

# BirdLife International

## A partnership for nature



BirdLife International – the world's largest nature conservation Partnership – is driven by a belief that local communities, working for nature in their own places but connected through a strong global partnership, is the key to sustaining life on this planet.

Adopting a unique local-to-global approach: BirdLife is a family of independent, not-for-profit, national organisations who share a common conservation ethos and a dedication to saving the world's birds and biodiversity. Each Partner organisation is not simply a member of BirdLife: they are BirdLife in their respective country, adopting a strategy and programmatic priorities shared across the Partnership. This unique local-to-global approach delivers high impact and long-term conservation that benefits both nature and people.

Pioneering conservation science: Science underpins all of BirdLife's work. Science helps to set priorities, inform action on the ground, and shape policy and advocacy. Through our commitment to rigorous data-gathering and analysis, we ensure that scarce resources are targeted effectively. We identify the species at greatest risk of extinction, the most important sites for their conservation, the most urgent threats to address, the policies that we can influence and use for better biodiversity conservation, and the most appropriate and effective responses.



# A

- With 3 million members and 7 million supporters, BirdLife Partnership powerfully communicates and raises awareness of biodiversity.
- BirdLife Partners are helping to establish National Liaison Frameworks as forums for policy making.
- BirdLife is working with sectors to integrate biodiversity values in policies and practices, with progress on sustainable production in agriculture, fisheries, energy, tourism.
- BirdLife Partners are supporting efforts to remove European Union subsidies that support overfishing.
- BirdLife has developed a decision-support tool (IBAT), for business and financial institutions, to inform decisions about biodiversity risk and to report upon environmental performance.
- BirdLife is working with the government and industries to reduce collision of migratory birds with wind turbines and towards sustainable renewable energy production.

Improving awareness of biodiversity at different levels, from people to institutions.

Education is central to changing attitudes and behaviours and fostering long-term commitment to conservation. BirdLife Partners are working to build constituencies at many different levels: through their own membership, through diverse networks of Local Conservation Groups, through strategic partnerships with industry and through constructive engagement with governments. As part of their work with governments, more and more Partners are tackling policy issues. As well as policy sectors that deal directly with biodiversity, Partners are also addressing those that have a major indirect impact (such as climate change), or cut across the other sectors (such as poverty reduction, conservation finance and tourism).

# B

- BirdLife's Forest of Hope programme will protect five million hectares of tropical forest by 2020.
- BirdLife is working with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to reduce seabird declines.
- BirdLife's Albatross Task Force is bridging the gap between conservationists and fishermen.
- BirdLife is fostering sustainable cattle grazing practices in South America, linking the production of 'green beef' with protection of grassland biodiversity.
- BirdLife Partners are establishing safe 'diclofenac free' feeding sites for vultures.
- BirdLife has rid over 30 islands across the Pacific of five invasive vertebrate species which are impacting bird populations. As a result, 17 globally threatened birds, now have secure populations and other native wildlife is also thriving.

Seabirds are one of the world's most threatened bird groups. They are also vital indicators of global ocean health. BirdLife has developed innovative solutions to safeguard seabirds and the wider marine environment.

Ending seabird bycatch: Hundreds of thousands of seabirds per year are caught and drowned on baited longline hooks and nets or killed by collisions with trawl cables. Solving the seabird bycatch crisis requires working directly with the fishing industry. BirdLife's Albatross Task Force is an international team of seabird bycatch mitigation instructors working directly with fisherman. In the South African hake trawl fishery, the team have achieved a spectacular reduction in albatross bycatch of 99% over six years. Efforts are now well underway to replicate this success elsewhere. BirdLife also works with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to tackle seabird bycatch. With the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), BirdLife is identifying spatial and temporal overlap between seabird distribution and pelagic longline fishing effort, to identify highest bycatch risk.

