



Wildlife Hazard Management at Velana International Airport

**By:
Ali Sharif, Manager - WHM**

- My name is Ali Sharif, and I serve as the Manager of Wildlife Hazard Management at Velana International Airport.
- I have over 13 years of experience in the aviation industry, with a strong background in promoting aviation safety and operational efficiency.
- Since 2021, I have been actively specializing in Wildlife Hazard Management, leading initiatives to proactively mitigate risks and enhance the overall safety of airport operations.

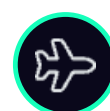




Since the earliest days of flight, aircraft have encountered wildlife both in the air and on the ground. Encounters with birds and other animals have become increasingly frequent with the advent of faster, quieter aircraft, elevating the risk of serious damage to aircraft and threats to human lives.

To mitigate these risks, Velana International Airport (VIA) has implemented a comprehensive Wildlife Hazard Management Plan (WHMP), supported by a dedicated Wildlife Hazard Management Team that proactively manages wildlife risks to enhance aviation safety.

Wildlife Hazard Management at VIA



Safety Priority

Wildlife strikes continue to pose a significant threat to aviation safety globally. At VIA, ensuring safe operations is a top priority, with comprehensive wildlife hazard management measures actively implemented.



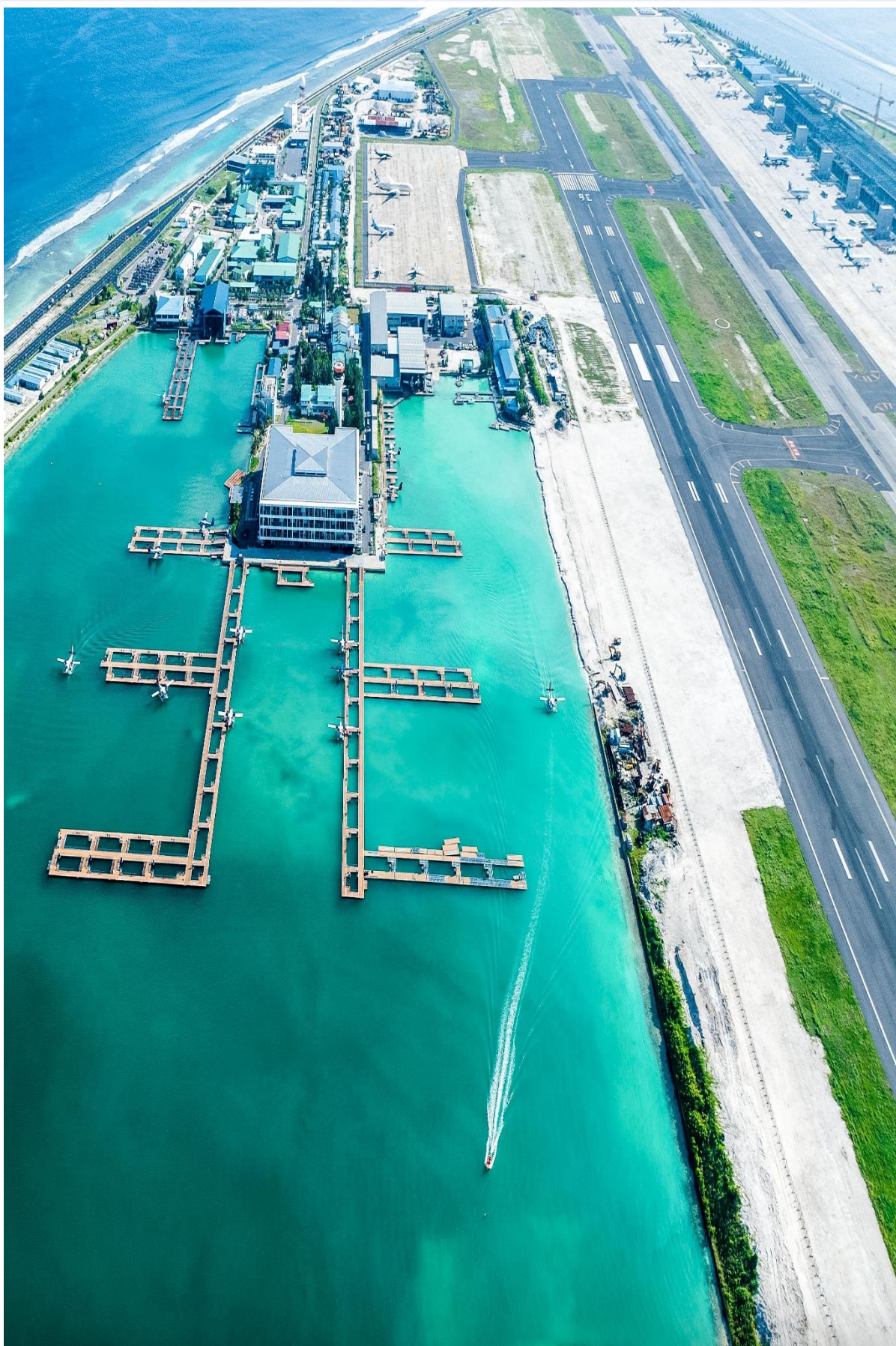
Unique Environment

VIA's operational environment encompasses both land-based and water aerodrome operations, requiring a proactive, data-driven Wildlife Hazard Management Plan.



World's Largest Water Aerodrome

With the ongoing development and certification process of the world's largest water aerodrome at VIA, SOPs for Wildlife Hazard Management specific to the water aerodrome are being developed.



Wildlife Hazard Management Program

Regulatory Compliance

ICAO Standards, MCAA, and Best Practices

Assessment & Monitoring

Routine surveys and wildlife tracking

Active & Passive Controls

Deterrents and habitat management

Stakeholder Coordination

Airlines, ATS, and environmental agencies

Data Collection & Analysis

Systematic reporting for continuous improvement

Risk Assessment Approach

Daily Patrols

Regular patrols by the wildlife team in operational areas.



Data Recording

Systematic documentation of wildlife sightings and strike incidents is maintained.



Risk Analysis

Species-specific risk assessments are done to prioritize mitigation.



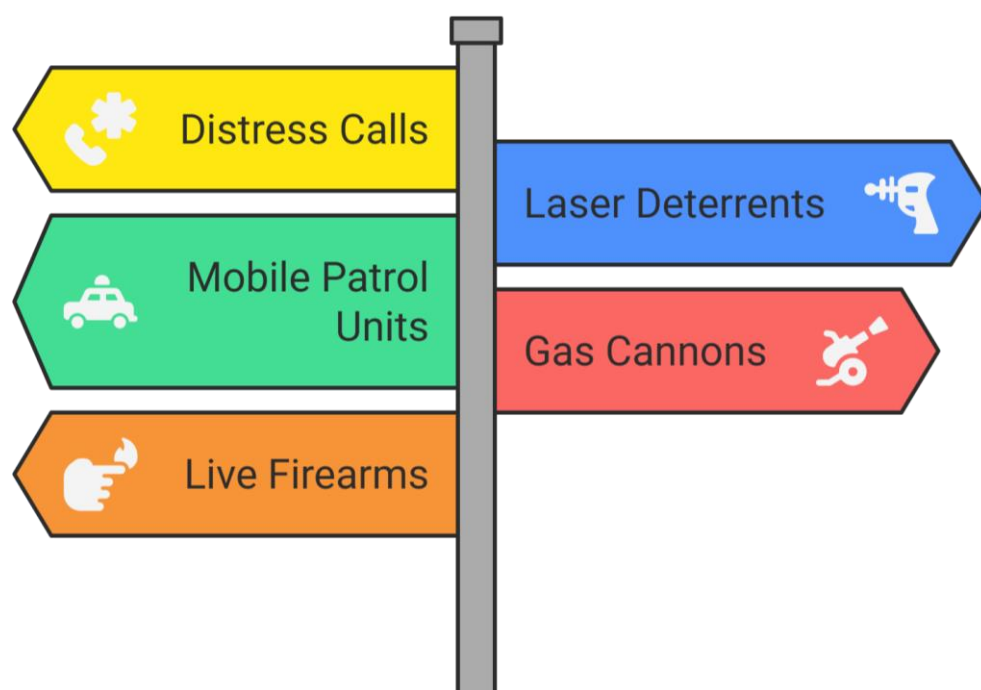
Seasonal Monitoring

Tracking migratory patterns with environmental authority collaboration.



