

World Birdwatch

JUNE 2013



The BirdLife
Partnership
in action

Verano BGA HD

With a brand new optical system the Verano BGA HD delivers a vivid 'true to life' viewing experience essential for accurate wildlife observation. 100% made in Japan, the models incorporate high quality phase corrected & Oasis coated prisms with lenses finished in our F-type multi-coating to optimise light transmission and colour contrast.

Other features include class leading 8° (8x32), 7° (8x42) and 6.5° (10x42) fields of view with or without glasses, 4-stage twist type eyecups, close focus to 2m and a comprehensive 30 year guarantee.

**8x32 £429, 8x42 £439,
10x42 £449**



New Natura BGA

Featuring a tried and tested optical system packaged in a brand new double hinge body, the Natura BGA delivers an unbeatable combination of user comfort, performance and value. Positioned squarely at the enthusiast wanting a lightweight yet robust and reliable field glass, the binoculars are 100% Made in Japan and come with the assurance of our 30 year guarantee.

8x42 £279, 10x42 £289



HR ED

Designed and engineered without compromise, HR ED fieldscopes deliver exceptional optical performance combined with sublime handling and total reliability.

**HR 66 GA ED £749, HR 80 GA ED £899
SDLv2 18-54x/24-72x £289, HDF T 20xWW/27xWW £139**

Special Offer

For a limited time purchase any HR ED Fieldscope complete with qualifying eyepiece and WP case and receive an **XFS Series Tripod Free of Charge.**

Purchases of HR 66 GA ED qualify for XFS-C Traveller with PH157QK Head. SRP £195
Purchases of HR 80 GA ED qualify for XFS-A Birdwatcher's with 701 HDV Head. SRP £204

For more information visit the Promotions page at www.opticron.co.uk



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Recommended Eyepieces: HDF T 23xWW £139,
HDF T 32xWW £159, HDF T 20-60x £199, SDLv2 20-60x £289,
Telephoto options available



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Prices from £199



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Extensive range of equipment and accessories, expert advice on choosing the right instrument, special export prices and subsidised international freight. To discuss your personal or group requirements please email your enquiry to sales@opticron.co.uk



As I write this short note, we are fast approaching the 5th BirdLife World Congress in Ottawa, Canada. These are truly exciting and evolutionary times for BirdLife. Our Partnership of national conservation organisations from more than 120 countries and territories is about to adopt a more ambitious and more focussed 2020 Conservation Strategy, accompanied by a set of nine global programmes tackling old and new conservation challenges. These programmes will provide even more unity, integration, sharing and complementarity across the Partnership, and deliver more and better conservation results, more cost-effectively, for birds, nature and people. On the cover of this issue of *World Birdwatch* you will see the new BirdLife International Partnership logo, designed to emphasise the link between birds and the natural environment, to indicate how through birds we contribute to conserving all nature, and benefit people's quality of life. All this is the product of an unprecedented strategic review in consultation with the Partnership, but is equally a gradual evolution very much in touch with our roots, our historic focus, our priority setting. Following the special *World Birdwatch* issue of December 2012, dedicated to our 90th anniversary, we have produced this second special edition to mark this extraordinary time for BirdLife, and to celebrate the remarkable growth, evolution and achievements of today's BirdLife Partnership since its establishment twenty years ago. I hope you will enjoy this further special edition, after which we will revert to the usual *World Birdwatch* format, and that you will join us in celebrating the local-to-global impact we passionately believe in.

Dr Marco Lambertini,
Chief Executive, BirdLife International

Image Credits

- Cover Stream – M Cooper
- Cuban Tody – J Lawrence
- Children with flowers – A Rogers
- P2 People – V Fu
- P2 Saffron-cowled Blackbird – R Moller
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- P4 Guineafowl feathers – M Creasser
- P4 Scientist at work – M Fowlie
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Managing Editor Martin Fowlie
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World Birdwatch is published quarterly by BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK
Tel. +44 (0)1223 277318 Fax +44 (0)1223 277200 Email birdlife@birdlife.org
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BirdLife International is a worldwide partnership of conservation organisations working to protect the world's birds and their habitats.

World Birdwatch is available by subscription from BirdLife International at the above address and from some Partner organisations

BirdLife exists to conserve nature by supporting local conservation around the world

We achieve this through the BirdLife Partnership – the world’s largest Partnership of conservation organisations

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 place but connected nationally and internationally through our global Partnership, are the key to sustaining all life on this planet.

