

# STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIRDS

*Indicators for our changing world*



# State of the world's birds: an assessment by the BirdLife Partnership

Over the last decade, the BirdLife Partnership has worked to assess the condition and trends of the world's birds, thereby gaining invaluable insight into the wider state of biodiversity. Drawing on a uniquely deep and broad data set and using innovative analysis, *State of the world's birds* is designed to make science-based evidence available to national and international policy and decision-makers. This publication presents a summary of the results of this remarkable collaborative enterprise. The full results are available in hundreds of detailed case studies, accessible via a dedicated website, organised under 27 themes within a **State-Pressure-Response** framework. Throughout this publication, links are provided to the much more detailed and comprehensive information that can be found online.

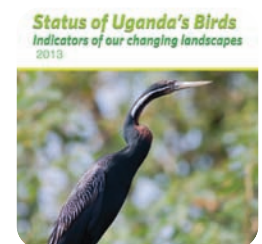
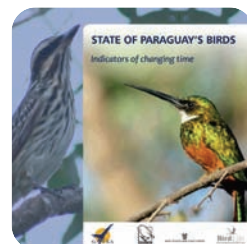


## Regional and national reports produced by BirdLife Partners

Many BirdLife Partners, often supported directly by the *State of the world's birds* project, have produced national reports that provide a detailed insight into the status of and pressures faced by birds and biodiversity in their own country. BirdLife has also just completed *State of Africa's birds*, the first regional assessment of its kind. To view the full range of national and regional reports visit [www.birdlife.org/datazone/sowb/sonb](http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sowb/sonb).



The state of Canada's birds 2012 report was produced by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative Canada, involving BirdLife Partners Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada.  
(PHOTO: MAY HAGA)



The *State of the world's birds* assessment is made up of 27 themes of which 23 are included in this booklet. Page numbers (e.g. 2) are shown below, along with links (🔗) to the full online assessment for each theme.

## Introduction

Biodiversity underpins our lives

2

[tinyurl.com/themeIN1](https://tinyurl.com/themeIN1)

Birds help us understand the natural world

3

[tinyurl.com/themeIN2](https://tinyurl.com/themeIN2)

Some sites are particularly important for birds and other wildlife

4 5

[tinyurl.com/themeIN3](https://tinyurl.com/themeIN3)

We value birds for many reasons

[tinyurl.com/themeIN4](https://tinyurl.com/themeIN4)

## State

Numerous bird species have been driven extinct

[tinyurl.com/themeST5](https://tinyurl.com/themeST5)

Many bird species, including common ones, are declining

6

[tinyurl.com/themeST6](https://tinyurl.com/themeST6)

More and more bird species are at risk of extinction

7

Bird species are becoming more threatened

[tinyurl.com/themeST7](https://tinyurl.com/themeST7)

Many bird species are close to extinction

[tinyurl.com/themeST8](https://tinyurl.com/themeST8)

Many IBAs are in an unfavourable state

8 9

[tinyurl.com/themeST9](https://tinyurl.com/themeST9)

## Pressure

Human actions are putting pressure on species, sites and habitats

10

[tinyurl.com/themePR10](https://tinyurl.com/themePR10)

Unsustainable agricultural practices are the greatest threats to bird species

11

[tinyurl.com/themePR11](https://tinyurl.com/themePR11)

Forest loss is one of the major threats to biodiversity

[tinyurl.com/themePR12](https://tinyurl.com/themePR12)

Seabirds are in serious danger from fisheries bycatch

12

[tinyurl.com/themePR13](https://tinyurl.com/themePR13)

Invasive alien species are spreading and are a particular threat on islands

13

[tinyurl.com/themePR14](https://tinyurl.com/themePR14)

Infrastructure development, pollution and overexploitation all have impacts on bird species

14

Infrastructure development is a growing problem

[tinyurl.com/themePR15](https://tinyurl.com/themePR15)

Pollution remains a serious concern

[tinyurl.com/themePR16](https://tinyurl.com/themePR16)

Overexploitation threatens many bird species

[tinyurl.com/themePR17](https://tinyurl.com/themePR17)

Human-induced climate change may pose the greatest challenge

15

[tinyurl.com/themePR18](https://tinyurl.com/themePR18)

Threats to biodiversity have much deeper causes

[tinyurl.com/themePR19](https://tinyurl.com/themePR19)

## Response

Investing in conservation

16

[tinyurl.com/themeRP20](https://tinyurl.com/themeRP20)

Integrating biodiversity into decision-making

17

[tinyurl.com/themeRP21](https://tinyurl.com/themeRP21)

Understanding how people depend on biodiversity

18

[tinyurl.com/themeRP22](https://tinyurl.com/themeRP22)

Empowering people for positive change

19

[tinyurl.com/themeRP23](https://tinyurl.com/themeRP23)

Conserving IBAs and the wider landscape

20 21

Conserving Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)

[tinyurl.com/themeRP24](https://tinyurl.com/themeRP24)

Sustaining birds and biodiversity in the wider landscape and seascape

[tinyurl.com/themeRP25](https://tinyurl.com/themeRP25)

Saving species from extinction

22

[tinyurl.com/themeRP26](https://tinyurl.com/themeRP26)

Shaping and tracking the biodiversity agenda

23

[tinyurl.com/themeRP27](https://tinyurl.com/themeRP27)

An overview of BirdLife's online resources

24

# Biodiversity underpins our lives



Rainforest is the most biodiverse habitats on earth.  
(PHOTO: MURRAY COOPER)

## Sustainable development relies on biodiversity conservation

[tinyurl.com/casestudy75](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy75)

Biodiversity—the variability among living things and ecological systems—is the world’s natural wealth. Our social and economic well-being and our futures depend on it. Biodiversity provides us with vital goods and services and maintains the life-sustaining systems of the biosphere. It is a genetic storehouse, a treasure-trove of future medicines and materials, and also amazingly complex and beautiful. Yet biodiversity is being lost faster than ever.

The immense economic importance of biodiversity has already been highlighted by the Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity project (TEEB). In 2010, the 193 member states of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a comprehensive and ambitious new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the years 2011–2020, with 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In 2011, governments agreed to set up an Integrated Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to bring sound science to bear effectively on decision-making.

At the Rio+20 summit in June 2012, world leaders set in motion the development of new Sustainable Development Goals. It is vital that these goals fully recognise the role of biodiversity in ensuring a viable future for humanity.

BirdLife International’s own Strategic Plan aims to make a real contribution to achieving global targets for biodiversity and sustainable development. As civil society organisations, working with governments, communities and across sectors and country borders, BirdLife Partners can play a key role in the concerted action that will be needed.



Biodiversity is a crucial part of Earth’s life-support system, on which both society and economy depend.

**SOURCE** Adapted from Griggs *et al.* (2013) *Nature* 495: 305–307.

Through its strategic objectives, BirdLife aims to:

- **SAVE SPECIES** by conserving and restoring species populations across their natural ranges, and maintaining genetic diversity, ensuring they can continue to play their role in the web of life and for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations
- **CONSERVE SITES AND HABITATS** by ensuring effective conservation, through action and advocacy, of the most important sites and habitats for nature across the world
- **ENCOURAGE ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY** by promoting sustainable management of our planet and its natural resources so as to secure a future for birds, biodiversity, and ourselves
- **EMPOWER PEOPLE** for positive change by restoring or strengthening the connections between people and nature, building and consolidating a movement of local and national civil-society conservation organisations that can provide broad-based support for nature conservation.

The BirdLife Strategy is translated into action through a set of BirdLife Global and Region-specific Conservation Programmes. Nine Global Conservation Programmes are already in place for the planning period 2013–2020, as follows: Preventing Extinctions; Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas; Migratory Birds and Flyways; Seabirds and Marine Conservation; Forests of Hope; Climate Change; Invasive Alien Species; Local Empowerment; and Capacity Development.

# Birds help us understand the natural world

## Ten reasons why birds are good indicators for biodiversity

[tinyurl.com/casestudy79](https://tinyurl.com/casestudy79)

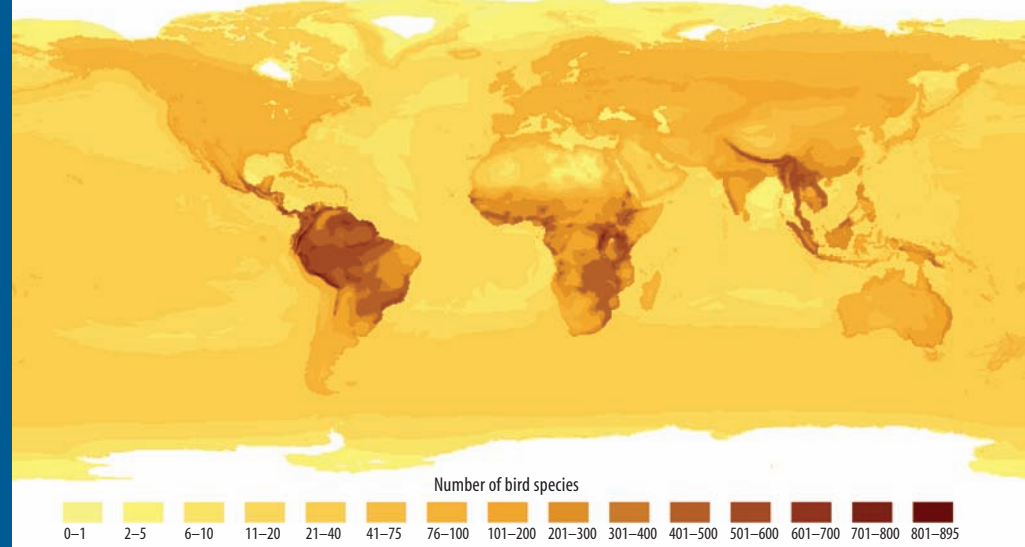
**REASON 1 Bird taxonomy is well known and relatively stable:** e.g., the number of recognised bird species has grown by just 5–8% per decade in recent years compared to 15–24% for mammals and amphibians.

**REASON 2 Bird distribution, ecology and life history are well understood:** e.g., over 16,000 scientific papers on bird biology are published per year.

**REASON 3 Birds are generally easy to identify, survey and monitor, and there are valuable historical data sets for a wide range of species:** e.g., birds comprise over 50% of the populations included in global wildlife trend indicators.

**REASON 4 Birds are diverse, found in nearly all habitats and occur across the world:** e.g., there are over 10,000 bird species globally with, on average, over 400 species occurring per country.

Distribution of the world's bird species: based on overlying the breeding and wintering ranges of all known bird species



**REASON 5 Bird habitat requirements are typically fairly specialised:** e.g., more than half of all bird species predominantly occur in one or two habitat types.

**REASON 6 Birds usually occupy high trophic levels in food webs and are relatively sensitive to environmental change:** e.g., trends in farmland birds in the UK correlate with trends in land-use intensity and climate.

**REASON 7 Bird population trends often mirror those of other species:** e.g., mammals, reptiles, amphibians, plants and invertebrates have shown trends similar to farmland birds in the UK since the 1940s.

**REASON 8 Bird distribution generally reflects that of many other wildlife groups:** e.g., the network of key sites for bird conservation (IBAs) covers 80% of the area of those identified for other wildlife groups.

**REASON 9 Birds are economically important:** e.g., pest control by birds in Canada's boreal forests is estimated to be worth Can\$5.4 billion per year.

**REASON 10 Birds are flagships for nature—they are popular, engage the public and resonate with decision-makers:** e.g., 20% of people in the USA and 30% in the UK watch or feed birds regularly.

**SOURCE** Various and analyses of BirdLife and IUCN data (2013).



The migration of Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* spans the globe, taking it from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back over the course of a single year  
[tinyurl.com/casestudy60](https://tinyurl.com/casestudy60).

