

Side Event Title: Masked Finfoot Task Force

Lead Organiser/s: BirdLife International

Co-organiser/s: Wildlife Conservation Society

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Date: 12 November 2025

Time: 13:00 – 14:00

Background

The Masked Finfoot is one of Asia’s rarest large waterbird and was only recently uplisted on the IUCN Red List to Critically Endangered. Its most significant populations occur in the Bangladesh Sundarbans and is now the focus of extensive conservation action, while there is little data on breeding populations known until recently in northern Myanmar and Cambodia. To scale up conservation activities for the species, a resolution at MOP11 called for the establishment of a task force for the Masked Finfoot, and the development of a programme of work for the species across range states. This session aims to expand the membership of the EAAFP Masked Finfoot Task Force, while reviewing proposed actions and activities for the conservation of the species.

Objectives

- (1) Update on the conservation status of the Masked Finfoot across all key range states
- (2) Review proposed activities and actions on the draft programme of work for the Masked Finfoot
- (3) Expand and engage stakeholders, especially governments of range states

Expected Outcomes

Tentative Programme

Time	Topic and Speaker	Notes
13:00	Opening comments Representative (TBC) <i>Bangladesh Forest Department</i>	Rep from EAAFP. Sayam to approach BFD
13:05	Global population status with focus on Bangladesh Sayam Chowdhury <i>University of Cambridge, SCOPE Foundation</i>	
13:15	Latest census of the Masked Finfoot in Cambodia's northern plains Representative (TBC) <i>Wildlife Conservation Society Cambodia Programme</i>	Most likely online presentation
13:25	Updates on the Masked Finfoot in Myanmar Pyae Phyo Aung <i>Nature Conservation Society Myanmar</i> Thiri Dae We Aung <i>Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association</i>	
13:35	Proposed next steps and review of the EAAFP species programme of work Ding Li Yong <i>BirdLife International</i> Sayam Chowdhury <i>University of Cambridge, SCOPE Foundation</i>	
13:45	Open forum and feedback on actions Ding Li Yong	

	<i>BirdLife International</i>	
13:55	Closing comments Representative (TBC) <i>Ministry of Environment, Cambodia</i>	Ding Li to check with Cambodia government reps