121 Partners and growing...

13 million supporters and members

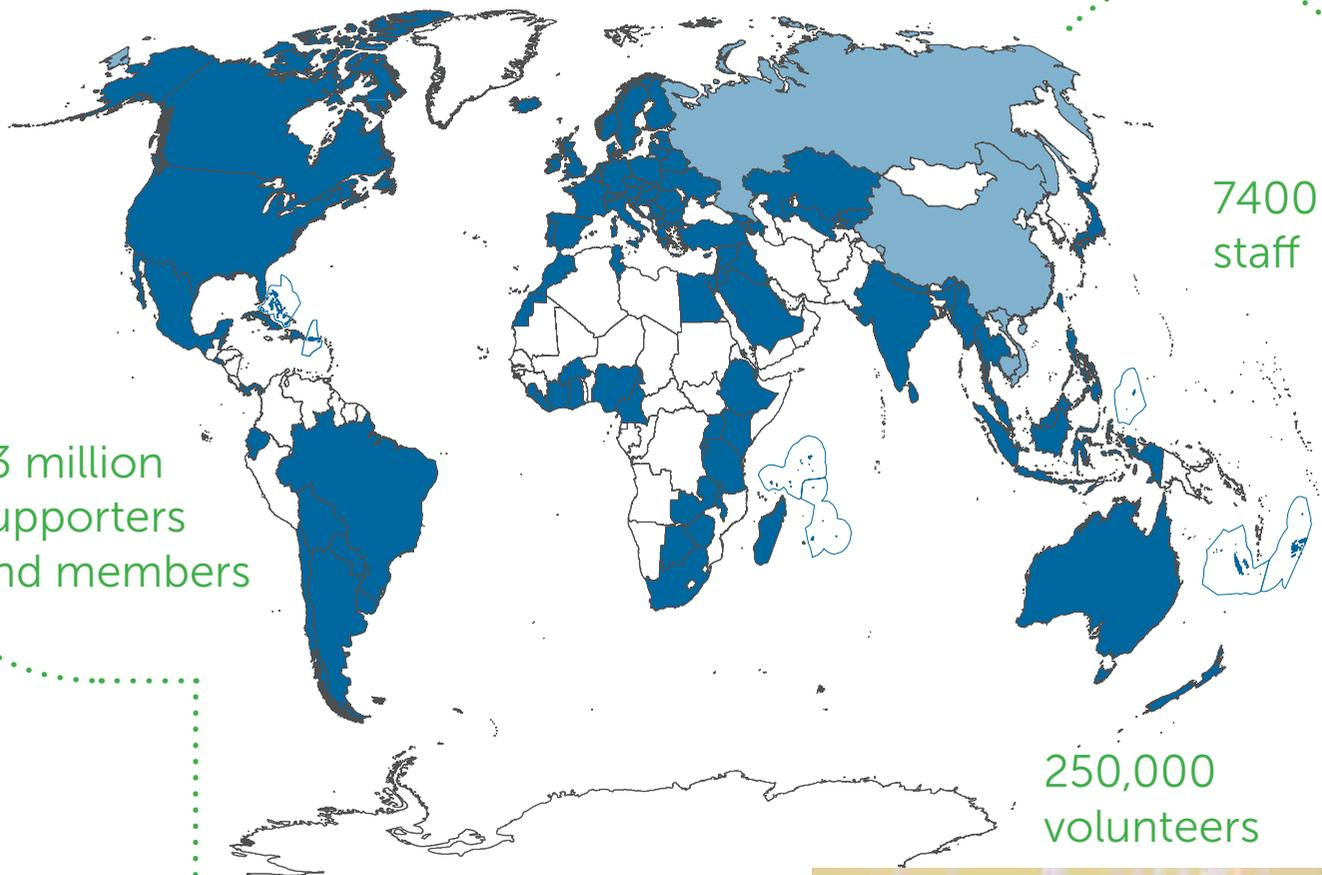
7400 staff

250,000 volunteers

7500 Local Conservation Groups

Key

-  BirdLife Partner
-  BirdLife Country Programme





We have changed how international conservation is done

Local Partners drive the global agenda

BirdLife's governing body is made up from local Partner organisations. It is this local to global approach that makes us unique.

We have the experience to deliver

The 121 civil society organisations of the BirdLife Partnership have a wealth of knowledge and technical skills amounting to a combined total of more than 4500 years of institutional experience.