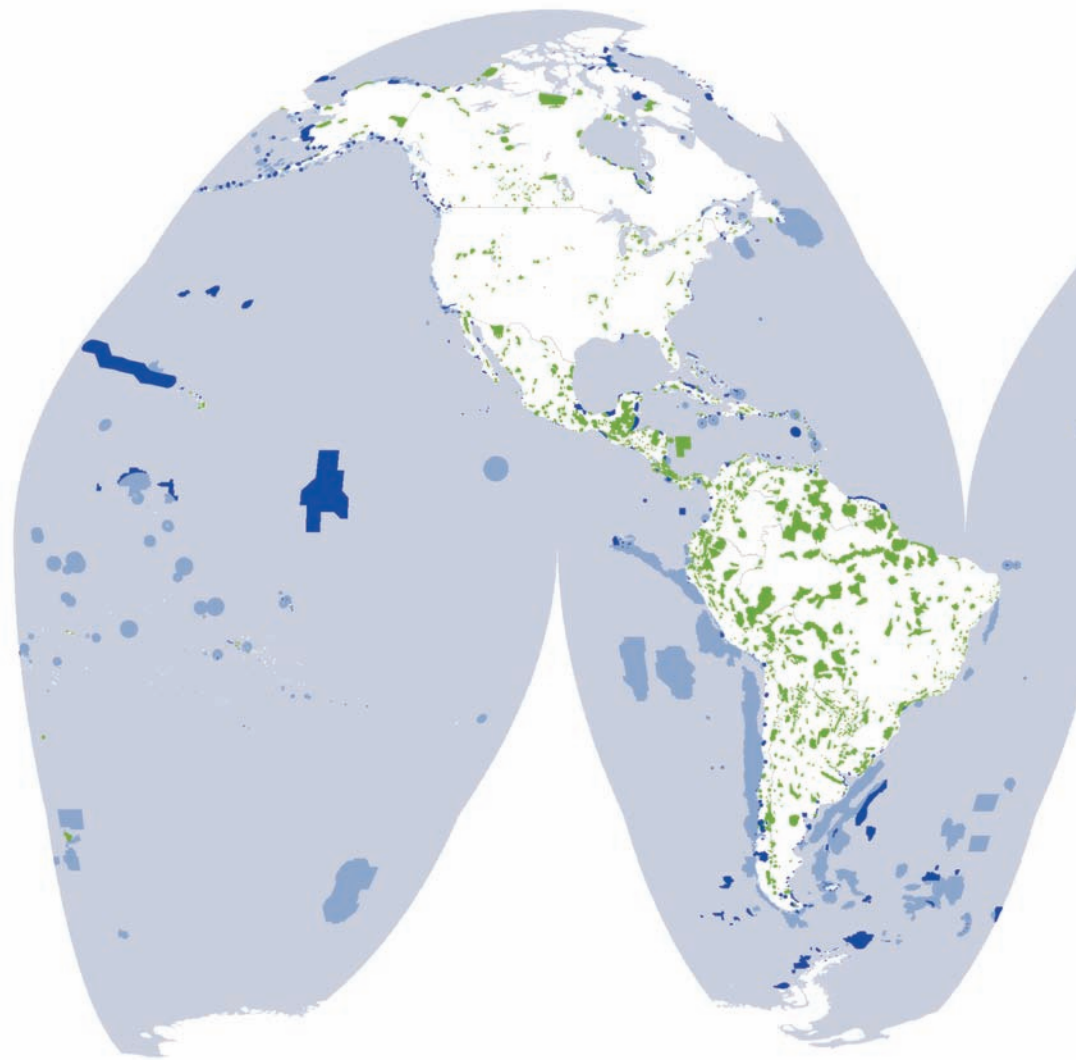
(PHOTO: DAVID TIPLING)

Some sites are particularly important for birds and other wildlife



King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* and Common Eider *S. mollissima* at Varangerfjord, Norway. In 2012, BirdLife launched a Marine e-Atlas documenting areas around coasts, in terrestrial waters and on the high seas that are most vital for seabirds.

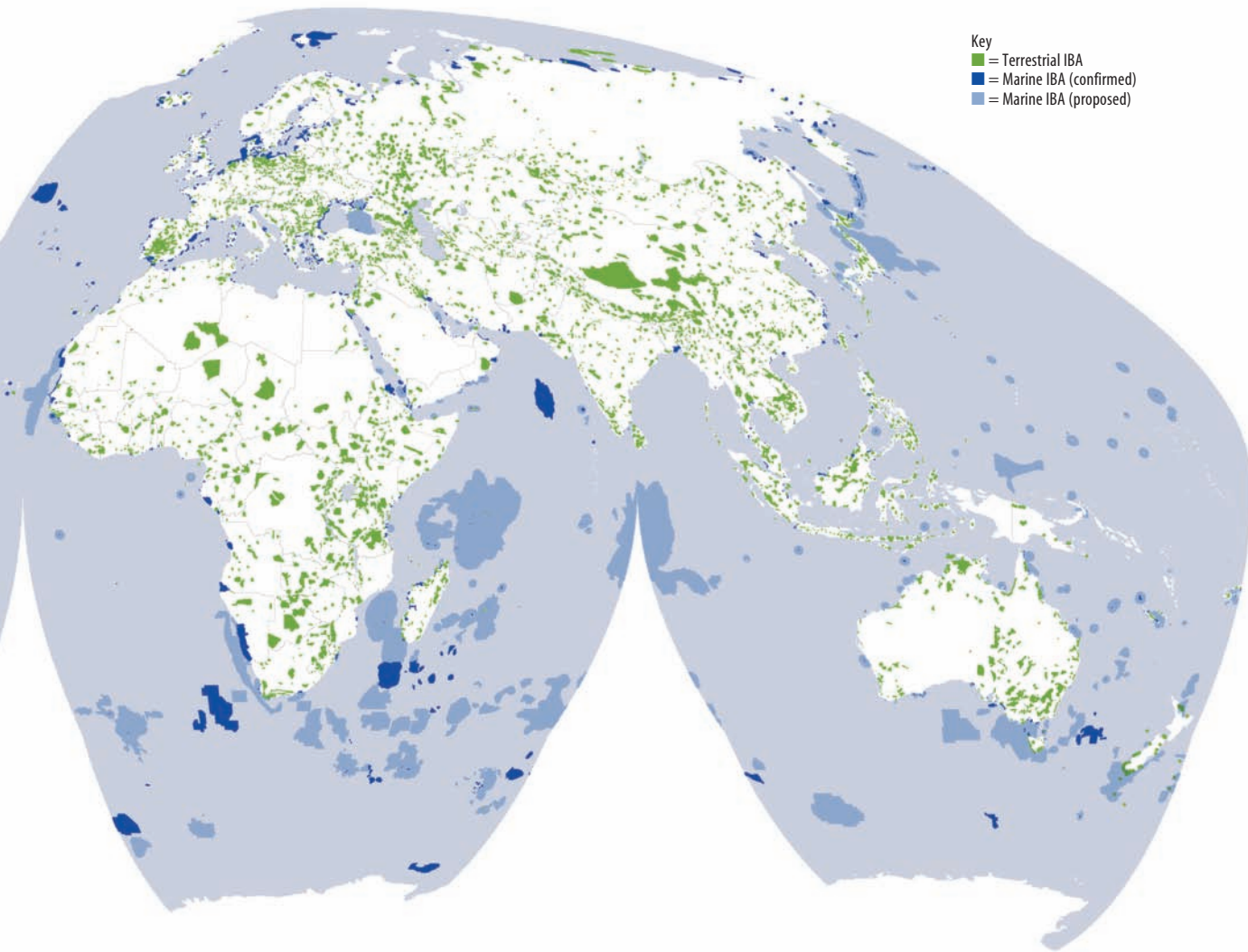
(PHOTO: DAVID TIPLING)



**More than 12,000 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas have been identified on land and at sea**

[tinyurl.com/casestudy80](https://tinyurl.com/casestudy80)

Using standardised criteria, the BirdLife Partnership has since the 1980s identified more than 12,000 areas important for birds around the world, most recently in the marine realm [tinyurl.com/casestudy82](https://tinyurl.com/casestudy82). These areas—referred to as IBAs—are also important for other aspects of biodiversity. The global IBA network overlaps, for example, with the distribution of 76% of all amphibian and 87% of all mammal species [tinyurl.com/casestudy541](https://tinyurl.com/casestudy541).



Key  
 ■ = Terrestrial IBA  
 ■ = Marine IBA (confirmed)  
 ■ = Marine IBA (proposed)

Different types of ecosystem services provided by IBAs



**Supporting**

- Maintenance of genetic diversity



**Provisioning**

- Cultivated food
- Harvested wild food
- Raw materials
- Natural medicines
- Water flows



**Regulating**

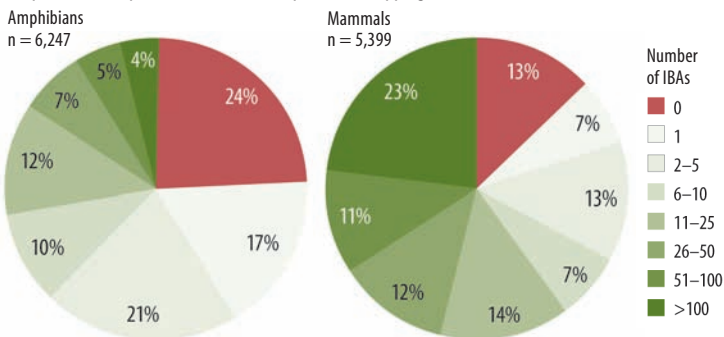
- Local climate and air quality regulation
- Global climate regulation
- Water purification and waste treatment
- Erosion control
- Reducing the impact of weather events
- Biological control



**Cultural**

- Nature-based recreation / tourism
- Aesthetic benefits / inspiration / mental health
- Spiritual / religious experience

Proportion of amphibian and mammal species overlapping with IBAs



**IBAs provide valuable ecosystem services to local people and the wider community**

[tinyurl.com/casestudy542](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy542)

IBAs provide a wide range of services that benefit humans locally, regionally and globally, including climate regulation. The global network of IBAs stores an estimated 60 gigatonnes of carbon in above and below ground vegetation, representing some 17% of that held in the world's forests.

SOURCE Analysis of BirdLife data (2013).

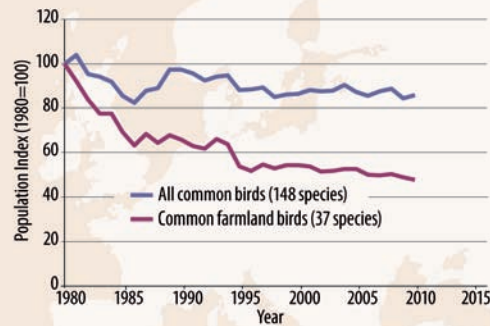
Many bird species, including common ones, are declining



Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*, one of a number of familiar European birds that has undergone a dramatic decline in numbers in recent years. (PHOTO: DAVID TIPLING)

### Farmland birds in Europe have shown marked declines in the past 30 years

[tinyurl.com/casestudy62](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy62)

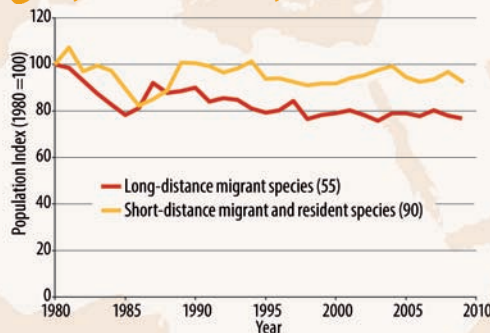


**SOURCE** Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS): European Bird Census Council/RSPB/BirdLife International/Statistics Netherlands.

An analysis of 148 of Europe's common birds has revealed that, over a 30-year period, 57 species (nearly 40%) have declined across 25 European countries. Farmland birds have fared particularly badly, with 300 million fewer birds today than in 1980.

### Long-distance migrants between Europe and Africa are declining

[tinyurl.com/casestudy66](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy66)

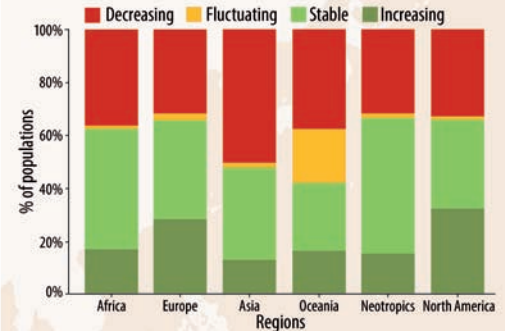


**SOURCE** Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS): European Bird Census Council/RSPB/BirdLife International/Statistics Netherlands.

In Europe, Afro-Palaearctic migrant bird populations have experienced far greater declines than resident or short-distance migrants. Long-distance migrants in Europe declined by 23% on average between 1980 and 2010, while residents and short-distance migrants combined declined by 7%.

### Waterbirds are showing widespread declines, particularly in Asia

[tinyurl.com/casestudy71](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy71)

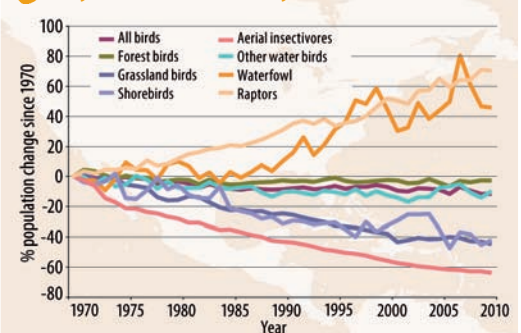


**SOURCE** Wetlands International (2012) *Waterbird Population Estimates, Fifth Edition*. Wageningen, The Netherlands: Wetlands International.

In Asia, over half of all waterbird populations with known trends are declining. This is largely a result of widespread loss of wetland habitat in the region.

