



ANNUAL REVIEW 2017





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We would like to express our deep appreciation for the generous support of our Honorary President, HH Princess Takamado of Japan, whose commitment and personal interest in birds and conservation contributes enormously to BirdLife's progress and achievements.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity shown by our Founder Patrons, members of BirdLife's Rare Bird Club and Advisory Group, without whom we could not continue protecting sites and species around the globe. We also thank our corporate supporters and BirdLife Species Champions who have helped us with major initiatives.

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Cover photo: Cherry-throated Tanager / Ciro Albano



A message from the Chairman



In the world of bird conservation, five years just flies by (excuse the pun) – especially in an organisation that is as busy as BirdLife. These pages show what a truly inspirational international Partnership of organisations – its dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters – can achieve when it puts its mind to it.

In over 120 countries around the world, people have put sweat, blood and tears into saving species; spent hours advocating with evidence to protect sites; passionately promoted sustainability; shared knowledge; and supported the lives of us all through biodiversity conservation.

As human populations grow, sustaining life on our living planet is a task so huge that we cannot do it alone. But birds connect us – locally, and internationally; their migratory flyways link up every country.

This is why the first ever international Flyways Summit, held in 2018 by BirdLife in Abu Dhabi, was so important. It showed that people from around the world, despite their backgrounds, can work together across borders to protect birds and their habitats.

In my final year as Chairman, I am incredibly proud of what this, crucially, represents for the future of the international partnership of humans on earth.

Khaled Anis Irani
Chairman, 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 – and growing, with almost 11 million supporters, 7,000 local conservation groups and 7,400 staff.

Find out more at: www.birdlife.org

How we work

A

s arguably the most mobile lifeforms on Earth, birds know no borders. Thus, if we're to protect them, conservation also needs to know no borders.

That's why BirdLife International was formed in 1922 (as the International Council for the Protection of Birds) - conservationists in the UK, Netherlands, France and US realised the need for transnational co-operation to effectively combat the threats facing the world's birds. The result: a truly global partnership of environmental NGOs.

Today, the threats birds face have only grown – but so has BirdLife. Today, we are a partnership of over 100 national conservation organisations, all of whom share a common vision – to mobilise lasting, sustainable protection for the world's birds, their habitats, and global biodiversity in general.

Together, we believe in a holistic approach to conservation – using the insight we gain from our rigorous studies on the health of the world's bird species, to work for a world where nature and people live in harmony. Here's how we do it...



1

WE ARE TRULY GLOBAL.

Colombia's Calidris became the newest BirdLife Partner in late 2017, bringing the total at the end of the year to 121 representing 119 countries or territories. Our Partners are as diverse as the birds we protect – some, such as the UK's RSPB, are household names with over a million members, while others employ less than a handful of staff. Big or small, young or old, the Partnership empowers BirdLife Partners to connect with each other and extend their own local conservation efforts beyond their own national boundaries – what we call our 'local-to-global' approach.



2

WE KEEP OUR EYE ON ALL THE WORLD'S BIRDS – RARE AND COMMON.

Passenger Pigeon. Eskimo Curlew. Just two examples of bird species that were once a common sight in our skies – until they weren't. As part of our commitment to preventing extinctions, we keep an eye on all the world's bird species – including the well-known ones. By spotting downwards trends in species like Amur Falcon, Canada Warbler and Snowy Owl early, we can act quickly to address the underlying reasons and ensure common birds stay common.

[SEE PAGE 6](#)



3

WE'VE DOCUMENTED THE BIGGEST NETWORK OF KEY CONSERVATION AREAS GOING.

Forests, wetlands, deserts, mountains, even the middle of the ocean – birds are capable of specialising to adapt to almost any environment. Which means it's a massive challenge to ensure the world's birds are safe across their range. To sharpen both local and global conservation priorities, our Important Birds & Biodiversity Area network charts the habitats we need to fight the hardest to protect.

[SEE PAGE 16](#)



4

WE WORK IN A PRACTICAL AND COST-EFFECTIVE WAY FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS.

What is the value in pouring time and resources into a project, if it won't leave a lasting footprint? Whether it's replanting forests, engaging hunters or influencing global policy, the Partnerships strives to ensure that ecological and practical sustainability is built into everything we do. As part of this commitment, we advocate for nature's values at every turn.

[SEE PAGE 26](#)

Photo: YCL volunteers on Rapa Iti, French Polynesia / Fred Jacq



5

WE DELIVER POSITIVE CHANGE FOR PEOPLE.

Conservation cannot work effectively if it is delivered without consideration or involvement from the local communities who share the same resources as the species we work to protect, and are dependent on the same resources for their livelihoods. The Partnership strongly believes that working with local communities, and locally empowering people, are the foundations for long-lasting conservation. Using birds as indicators, our projects work to make a better world for birds, nature, and humans, too.

SEE PAGE 34



It has always been a source of great pride to me that as a truly global partnership, BirdLife always focuses on having global impact – to not only ensure that our work stretches beyond national boundaries, but that its impact stretches beyond birds, too.

Birds don't exist in a vacuum. It's obvious, but it's also true. We can't save the world by focusing on a patch of scrubland while the world burns around it. We need solutions that are wide-ranging and all encompassing – from engaging local communities at grassroots to lobbying politicians at the highest level.

That's why all our programmes can be traced back to one or more of the four key pillars of our global strategy – species, sites, sustainability and people. With this holistic approach, we have a unique opportunity to use our unparalleled knowledge of the threats facing the world's birds – the best studied of all taxa – to make our planet a better place for all.

And even now, at a time when nationalism is on the rise in the west and borders are closing, there is hope. Throughout this Annual Review, we hope you'll see the wonders of the BirdLife Partnership in action. We've compiled inspirational stories of long-lasting, sustainable conservation in action. In Sierra Leone, we're helping farmers improve their livelihoods from cocoa while slowing deforestation. 12 Partners have banded together to agree on an action plan to increase the climate resilience of people and biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean. And at sea, our Albatross Task Force continues to demonstrate that protecting nature complements, rather than conflicts with, people's livelihoods.

Looking ahead to 2020 and beyond, BirdLife only intends to increase its level of co-operation as we enter a crucial timeframe that will decide the fate of our planet – with the unprecedented Trillion Trees initiative, a joint venture between BirdLife, WCS and WWF, laying the foundations for the kind of big-picture, ambitious collaborations required to turn back the clock on the damage we have done to our planet. We still have time – and this report should reassure you BirdLife is heading big into the future, for birds, nature and people.

Patricia Zurita

Chief Executive Officer, BirdLife International



Species

At the latest count, there are 10,966 bird species on the planet – we know this, because as the avian authority for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, we're responsible for assessing the extinction risk of each and every one. We're able to compile this data every year thanks to the expertise of our scientists, and through the reach, research and hands-on fieldwork of the entire Partnership. This information helps inform global conservation priorities, and ensures we keep track of wider trends, so we can not only save globally threatened species, but keep common birds common, too.

