

# FAR EASTERN CURLEW

*Numenius madagascariensis*

## IUCN Red List: Endangered

The Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) is the largest migratory shorebird in the world. Endemic to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), the Far Eastern Curlew breeds in **Russia** and **north-eastern China**. On migration, the species travels through **Mongolia, Japan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, China, Vietnam, Thailand, and Malaysia**. Small numbers of Far Eastern Curlew are thought to overwinter in the **Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea** and **New Zealand**, but the majority (approximately 26,000 individuals) overwinter in **Australia**. Evidence from **Australia** suggests that the Far Eastern Curlew have declined by an estimated 81% over 30 years and the species is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

The greatest threat to the survival of the Far Eastern Curlew is the ongoing destruction of tidal mudflats that the species uses on migration, especially in **China** and the **Republic of Korea** and south-east Asia. Hunting in some parts of the species' range is also considered to be a serious threat. Other threats to Far Eastern Curlew include human disturbance, pollution, overharvesting of potential prey animals and the effects of climate change.

The goal of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Far Eastern Curlew is to return the species to a positive population growth rate for at least three generations. Essential actions identified in this plan to achieve this goal include:

- Identify, protect and appropriately manage of remaining sites used by Far Eastern Curlew during its annual cycle
- Reduce or eliminate illegal harvesting and incidental by-catch
- Robustly monitor the species' population trend
- Determine key demographic parameters to support population monitoring
- Continued operation of the Far Eastern Curlew Task Force until the Action Plan's goal is achieved

The successful implementation of this Plan will require concerted action by and collaboration between all Range States and relevant stakeholders. International and regional cooperation, such as through the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership and the Convention on Migratory Species and other multilateral and bilateral agreements provide an important framework.



Photo: Dan Weller

**To find out more about the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Far Eastern Curlew and the Far Eastern Curlew Task Force, please contact the Task Force Chair and/or Coordinator:**

### Chair

Dr. Mark Carey  
Migratory Species Section  
Department of the Environment  
Australian Government  
T: +61 (0)2 6274 1873  
E: mark.carey@environment.gov.au

### Coordinator

Connie Warren  
Shorebird Conservation Coordinator  
BirdLife Australia  
T: +61 (0)3 9347 0757  
E: connie.warren@birdlife.org.au

**A copy of the Action Plan and other relevant documents can be found at:**

<http://www.eaaflyway.net/our-activities/task-forces/far-eastern-curlew/>