### More bird species groups in Canada are in decline, than are increasing

[tinyurl.com/casestudy543](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy543)



**SOURCE** North American Bird Conservation Initiative Canada (2012) *The state of Canada's birds 2012*. Ottawa: Environment Canada.

The *state of Canada's birds 2012* report shows dramatic declines in aerial insectivores, grassland birds, and Arctic shorebirds since 1970, all attributed to the impacts of human activities. However, waterfowl and raptor populations are rebounding thanks to conservation efforts.

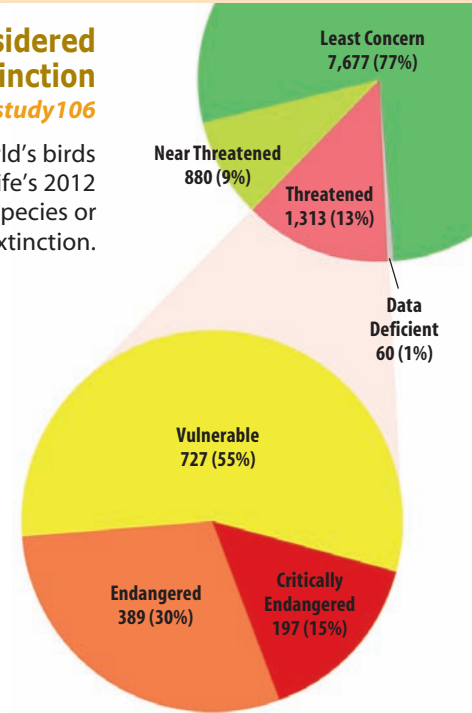


# More and more bird species are at risk of extinction

## One in eight of all bird species is considered globally threatened with extinction

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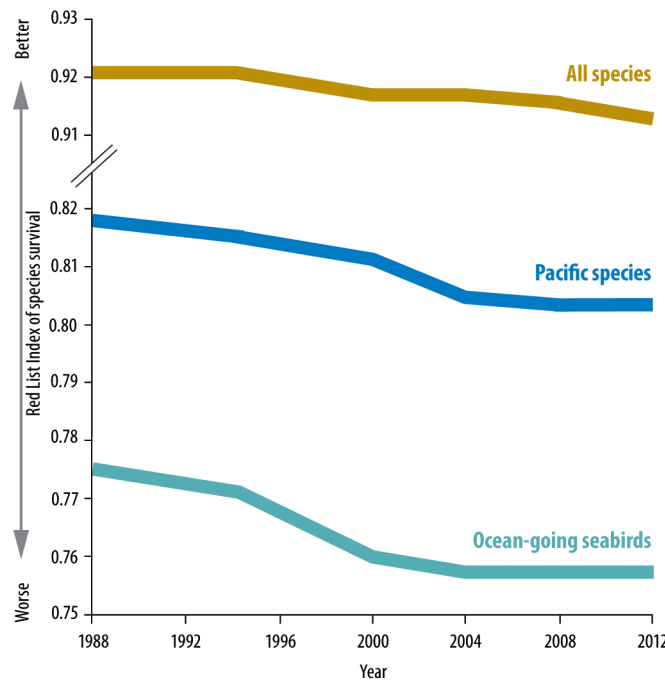
BirdLife classifies the extinction risk of all the world's birds using the categories and criteria of the IUCN Red List. BirdLife's 2012 assessment concluded that 1,313 species (13% of extant species or roughly one in eight) are globally threatened with extinction.



## The status of the world's birds is deteriorating, with species slipping ever faster towards extinction

[tinyurl.com/casestudy72](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy72)

The Red List Index shows trends in the status of the world's birds based on their movement through categories of extinction risk on the IUCN Red List. It reveals that there has been a steady and continuing deterioration in the status of the world's birds over the last 25 years. Species in the Pacific [tinyurl.com/casestudy121](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy121) and ocean-going seabirds [tinyurl.com/casestudy122](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy122) have declined the fastest.



## Some mega-biodiverse countries have exceptional numbers of globally threatened bird species

[tinyurl.com/casestudy112](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy112)



In 2011, Great Indian Bustard *Ardeotis nigricaps* was uplisted to Critically Endangered, the highest level of threat. In the past 25 years, over 330 species have been uplisted to a higher threat category owing to a genuine deterioration in their status.

(PHOTO: CSABA BARKÓCZI)

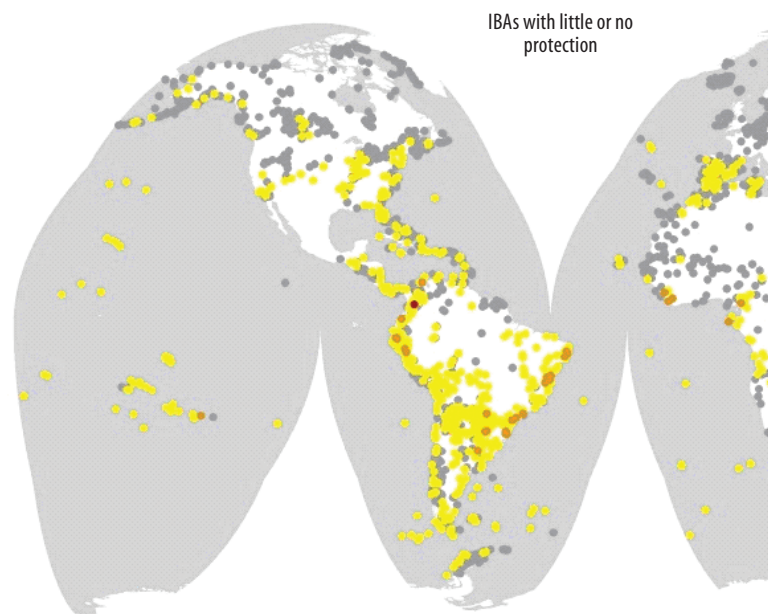
SOURCE Analysis of BirdLife data (2013).

## Many IBAs are in an unfavourable state

### A high proportion of IBAs have no legal recognition or protection

[tinyurl.com/casestudy544](https://tinyurl.com/casestudy544)

Nearly half of all IBAs lack legal protection. Some 2,400 IBAs with little or no protection have significant populations of one or more globally threatened bird species, and 10 are key sites for an exceptional 11 or more such species. These sites are therefore priorities for appropriate forms of statutory recognition and protection.



Numbers of globally threatened bird species • 0 • 1–5 • 6–10 • 11–15

SOURCE Butchart *et al.* (2012) *PLoS ONE* 7(3): e32529 and analysis of BirdLife data (2013).

### Monitoring provides essential information about the condition of IBAs, the threats to them and action taken to conserve them

[tinyurl.com/casestudy503](https://tinyurl.com/casestudy503)

Monitoring is carried out through regular assessments in which the IBA is scored using a simple, four-point scale against indicators of pressure (threats), state (condition) and response (conservation actions, including protection). An analysis of data from IBA networks in eight African countries where IBA monitoring is well established has shown that, although pressures on IBAs here increased over the period 2001–2010, there has been some overall recent improvement in site condition, perhaps because conservation responses are also growing.

SOURCE BirdLife International (2011) *Status and trends of biodiversity in Africa's protected areas (2001–2010): a contribution to reducing biodiversity loss*. Nairobi: BirdLife International.

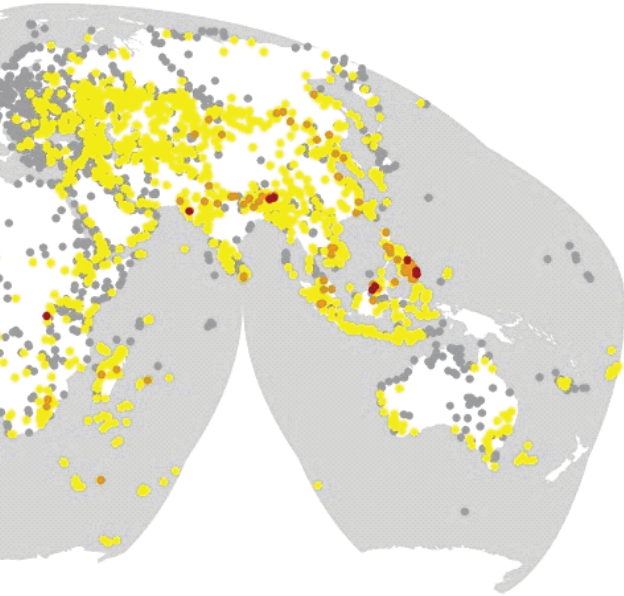
IBAs represent the largest systematically identified global network of areas important for biodiversity.

(PHOTO: JAMES LOWEN)

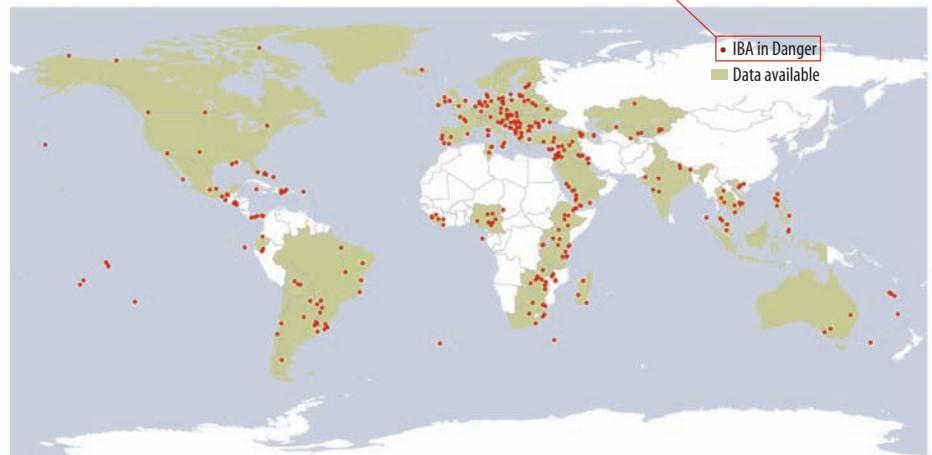
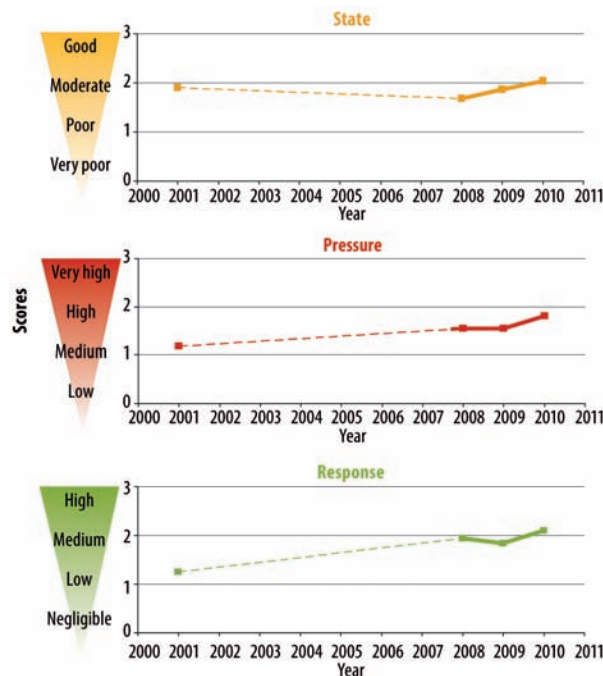
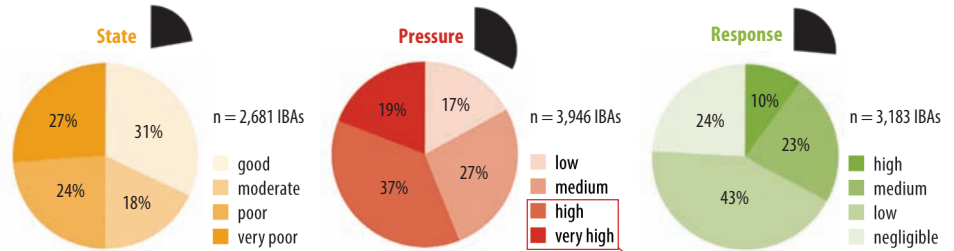
## Many IBAs are in danger of losing their natural habitats and key biodiversity

[tinyurl.com/casestudy545](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy545)

At least some monitoring data are so far available for roughly one-third of the world's 12,000 IBAs. The messages from this admittedly incomplete global data set are worrying: over half of sites are assessed to be in a poor or very poor state and subject to high or very high pressures, while for two-thirds of them conservation responses are low or non-existent. A more detailed analysis of pressure data, provided in early 2013 by the BirdLife network for 95 countries and territories as well as the high seas, has identified a set of IBAs at extreme risk of losing their biodiversity value. This initial list of 333 'IBAs in Danger' will be used to target enhanced conservation effort for these sites, through advocacy, campaigning and local action.



The separate segments show the proportion of the total number of IBAs for which pressure, state and response data are assessed.



IBAs in Danger are sites that have been identified nationally through IBA monitoring as being at severe risk. In the first trial of this new initiative, organisations in the BirdLife network provided details of up to five such sites per country with 'very high' threat scores (in some cases those with high scores were also considered). Some countries have no sites with very high threat scores while data for countries outside the BirdLife network have yet to be assessed.

SOURCE Analysis of BirdLife data (2013).

Data from IBA networks in Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Kenya, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Trends need to be interpreted with caution because the number and subset of IBAs assessed varies between years (2001 = 186, 2008 = 186, 2009 = 178, 2010 = 147).

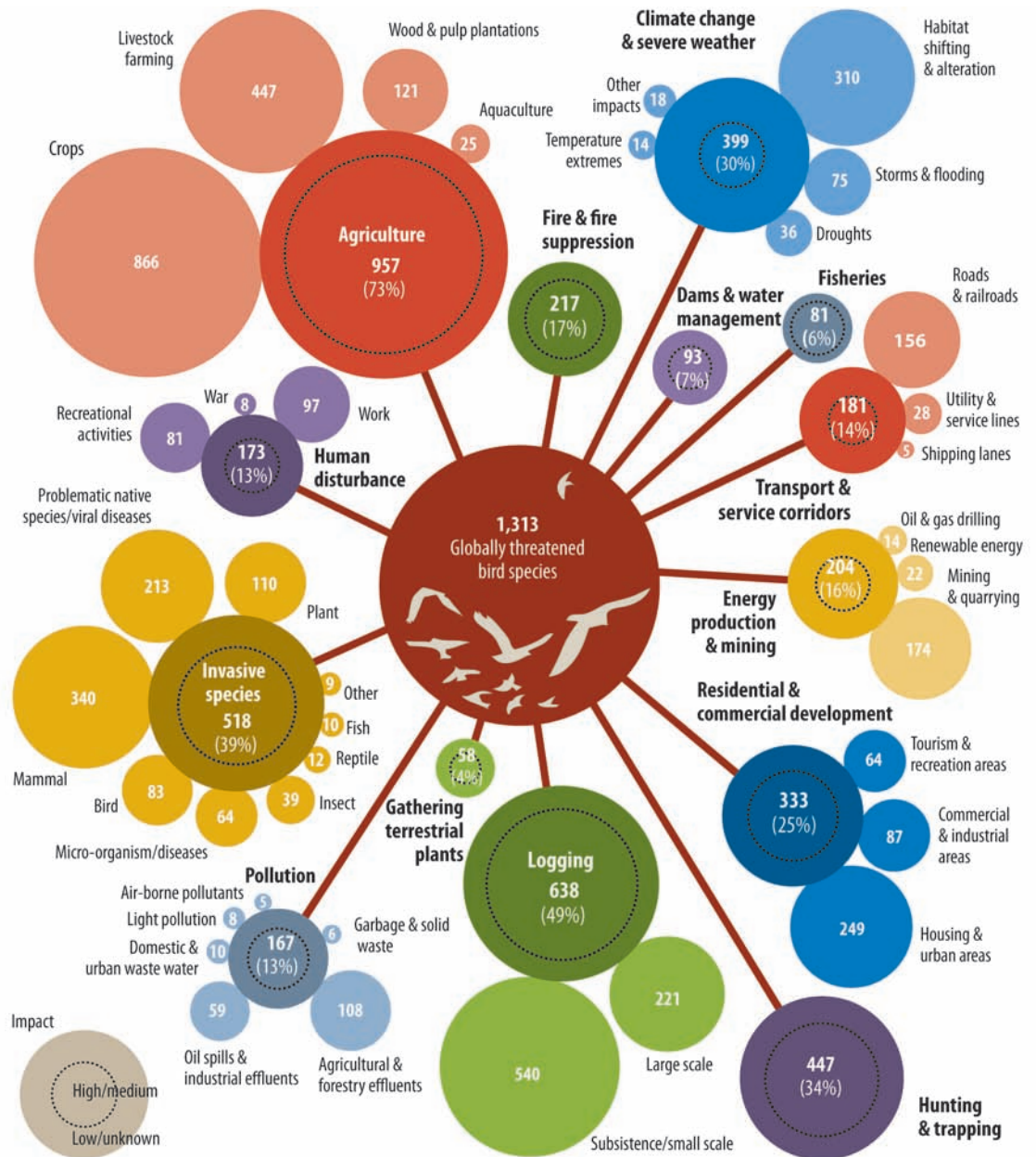
# Human actions are putting pressure on species, sites and habitats



Deforestation in Tari valley, Papua New Guinea. Expanding and intensifying agriculture and forestry causing habitat destruction, degradation and fragmentation, are the greatest threats to birds worldwide. (PHOTO: DAVID TIPLING)

## A range of threats is driving declines in globally threatened birds

[tinyurl.com/casestudy002](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy002)



# Unsustainable agricultural practices are the greatest threats to bird species

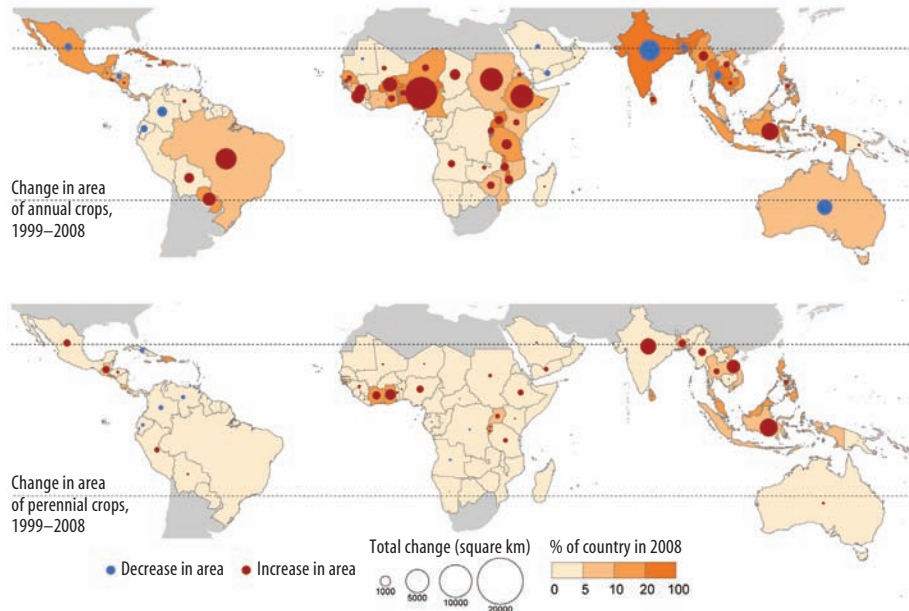


Oil palm plantation in Sabah, Malaysia. The greatest expansion of agricultural land in recent years has taken place in the tropics, often at the expense of the world's most diverse natural ecosystems. (PHOTO: WWF DEUTSCHLAND)

## Crop expansion is a major threat to biodiversity in tropical countries

[tinyurl.com/casestudy508](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy508)

The area under agriculture has increased dramatically in the past century, with almost 40% of the world's ice-free land now devoted to farming of one kind or another (roughly 12% is crops and 26% is permanent pasture). In recent decades, increases in cropland have been particularly marked in the tropics and places that were once thought to be relatively safe from conversion are now increasingly at risk. Agricultural expansion thus poses a grave threat to a wide range of bird species and other biodiversity. Understanding the nature of such expansion is critical to understanding the threats it poses to biodiversity and to developing appropriate conservation responses.



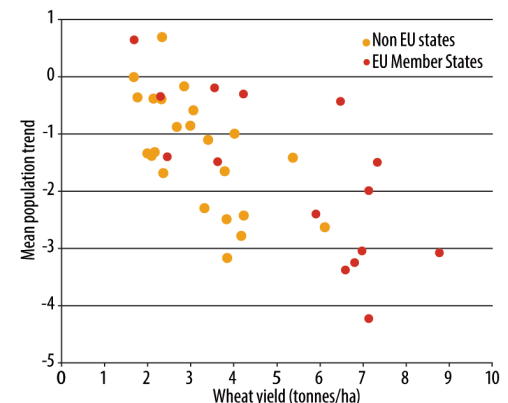
Circles show relative increment over the period 1999–2008. Shading indicates percentage of each country occupied by crops in 2008. Countries not defined as tropical are shaded grey.

**SOURCE** Phalan *et al.* (2013) *PLoS ONE* 8(1): e51759.

## Agricultural intensification has caused the decline of many common bird species

[tinyurl.com/casestudy141](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy141)

As well as an increase in the area under agriculture, policies such as the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy have led to an intensification of farming in many countries. The consequent replacement of traditionally farmed landscapes with vast industrial-scale monoculture has caused large declines in many farmland birds over recent decades.



The relationship between mean population trend and yield of wheat for 19 significantly declining European bird species shows worsening trends in those countries with the most intensive crop production, typically EU Member States.

**SOURCE** Donald *et al.* (2006) *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment* 116: 189–196.

# Seabirds are in serious danger from fisheries bycatch



Many seabird species encounter considerable fishing activity during the course of their annual movements. Each year longline, gillnet and trawl fisheries are responsible for the incidental deaths of hundreds of thousands of individuals.

## Longline

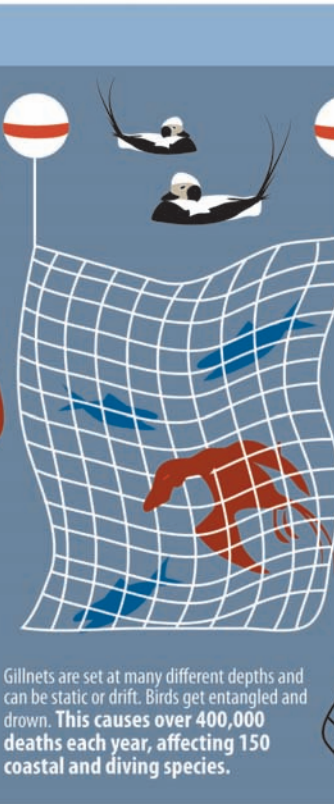
[tinyurl.com/casestudy166](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy166)



**SOURCE** Anderson et al. (2011) *Endangered Species Research* 14: 91–106.

## Gillnet

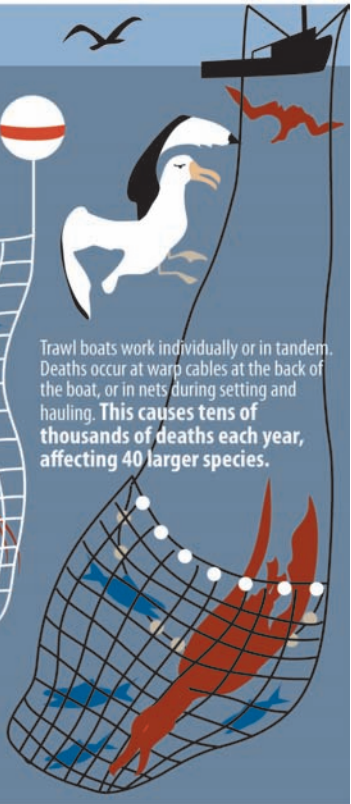
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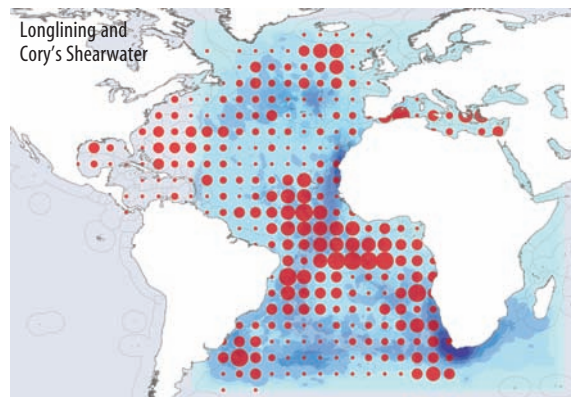
**SOURCE** Zydels et al. (2013). *Biological Conservation* 162: 76–88.

## Trawl

[tinyurl.com/casestudy167](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy167)



**SOURCE** BirdLife Global Seabird Programme unpublished estimate.



This map shows year-round longline fishing effort superimposed over the global distribution of Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*.

Fishing effort calculated as the average number of hooks set per 5 degree grid square per year during the period 2000–2005.

• <100,000 • 100,000–250,000 • 250,000–500,000 • 500,000–1,000,000 • >1,000,000

Blue areas: Cory's Shearwater global distribution and abundance defined from satellite tracking data. Darkest blue areas may be used by up to 70% of the global population.

**SOURCE** Fishing data: The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT). Cory's Shearwater data: held at [www.seabirdtracking.org](http://www.seabirdtracking.org) and contributed by Vitor Paiva, Ivan Ramirez, Jacob Gonzalez-Solis, Maria Ana Dias, Paulo Catry, Jose Pedro Granadeiro, Jose Manuel Arcos, Maria C. Magalhaes and Andre Raine.