Old and New

Bombay Natural History Society

Created in 1883, BNHS is the oldest BirdLife Partner. It was started by eight Mumbai citizens.

NatureFiji-MareqetiViti

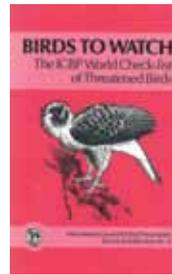
BirdLife Country Programme for Fiji supported the creation of a new, all-Fijian conservation organisation whose success has enabled it now to join the BirdLife Partnership as the youngest Partner.

A growing Partnership

4500+ years
of conservation
experience



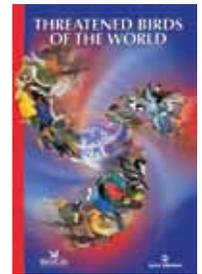
BirdLife is the world leader in bird conservation



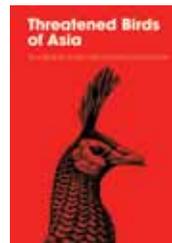
1988



2000



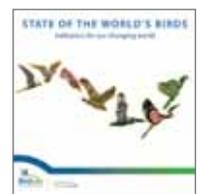
2000



2001



2009



2013

BirdLife's science leads the way

BirdLife International is the official Red List Authority for birds, supplying the information for all the world's birds to the IUCN each year. The way we assess species is now being applied to other groups of animals and plants. The Red List underpins the work of the BirdLife Partnership. It informs and guides as to the species most desperately in need of conservation – it sets our priorities.

Through birds we impact on all life

Birds are a good indicator of the overall state of nature. BirdLife has developed ways of tracking changes in the health of different ecosystems and habitats through changes in the populations of birds found there.

Our science is used by national and international decision makers

Reports on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals – that seek to improve social and economic conditions in the world's poorest countries – profile two of BirdLife International's key indicators: the degree of protection of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs); and the IUCN Red List Index, which BirdLife pioneered. This shows the power of our data and the value of our science-based approach to conservation and human well-being.



Simple measures implemented by BirdLife are reducing seabird bycatch by 85%

Monitoring confirmed huge declines in albatross and other seabird populations. Research identified the problem of accidental bycatch of birds on the hooks of fishing vessels. BirdLife implemented simple, inexpensive measures which dramatically reduce the number of seabirds killed by longline and trawl fisheries without any negative effect on fish catches. These are now being used across the world's oceans.

BirdLife's science and advocacy is saving vultures in South Asia

Since the early 1990s, populations of three Asian vulture species declined by more than 99% in India. The veterinary drug 'Diclofenac' was identified as the cause. The BirdLife Partnership led by the BirdLife Partner in India lobbied the Government and the drug was banned. A new vulture-safe drug – meloxicam – was found. Vulture populations have now stabilised.

BirdLife takes conservation from research through to advocacy and action



Thousands of seabirds already saved in African waters





BirdLife is working across the globe to save species from extinction

The BirdLife Partnership is preventing extinction

BirdLife Partners are working on more than 500 threatened species including 115 Critically Endangered species. Conservation action focuses on protection and management of sites and habitats, supported by education, awareness raising, research and monitoring. Many other species benefit indirectly through this work.

Seychelles is leading the way

Nature Seychelles (BirdLife Partner) has been at the forefront of extinction prevention for several decades. Seychelles Magpie-robins, White-eyes, Scops-owls, Fody and Warblers have all benefitted from its conservation action. It is now tackling their only remaining Critically Endangered species – Seychelles Paradise-flycatcher.



Tracking Sociable Lapwings

A long-term project by Kazakh and UK Partners, ACBK and RSPB, has utilised new technology. Sociable Lapwings have been fitted with satellite tags enabling scientists to track their journeys and protect them as they migrate.



Habitat restoration helps Azores Bullfinch

SPEA (Portuguese Partner) restored 230 hectares of native laurel forest and created orchards to improve the amount of winter food available. The project has also provided full time employment for 25 local people each year, and added an estimated €335,000 to the local economy.



BirdLife is working across borders to protect migratory birds

Every year, an estimated 50 billion birds migrate between their breeding and non-breeding areas. They face a multitude of threats during their journeys. They may fall victim to hazardous weather, lack of food or water, or predators. On top of this, hundreds of millions of migrants are trapped and shot every year in many countries. Important sites along their travels are also being destroyed for agriculture.