SAVING SPOONIE

Charismatic, and Critically Endangered, Spoon-billed Sandpiper has become a flagship species for the plight of shorebirds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. In 2017, the Partnership celebrated big policy wins, with threatened wetland habitats in China and Myanmar receiving formal protection.

See page 15

THE YEAR IN Preventing Extinctions



Photo White-rumped Vulture / Ursula Perreten

IN NUMBERS

NEPAL'S VULTURE RECOVERIES

6 existing Vulture Safe Feeding Sites in Nepal	17 further districts will be engaged by the end of 2017
58 of the country's districts have pledged to be diclofenac-free	6 captive White-rumped Vultures (Critically Endangered) released into the wild.



ROGER SAFFORD

Senior Programme Manager, Preventing Extinctions

"Now entering its tenth year, BirdLife's Preventing Extinctions Programme is committed to providing conservation action, awareness-raising efforts and funding support, particularly to the species that need it most – those we assess as being Critically Endangered. Backed by solid science and the 'Power of Many' ethos of BirdLife, in 2017 our Partners made great strides in developing long-lasting sustainable conservation plans for our planet's most threatened bird species – whether they are confined to a single site, or long-distance migrants."

Vulture Multi-species Action Plan approved



World Vultures have suffered some of the fastest bird declines ever recorded – international collaboration and agreement is necessary if we are to save these ecologically invaluable birds. In one of 2017's biggest achievements, thanks to the collaborative work of BirdLife International, the Vulture Conservation Foundation and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), 2017 marked the completion and adoption of the first ever Multi-species Action Plan for African-Eurasian Vultures by the 12th Conference of Parties of CMS. This ambitious

plan outlines steps to conserve all threatened vulture species over 128 countries. It identifies poisoning – both intentional and unintentional – as the main threat. In the field, work on the first African Vulture Safe Zones – areas free of poisoning and persecution – was supported or implemented in six African countries. In Europe, a new phase of the 'Ban vet diclofenac' campaign was launched with the aim of banning the drug or preventing the renewal of its licence in Spain in 2018. In Asia, BirdLife ensured the MsAP was fully compatible with SAVE, the existing initiative to conserve Asia's vultures.

Northern Bald Ibis recovery continues

The Northern Bald Ibis (Critically Endangered) enjoyed another successful year thanks to tireless work from GREPOM (BirdLife in Morocco), working in conjunction with Souss-Massa National Park. In Morocco, the wild population again increased to record levels, bringing the world population to 600 for the first time in modern history. Two new breeding sites were discovered on the cliffs of southwest Morocco, demonstrating that this species is now spreading outside officially guarded sites. The CMS African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) renewed its national implementation plans to protect the species. And while the political situation in Syria limits action for the Eastern population, Syrian wardens are being supported, and one is working with fellow refugees in Turkey.



Photo Shutterstock



Photo Helmeted Hornbill / Bjorn Olesen

Combating the illegal bird trade in Asia

This complex issue has become a top priority for BirdLife Partners across Asia. A primary concern is the Helmeted Hornbill (Critically Endangered), whose uniquely solid casque is extremely valuable on the black market as a fertility charm, leading to unsustainable levels of persecution. This year, the Helmeted Hornbill Working Group was formalised with BirdLife Asia serving as co-coordinator. New projects are also underway for traded parrots in Halmahera, Indonesia. For songbirds, BirdLife became a strategic partner on the 'Silent Forest' campaign, and participated in the second Asian Songbird Trade Crisis Summit, which outlined a clear Conservation Strategy. Meanwhile, Harapan Rainforest in Indonesia is becoming a key site for undercover investigations into supply chains.



SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

The surprisingly uplisting of the Snowy Owl (from Least Concern to Vulnerable) illustrates the value of keeping an eye on all the world's species – even if they appear to be in no imminent danger. This charismatic, widespread raptor is one of the world's most recognisable birds, but ongoing declines, perhaps driven through climate change, mean further research is needed so we can address this worrying trend before it is too late.

Red List: pelican, kiwi recoveries prove conservation works

After undertaking an extensive taxonomic review of passerines in 2016, our science team reverted to a more selective update for the 2017 IUCN Red List, in the process revealing mixed fortunes for some of the world's most iconic birds.

Encouragingly, there were several examples of species recovering as a result of long term conservation. In New Zealand, nearly 30 years of egg rearing, predator control and community outreach by [Forest & Bird \(BirdLife Part-](#)

[ner\)](#) has resulted in two species of kiwi being downlisted from Endangered to Vulnerable. In Southern Europe, [CZIP \(BirdLife in Montenegro\)](#) is among the NGOs collaborating to boost numbers of Dalmatian Pelican through monitoring and the construction of artificial nesting rafts to offset the twin threats of disturbance and flooding. The species is now no longer considered globally threatened.

Other findings highlight emerging conservation priorities: seabird populations such as Black-legged Kittiwake

are rapidly plummeting due to pressures such as overfishing and climate change. The update received considerable international coverage as we strive to raise awareness of the threats facing the world's birds.

Overall, the list included new assessments for 238 species and minor revisions for 841 species, with 66 uplisted to higher threat categories, 62 species downlisted, and seven Data Deficient species that were categorised for the first time. Another, the Liberian Greenbul, is no longer recognised as a species.

A cherry-picked haven for the Cherry-throated Tanager

We saw a huge breakthrough for the Cherry-throated Tanager this year, a Critically Endangered bird endemic to Brazil's Atlantic Forest, which was dramatically rediscovered in the 1990s after going unseen for more than a century. With an estimated global population of less than 200 adults, conservation of its dwindling and increasingly fragmented forest home is paramount. In May, a 1,688 hectare refuge was created in the form of Águia Branca Private Reserve, set up by Grupo Águia Branca (one of the country's largest transportation and logistics companies) with the support of **SAVE Brasil (BirdLife Partner)**, who has been active in the region since 2005.



Photo: Ciro Albano

“ Species Champions provide the funding for local Species Guardians to save the rarest birds - it's a fantastic model ”

JIM LAWRENCE Global Marketing Manager, BirdLife International



Photo: Sergey Yeliseev

Halting the dramatic decline of Yellow-breasted Bunting

A CMS Action Plan was advanced for the Yellow-breasted Bunting (Critically Endangered), a once superabundant bird which may have declined by as much as 95% over the past few decades, primarily due to trapping for food on its migration through Asia. In addition, the Chinese Government enforced a revised Wildlife Conservation Law which outlaws the eating of protected species, including the Yellow-breasted Bunting. BirdLife International and the **Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (BirdLife Partner)** produced publicity material to support the implementation of this law, raising awareness and encouraging the public to report illegal activity. BirdLife also assisted on an expedition to colour-band 18 individuals to study their migration.