For many species of albatross the level of mortality associated with incidental bycatch is unsustainable and 17 of the 22 species are threatened with extinction.

(PHOTO: PETER RYAN)

# Invasive alien species are spreading and are a particular threat on islands

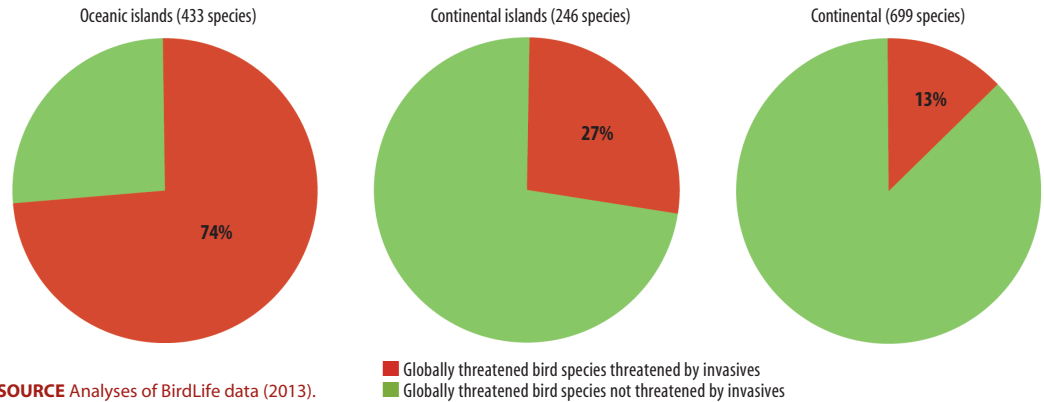


The introduced House Mouse *Mus musculus* has had a devastating impact on seabird populations on remote Gough Island in the Southern Atlantic, including those of six globally threatened species.  
(PHOTO: ROSS WANLESS)

## Birds on islands are particularly at risk from invasive species

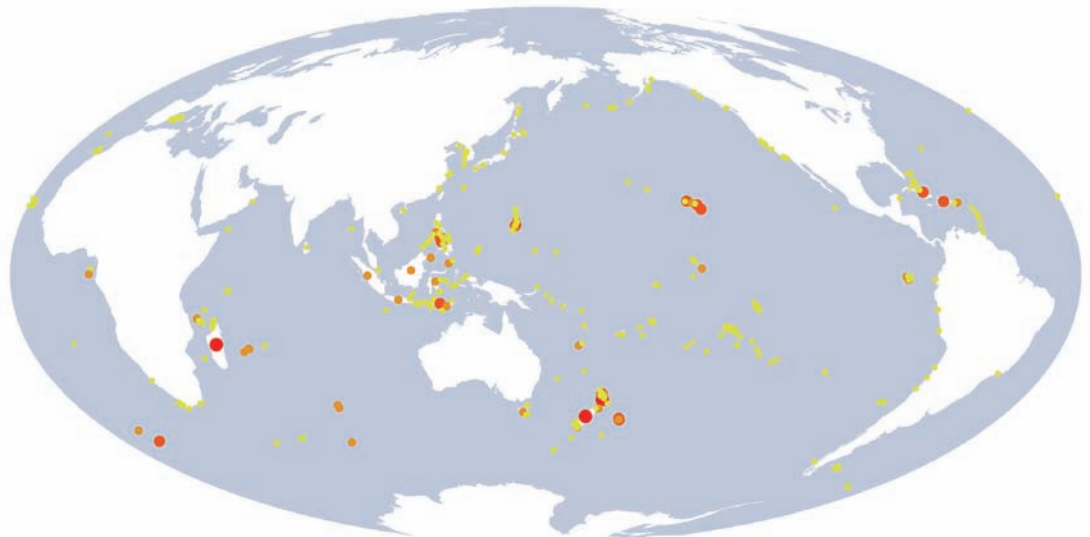
[tinyurl.com/casestudy128](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy128)

Invasive alien animals, plants and disease-causing micro-organisms have already caused numerous extinctions, and remain a major threat to birds, especially on small islands. Three-quarters of all globally threatened bird species occurring on oceanic islands are at risk from introduced species.



SOURCE Analyses of BirdLife data (2013).

BirdLife, in collaboration with Island Conservation, the University of California Santa Cruz and the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group, has identified 390 islands worldwide that hold one or more Critically Endangered and Endangered bird species, as well as one or more invasive alien vertebrate species that have an impact on them.



Number of Critically Endangered and Endangered bird species on islands where they are threatened by invasive alien vertebrates

- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5-6
- 7-13

SOURCE Threatened Island Biodiversity database <http://tib.islandconservation.org>.

# Infrastructure development, pollution and overexploitation all have impacts on bird species



In some countries illegal bird trapping is commonplace. BirdLife estimates that in Cyprus nearly 2.5 million birds were trapped in 2012 alone.  
(PHOTO: DAVID TIPLING)

## Loss of intertidal habitat through land-claim in Asia

[tinyurl.com/casestudy546](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy546)

For centuries, the land around estuaries has been progressively claimed—for agriculture, port and industrial development, waste disposal, infrastructure and urbanisation. While such reclamation has slowed in some parts of the world, for example in much of Europe and North America, it continues to be very rapid in others, such as the Yellow Sea region in Asia. This has had especially devastating effects on long-distance shorebird migrants that rely on intertidal mudflats to refuel for their journeys.

## Contamination of food sources with veterinary drugs has led to catastrophic declines in vulture populations

[tinyurl.com/casestudy156](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy156)

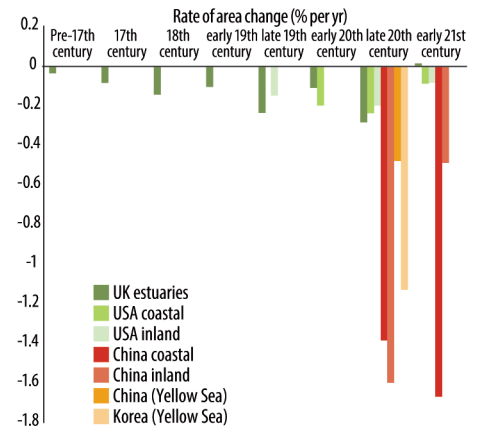
Vultures fulfil an extremely important ecological role as scavengers, helping keep the environment free of carcasses and waste. Vultures in South Asia have declined drastically over the last 20 years, largely because of widespread use of the anti-inflammatory drug 'diclofenac' in livestock. This drug is highly toxic to vultures which ingest it when feeding on livestock carcasses. India, Nepal and Pakistan banned use of diclofenac as a veterinary drug in 2006, and recent surveys suggest that vulture populations have stabilised, although numbers still remain very low across the region.

## Unregulated hunting is a particular problem for some species

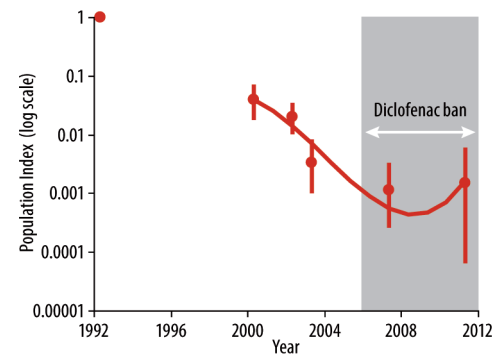
[tinyurl.com/casestudy547](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy547)

Hunting is a serious threat for many migratory birds. A recent review has shown that in Europe activities such as deliberate poisoning, illegal trade, killing protected birds and hunting inside protected areas—all illegal and with significant impacts—are widespread, occurring in 20 or more countries.

## PRESSURE: Why birds are declining

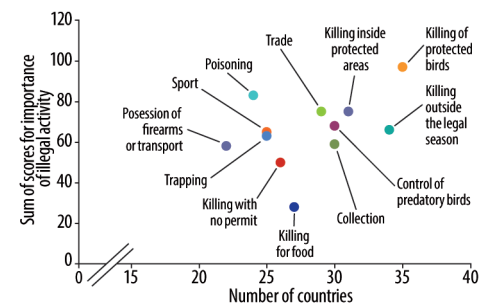


**SOURCE** Various, data provided by Nick Davidson, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.



Changes in population indices of White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*, from repeat surveys of a large number of road transects in India. Vertical lines show 95% confidence limits derived by bootstrapping.

**SOURCE** Cuthbert *et al.* (2011) *PLoS ONE* 6(5): e19069, Jamshed *et al.* (2012) *Bird Conservation International* 22: 389–397, Prakash *et al.* (2012) *PLoS ONE* 7(11): e49118.



**SOURCE** Adapted from BirdLife Europe (2011) Review of the illegal killing and trapping of birds in Europe. Report for the European Union.



# Human-induced climate change may pose the greatest challenge



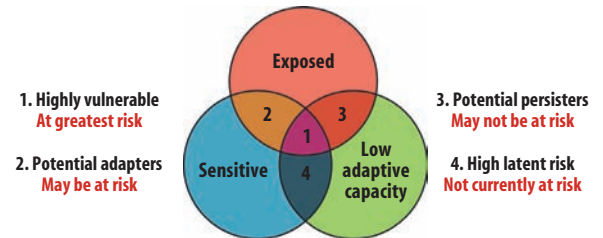
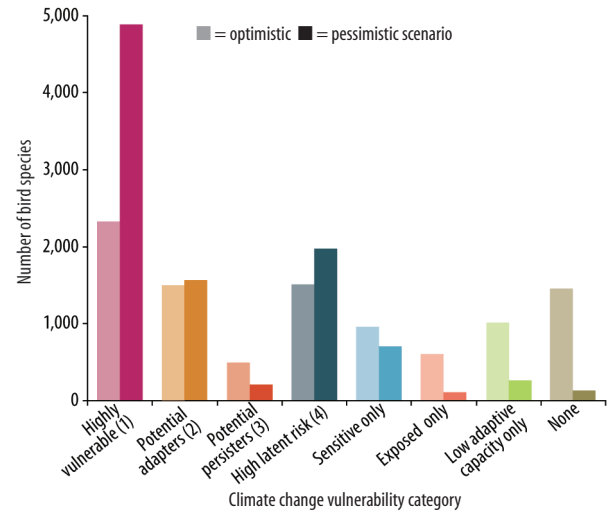
Despite extensive suitable habitat, the Endangered Ethiopian Bush-crow *Zavattariornis stresemanni* can only survive within a tiny 'climate bubble'. Potentially nearly half of all bird species have traits that make them highly vulnerable to climate change.

(PHOTO: PAUL F. DONALD, RSPB)

## The biological traits of some bird species make them particularly vulnerable to climate change

[tinyurl.com/casestudy291](https://tinyurl.com/casestudy291)

A recent analysis has indicated that between a quarter and a half of all bird species may be highly vulnerable to climate change because their habitats are likely to be particularly affected and because they have biological and ecological traits that make them both highly sensitive (e.g. narrow environmental tolerances) and poorly adaptive (e.g. low dispersal ability) to such change.



SOURCE Foden et al. (2013) *PLoS ONE*.

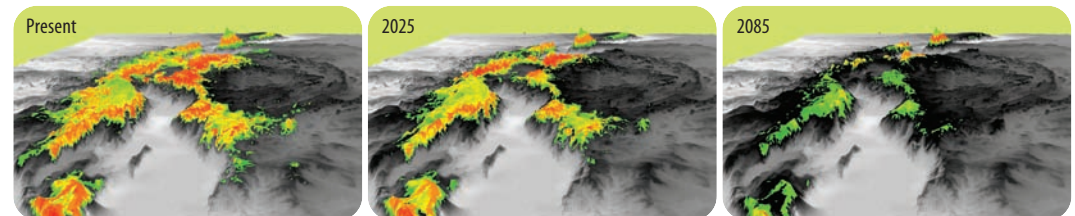
## Climate change modelling highlights the vulnerability of birds in the Albertine Rift Valley

[tinyurl.com/casestudy548](https://tinyurl.com/casestudy548)

Climate-envelope modelling at high resolution in the Albertine Rift Valley of East Africa has allowed fine-scale projections of climate change impacts on birds in the region. Suitable climatic conditions for all species are projected to move upslope over the coming decades by, on average, 350 m by 2085, resulting in declines in potential distribution of 14 bird species endemic to the rift. At least one species, Red-collared Mountain-babbler *Kupeornis rufocinctus*, is projected to lose all suitable 'climate space' within the region.

Projected species richness of 14 endemic species across time

Warmer colours indicate higher richness. Darker grey colours represent higher elevation. Graphic is looking due north 'up' the Albertine Rift Valley.