Across Europe, Africa and the Middle East, Partners are working to combat the illegal hunting and killing of migrant birds, linking up to address the international dimension of the threats, and the need for conservation measures beyond national boundaries.



BirdLife Partners spanning the Americas are ideally placed, both to carry out the work on the ground and to coordinate activities along the migratory flyway

From the Canadian tundra and the prairies of the USA, via the islands of the Caribbean, to the forest of Latin America, the pampas and beyond.



In Asia we are working to protect the many crucial coastal sites that migratory waders rely on while undertaking their amazing journeys.



We identify, conserve, restore and monitor the sites and habitats important for birds and all nature

The BirdLife Partnership has identified the planet's most important sites for nature. These are known as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas – IBAs for short

Over 12,000 Important Bird and Biodiversity areas have been identified at land and at sea through internationally agreed criteria. These are places that are of immense natural importance.

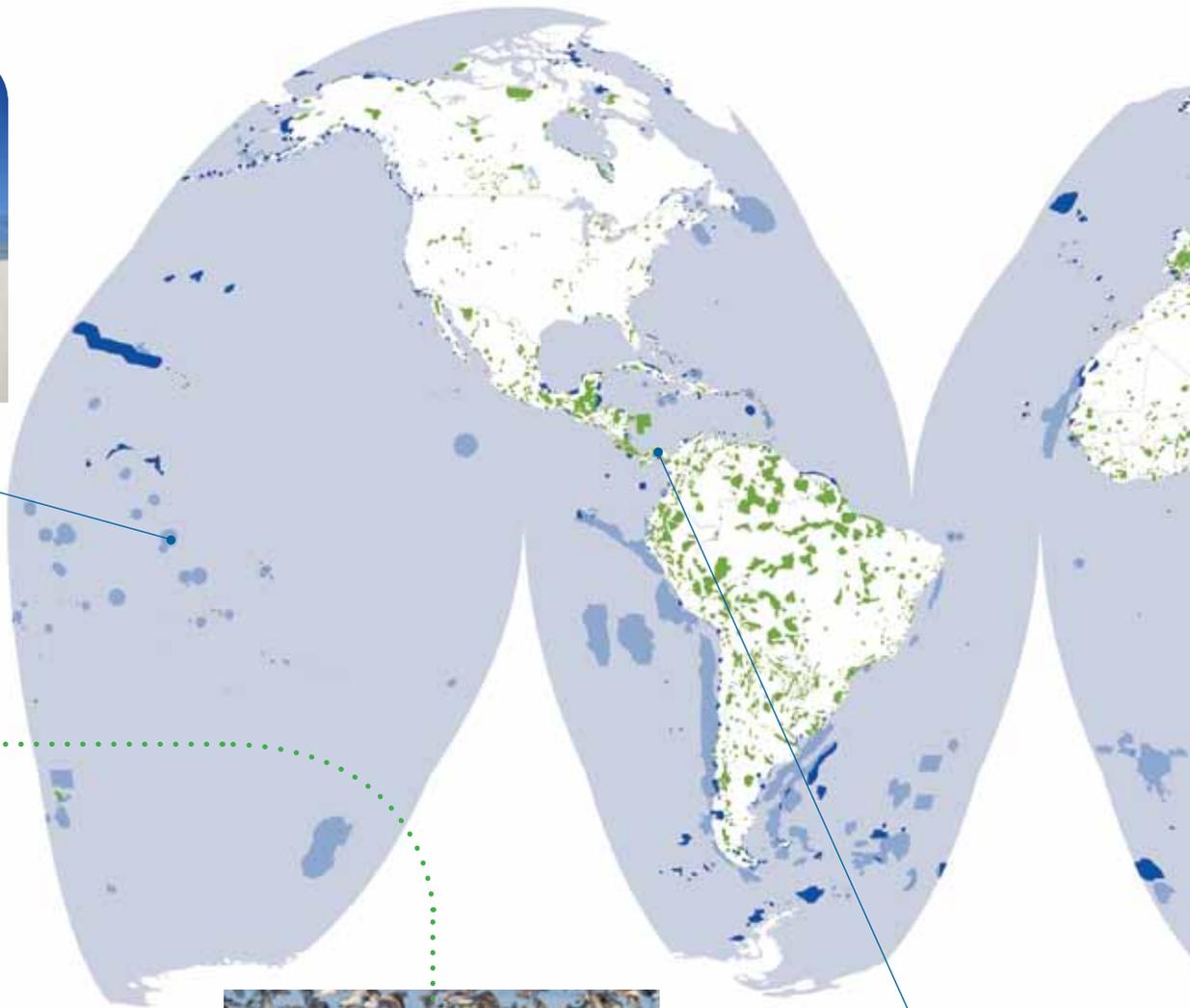


Cook Islands

The world's largest marine park covering over one million square kilometres has been launched in the Cook Islands in the Pacific Ocean, with the involvement of the BirdLife Partner.

