

**Side Event Title:** Enhancing Cooperation Between the Central Asian and East Asian–Australasian Flyways

**Lead Organiser/s:** Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Korea

**Co-organiser/s:** Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

International Crane Foundation (ICF)

WWF-Hong Kong

Wetlands International

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**Date:** 10 November 2025

**Time:** 13:00 - 14:00

**Room:** (to be filled out by the Secretariat)

### Background

Flyways around the world demonstrate varying degrees and models of institutional cooperation for the conservation of migratory birds.

The East Asian–Australasian Flyway (EAAF) is notable for its inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnership model, bringing together national governments, international NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, and other key actors. In contrast, the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) remains in the early stages of developing a coordinated institutional framework. Ongoing discussions are focused on establishing a dedicated coordination unit under the Initiative for the CAF (CAFI).

To address this institutional gap, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Government of India are collaborating to create a structured mechanism that enhances cooperation among CAF Range States. Building on the CAFI established during CMS COP14 in 2024, current efforts are focused on advancing CAFI by fostering regional consensus on migratory bird ranges and promoting coordinated conservation strategies across the flyway.

### Objectives

This side event provides a timely opportunity to review progress and shape the path forward. It builds on the momentum generated since the Hanns Seidel Foundation/EAAFP Conference, held in November 2022 in Songdo, Incheon, and incorporates insights from a series of virtual masterclasses conducted in 2023, alongside ongoing multi-stakeholder dialogues along the flyway. The event will provide the latest updates on proposed institutional arrangements for the CAFI and explore potential synergies with the EAAF framework.

## Expected Outcomes

The side event aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- **Strengthened CAF–EAAF Institutional Linkages:** Foster closer cooperation and coordination mechanisms between the CAF and EAAF.
- **Knowledge Exchange and Best Practice Sharing:** Facilitate dialogue among experts and organizations to share successful models, research findings, and conservation strategies.
- **Consensus on Future Collaborative Framework:** Build common understanding and outline next steps for a long-term cooperative framework bridging the two flyways.

## Tentative Programme

Time	Topic and Speaker	Notes
13:00-13:03	Opening remarks by Dr. Bernhard Seliger, HSF Korea	
13:03-13:10	The importance of connectivity in the Flyways and CAFI by Dr. Ivan Ramirez, Head of Avian Species Team, CMS	
13:10-13:17	Wetlands for Asian Flyways Initiative: Towards a Collaborative and Sustainable Conservation Network by Ms. Vivian Fu, Senior Manager, Wetlands for Asian Flyways Initiative, WWF-Hong Kong	
13:17-13:26	India's Central Asian Flyway National Action Plan – Status of the Prioritized Wetlands And Species Action Plans by Dr. Ponnusamy Sathiyaselvam, Bombay Natural History Society	
13:26-13:33	Improving research to understand the connectivity of migratory waterbirds in the CAF, and links with the EAAF by Dr. Taej Mundkur, Senior Advisor, Wetland International	
13:33-13:40	Global Flyway Cooperation focused on CAF and EAAF by Mr. Spike Millington, Former Vice President, International Programs, ICF	
13:40-13:55	Discussions	
13:55-14:00	Closing remarks by Dr. Musonda Mumba, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands	