



Illegal Killing of Migratory Birds

Source: DTE

A study highlights that millions of birds across the **Mediterranean littoral** spanning **Europe, North Africa, and West Asia** continue to be illegally killed despite commitments to halve such activities by 2030.

- **Key Species at Risk:** **European Turtle Dove** (*Streptopelia turtur*), **Egyptian Vulture** (*Neophron percnopterus*), and **European Goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*).
- **Widespread Non-Compliance:** 38 out of 46 countries assessed are not on track to meet the **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Rome Strategic Plan**.
- **CMS Rome Strategic Plan:** It aims to eradicate **illegal killing, trapping, and trade of birds (IKB)** in Europe and the Mediterranean.
 - It targets a **50% reduction in illegal activities by 2030** compared to 2020 levels. The Plan builds on the previous **Bern Convention**.
- **Bern Convention (1979):** It is the **first international treaty to protect both species and habitats**, promoting coordinated conservation across **Europe and parts of Africa**.

India and Bird Conservation

- The **National Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Birds (2018-2023)** focuses on protecting migratory species **along the Central Asian Flyway** (areas between the Arctic and Indian Oceans).
- Under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, rare and endangered birds are included in **Schedule-I** for the highest protection.
- India has **also signed non legally binding MOU with CMS** on the conservation and management of **Siberian Cranes (1998)**, **Marine Turtles (2007)**, **Dugongs (2008)** and **Raptors (2016)**.

Details of bird species reported from India which are listed as Critically Endangered in IUCN Red List version 2010.1

S. No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Status
1	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	Accipitridae	CR
2	Indian Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	Accipitridae	CR
3	Slender-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	Accipitridae	CR
4	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	Accipitridae	CR
5	Pink-headed Duck	<i>Rhodonessa caryophyllacea</i>	Anatidae	CR
6	White-bellied Heron	<i>Ardea insignis</i>	Ardeidae	CR
7	Sociable Lapwing	<i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	Charadriidae	CR
8	Christmas Frigatebird	<i>Fregata andrewsi</i>	Fregatidae	CR
9	Jerdon's Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus bitorquatus</i>	Glareolidae	CR
10	Siberian Crane	<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>	Gruidae	CR
11	Bengal Florican	<i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i>	Otididae	CR
12	Himalayan Quail	<i>Ophrysia superciliosa</i>	Phasianidae	CR
13	Spoon-billed Sandpiper	<i>Eurynorhynchus pygmeus</i>	Scolopacidae	CR
14	Forest Owlet	<i>Heteroglaux blewitti</i>	Strigidae	CR

CR: Critically Endangered.

Read more: [Convention on Migratory Species](#)

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