Key

- Terrestrial IBA
- Marine IBA
- Proposed Marine IBA



Panama Bay, Panama

One of the most important sites for migratory waterbirds in the America had its protected status reinstated after a campaign by the Panama BirdLife Partner.

Over 12,000 IBAs identified at land and sea

The IBA programme informs and influences key decision makers

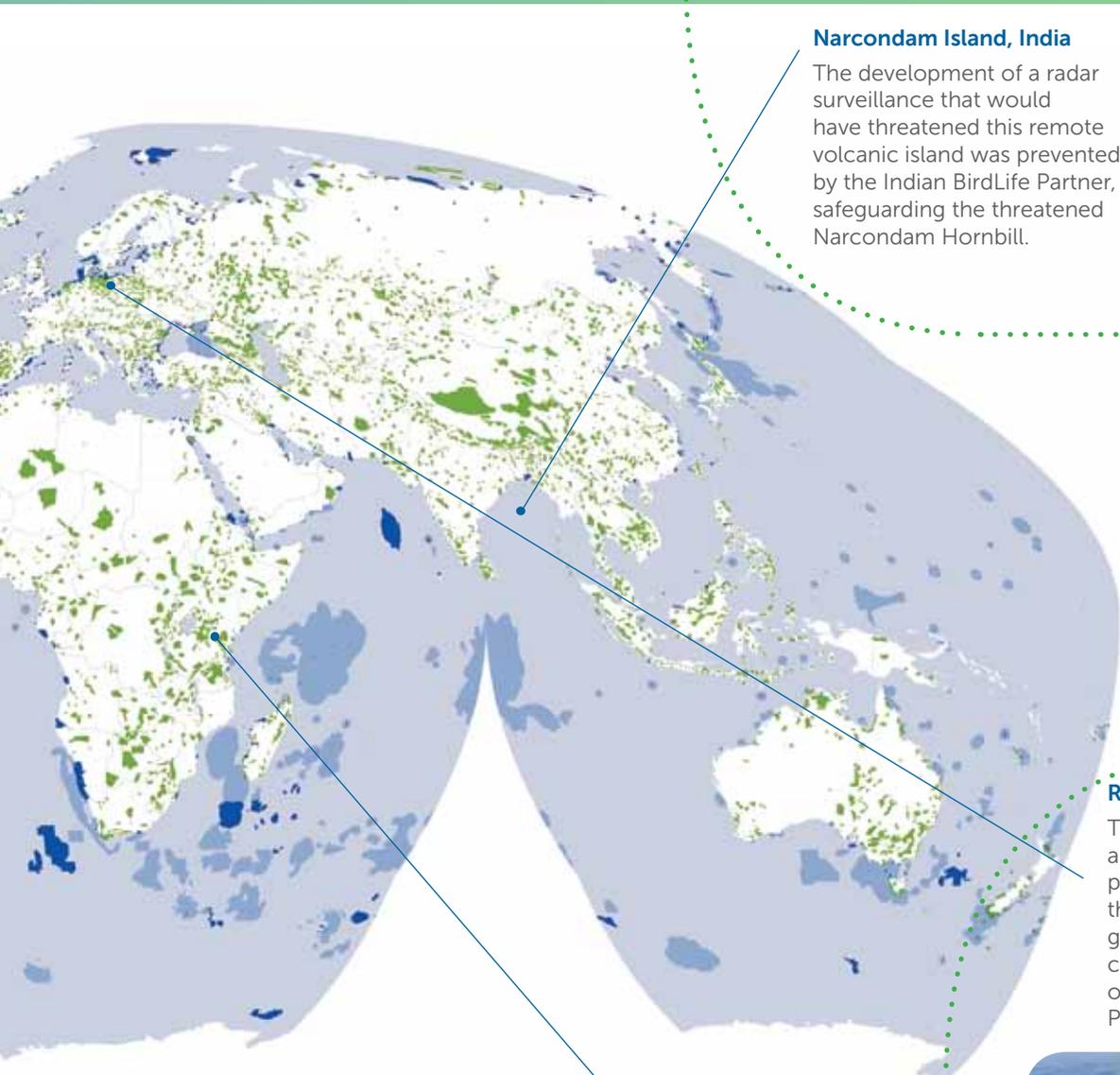
IBAs are helping to achieve the Convention on Biological Diversity's target of conserving at least 17% of land and 10% of sea through protected areas.