BAREND VAN GEMERDEN

Global Flyways Programme Co-ordinator

"Conservation of migratory bird populations is one of the greatest conservation challenges of our time. Loss of key stopover sites and threats like illegal killing and collision with energy infrastructure make it increasingly difficult for birds to complete their biannual journeys. Also in 2017 the BirdLife Partnership contributed to migratory bird conservation through joined-up on-the-ground action throughout flyways combined with world-class science, and highly valued policy expertise."



Stopping the illegal killing of birds in the Mediterranean and beyond

The BirdLife-led scientific analysis of illegal killing and taking of birds in north Europe, central Europe and the Caucasus was published in the journal *Bird Conservation International*, with an estimated 0.4-2.1 million birds being killed illegally. The popular review on illegal killing of birds in the whole of Europe ('The Killing 2.0 – a View to a Kill') was launched at the CMS CoP12 in Manila, which combined the findings of the report on the

broad Mediterranean region, released two years ago, with a look at the new data from Northern Europe, Central Europe and the Caucasus. Also during this conference, an innovative scoreboard to help countries assess their progress in eradicating illegal killing in the Mediterranean was launched. Data on illegal killing of birds in the Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq was collected, and datasets showing the scale, worst locations, methods and species in each country were put online for peer review.

I N N U M B E R S

ILLEGAL KILLING IN EUROPE, THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE CAUCASUS BY GROUP

20.2
million
Passerines

1.8
million Waterbirds & seabirds

0.7
million Pigeons & doves

0.1
million Raptors

Photo Eurasian Buzzard / Martin Hesko

Conserving America's natural grasslands for birds and people continues

Over 500 ranchers across the Americas are now working with BirdLife Partners to save nature in the Southern Cone grasslands, with the work expanded to include Mexico, Bolivia and Colombia. Ranchers continue benefiting from the revenue they earn and the clean water that results from using natural grazing systems. Our latest milestone came in the form of Uruguay's first bird-friendly beef (beef produced in natural conditions, which helps conserve the grasslands and biodiversity) thanks to the work of **Aves Uruguay (BirdLife Partner)** and the Grasslands Alliance.

Photo David Wege



Photo Hula Valley, Israel / Shutterstock

Working towards safe flyways for African-Eurasian birds

Three 'Safe Flyways' projects were successfully funded in 2017, providing the foundation for addressing illegal killing of birds, energy infrastructure and poisoning threats in the

African-Eurasian Flyway. The funding from the MAVA Foundation covers the first three-year phase of six-year projects that support the delivery of an integrated Outcome Action Plan for migratory birds and vultures in the Mediterranean,

and will be delivered by BirdLife in collaboration with Euronatur, IUCN Med, the Vulture Conservation Fund, Tour du Valat, WWF Greece and WWF Spain. This success with fundraising gives the programme a strong future.

Migrating through the energy maze in Egypt, Jordan and Sudan

With the support of the Global Environment Facility and United Nations Development Programme, conservation considerations are being taken into account in the Egyptian energy sector to ensure migratory birds are protected. In Jordan, with the help of **RSCN (BirdLife Partner)** we have contributed to the impact assessment for wind energy development in the Tafila region. Further positive progress has been realised in Sudan, where the Sudanese Wildlife Society is undertaking joint work with the Sudanese Electricity Transmission Company to survey powerlines dangerous to migratory soaring birds to address the risk posed by energy infrastructure.

Photo Shutterstock



Photo Calandra Lark / Shutterstock

The Lebanese president speaks out for migratory birds

A powerful declaration by the President of Lebanon to stop the indiscriminate hunting of thousands of migratory birds was followed by ministerial decrees based on the information collated by **SPNL (BirdLife in Lebanon)** and BirdLife. The announcement came from the Lebanese President Michel Aoun himself, with a heartfelt appeal to put the country's nature first: "It is a shame to turn Lebanon into a wasteland without plants, trees, birds and sea animals, and cutting off trees to erect buildings is a major crime. There should be a peace treaty between man and the tree as well as man and birds, because we continue to transgress upon them".

“Birds see no borders. Flyways conservation joins countries together to protect birds along their migratory routes.” ”

DR VICKY JONES Flyways Science Coordinator, BirdLife International



S P E C I E S S P O T L I G H T

We may already have lost two species of curlew in the 20th Century - conservation efforts must now focus on ensuring a third species, Far Eastern Curlew (Endangered), doesn't follow suit. Like many species that frequent the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, this large wader is in decline as a result of pressures such as habitat loss and irresponsible hunting. To ensure the species' survival, we need to protect valuable stopover sites up and down the flyway - such as Australia's Moreton Bay in Queensland, which is threatened by plans to build a marina and residential complex on top of it.

Photo Far Eastern Curlew / Wang LiQuang

Protecting wetlands worldwide and solving the curlew crisis in Australia

A delegation of 22 attendees from the BirdLife Partnership worked together to achieve an excellent outcome for migratory birds in the 12th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS CoP12). A Global Coastal Forum was agreed to be operational by 2019, an initiative aimed at protecting important

wetland sites, developing global guidance of working coastal wetlands; and a new international initiative to support the restoration of coastal wetlands was developed by the BirdLife Asia Secretariat. The Far Eastern Curlew Action Plan coordinated by BirdLife Australia was adopted, identifying threats and prioritising all the actions needed to improve the conservation status of this unique,

and highly threatened, wader. Incredible progress was also made in China for the conservation of the Yellow Sea as two previously unprotected important sites (Rudong and Luannan) have now been declared protected areas, a direct result of the IUCN motions that BirdLife, together with other international organisations, have promoted in recent years.



Photo Tommy Hall/Island Conservation



Sites

As the human population continues to rise, we know it is not realistic to be able to save all the world's remaining natural habitat. But if we identify the most vital, and ensure that protecting them is pushed to the top of national and international agendas, then we will be in good shape to preserve the world's 10,000+ extant bird species, and wider biodiversity. That's why BirdLife began identifying and documenting the world's Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in the late 1970s. Nearly 40 years on, we have identified more than 15,000 IBAs, over sea and land, making it the largest global network of key conservation areas in existence.

RESTORING PARADISE

The list of bird extinctions since 1500 is greatly skewed towards species confined to remote islands— with the introduction of invasive species to these precariously-balanced ecosystems often proving catastrophic. Fortunately, the damage can be reversed, as our efforts in French Polynesia prove.

