development within flyways conservation initiatives and projects and monitor implementation.
- Create/strengthen **networks of children/schools** between countries across the flyway so they increase solidarity and mutual respect for migratory birds and each other's cultures.
- **Mainstream flyway conservation in environmental education activities and school curricula at various levels** from primary to tertiary.
- Reach out to **non-traditional stakeholders**, e.g. development sector, faith-based organisations, financial institutions and others and support them to mainstream flyways considerations in their activities and programmes.
- Develop capacity development programmes focused on **key thematic areas** such as energy, wetlands, landuse, hunting, tourism using multiple approaches working with various stakeholders.



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