Wildlife Control and Deterrence Measures

Active Control Measures



Passive Control Measures



Grass Height

Managing grass strategically for control



Water Drainage

Improving water drainage infrastructure effectively



Waste Management

Implementing effective waste management protocols



Wildlife Elimination

Removing attractants for local wildlife

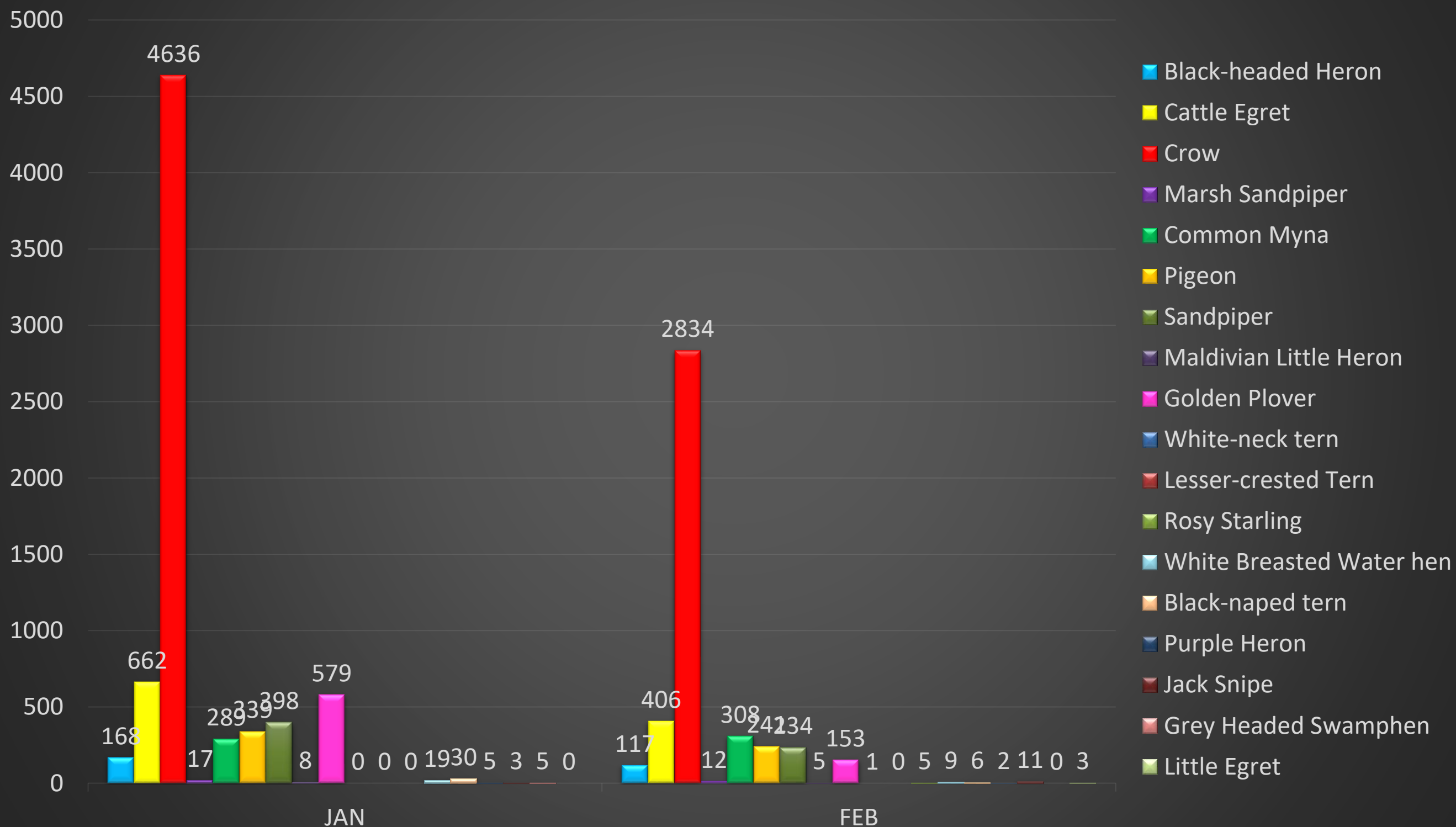


Habitat Modification

Altering habitats using specific techniques