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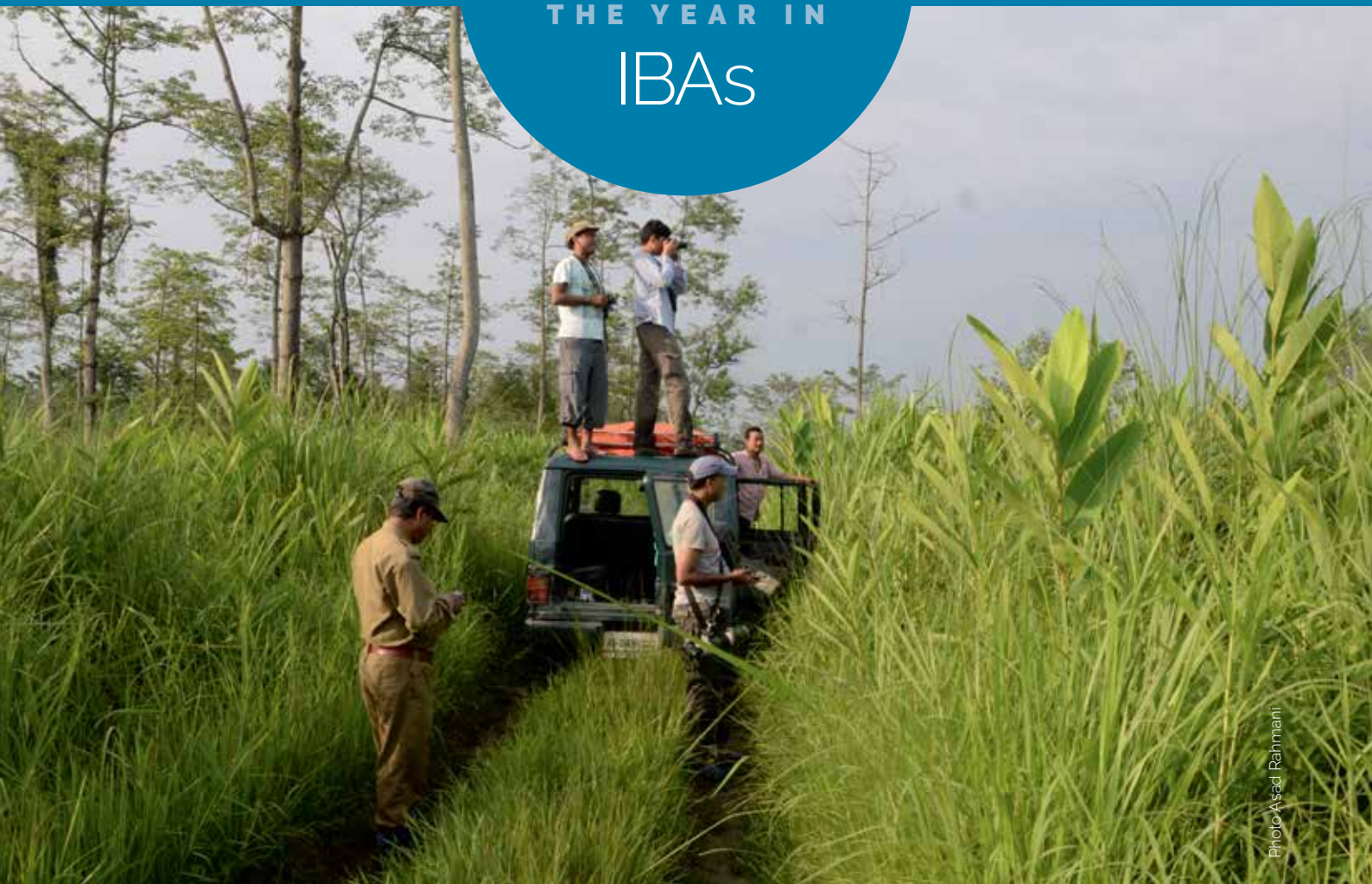


Photo: Asad Rahmani



**ZOLTAN
WALICZKY**

Global IBA Programme
Coordinator

"BirdLife's IBA programme aims at identifying and conserving a network of sites of international importance for the conservation of birds. BirdLife Partners are working in more than 120 countries to implement the programme through monitoring, site safeguard, on-the-ground conservation, legal protection and conservation management. There are thousands of local groups around IBAs made up of volunteers and members of local communities who deliver a wide range of activities at the site level. Partners also work closely with different levels of government to secure legal protection for IBAs."

Mapping Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in India and Iraq

A fully-updated IBA inventory was published for India and an inventory of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) was published for Iraq in 2017. India is a mega-biodiverse country, among the top ten nations with the world's richest biodiversity, which represents about 7% of the world's flora and 6.5% of the world's fauna. Most importantly, 1,300 species or 13% of the world's birds live on the Indian subcontinent, which is why it was essential to map out their homes as soon as possible. In 2017, the [Bombay Natural History Society \(BirdLife in India\)](#) completed its IBA inventory, which will help identify future priorities for bird and biodiversity conservation. The other inventory completed over that period was put together by [Nature Iraq \(BirdLife Partner\)](#), which identified 82 Key Biodiversity Areas covering about 7%

of the country's area. The data they have collected and analysed will be essential to influence the government to protect these sites, as 90% remain unprotected.

PARTNER IN ACTION



**Bombay Natural
History Society,
India**

While Assam's forests are well-protected by law, its grasslands are often neglected or cleared for agriculture. BNHS aimed to change this through a bird survey of grasslands bordering the Brahmaputra River. Progress was hard due to impenetrable vegetation and dangerous wild Rhinoceros. However, scientists collected important data on secretive species like Manipur Bush-quail (Endangered), whose plight is worse than expected.



Photo Monitoring the Aegean / Victoria Saravi/HOS

Identifying new Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas at sea

BirdLife's Global Seabird Programme continued its invaluable work to addressing threats to the marine environment by identifying key sites for conservation, known as marine IBAs.

In 2017, 25 new sites were identified in Antarctica, four Western African countries, Russia, Norway and the High Seas, and 25 existing sites were revised. In Europe, the Greek government announced a significant extension of

its protected area network, creating 95 new Natura 2000 sites. Overlap between the marine network and marine IBAs identified by the [Hellenic Ornithological Society \(BirdLife in Greece\)](#) jumped to 85% as a result.



Photo Green Turaco / Fotomoods

Making habitats at risk a top priority

The IBAs in Danger initiative continued its work identifying sites in dire need of urgent conservation action. The updated list of IBAs in Danger was launched in March 2017, with a Story Map developed to raise awareness on the progress of the initiative. A Birdfair-funded project provided support to three projects led by BirdLife Partners in Africa: the [Nigerian Conservation Foundation's](#) project to stop the construction of a superhighway through an IBA, the [Conservation Society of Sierra Leone's](#) efforts to restore the mangroves of Yawri Bay and [BirdWatch Zambia's](#) project to stop harmful developments in Kafue Flats, home to endangered vultures.



