
Conserving migratory birds across the East Asian-Australasian Flyway

Migratory Species of Conservation Concern in the ASEAN Region



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Background of draft decision



- Conservation effort and resources in the EAAF prioritises globally threatened long-distance, migratory waterbirds
- Less effort and resources for conserving short-distance or intra-tropical migrants; many poorly studied
- Short-distance migrants typically undertake wet-dry season migratory movements, in response to the seasonal monsoon patterns that characterizes Southeast Asia and the wider region
- Habitat loss and degradation of inland wetlands as well as hunting pressures a threat

Case 1. Sarus Crane

- In EAAF countries, breeds Myanmar, Cambodia, (E)Thailand, (S) Lao PDR, N Cambodia. Winters SE Cambodia and S Vietnam
- Eastern populations are migratory
- Observed decline in wintering numbers in some key wetlands, suggesting broader regional decline or change in wintering behavior
- Migratory behavior and large range – species will benefit from cooperation between range states
- EAAF and its initiatives can support work on Sarus Crane and mobilise resources for its conservation



Image · Bjorn Olesen

Case 2. Masked Finfoot

- In EAAF countries, breeds Bangladesh, Myanmar & Cambodia. Winters Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore
- Sharp decline in sightings in recent years across Southeast Asia (no observations from some key sites), suggesting population contraction, but little field info – IUCN listed as ‘Endangered’
- Dependent on coastal and inland wetlands (e.g. flooded and riparian forest)
- Migratory behavior and large range – species will benefit from cooperation between range states



Image · Yann Muzika

Hunting of birds for food and trade



Policy background and emerging opportunities



- Increasing interest and involvement of regional partners in the conservation of migratory waterbirds
- Establishment of an ASEAN Network on Wetlands and Migratory Waterbirds Conservation (or 'ASEAN Flyway Network') in March 2017 following MOP8/MOP9, and 2-year long project to strengthen flyway network sites in ASEAN region
- Urgent need to identify threatened short-distance migratory waterbirds and their requirements in Southeast Asia, to promote cooperation and collaboration



Main recommendations

- *Takes note* of the list of threatened short-distance migratory waterbird species based on IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, as well as other species known to be in decline for the ASEAN region
- *Welcomes* additional input from partners on the current status of these species in the region, recognizing that there remain large gaps in the knowledge on the distribution and migratory movements of many short-distance migratory waterbirds in the Southeast Asian region
- *Collaborates* with the AFN to
 - Develop Single Species Action Plans for identified priority species;
 - Identify the key sites, including potential Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) used by the identified priority species in the ASEAN region, and to ensure the long-term, sustainable management of these sites through appropriate designations and mechanisms;
 - Address the main threats affecting the priority species, e.g. habitat loss and degradation, and unsustainable hunting, with the view that the conservation responses could also benefit a wider range of biodiversity;
 - Enhance communication, education and public awareness of the importance of conserving short-distance migratory waterbirds and their habitats
- Encourage relevant Partners to update subsequent MOPs on the results of their efforts