TOTAL SPECIES COUNT Jan-Feb 2025



Cross-Agency Cooperation



Air Traffic Control

Local Airlines

Ground Handling

Environmental Authorities


**Capacity
Building
Initiatives**



National Awareness Programs

VIA

MCAA

EPA



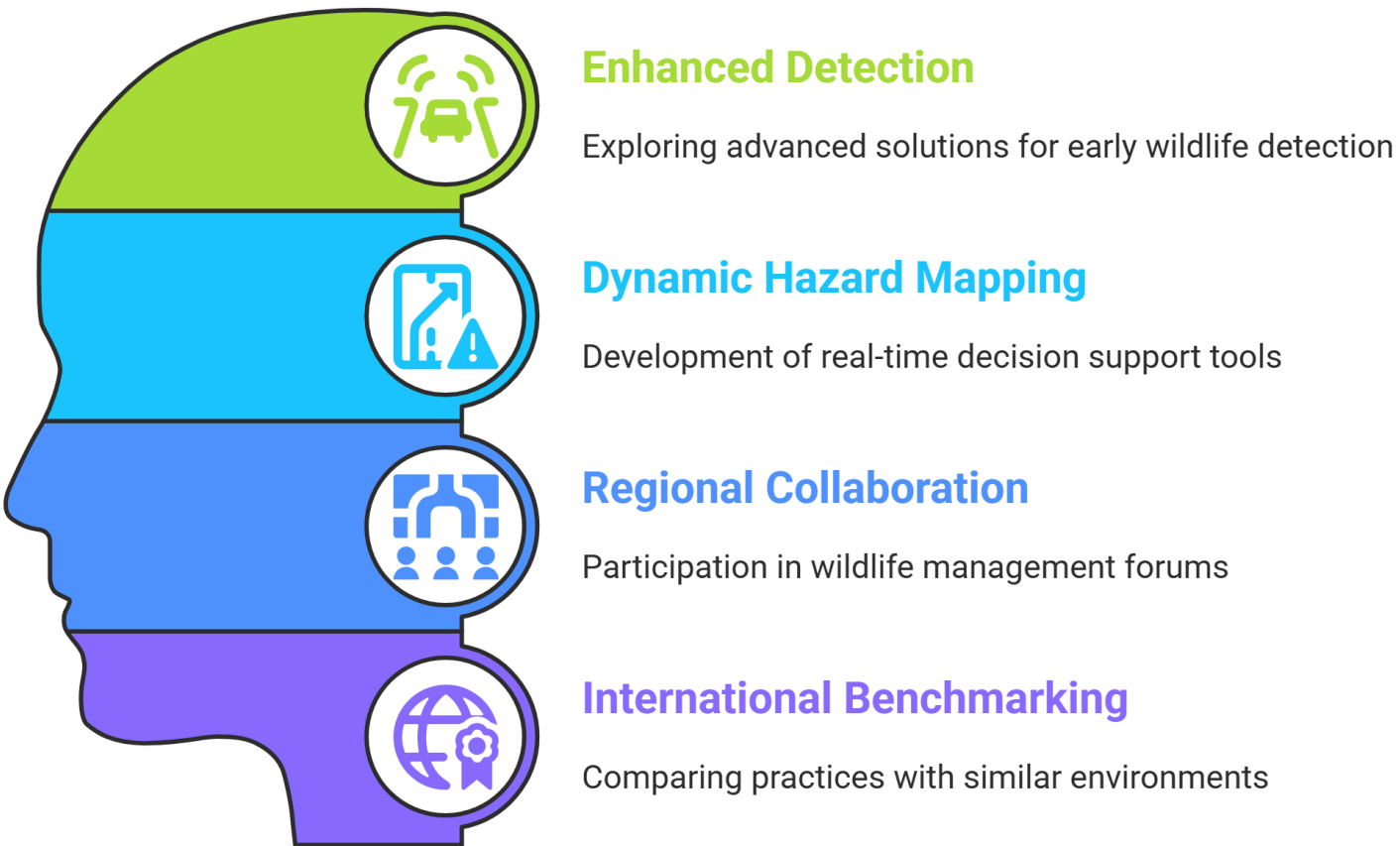
Personnel Training

Workshops

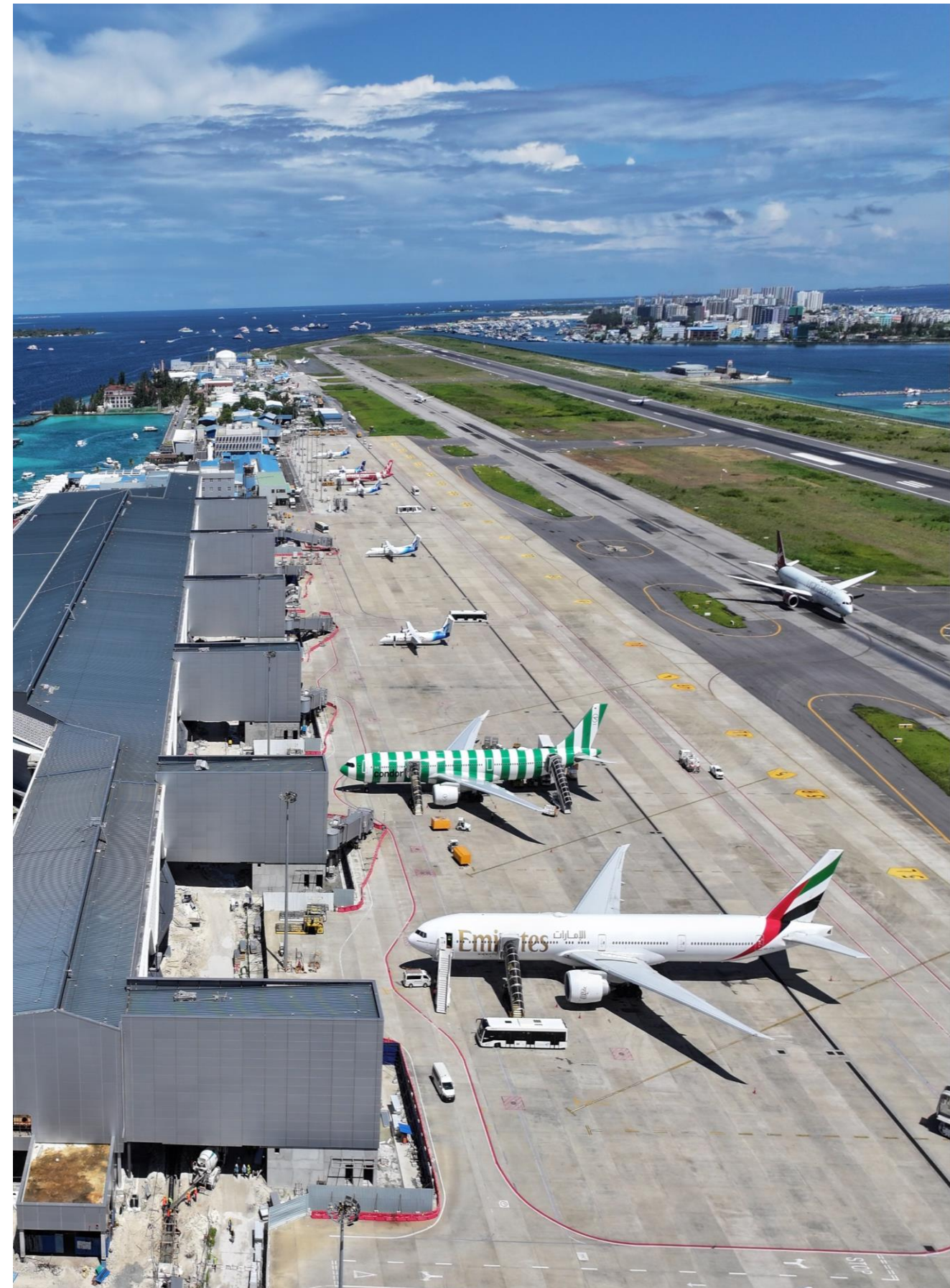
ICAO/ACI Courses



Strategic Wildlife Management Overview