Protecting biodiversity by sharing knowledge

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) continued to tackle the threats to some of the world's most critical ecosystems by investing in civil society, so local people and organisations can feel empowered to protect nature. BirdLife and national partners provided expert officers on the ground and guided funding to the

most important areas. Over five years, surprising lessons were discovered by successfully connecting together diverse cultures and countries. In the Mediterranean hotspot, 106 projects led to the creation of eight new protected areas, covering 27,651 hectares. In the mountains of East Africa and the southern Arabian Peninsula, 135 projects led to 3.7 million hectares with

strengthened management, and almost 1.2 million hectares of new protected areas. BirdLife was awarded contracts to continue to oversee CEPF investments in both hotspots, with work in the Mediterranean being extended as a second phase for a further 5 years. In the Central Asian Mountains and Caribbean hotspots, BirdLife provided data for hundreds of sites.

**S P E C I E S
S P O T L I G H T**

Great news for the Dalmatian Pelican this year, which has been downlisted from Vulnerable to Near Threatened, with artificial nesting platforms on Lake Skadar (bordering Montenegro and Albania) helping to boost the population to record numbers. The platforms, cordoned and monitored by live video, help to ensure the bird can breed and raise young uninterrupted by fishing. After awareness-raising by CZIP (BirdLife in Montenegro), local people are taking the initiative to report harmful practices through the "pelican hotline".



Photo Andrej Vizi

“ It is essential decision makers are equipped with data on the most important places for nature ”

PATRICIA ZURITA
CEO, BirdLife International



Photo Red-crowned Cranes / Ondrej Prosky

Keeping watch over key habitats

New projects were launched to monitor IBAs in Europe, in addition to 45 sites monitored by Partners in Africa. [The Wild Bird Society of Japan \(BirdLife in Japan\)](#) completed monitoring assessments for many of their sites, entering them into the World Biodiversity Database. With the support of the BirdLife Secretariat, [SEO/BirdLife \(BirdLife in Spain\)](#) developed a new mobile app to report threats to sites, to provide partners and volunteer networks a tool to improve monitoring.



Photo Shutterstock

Mapping the world's Key Biodiversity Areas

An ambitious initiative was launched in 2016 to identify, document and promote a global list of KBAs using a new standard agreed by 11 of the world's leading conservation organisations. In 2017, the first-ever KBA National Coordination Groups were established in South Africa and Australia by our local Partners [BirdLife South Africa](#) and [BirdLife Australia](#). Various updates were carried out in the KBA World Database, identifying the fields and functionality required by all organisations. Other key decisions for 2018 and beyond included the agreement on a KBA strategy and budget, and the recruitment and hosting by BirdLife of the Head of the KBA Secretariat.

Invasive Species

Photo White Tern / Island Conservation



STEVE CRANWELL

Invasive Species Programme Manager

"The damaging footprint of human exploration can be found almost everywhere on our planet - even in some of the world's most remote places, where local wildlife is ill-equipped to deal with the sudden onslaught of stowaway predators that have evolved in more competitive ecosystems. Fortunately, the Partnership's success in Acteon and Gambier shows this damage can be reversed, and we now turn our attention to other priority islands and habitats. In 2017, support from the British Birdwatching Fair was obtained to address invasive species on Rapa Iti, an even more remote French Polynesian island that is host to numerous globally threatened seabirds and endemic land birds."

Paradise in the Pacific restored

Five remote islands in the Pacific are once again safe havens for four of the world's rarest bird species following the largest successful tropical island eradication project to date. An assessment of an eradication programme carried out in 2015 on French Polynesia's Acteon and Gambier island groups showed that invasive predators have been successfully eliminated from five out of the six islands targeted. Five species of invasive vertebrate were removed from the islands, and this year's assessment indicates that populations of globally threatened birds have shown a positive response to the eradications. The Polynesian Ground Dove (Critically Endangered) and Tuamotu Sandpiper (Endangered) have both established new populations on one newly predator-free island (Tenarunga), and are increasing in number on another (Vahanga). Acoustic monitoring indicated that Polynesian Storm Petrel (Endangered) has also established a new population on Makaroa, now predator-

free, and that other seabird species have either established new populations or increased existing ones. However, the project also offered learning opportunities: the cause of the baiting failure on a sixth island is now under review.

PARTNER IN ACTION



SOP Manu, French Polynesia

Combining resources, expertise, equipment and logistical skills, a coalition of NGOs (BirdLife International, SOP Manu and Island Conservation) —together with the support of the government of French Polynesia, landowners, other partners and local volunteers—voyaged over 1,500 km to complete the challenging project in 2015. The project required years of planning and fundraising (including a cooperation with Rovio, the maker of Angry Birds), involved nine permits, 165 helicopter flight hours, and three ships transporting hundreds of tonnes of equipment.

Saving the 'Incubator Bird'

Kayangel Atoll could be set to become the first inhabited island in Palau (and the Pacific) to be successfully cleared of rodents.

This year, with the assistance of Island Conservation and the Palau Conservation Society (BirdLife Partner), field trials were carried out and technical preparations made for a large-scale eradication. The local community were consulted and enthusiastically offered their support in removing alternative food sources for rats, forcing the rodents to take the bait. In addition to a healthier ecosystem for Endangered birds such as the Micronesian Scrubfowl - a bird famed for incubating its eggs in anything from volcanic cinder fields to rotting vegetation - residents can also look forward to better livelihoods through increased crop yields.

Photo Island Conservation



Photo Meembe Site Support and

Leading the fight against invasive plants in Zambia

Invasive species aren't just a threat on remote islands – they can also wreck havoc on mainland IBAs such as Lukanga Swamp in central Zambia. In recent years this enormous wetland, home to over 300 bird species, has been invaded by the kariba weed *Salvinia molesta*, a floating plant native to Brazil which can form mats up to two feet thick on the surface of the water. The weed blocks access for fisherman, birds

and mammals, and when it decays, starves fish and other aquatic life of oxygen. In the absence of a biological control, it can only be removed mechanically or manually, but is so prolific that it can return to cleared areas in as little as a month. In 2017 the Africa region secured a grant from the Darwin Initiative to control the menace, benefitting biodiversity and protecting the livelihoods of locals who depend on the swamp's resources.

“ We’ve shown that removing or managing invasive alien species helps to restore native biodiversity” ”

STUART BUTCHART
Chief Scientist, BirdLife

THE YEAR IN Marine



CLEO SMALL

Head, Marine Programme

"BirdLife's Marine Programme was established to find solutions for the threats facing the world's seabirds (one of the most threatened bird groups) as they undertake their often vast journeys across the world's oceans. In that time, we've pioneered solutions that are reducing the number of seabirds caught as bycatch in global fisheries, and through a collaboration with scientists worldwide we've put seabirds on the map with our global seabird tracking database, which in 2017 celebrated its 10 millionth data point."