SOURCE Unpublished data from BirdLife International, Durham University, Wildlife Conservation Society, Makerere University, Nature Uganda, ACNR Rwanda, ABO Burundi, Albertine Rift Conservation Network and the RSPB.

# Investing in conservation

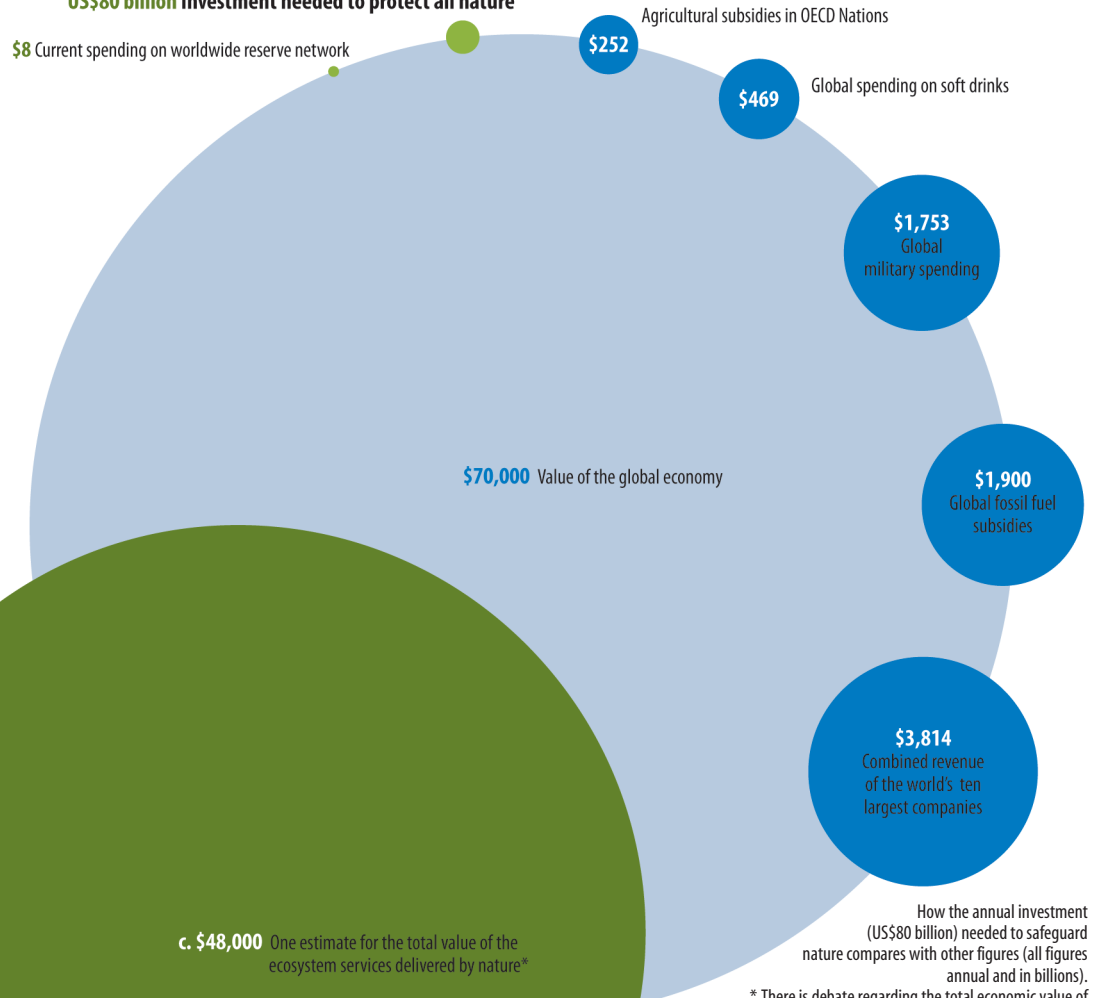
## Global nature protection requires US\$80 billion annually

[tinyurl.com/casestudy516](https://tinyurl.com/casestudy516)

An annual investment of US\$4 billion, used wisely, could improve the status of all known threatened species and virtually halt human-driven extinctions. A further US\$76 billion could effectively protect and manage all known sites of global conservation significance. These sums are insignificant in comparison with both the size of the global economy (roughly US\$70 trillion per year) and an estimate of the total value of ecosystem services delivered by nature each year (US\$22–US\$74 trillion).



### US\$80 billion Investment needed to protect all nature



Global conservation investment still falls far short of what is needed. Conservation financing is rarely sustained and often not directed to where it can do most good.  
(PHOTO: DAVID TIPLING)

How the annual investment (US\$80 billion) needed to safeguard nature compares with other figures (all figures annual and in billions).  
\* There is debate regarding the total economic value of ecosystem services—this figure is derived from the median estimate in Costanza *et al.* (1997), inflated for today's prices.

SOURCE Various and McCarthy *et al.* (2012) *Science* 338:946–949.

# Integrating biodiversity into decision-making



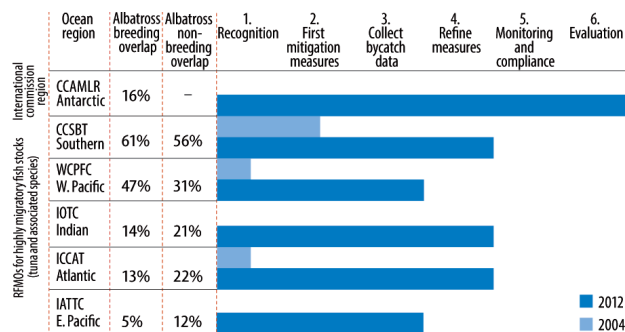
BirdLife Partners are supporting reform of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to reduce negative impacts on farmland birds. Where appropriate targeted agri-environment schemes have been deployed, populations of some rare and localised bird species have recovered.

(PHOTO: NICK UPTON, RSPB-IMAGES.COM)

## Working with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to reduce albatross declines

[tinyurl.com/casestudy199](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy199)

Fisheries nations have agreed, under the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, to reduce the bycatch of seabirds in their fisheries. Since 2004, BirdLife, especially through the 'Save the Albatross Campaign', has been working to ensure effective action is taken to achieve this. Key to this is working with the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) through which nations manage high seas and migratory fish stocks. BirdLife has been promoting a six-step plan for tackling seabird bycatch and monitoring progress in its uptake by all RFMOs.

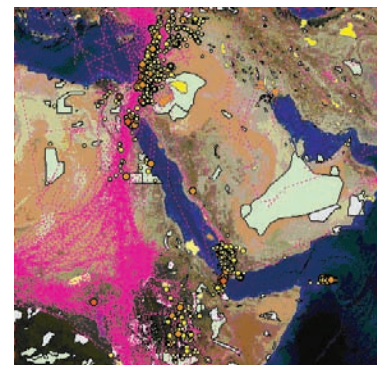


SOURCE Analysis of BirdLife data (2013).

## Mainstreaming conservation of soaring birds along the Red Sea and Rift Valley

[tinyurl.com/casestudy509](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy509)

Through a UNDP/GEF-funded project, BirdLife is working to conserve soaring birds during their migration along the Red Sea / Rift Valley flyway. The project's aim is to mainstream conservation within key sectors that can have an impact on these species, namely agriculture, energy, hunting, tourism and waste management. To support decision-making in the wind energy sector, BirdLife has developed guidance materials for renewable energy and a web-based mapping tool to show the distribution of soaring birds that are likely to be sensitive to wind energy development within the region.

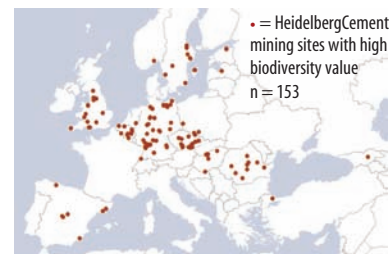


SOURCE Migratory Soaring Birds Sensitivity Map: Wind Energy  
www.migratorysoaringbirds.undp.birdlife.org

## Developing strategic partnerships with industry to reconcile business and biodiversity objectives

[tinyurl.com/casestudy549](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy549)

As a first step towards a broader strategic partnership between BirdLife International and HeidelbergCement, a study has been undertaken to identify where mining operations throughout Europe and Central Asia come into contact with important sites for biodiversity, such as IBAs. This work is helping to find overlap between business and biodiversity interests and prioritise conservation action on the ground.



SOURCE BirdLife International and HeidelbergCement (2013).

# Understanding how people depend on biodiversity



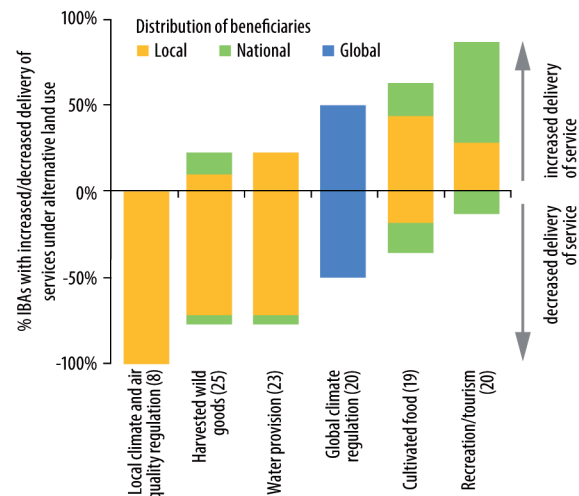
Local women generate income from mat weaving using *Typha* from Koshi Tappu wetlands, an IBA and Ramsar site in Nepal. (PHOTO: BHAGAWAN DAHAL)

## RESPONSE: Conserving biodiversity

### Assessing ecosystem services at IBAs

[tinyurl.com/casestudy238](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy238)

Bird Conservation Nepal (BirdLife in Nepal) has identified key pressures affecting biodiversity and ecosystem services at Nepal's 27 IBAs and assessed the implications for beneficiaries. If not checked, pressures are expected to lead to biodiversity loss and land cover changes across the IBA network that will be felt mainly by local communities. The poor, particularly the rural poor, depend on the ecosystem services delivered by nature for many elements of their livelihoods.



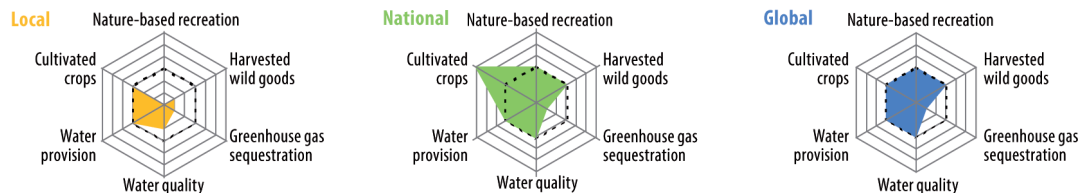
Numbers in brackets represent the number of IBAs at which the service was recorded as being in the five most important.

**SOURCE** BCN and DNPWC (2012) *Conserving biodiversity and delivering ecosystem services at Important Bird Areas in Nepal*. Kathmandu and Cambridge, UK: Bird Conservation Nepal, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, and BirdLife International.

### Understanding how biodiversity can be conserved and ecosystem services delivered to local communities

[tinyurl.com/casestudy433](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy433)

Bird Conservation Nepal assessed how the balance of ecosystem services provided by Phulchoki Mountain Forest IBA would be different in the absence of current community forest management practices. It was concluded that the IBA would be similar to surrounding areas—degraded forest and mixed agricultural / urban land—and that many benefits would be much reduced particularly at the local level. Bird Conservation Nepal is using these findings to support the development of locally-managed nature-based tourism initiatives to sustainably capture economic benefits of the forests, while continuing to conserve the important biodiversity at the site.



Graphic comparing relative delivery of ecosystem services to local, national and global stakeholders for community forestry (dotted line) and non-community forestry (coloured segments). Larger segments indicate increased service delivery in non-community forestry. Smaller segments indicate reduced service delivery in non-community forestry.

