# General FAQs

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## Q. How do I find information about a particular species?
**A.** The LPI database contains over 18,000 population records from more than 3,600 species from all over the world. To search the database, click on Data Portal and select Search in the drop down menu; this will take you to the search page. Just type in the species' scientific or common name into the search bar and if there are records of it in the database these will be displayed on the map below. You can find tips on how to use the Search function under Supporting Documents. The document contains several sections, providing guidance on how to search the Living Planet Database, how to navigate through the population records, how to save searches and export data from the site.

## Q. How do I search for information from a particular country or region?

**A.** Much the same as the species search, you can type in location searches. These can be specific to a country, region or ocean.


## Q. Where can I find a previous Living Planet Report or other reports using the LPI?

**A.** A list of previous Living Planet Reports and other reports using the LPI can be found under the [Publications](#) tab. You can also find peer-reviewed scientific papers that use the LPI. The 'view publication' links will take you to the documents' abstracts or documents themselves if they are open source.


## Q. How did the LPI come about?

**A.** The LPI was first developed in 1998 by WWF as a means to monitor the changing state of nature. ZSL has been managing the Living Planet Index in a collaborative partnership with WWF since 2006.


## Q. Which organisations are involved in the LPI?

**A.** The key partners of the LPI are the [Zoological Society of London](#) and [World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)](#). There are also long-term partnerships with the [Conservation of Arctic Fauna and Flora (CAFF)](#) and the [Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP)](#). For a list of all collaborators, see the [About](#) page.


## Q. How often is the Living Planet Report produced?

**A.** The [Living Planet Report](#) is published every two years by WWF in collaboration with ZSL, The Global Footprint Network and the Water Footprint Network. The most recent report was released in 2016.


## Q. What does or can the LPI contribute to?

**A.** The LPI is one of the key indicators that has been selected to measure progress towards the [Aichi 2020 biodiversity targets](#) set by the [Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)](#) to 'take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity'. It also played a crucial role in measuring progress towards the CBD's 2010 target. The LPI can be used to assess change in vertebrate populations in different regions, e.g. The Living Planet Index for Africa (2012) or Tracking Trends in Arctic Marine Populations (see the [Publications](#) page for a full list).


## Q. Can the LPI be used to assess change at the national level?

The [Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)](#) requires individual nations to report on their progress towards meeting biodiversity targets. Although the LPI can be presented by country to produce a national indicator, this is only feasible if data coverage is sufficiently good to make a publicly available broad-scale assessment of biodiversity change. Data collection for the LPI tends to be opportunistic and focuses on maximising the overall coverage of species and regions globally as

opposed to within particular countries. While occasionally national indices are produced in collaboration with in-country representatives who assist with focused data collection, these are usually only used by partners and policy makers in these countries and not made publicly available.

## Q. How does a population get into the LPI database?

**A.** A species or population is added to the LPI database by a data entry user matching published data to the [Data Standards](). This document outlines selection criteria that need to be met, which include that the information is a measure of abundance of an individual species in a specific location monitored over a minimum of two years. There are two main limiting factors in getting a population into the LPI: one, the information needs to be available in the right format and two, it needs to be added by someone who is able to contribute data.

## Q. Why are there no records for the species I am interested in?

**A.** If you receive the message 'No records found for the search criteria' during a search, check the Keyword Search box to make sure that the information you have searched for is correct (e.g. there are no spelling errors in the search term you used). If you are searching for a species using a common name that you may be familiar with, it may not be a name that is widely used and may not be recorded for that species in the LPI. If this is the case, it is best to try and rerun the search using the correct scientific name ([Birds](), [Mammals](), [Fish](), [Amphibians](), Reptiles – [freshwater turtles & tortoises](), [crocodilians](), [marine turtles and all other reptiles]()).

If all of your search criteria are correct and you still receive no results, this means that the species you are looking for is not yet recorded in the LPI database, and the reasons for this may vary. The LPI only uses population data from published studies that meet the required [Data Standards](), so it is possible that none of the information found was considered to be of sufficient quality to be entered. In other cases, published information is available but has yet to be added to the database. Finally, it could be that the species is inadequately researched, so that there are no studies available.

## Q. Can I download the information I have searched for?

**A.** The information for a particular population found in a search can be downloaded as either as TXT, CSV, or JSON file. The Terms of Use can be found under the [Data Use Policy]() tab at the bottom of the website.

## Q. Can I use LPI information for publication? (Citation, commercial, non-commercial use)

**A.** You are free to use data from a particular population record from the LPI database for non-commercial purposes (e.g. school/college/university projects). You will need to provide a full and appropriate acknowledgement and citation in any materials or publications derived in part or in whole from the data. The preferred citation format, changing years and date accordingly, is: "LPI 2016. Living Planet Index database. 2016. < www.livingplanetindex.org/>. Downloaded on 24 November 2016". If you wish to use LPI information for commercial purposes or if a publication makes substantial use of the data, you will need to contact [LivingPlanetIndex@ioz.ac.uk]().

## Q. I have some information, where can I submit this?

**A.** If you wish to contribute to the LPI database, you can do so in various ways. If you have information that fits the Data Standards and you are a registered user you can submit data by uploading a data entry template which can be found here. You could also email the information to LivingPlanetIndex@ioz.ac.uk. If you are authorised to contribute directly to the database, you can do this using the online form.

## Q. Do I need to be trained to contribute to the LPI?

**A.** Yes, you need to be trained to ensure that data are entered consistently between users. To become authorised to submit data to the LPI using the online form you can contact LivingPlanetIndex@ioz.ac.uk for details.