Saving albatrosses from extinction

The collaboration between fishermen, scientists and decision-makers continues to save the lives of tens of thousands of seabirds every year. In 2017, the Albatross Task Force (ATF) achieved an 80% seabird bycatch reduction in five of the ten target fisheries and were on track to achieve this for a further four fisheries. [Aves Argentinas \(BirdLife Partner\)](#)

influenced its government to use bird scaring lines, a measure that came into force in May 2018. In Argentina alone, the main trawl fleet is responsible for the death of 13,500 Black-browed Albatross every year, a number expected to be reduced by 85% thanks to this policy breakthrough. Across the Atlantic, in Namibia, our team has recorded major reductions in the number of seabirds being caught and we aim to

publish some dramatic figures by the end of this year. All of these successes have only been possible due to the collaborative efforts between our local partners, BirdLife International, and [RSPB \(BirdLife in the UK\)](#), which leads the programme. Data collection and analysis will continue into 2018. We also secured follow-up funding from NFWF for our work in Chile with purse-seine fisheries.

“ Our innovative solutions are changing the world of fishing and marine protection ”

RORY CRAWFORD
Bycatch Programme Manager



Photo Wandering Albatross / Shutterstock

I N N U M B E R S

SEABIRD TRACKING DATABASE

10

million data points recorded

113

species tracked

120+

research institutes involved

100+

new Marine IBAs identified since 2016



Photo Steller's Eider / Markus Vetemaa

Reducing gillnet bycatch around the world

We're following up our successful work in Iceland, which played a significant role in a Black Guillemot hunting ban, and which has led to collaborative work across lumpfish fisheries throughout the region. We continue researching for new solutions to reduce gillnet bycatch, with experimental work underway in Lithuania and Japan. This includes work with sensory ecologists to better understand how birds see the underwater world, informing the design of bycatch solutions.



Photo Black-legged Kittiwake / Shutterstock

Discovering the marine riches of the Mid-Atlantic

A new Marine Protected Area (MPA) proposal was submitted to the Oslo-Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Commission). The proposed Marine Protected Area, 'North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Seamount', is where the North Atlantic Current crosses the Mid-Atlantic ridge and where new research suggests there is a treasure trove of marine biodiversity. We estimate that the site is used by ca. 2.9 – 5 million individual birds, including globally threatened species (e.g. Black-legged Kittiwake, Bermuda Petrel and Zino's Petrel) and long-distance migrants from the south such as Great Shearwater.



Photo Bjorn Olesen



Sustainability

What kind of world are we passing on to our children? What will the natural world look like in one, two, or ten generations? When many voices unite, we can make real changes to the laws that govern our earth. While it can be hard work, environmental policy sets the wider framework into which all conservation efforts fit – and we're already seeing our impact. We're also advocating the value of nature to some of the biggest companies in the world, helping them to make decisions that leave as small a footprint as possible.

FORESTS OF HOPE

Roughly two thirds of terrestrial IBAs contain forest, putting forests at the center of much of our work. BirdLife Partners develop locally-tailored, site-based conservation solutions that reflect their deep understanding of the threats as well as opportunities for improved policies in their countries.

See page 28



BRYNA GRIFFIN

Head of Forests Programme

"Over 60% of bird species and 80% of all terrestrial biodiversity depend on forest, and billions of people rely on forests for subsistence, livelihoods and employment. Yet deforestation and forest degradation continue, accounting for 10% of all human-induced carbon emissions. Recognizing their importance, BirdLife Partners have been working on forest conservation for decades, with active projects in over 50 countries."

Aiming for a trillion trees planted, restored or protected by 2050



With the support of the UK Charity Restore Our Planet, three "great oaks" of the conservation world launched Trillion Trees, an unprecedented collaborative project striving not only to halt deforestation, but to reverse it. A shared vision brings together the forest programmes of WWF-UK, the Wildlife Conservation Society and BirdLife: that a trillion trees will have been planted, restored or protected by 2050. The number wasn't chosen for alliteration – it's the number required to reverse the global catastrophic decline in tree cover. And it is achievable if

recent global commitments are delivered. Priority landscapes and crosscutting themes were identified based on potential for scale-up, value added by collaboration, and potential impact. A number of BirdLife Partners started looking at how the initiative might provide new opportunities for fundraising, profile-raising and cooperation. Furthermore, together we started work on some of our highest-priority sites, expanding protected areas in Colombian rainforests, designing sustainable cocoa production across the African continent and submitting joint concepts for large-scale forest work.

“Aligning our forest work through Trillion Trees is our contribution to one of the largest societal priorities of the 21st century”

PATRICIA ZURITA
CEO, BirdLife International

PARTNER IN ACTION



Ghana Wildlife Society, Ghana

If we are to combat tropical deforestation, we need to ensure deforestation has no place in rubber and cocoa supply chains. BirdLife took the lead on a Trillion Trees working group, and began developing a strategy to encompass “site-to-sector” work hand in hand with numerous BirdLife Partners and our Trillion Trees collaborators.

Meanwhile, Ghana Wildlife Society, alongside the BirdLife West Africa Secretariat, are now engaging with the World Cocoa Foundation and Ghana’s Cocoa Board to address cocoa-related deforestation in Ghana. At a global level, BirdLife is leading similar work on rubber, and has established a partnership with the University of Sheffield and other NGOs to influence the sector. We succeeded in advocating for a multi-stakeholder platform to take on the challenge of developing sustainable rubber standards, and are now working to ensure those standards include zero deforestation, and practices that benefit smallholders.



Photo R.Anstead

Saving rainforests by selling chocolate in Sierra Leone

Through the power of cocoa, we’re one step closer to stopping deforestation in the Gola Rainforest, where thousands of cocoa trees have been grown for generations by local Goleagorbu communities. Until recently, 24,000 farmers in this area didn’t even know what chocolate was or what their cocoa was worth. Meanwhile, inefficient cocoa production and other agriculture was contributing to deforestation. Thanks to the collaboration of BirdLife Partners the [Conservation Society of Sierra Leone](#) and the [RSPB \(BirdLife in the UK\)](#), shade-grown cocoa in the landscape has been revitalized as a conservation strategy.



Photo Shutterstock

Improving forest governance in Asia and the Pacific

We’re empowering people to manage and protect their own forests with support from a five-year European Commission-funded Asia-Pacific Forest Governance Programme. It was kicked off at the beginning of 2017 in Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines, where our Partners ran training courses on forest policy and advocacy planning, coordinated by BirdLife. These first steps were the foundation of the Programme, whose aim is to conserve the lush tropical forests of Asia and the Pacific, home to incredible animals such as the Golden-mantled Tree Kangaroo of Papua New Guinea.

Photo Shutterstock

THE YEAR IN Agriculture



Photo: Ariel Brunner



ARIEL BRUNNER

Senior Head of Policy,
BirdLife Europe and
Central Asia

"European biodiversity is in extreme crisis, and the relentless spread of intensive farming is at the heart of the crisis. Once common species such as the European Turtle-dove, Grey Partridge and Black-tailed Godwit are racing toward extinction across much of their range. Insects have been vanishing, with recent studies describing collapses of 70 to 80%. And the crisis goes beyond biodiversity, with agriculture now representing a main source of both water and air pollution, soil degradation and exacerbation of floods."

