

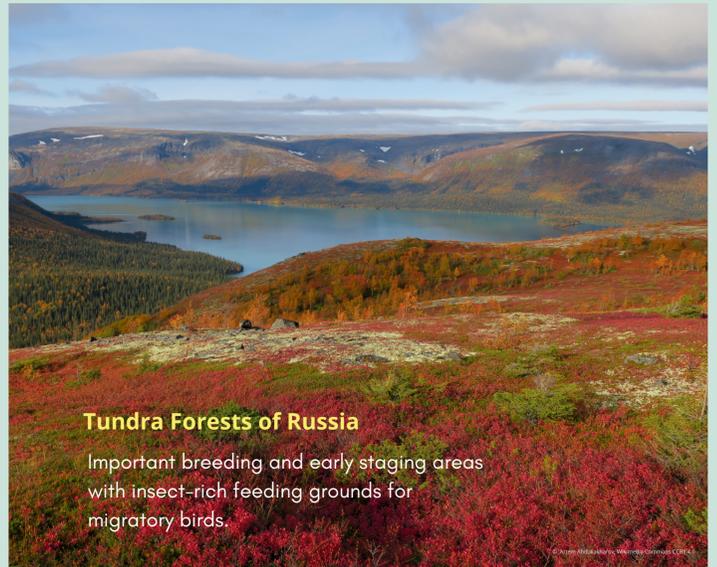
KEY HABITATS OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY

The Central Asian Flyway (CAF) links breeding grounds in the Russian Arctic with wintering areas in South Asia and the Maldives, supporting millions of migratory birds each year. Birds rely on a connected chain of ecosystems that provide breeding, stopover, feeding, and wintering habitats along the route. The habitats listed below are illustrative examples of key landscapes and not an exhaustive list. Conserving this network of ecosystems is vital for sustaining migratory bird populations.



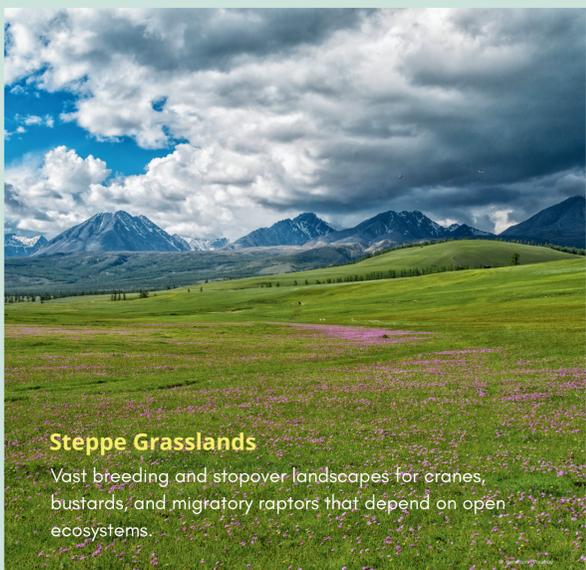
Arctic Coast

Critical breeding grounds for shorebirds and waterfowl, where long summer daylight supports rapid nesting and chick development.



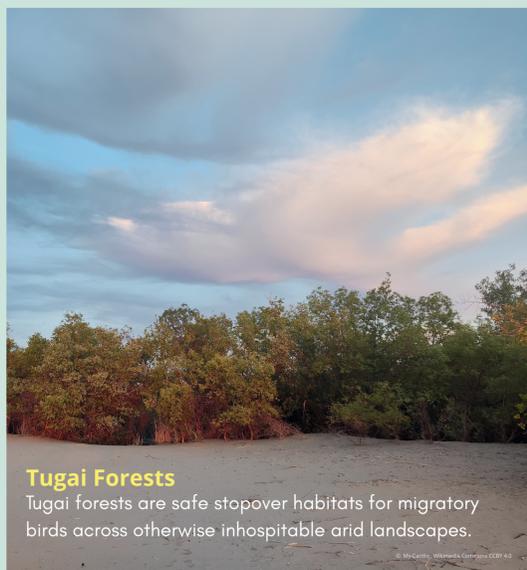
Tundra Forests of Russia

Important breeding and early staging areas with insect-rich feeding grounds for migratory birds.



Steppe Grasslands

Vast breeding and stopover landscapes for cranes, bustards, and migratory raptors that depend on open ecosystems.



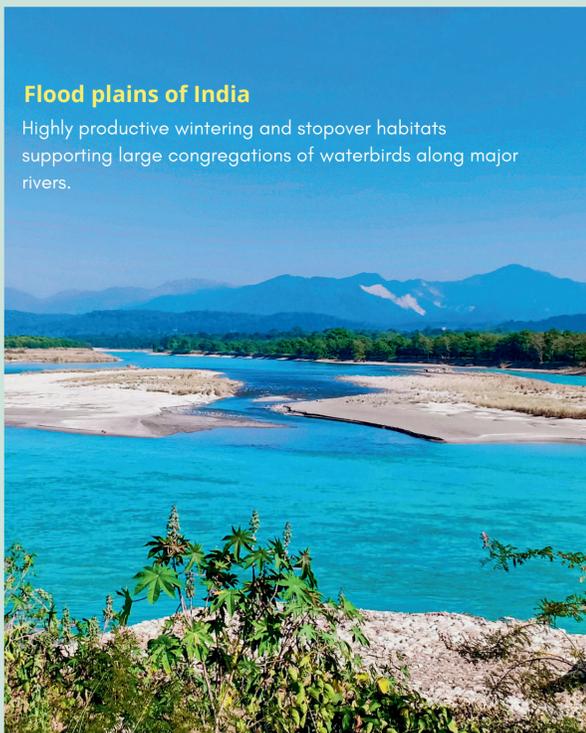
Tugai Forests

Tugai forests are safe stopover habitats for migratory birds across otherwise inhospitable arid landscapes.



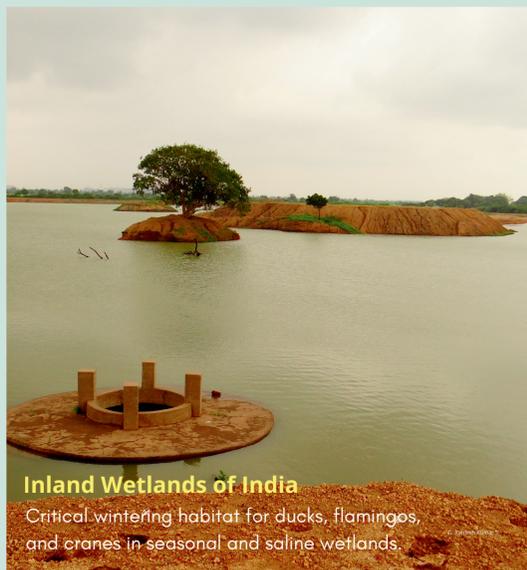
High-Alatitude Wetlands

Essential breeding and staging sites for high-altitude waterbirds such as bar-headed geese and black-necked cranes.



Flood plains of India

Highly productive wintering and stopover habitats supporting large congregations of waterbirds along major rivers.



Inland Wetlands of India

Critical wintering habitat for ducks, flamingos, and cranes in seasonal and saline wetlands.



Coastal Habitats

Provide feeding and stopover habitat for shorebirds and coastal waterbirds in estuaries, mudflats, mangroves, and lagoons.



Western Ghats

Important wintering habitat for migratory landbirds, with forests rich in insects, fruits, and shelter.



Islands of Indian Ocean

Serve as southern wintering and stopover sites for seabirds, shorebirds, and other coastal migrants.