VIA remains committed to continuous improvement in its wildlife hazard management practices. By leveraging technology, regional partnerships, and data-driven approaches, the airport aims to stay at the forefront of aviation safety while respecting its unique island ecosystem.



Unique Challenges at VIA



Island Ecosystem

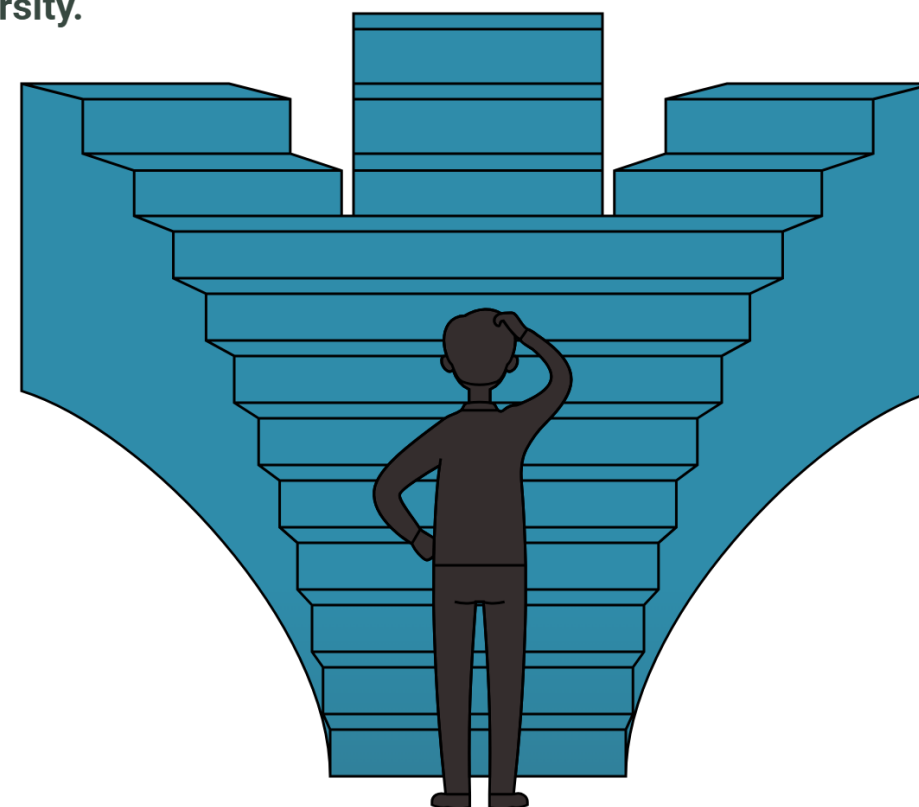
Leverage natural attractions to enhance tourism while protecting biodiversity.

Seasonal Variations

Implement adaptive strategies to manage fluctuating wildlife populations.

Operational Growth

Balance expansion with environmental sustainability.



VIA faces distinctive challenges due to its location in a tropical island ecosystem. The surrounding marine environment creates persistent wildlife risks, particularly near the water aerodrome. Limited scientific research on local and migratory bird species' behavior can hinder predictive risk assessments and targeted mitigation measures.

THANK YOU 😊