Advocating for sustainable agriculture

As human populations expand and the demand for food increases, it is becoming more important than ever to farm in a manner that can sustain the land and its wildlife for future generations. Throughout 2017, the main focus of Europe's Advocating for Sustainable Agriculture programme has been lobbying to reform the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). First developed in 1962, the CAP was originally set up to ensure food security in post-war Europe. However, over the years, this policy has grown increasingly out of date, and currently spends €60 billion a year subsidising practices that contribute to climate change, soil erosion, water pollution and the loss of Europe's unique biodiversity: including a 55% plummet in farmland bird populations in the last three decades. In May, the European Commission (EC) launched a public consultation on the future of the CAP after 2020. BirdLife Europe and Central Asia took advantage of this to launch

the highly successful Living Land campaign, through which 258,708 European Union citizens responded to the EC's survey calling for dramatic reform.

In November, BirdLife Europe and Central Asia initiated the biggest ever attempt to assess CAP performance using the EC's own "fitness check" procedure, which they apply to all EU environment legislation. Collaborating with the European Environmental Bureau and NABU (BirdLife in Germany), they found that the CAP was unlikely to achieve many of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals such as green growth, clean water and good health and wellbeing. In particular, Climate Action was deemed impossible to achieve under the CAP's current incarnation. The EC's proposal for changes to the CAP, released the same month, did not sufficiently address these concerns. BirdLife Europe and Central Asia is continuing to follow debates in the European Parliament and keep the spotlight on the need for radical change.

“ 55% of farmland birds have disappeared since 1980. We urgently need to fund nature and nature-friendly farming, not industrial agriculture ”

HARRIET BRADLEY

EU Agriculture & Bioenergy Policy Officer,
BirdLife Europe



Photo A march for CAP reform in Berlin / NABU

THE YEAR IN

Climate Change

PARTNER IN ACTION



National Audubon Society (USA)

Audubon's cutting edge climate science is now being applied across Central and South America, where many of North America's climate-sensitive birds spend their winter. Along with BirdLife, Audubon provides leadership to the Climate Change Action Plan for the Americas, which has the vision of creating a comprehensive network of IBAs across Latin America and the Caribbean. The end goal: improving the conservation status and climate resilience of IBAs covering 74 million hectares.

Photo: High-altitude wetlands, Chile / Jeremy Richards



NOELLE KUMPEL

Head of Policy

"Climate change is happening, it is largely caused by human activities, and it presents a serious threat to nature and people now, and in the future. Without ambitious mitigation efforts, global temperature rise this century could exceed 4 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, with catastrophic impacts. Our Climate Change Programme used the BirdLife Partnership's collective knowledge and global reach to influence policy and drive behavioural change."

Building resilience to climate change in the Americas

An increasingly inhospitable climate is putting pressure on communities and migratory birds around the world. This is why BirdLife Partners are conserving and restoring networks of Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas, with the objective of building resilience to climate change. In 2017, the [National Audubon Society \(BirdLife in the US\)](#) and the BirdLife Secretariat, together with 12 other BirdLife Partners in the region, finalised a regional climate change action plan for Latin America and the Caribbean, and a set of national action plans focused on nature-based

solutions for grasslands and coastal and inland wetlands. An executive summary was developed in English and Spanish and disseminated widely, and there were follow-up calls with BirdLife Partners to discuss and support the implementation of these plans. BirdLife and Audubon have discussed the action plans with five public funding entities and three foundations, and submitted two concepts to the Green Climate Fund, which are now under consideration. By supporting natural and social resilience, we're securing the development of an insurance mechanism for local communities in the future.



Photo Biogas plant, Germany / Bildagentur Zoonar GmbH

Addressing the burning issue

Following on the previous year's publication of 'The Black Book of Bioenergy' – a graphic visualisation of eight case studies exposing the carbon con of bioenergy in Europe – the docu-

mentary *The Burning Issue* was released, presenting three shocking cases: firstly, how one of the world's largest wood pellet mills in Russia pretends to export "garbage wood" to Europe when they are actually cutting down entire forests;

how Italian farmers have turned into energy producers as a result of lucrative EU subsidies; and finally, how in Germany, there are instances of fields of biogas taking over space that used to be used for nature and food crops.



Photo Rich Lynch/Shutterstock

Advocating for nature-based solutions in climate change negotiations

BirdLife advocated for nature-based solutions and safeguards at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in May 2017 to ensure the details of the Paris Agreement are beneficial for nature, people and the climate. Key proposals included ensuring that robust land-use accounting rules, nature-based solutions and safeguards were incorporated in the Agreement and in the countries' national climate plans, and informing the development of guidelines for ecosystem-based adaptation under the Convention on Biological Diversity. A side event in collaboration with [NABU \(BirdLife in Germany\)](#) and the [RSPB \(BirdLife in the UK\)](#) was hosted to share BirdLife's experience of deploying renewables in harmony with nature.





People

Ever since we came together in 1922, our vision has always been a world where nature and people can live in harmony. To make this vision a lasting reality, we need to bring everyone on board. That's why we work alongside people living around some of the world's most biodiverse habitats, empowering them to love and protect their natural landscapes, and providing opportunities for fair and sustainable livelihoods. We go into schools, workplaces and boardrooms, educating, changing minds and inspiring others to carry our message forward into the future of conservation.

NATURE'S HEROES

Our Nature's Heroes awards are given to community groups and individual volunteers for the outstanding work they do locally. BirdLife Partners nominate people for these prestigious awards for achievements in monitoring biodiversity, site management, citizen science and other contributions besides.

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THE YEAR IN
Local
Engagement &
Empowerment



Photo Shutterstock



**CHARLOTTE
KLINTING**

Programme Officer,
Capacity Development
& Local Empowerment

"LEEP is a crosscutting programme that aims to engage local people in conservation action, and empower communities for positive change. This approach is one of the unique features of the BirdLife Partnership. LEEP principles of localness, connecting nature and people, promoting well-being and supporting the grassroots should be embedded in all our work."

Bridging the gap between city-dwellers and nature

For people who live in cities, birds sometimes represent their only interaction with wildlife, which is why connecting birds and people through citizen science projects can be such an important tool to inspire action to protect the environment. In 2017, an international BirdLife conference on urban

birds was convened by VBN ([BirdLife in the Netherlands](#)), supported by the BirdLife Secretariat, to review the scope of ongoing work in the Partnership and discuss work going forward. At a global level, a framework for work on urban birds that addresses citizen science, engaging people and constituency building, is being developed.



