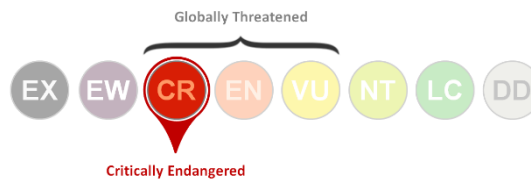


Population has rapidly declined in Myanmar, with annual rate estimated 9% between 2009 and 2016.

### **Wings of Hope: Saving the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Myanmar**



The globally threatened Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Calidris pygmaea* is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List. It is a long-distance migratory shorebird breeding in Chukotka, Russia, regularly migrates over 8,000 km to winter in South and Southeast Asia, including Myanmar.



Spoon-billed Sandpiper chicks

With a global population of fewer than 500 mature individuals for the six-year period between 2014 to 2021 (Green et al., 2021) Myanmar hosts nearly half of the remaining global population. The major population host in the Gulf of Mottama, followed by Nanthar Island, Ayeyarwaddy Delta, and Tanintharyi Region. However, despite the conservation efforts, the population has rapidly declined in Myanmar, with annual rate estimated 9% between 2009 and 2016 (Aung et al. 2020). These alarming trends highlight the urgent need for intensified conservation actions to safeguard the species from extinction.

### Threats

- **Habitat degradation:** Spoon-billed Sandpiper faces a serious threats from unsustainable coastal development driven by economic interests, which encroach upon their foraging grounds. Misguided restoration of mangrove forests can disrupt hydrological patterns and decrease their available habitat.
- **Climate change:** The survival of Spoon-billed Sandpiper is posed by climate change which deteriorates their habitats and disrupts crucial lifecycle events such as breeding success and chick survival rates. Additionally, this can alter the timing and distribution of migratory stopover sites along their flyway, impacting the availability of food sources, causing exhaustion during their long-distance migration.
- **Hunting and Trapping:** Some of the local fisherman using mist nests while fishing contribute to the decline of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper populations in Myanmar during the non-breeding season.
- **Poisoning:** Hunters use potassium cyanide to catch birds that pose a severe threat to many species, including Spoon-billed Sandpiper, causing severe harm and even dead.

### Why it matters

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper plays a vital role in our ecosystem, indicating the health of the wetlands. By protecting it, we safeguard diverse species and preserve our natural heritage in Myanmar.

## **Our Approach**

We are actively working with local communities, researchers and conservationists to protect the birds and their habitats. Our conservation initiatives include reducing habitats from human disturbances, scientific research and community engagement.

## **Our Goal**



Since 2008, BANCA has been researching and protecting the Spoon-billed Sandpiper in collaboration with ornithological experts and local and international organisations and has been recognized as “species guardian” for Spoon-billed Sandpiper by BirdLife International since 2009.

We aim to support crucial conservation efforts and your contribution will directly fund the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and their habitats conservation projects, scientific studies and educational outreach programs in Myanmar.

## **How You Can Help**

**Donate:** Your generous donation will make a real difference. Even a small amount can have a big impact. Your donation will have a direct impact on saving Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Myanmar.

**Spread Awareness:** Share this message with friends and family to raise awareness about the Spoon-billed Sandpiper.

**Get involved:** Join us in the field and make a hands-on difference in conservation.

Let's come together to protect the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and secure a better future for our planet's biodiversity. Your support can make a lasting impact.

For more information, visit our website: [www.banca-env.org/](http://www.banca-env.org/) and follow us on social media: [www. https://www.facebook.com/BANCAmyanmar](https://www.facebook.com/BANCAmyanmar).

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