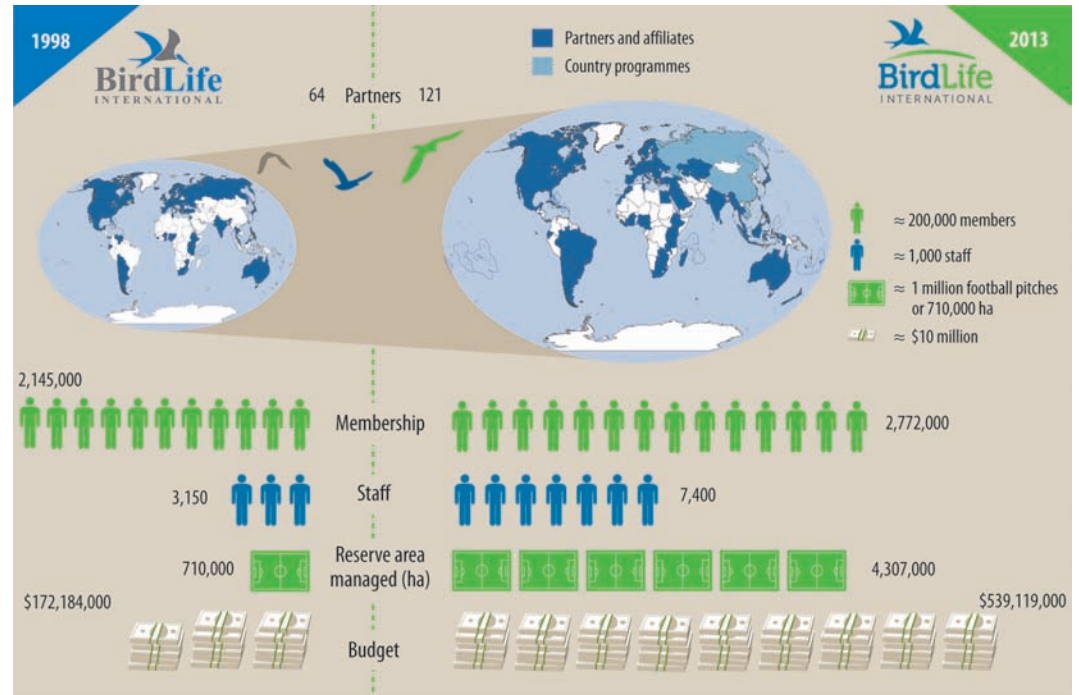
**SOURCE** Adapted from Birch *et al.* (submitted) *Global Environmental Change*.

# Empowering people for positive change

## BirdLife has grown into the largest global conservation partnership

[tinyurl.com/casestudy550](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy550)

BirdLife International is the world's largest nature conservation partnership, numbering 121 BirdLife Partners worldwide and growing, with nearly three million members, 11 million supporters, 7,000 Local Conservation Groups and 7,400 staff.



The BirdLife Partnership was established in 1994. The figures given start in 1998, the earliest data for which such comprehensive information is available.

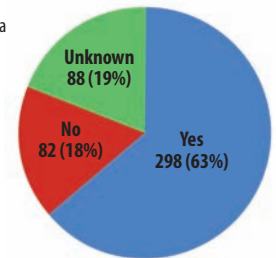
SOURCE BirdLife International.

## BirdLife is empowering organisations and individuals at the local level

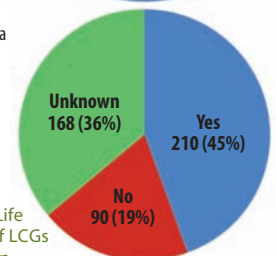
[tinyurl.com/casestudy563](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy563)

BirdLife is facilitating the development of networks of Local Conservation Groups (LCGs) at over 2,700 IBAs worldwide to take action for the conservation and sustainable use of these vitally important areas. An important part of the work is supporting such groups in their efforts to become legally recognised entities, as this greatly increases their opportunities to play a part in decision-making and in the management of resources. In Africa nearly two-thirds of 468 LCGs are now legally registered, and 45% have representation in decision-making forums.

% of LCGs in Africa that are legally registered



% of LCGs in Africa that have representation on decision-making forums



SOURCE BirdLife 2013 survey of LCGs in Africa region.

Nine BirdLife Partners attended the Conference of the Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2012, and were influential in decisions on resource mobilisation, marine and coastal biodiversity and climate change.

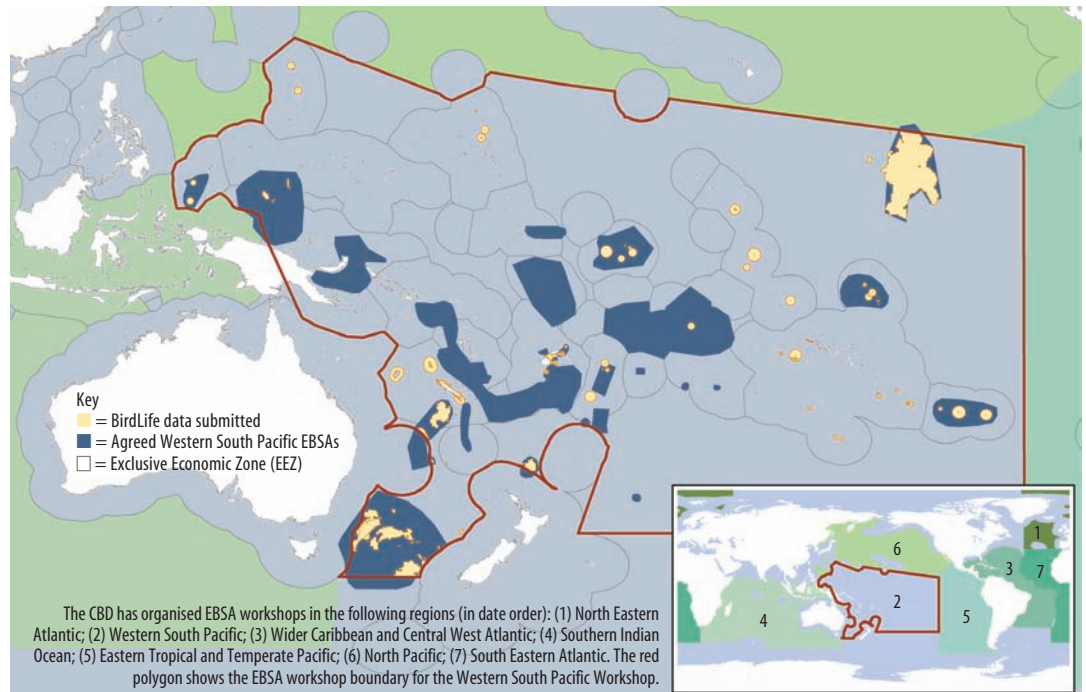
(PHOTO: IISD/EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN – [www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cop11/](http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cop11/))

# Conserving IBAs and the wider landscape

## Using IBAs in planning the protection of the oceans

[tinyurl.com/casestudy551](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy551)

The Convention on Biological Diversity has convened a series of expert workshops to describe Ecologically or Biologically Significant marine Areas (EBSAs) in need of protection. Sites have been identified using the EBSA criteria, applied to data on many different taxa and habitats. Over 500 IBAs for seabirds have contributed to the identification of and been included within EBSAs to date.

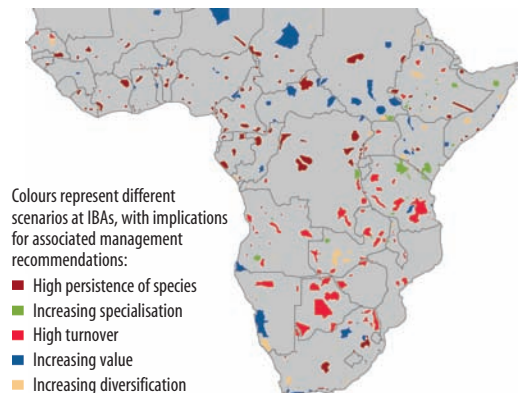


**SOURCE** BirdLife International Marine e-Atlas <http://maps.birdlife.org/marineIBAs/default.html>.

## Adapting management of IBAs to cope with climate change

[tinyurl.com/casestudy251](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy251)

While the avifauna of many individual African IBAs is likely to change as a result of climate change, it is projected that around 90% of priority bird species will be able to survive in one or more IBAs where they currently occur. Hence, safeguarding the existing network of IBAs, in conjunction with adaptation measures that take account of likely changes in species composition, will play a key role in mitigating the worst impacts of climate change on birds in the region.



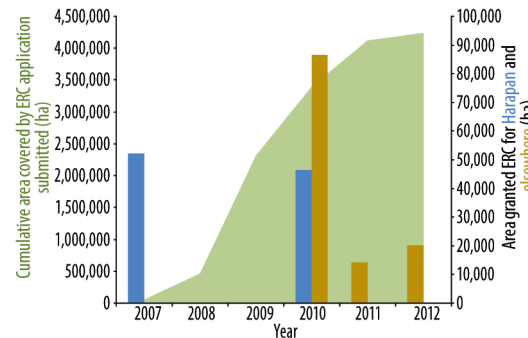
**SOURCE** Hole *et al.* (2011) *Conservation Biology* 25: 305–315.

BirdLife Partners are working together as part of a 'Southern Cone Grasslands Alliance' to support shorebird conservation through good management practices of the natural Pampas grasslands of South America. <http://www.alienzadelpastizal.org>  
(PHOTO: PABLO ROCCA)

## Innovation in the protection of forests in Indonesia

[tinyurl.com/casestudy552](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy552)

Burung Indonesia (BirdLife in Indonesia), the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK) and BirdLife International are together implementing the Harapan Rainforest Initiative which is restoring and conserving nearly 100,000 hectares of Indonesian rainforest under an innovative new forest management licence called an Ecosystem Restoration Concession (ERC), created in conjunction with the Indonesian Government. Of five such licences the first two, issued in 2007 and 2010, cover Harapan; three more have been approved since. Other organisations have submitted applications for a further four million hectares nationwide. While it cannot be assumed that all this area will be licensed for restoration, the volume of applications clearly shows the interest in the approach.

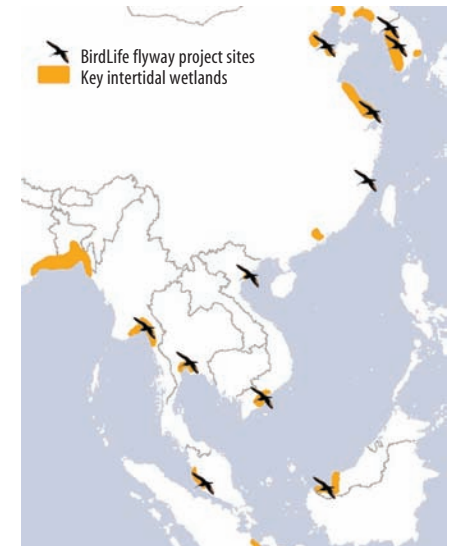


SOURCE Burung Indonesia and Indonesian Ministry of Forestry.

## Working together to tackle the crisis in East Asian coastal wetlands

[tinyurl.com/casestudy553](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy553)

The BirdLife Asia Partnership is developing a new project at 11 intertidal wetland IBAs in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, which are critically important for the conservation of threatened and declining waterbirds and the livelihoods of people. The project is mobilising Local Conservation Groups for the protection and management of wetland habitats, and developing partnerships with protected areas and local government agencies.

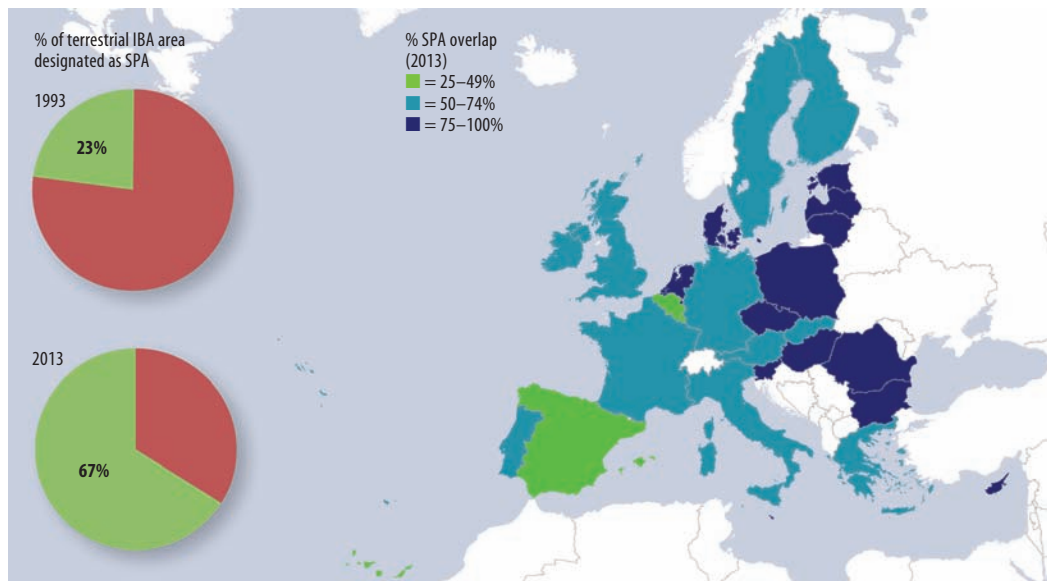


SOURCE BirdLife International, and MacKinnon *et al.* (2012) *IUCN situation analysis on East and Southeast Asian intertidal habitats, with particular reference to the Yellow Sea (including the Bohai Sea)*. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK: IUCN.

## Designating Special Protection Areas in the European Union

[tinyurl.com/casestudy244](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy244)

In the European Union, the identification of areas as IBAs has led to the designation of many of them as Special Protection Areas. These, together with additional Special Areas of Conservation, form Natura 2000, an EU-wide network of sites that protects Europe's most precious species and habitats. This has helped to bring about a dramatic increase in the total land area of IBAs protected, so that nearly 47 million hectares are now included in the Natura 2000 network.