IBAs have been widely used to protect nature in the European Union through the Natura 2000 network.

BirdLife protects the places that matter most

More than half of IBAs have already some form of protection. The BirdLife Partnership is working to protect all of them.

IBAs in Danger – The BirdLife Partnership has identified more than 300 IBAs at immediate risk and is working to safeguard these amazing places.



Narcondam Island, India

The development of a radar surveillance that would have threatened this remote volcanic island was prevented by the Indian BirdLife Partner, safeguarding the threatened Narcondam Hornbill.



Rospuda Marsh, Poland

The Polish government abandoned controversial plans for a road development through one of Europe's last great wildernesses after a campaign from environmental organisations including the Polish BirdLife Partner.



Lake Natron, Tanzania

The Tanzanian BirdLife Partner lead a campaign to halt a soda ash development at this site that holds the largest breeding colony of Lesser Flamingos in the world.





Healthy ecosystems help regulate the climate

BirdLife is helping to understand how nature can adapt to climate change

We are identifying how climate change will impact nature

A Climatic Atlas of European Breeding Birds is a ground-breaking publication. Not only showing maps of the potential distribution of each species breeding in Europe at the end of this century, but also providing ways of responding to this challenge. Most of all we need to protect and restore today's wildlife, and secure healthy populations of birds within their current ranges. Sites must be better protected, managed and connected to provide a "backbone for biodiversity" and to allow for changes in distribution.



BirdLife is combining indigenous and local knowledge with external expertise to deal with climate change

Climate impacts are predicted to be linked to increased temperatures and reduced rainfall in some places. BirdLife Partner, NATURAMA is working with local people in the north of Burkina Faso to ensure that water conservation mechanisms are in place, such as ditches and small lakes for water collection, with tree planting for improved filtration during the rainy season. Techniques for 'wise use' of water are also being promoted.

BirdLife is building on its successful forest conservation and management programmes throughout the tropics

We are working in tropical countries around the world, identifying and piloting new management and financing systems for forest conservation and restoration. These generate local and national economic benefits for sustainable development, and combating climate change.

Harapan Forest, Indonesia

Burung Indonesia (BirdLife Partner) with the support of the Partnership, obtained the first forest restoration concession (from the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry). The licence was granted for a staggering 100 years. Using this new regulation over five million hectares have now been set aside by the government for restoration.

Gola Forest, Sierra Leone and Liberia

Two countries with common wildlife and common challenges are united across the river by the Transboundary Peace Park. BirdLife Partners including the Society for Conservation of Nature in Liberia and Conservation Society of Sierra Leone, have helped to create the Gola Forest Programme: an international partnership that aims to protect the beautiful Gola rainforests – forever.

Atlantic Rainforest, Paraguay

The Kue Tuvy Aché tribe worked with BirdLife Partner, Guyra Paraguay, and others to develop a management plan which protects the 4000 hectares of native Atlantic forest, enabling the Aché themselves to pursue sustainable livelihoods.

BirdLife Partners worldwide are developing innovative approaches to save tropical forests



Working at 22 sites

In 14 countries

On 5.5 million hectares



BirdLife is pioneering ways in recognising the importance of the world's oceans

E-atlas showcases marine sites

The *e-Atlas of Marine Important Bird Areas* is the first global inventory of important sites for the conservation of migratory marine species. It is a major contribution to marine conservation and will prove to be a vital resource for meeting the Convention on Biological Diversity target of protecting 10% of marine and coastal areas by 2020. The e-atlas covers 3000 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) worldwide.

Global agreements pave the way

BirdLife is working at the regional, national and international levels to influence the development and adoption of agreements and measures to reduce seabird bycatch and protect other wildlife. This includes establishing and supporting a network of BirdLife Partners and others to influence global and regional policies affecting the marine environment.