# C

- BirdLife inventories of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) have enabled Governments to improve and expand their protected-area networks.
- Marine Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) are being used as a key set of areas to inform description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas in the open oceans.
- Over ten years, action by BirdLife Partners and others prevented the extinction of 16 bird species. Overall, 483 globally threatened bird species are benefiting from BirdLife actions.
- BirdLife's Preventing Extinction Programme identifies Guardians and Champions for threatened birds.
- BirdLife's science shows that 1 in 8 of the world's 10,000 bird species are threatened with extinction. BirdLife have identified the actions needed and have already begun to turn the tide.

Over the past four decades, over 13,000 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas have been identified across virtually all of the world's countries and territories, both on land and at sea. IBAs constitute the largest and most comprehensive global network of sites that are significant for the global persistence of biodiversity.

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) are 'sites that contribute to the global persistence of biodiversity', including vital habitat for threatened plant and animal species in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. The KBA concept is based on the IBA concept of BirdLife International but expands it to all other taxonomic groups of animals, plants and other biodiversity elements (e.g. ecosystems). KBAs include Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites (AZES), BirdLife Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), IUCN Freshwater KBAs and KBAs identified through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) hotspot profiling process. Information about these sites is maintained in the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (WDKBA) managed by BirdLife International on behalf of the KBA Partnership.

In Africa, IBA monitoring is now well established.

# D

- Bird Partners are assessing ecosystem services at Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas.
- BirdLife developed with partner organisations the Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-based Assessment (TESSA) which provides low-cost methods for ecosystem services assessments at site scale.
- The BirdLife Partnership advocates for and delivers nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change and help communities adapt to its impacts.
- BirdLife Partners are helping communities adapt to climate change using ecosystem-based approaches.
- BirdLife Partners have assessed the vulnerability to climate change of the IBA network in Latin American and the Caribbean and developed 12 national strategies and a regional strategy to increase its resilience.

BirdLife has modelled the impacts of climate change at 2,765 IBAs. 683 of the most vulnerable IBAs are being monitored to detect and then address the impacts.

Between 2013-2015, BirdLife developed ecosystem-based adaptation plans for 59 IBAs.

BirdLife's action on climate change combines cutting-edge science, policy analysis and practical experience to advocate and deliver appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions for nature and people.

Birds are messengers that provide vital insights on how climate change threatens species, habitats and communities worldwide. "The Messengers" is a global synthesis, an assessment of hundreds of peer-reviewed studies on the impacts of climate change on birds and biodiversity. It reports on the kind of ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation solutions that can form an important part of human adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies.

# E

- BirdLife Partners work with governments to develop and support implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.
- BirdLife supports over 4,000 Local Conservation Groups at IBAs to ensure that conservation contributes to better livelihoods, social justice, equity and respect for human rights.
- Through the Datazone portal, BirdLife shares scientifically credible, relevant, accessible materials.
- BirdLife has led studies to calculate the cost of saving globally threatened species and safeguarding IBAs.
- With 8,000 Partner staff, and investments in conservation action in 120 countries, the BirdLife Partnership makes an important contribution to the funding of conservation interventions.

US\$80 billion investment needed to protect all nature. \$8 billion spending on worldwide nature network. \$232 billion Agricultural subsidies in OECD Nations. \$669 billion Global spending on soft drinks. \$1,793 billion Economy. \$1,500 billion GDP. \$3,814 billion GDP. \$48,000 billion Value of the global economy. \$78,000 billion Value of the global economy.

BirdLife International manages unparalleled data on all the world's birds, the threats they face, the conservation actions they need and the global network of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas that needs safeguarding for conservation.

BirdLife International is the CBD's International Thematic Focal Point for birds for the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM). We manage a wealth of data that can help Parties to set priorities and track success in meeting biodiversity targets. The BirdLife DataZone portal holds biodiversity statistics, graphs and maps for every country of the world; provides access to over 300 Case Studies analysing data from BirdLife and others to help inform decision; fact-sheets for all the world's birds (>10,000); fact-sheets for >11,000 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in nearly 200 countries; provide access to BirdLife developed decision making support tools.

### AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS STRATEGIC GOALS

# A

#### Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

- Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
- Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
- Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.
- Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

# B

#### Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

- Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
- Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
- Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
- Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

# C

#### To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
- Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

# D

#### Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
- Target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

# E

#### Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- Target 17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
- Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
- Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
- Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