SOURCE Analysis of BirdLife data (2013).

# Saving species from extinction



The BirdLife Partner and Species Guardian Aves Argentinas and local Patagonian NGO Ambiente Sur have begun a pioneering new project to save the Critically Endangered Hooded Grebe *Podiceps gallardoi*. This has involved teams of 'Colony Guardians' who monitor and protect breeding sites.

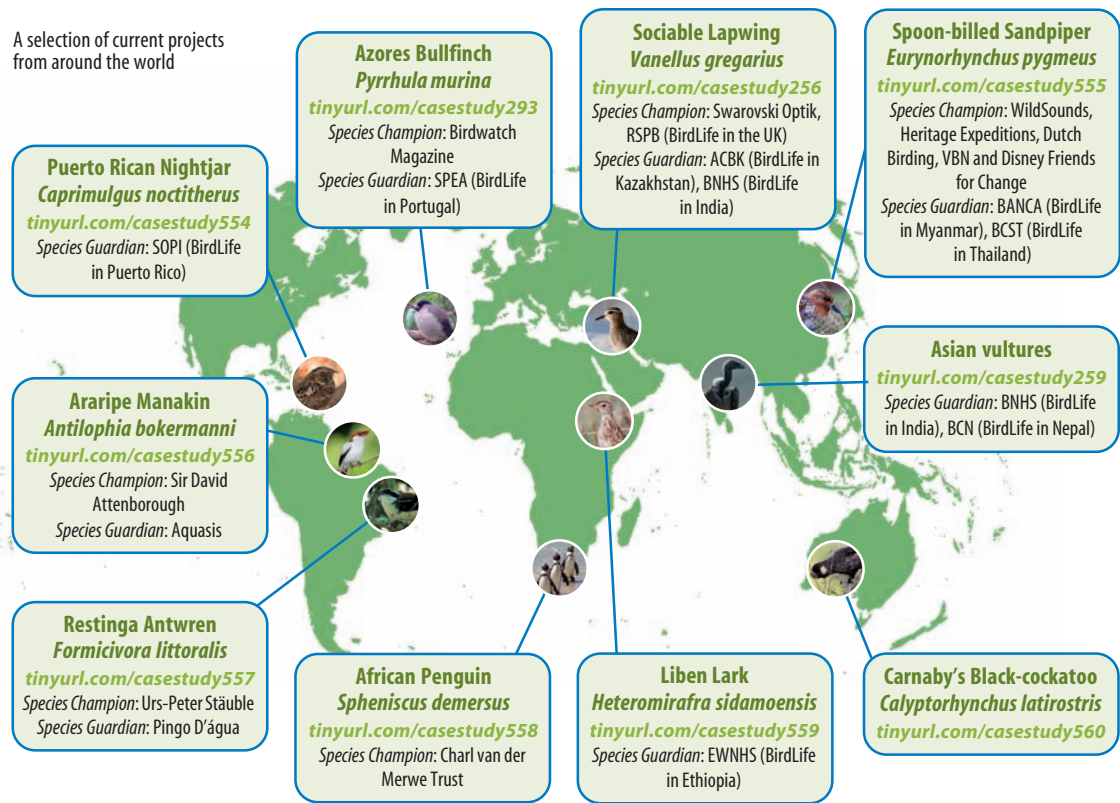
(PHOTO: DIEGO PUNTA FERNANDEZ)

## BirdLife's Preventing Extinctions Programme identifies Guardians and Champions for threatened birds

[tinyurl.com/casestudy269](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy269)

BirdLife Partners are working to save some of the world's most threatened species through the Preventing Extinctions Programme. Key to this is the development of BirdLife Species Guardians—organisations or experts who take the lead in conserving threatened species in their country—and BirdLife Species Champions—organisations or individuals who raise awareness of and fund the vital conservation that is so urgently required.

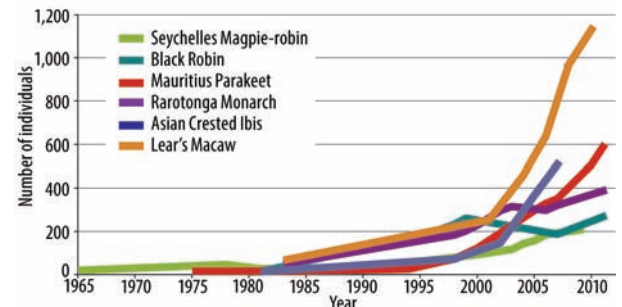
A selection of current projects from around the world



## Species can be saved from extinction

[tinyurl.com/casestudy267](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy267)

Six species success stories provide evidence for how concerted conservation efforts can save species from extinction.



SOURCE Various, see BirdLife Species Fact Sheets at [www.birdlife.org/datazone](http://www.birdlife.org/datazone).



# Shaping and tracking the biodiversity agenda



Orange-cheeked Parrots *Pyrilia barrabandi* and Cobalt-winged Parakeets *Brotogeris cyanoptera* visit a clay lick at the Napo Wildlife Center in Ecuador.  
(PHOTO: MURRAY COOPER)

CBD strategic goal	Aichi Target	Indicator using bird data
A. Address underlying causes	1 Improve awareness of biodiversity	✓
	2 Mainstream biodiversity	✓
	3 Reform incentives	✓
	4 Implement plans for sustainability	✓
B. Reduce pressures and promote sustainable use	5 Reduce habitat loss and degradation	✓
	6 Fish sustainably	✓
	7 Make farming and forestry sustainable	✓
	8 Reduce pollution	✓
	9 Tackle invasive species	✓
	10 Minimise climate change impacts	✓
C. Safeguard ecosystems, species and genes	11 Protect and manage critical sites	✓
	12 Prevent extinctions	✓
	13 Maintain genetic diversity	✓
D. Enhance benefits from biodiversity and ecosystems	14 Safeguard ecosystem services	✓
	15 Restore degraded forest	✓
	16 Implement access and benefit sharing	✓
E. Enhance implementation through planning, knowledge management and capacity building	17 Implement NBSAPs	✓
	18 Protect traditional knowledge	✓
	19 Share biodiversity knowledge	✓
	20 Increase conservation finance	✓

## Birds can help set, meet and track the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

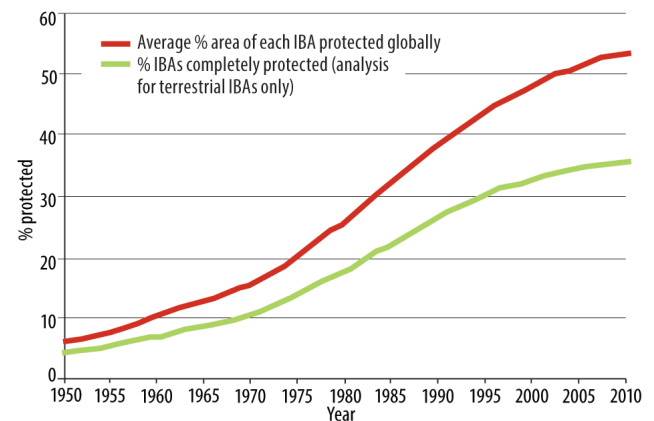
[tinyurl.com/casestudy514](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy514)

As part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, in 2010 the member states of the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed 20 headline ‘Aichi Biodiversity Targets’. Governments are translating these to the national level through their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Data on birds can help to set targets, focus actions, and monitor success for the conservation of biodiversity.

## The IBA Protection Index tracks trends in the protection of key areas for biodiversity

[tinyurl.com/casestudy243](http://tinyurl.com/casestudy243)

National and global trends in the degree to which IBAs are covered by protected areas can provide a measure of progress towards Aichi Target 11. This is one example of many indicators using bird data which will continue to play a vital role in monitoring progress towards conserving biodiversity in the years to come.



SOURCE Butchart *et al.* (2012) *PLoS ONE* 7(3): e32529.

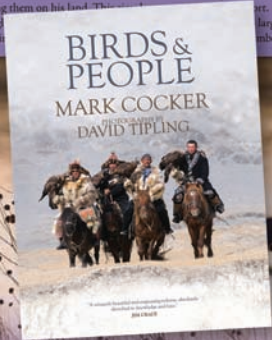
SOURCE CBD strategic goals and Aichi Targets: Convention on Biological Diversity. Indicators using bird data: BirdLife International (2012) *Developing and implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: How to set, meet and track the Aichi Biodiversity Targets*. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International.

# An overview of BirdLife's online resources

of those heartening examples where a species' significance has finally come to the rescue of the resident breeding population in Hokkaido had fallen to just 30 birds. Concern known locally as *tanbo* (literally 'red 197'), and until the severe winter of 1952, when a man feeding them on his land. The birds have been caught

crane became a Special Natural Treasure and an expansion area of the neighbouring Kushiro Marsh, where the bird breed, was declared a reserve and then a national park in 1987.<sup>9</sup>

Throughout, *tanbo* tourism has gone from strength to strength, and now no visitor to Hokkaido could easily miss its image. The nearest airport is known officially as Tanabe. Immediately outside, at either end of the road, are large crane sculptures, and there are symbols of the crane embedded in the hand rail.<sup>10</sup> Hokkaido's



In August 2013, the author, Mark Cocker, and photographer, David Tipling, will publish *Birds and People*, a comprehensive review of the value of birds to human cultures across the world. Numerous BirdLife contacts have contributed to the book, and David has kindly provided many of the pictures in this report. For more information on *Birds and People* please visit [www.birdsandpeople.org](http://www.birdsandpeople.org).

Section	URL	QR code
<b>State of the world's birds</b> 	<b><a href="http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sowb">www.birdlife.org/datazone/sowb</a></b> An online tool providing access to over 350 case studies to help inform decisions, detailed spotlights on BirdLife's key areas of engagement, and a wide range of publications, including <i>State of the nation's birds</i> reports.	
<b>Species factsheets</b> 	<b><a href="http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species">www.birdlife.org/datazone/species</a></b> Detailed factsheets for all the world's birds (>10,000), containing information on IUCN Red List status, distribution, population, ecology, threats, and actions underway and needed.	
<b>Site factsheets</b> 	<b><a href="http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/site">www.birdlife.org/datazone/site</a></b> Detailed factsheets for >12,000 IBAs in nearly 200 countries, with information on key species and habitats, threats, protection status, conservation actions, local communities, and ecosystem services.	
<b>Marine e-atlas</b> 	<b><a href="http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/marine">www.birdlife.org/datazone/marine</a></b> A dynamic and interactive map providing information on all the world's seabirds, breeding colonies, important marine sites, their protection status and relationship to EBSAs.	
<b>Country profiles</b> 	<b><a href="http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/country">www.birdlife.org/datazone/country</a></b> Biodiversity statistics, graphs and maps for every country of the world, including information on bird species and their IUCN Red List status, IBAs and their protection status, and environmental treaties.	
<b>CBD support</b> 	<b><a href="http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/CBDsupport">www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/CBDsupport</a></b> A dedicated section of BirdLife's website that member states to the CBD can draw upon when setting priorities, tracking success, developing NBSAPs, preventing extinctions, and designing protected area networks.	
<b>GTB Forums</b> 	<b><a href="http://www.birdlife.org/globally-threatened-bird-forums/">www.birdlife.org/globally-threatened-bird-forums/</a></b> Visit the Globally Threatened Bird Forums to contribute information on birds relevant to their risk of extinction and help to ensure that they are correctly classified on the IUCN Red List.	

## The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) [www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/ibat](http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/info/ibat)

IBAT provides accurate and up-to-date global and national biodiversity data on habitats, species, key areas for biodiversity and protected areas. 'IBAT for Research and Conservation Planning' is aimed at governments and conservation practitioners, while 'IBAT for Business' (a subscription-based service) is tailored for the private sector. It aims to ensure that companies integrate biodiversity considerations at the earliest stages of project planning. It is also of value to those involved with risk management and Corporate Social Responsibility teams interested in understanding the biodiversity at or near to their areas of operation. IBAT is the result of a partnership between BirdLife International, Conservation International, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.



BirdLife International is the world's largest nature conservation Partnership. Together we are 121 BirdLife Partners worldwide—one per country or territory—and growing with almost 11 million supporters, 7,000 local conservation groups and 7,400 staff.

BirdLife's vision is a world rich in biodiversity, where people and nature live in harmony. We are driven by our belief that local people, working for nature in their own places but connected nationally and internationally through our global Partnership, are the key to sustaining all life on this planet. This unique local-to-global approach delivers high impact and long-term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.

BirdLife is widely recognised as the world leader in bird conservation. Rigorous science informed by practical feedback from projects on the ground in important sites and habitats enables us to implement successful conservation programmes for birds and all of nature.

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