Our marine e-Atlas covers 3000 IBAs worldwide

BirdLife is restoring nature to its former glory

Since 1800, around 90% of all species extinctions have occurred on islands; most of these have been caused by introduced species

BirdLife Partners are restoring island ecosystems across the globe by removing these introduced species. It is a complex task, but BirdLife is a world leader and is now passing on its expertise to others. Nineteen islands have been restored in the Pacific so far, with another 18 waiting in the wings!

Henderson Island

Situated over 3000 miles from the nearest continent, Henderson Island is one of the most remote islands on the planet. Despite being remote and uninhabited, Henderson's unique biodiversity is under threat from introduced Pacific rats. Seabird numbers have dropped from an estimated 5 million pairs before rats arrived to just 40,000 pairs today, and Henderson Petrel is being driven towards extinction. The rats are also reducing populations of marine turtles and other wildlife on Henderson. BirdLife Partner in the UK, RSPB is working to restore Henderson to its former glory by removing the rats. At 43km², Henderson is the largest tropical island ever targeted for restoration.

19 islands restored and counting



BirdLife is at the cutting edge of measuring the natural value of ecosystems

BirdLife has developed new ways for assessing the benefits we receive from nature

Ecosystem services are the benefits that people receive from nature – the production of food, the provision of clean water, and the regulation of climate, as well as opportunities for cultural, spiritual and recreational experiences. The BirdLife Partnership has developed a toolkit that helps decision-makers understand the true value of nature, and the consequences of destruction and degradation of natural habitats.

BirdLife Partners in Nepal and Ecuador are leading the way

Llanganates, Ecuador in the High Andean Wetlands is the first site in the Americas to have its natural value assessed. With the help of local people and local conservation groups, this is an important step in conserving this important ecosystem.

Shivapuri Nagarjun National Park is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area near Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. It is mostly forested, with over 300 species of bird and more than 20 species of mammal. Assessment shows that people benefit from the forest's carbon storage and also for recreational activities. However, water is undoubtedly the most important service, as the park provides nearly 60% of the annual freshwater requirements of 2.5 million people.



Benefitting people through nature conservation



BirdLife is promoting sustainable land use

Farming for nature

BirdLife Partners in the Americas are working to provide incentives to maintain or revive traditional grazing practices on the continent's extensive grasslands. There is now a growing market for this certified "bird-friendly" beef with both birds and farmers reaping the benefits.

Restoring wetlands

Nature Iraq (BirdLife Partner) has dedicated itself to the protection and restoration of Iraq's natural heritage. The legendary Mesopotamian Marshes that were drained under Saddam Hussein are now being brought back for wildlife and people. Large sections of the marshes have been restored; in places the reed beds once again stretch as far as the eye can see.

Working with the energy sector

Working with industry and local, regional and federal decision-makers, Audubon (BirdLife Partner in the US) is providing important information on how best to avoid bird and wildlife impacts from renewable energy installations. Working with developers before the bulldozers move in can avoid lengthy battles and provide better outcomes for birds, wildlife and critical habitat.





BirdLife brings people together to support nature

The rise of bird groups in China

Bird monitoring groups set up in China, with the support of the Hong Kong Birdwatching Society (BirdLife Partner), have succeeded in putting bird conservation on the educational agenda in schools. This work in schools and local communities around known sites for rare species has raised the level of awareness and is also helping to strengthen law enforcement among local governments.

Training the next generation of conservationists

The Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) is a partnership of BirdLife and three other conservation organisations working with business to promote the development of future nature conservation leaders by providing a range of awards, training and support. The CLP has supported over 3500 people since the programme's inception in 1985.



BirdLife has developed the largest global network of local conservationists

BirdLife Partners have developed a way to monitor Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) worldwide. More than 2000 local groups actively watch and conserve "their" IBAs. They are BirdLife's eyes and ears on the ground, watchdogs of the state of IBAs, and passionate campaigners for their protection.



Over 2000 local conservation groups around the world

BirdLife is improving peoples' livelihoods



Working with people locally is critical to effective, sustainable conservation

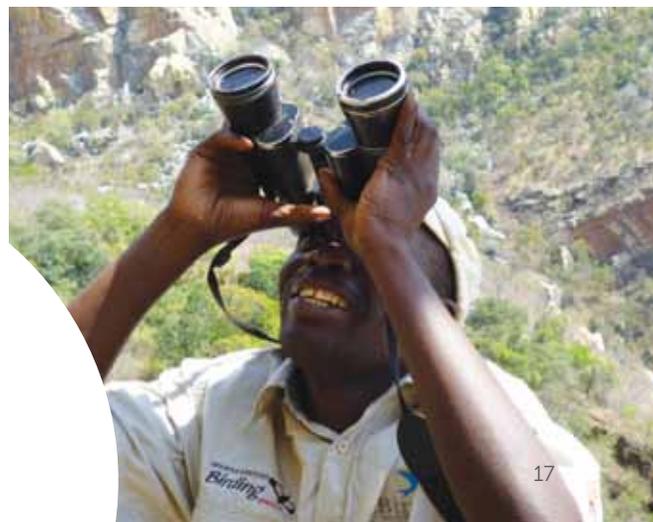
The BirdLife Partnership not only brings people together to support nature, it also helps make nature conservation pay for local people, reducing poverty and improving livelihoods.

Creating income earning opportunities through avitourism in South Africa

The Zululand Birding Route has trained over 40 local guides who can earn up to \$10,000 a year. Most guides come from areas where the average income is less than US\$845, meaning that they are able to well-support their families and input money into the local economy.

Managing natural resources in a sustainable way in Kenya

In Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Nature Kenya (BirdLife Partner), has helped develop a diversity of opportunities for linking sustainable resource management to people's livelihoods. Working with local people, a wide range of successful income-generating activities have been established, including butterfly farming, bee keeping, mushroom farming, aloe farming, ecotourism and farm forestry.





The work of BirdLife allows whole areas to be protected and preserved – unique areas of the globe whose importance is key both for our survival and for our knowledge of the world.

*His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco
Species Champion for Northern Bald Ibis*



Your work and support are essential to translating the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity into reality.

*Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary of the
Convention on Biological Diversity*



BirdLife International is a key partner of IUCN and a major contributor to our flagship Red List of Threatened Species.

*Julia Marton-Lefèvre
IUCN Director General*



The strong scientific information of BirdLife is a huge asset to the GEF in targeting our finance and the civil society network helps ensure that the GEF is well informed and linked to national priorities. BirdLife is also a very effective program

partner on the ground in important regions and countries, as well as in the marine realm too.

*Dr Naoko Ishii
CEO and Chairperson of the
Global Environment Facility*



The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands has been privileged to benefit from a continuing partnership with BirdLife International over the last 41 years, since our birth.

*Anada Tiéga
Secretary General, Ramsar
Convention Secretariat*



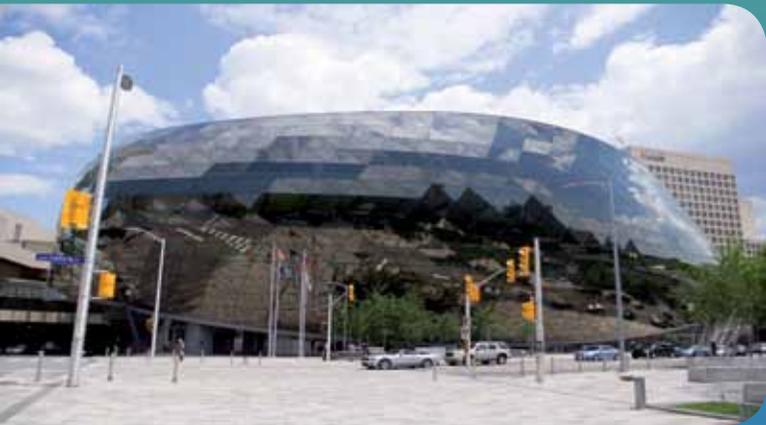
BirdLife has proven itself a dedicated and effective partner in sustainable conservation. Through its commitment to civil society capacity building; its extensive network of non-governmental organizations; and the strong

scientific underpinning guiding its conservation priority setting, BirdLife has made invaluable contributions to biodiversity and critical ecosystems around the world.

*Patricia Zurita
Executive Director, Critical Ecosystem
Partnership Fund*



BirdLife International World Congress 2013, Ottawa, Canada



STOP PRESS: As we go to print conservationists, politicians and business people from more than 120 countries are meeting in Ottawa, Canada for the World Congress of the largest and fastest growing global Partnership of national conservation organisations.



We will bring you a full report in the next issue but here is a small taste until then.





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Together we are BirdLife International Partnership for nature and people

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 more than 13 million supporters and members, 7000 local conservation groups and 7400 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 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 nature.