Photo Sweep-netting to identify shea pollinators / J Stout

Preventing a shea desert in Burkina Faso

A shea butter boom is reshaping Burkina Faso's landscape, but as diverse woodlands are replaced with shea trees, our project, funded by the Darwin Initiative, aims to uncover the secrets of bird declines and habitat loss in West Africa. Evidence suggests that the simplified shea parklands, now being created in many areas by removing other species of trees and shrubs, are failing to provide suitable habitat for migratory birds while diversified landscapes have been recognised as one of the solutions. In 2017, intensive

field surveys were carried out at 20 shea parkland sites around Kabore Tambi National Park to research the relationship between tree diversity, shea butter yields, agricultural land use and migratory birds. Awareness of the role of pollinators in agriculture was raised with local farmers during this research and via structured training sessions delivered by Naturama ([BirdLife in Burkina Faso](#)) to local communities and school children. Local ambassadors were identified and supported to help share land-use management best practice between village farmers.

I N N U M B E R S	
PEOPLE THAT ENGAGED WITH OUR SPRING ALIVE PROJECT IN 2017	
8 Million people in total saw our 'Don't take your chicks home' campaign	700 Events in 2017, including ringing demonstrations and treasure hunts
117,000 Children directly engaged – and over 55,000 adults	55 Countries across Europe, Asia and Africa took part

Photo Dagum Dani tribe member, Indonesia / Sergey Uryadnikov



Exploring the connection between birds and people

Humans are inspired culturally and spiritually by birds. Collecting cultural data on species brings us closer to engaging people in bird conservation and by sharing their understanding of birds we also help safeguard their cultural identities. Building on ongoing work, the Ethno-ornithology World Archive continued to develop its database on the cultural value of species and sites. Case studies were developed with [Guyra Paraguay \(BirdLife Partner\)](#) and Partners in East Africa, including collaborations with linguists to map the overlap of cultural and bird diversity. New ways of collating data on cultural ecosystem services were elaborated, drawing on lessons from BirdLife's Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-based Assessment (TESSA).



Photo Pablo Rodriguez Merkel

Supporting organic tea plantations in Paraguay

Tea is bringing everyone together in Paraguay as the indigenous Mbya Guarani people, the private sector, the government and **Guyra Paraguay (BirdLife Partner)** joined forces on a Darwin Initiative project to create a sustainable agriculture model in San Rafael Reserve. This habitat protects over 72,000 hectares of Atlantic Forest

and is a biodiversity hotspot, home to birds found nowhere else in the world. The project focuses around yerba mate, a species of holly brewed to make a traditional tea beverage. In 2017 good progress was made, notably with completing the planting of both yerba mate and native shade trees with the local communities, building their capacity and improving engagement with the government.

“Our well-being is dependent on the health of ecosystems”

JULIUS ARINAITWE Director, Partnership, Communities and Capacity Development

Recognising the work of local conservationists

The Nature's Heroes initiative was launched in 2017 to award community groups and individual volunteers for their outstanding local conservation work. Twelve BirdLife Partners from five regions made nominations for achievements in IBA monitoring, site management, citizen science, engaging the community and other contributions to site and species conservation. **Aves Argentinas (BirdLife Partner)**, nominated Colony Guardians that have bred Saffron-cowled Blackbirds and kept them safe from predators, parasites and poachers. Also, the **Royal Society for Protection of Nature (BirdLife in Bhutan)** chose to recognise Dasho Benji, known as the godfather of conservation in the country, who has inspired many citizen-based initiatives for the benefit of nature.



Photo Dasho Benji / RSPN



PARTNER IN ACTION



Nature Kenya

One of the community groups awarded in the 2017 Nature's Heroes initiative was the Yala Ecosystem Site Support Group, nominated by Nature Kenya (BirdLife Partner), which has reduced threats to the country's Yala Swamp complex Important Bird Area (an IBA in Danger), restored degraded habitats and reached more than 10,000 people with powerful conservation messages.

Consolidating networks of local conservationists

The BirdLife Partnership supports networks of committed individuals and organisations through Local Conservation Groups, which help support our work for nature and people in thousands of sites worldwide.

In 2017, case studies illustrating how local communities can have a huge impact on the conservation resources that surround them were highlighted in BirdLife Africa's "Review of Site Support Groups in Africa". Elsewhere, the BirdLife Guidelines on Conservation

and Indigenous Peoples was finalised and a workshop on Integrating Social Safeguards and Rights into BirdLife's projects and programmes provided an opportunity to share positions and tools, and a new extranet page was launched on social issues in conservation.

THE YEAR IN Capacity Development

PARTNER IN ACTION



BANCA (BirdLife in Myanmar)

On May 10th 2017, Myanmar's Government announced that a 45,000 hectare stretch of the Gulf of Mottama – a vast wetland and an important wintering site for globally threatened waders such as Spoon-billed Sandpiper – would receive protected status. This was due in no small part to over half a decade's lobbying from BANCA, who also helped protect the site through boots-on-ground conservation and shorebird monitoring. Now the it has officially been designated as the country's fourth Ramsar site, BANCA, and other local conservation groups, will be able to better control threats such as hunting and over-fishing.



Photo Shutterstock



KIRAGU MWANGI

Senior Capacity
Development Manager,
PCCD

"A dedicated and effective network of civil society movements for nature is the only way to ensure tangible, long-term and sustainable conservation impact. This principle is at the heart of the BirdLife model of a global Partnership of grassroots NGOs. A major emphasis of BirdLife's work is on organisational capacity building, from science to policy and conservation action, and also management, communications and marketing. Indeed, all our programmes have a capacity development component."

Expanding our work to megabiodiverse countries

Columbia is home to the highest number of bird species in the world, with a whopping 1,877 species recorded, 87 of which are endemic and 126 globally threatened, which is why it was so significant to welcome *Calidris* as our 121st, and newest, BirdLife Partner in late 2017. As a great example of BirdLife's collaborative work,

Audubon (BirdLife in the US) and BirdLife International have already begun helping this organisation with their initiatives. *The Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia* and BANCA (BirdLife in Myanmar) were upgraded to full BirdLife Partners while first steps were also taken to develop relationships in three other countries: Tanzania, Congo and Papua New Guinea.

Photo Farmer Ihey Phar harvests IBIS rice at Khey Svay village © BirdLife International Cambodia



“ My internship with BirdLife Cambodia will improve my experience in biodiversity conservation ”

LENGHIENG LAING CLP Intern

Strengthening the Partnership in Cambodia

A new NGO, 'NatureLife Cambodia', was formed by staff of the BirdLife Cambodia Programme, which will potentially become the future BirdLife Partner in the country and take over the conservation activities

being undertaken by the Programme, which include providing support for managing important habitats such as the Western Siem Pang Wildlife Sanctuary, advocating for new ideas to integrate conservation into policy and increasing public awareness of existing

threats. Recognising the important role of local communities in conservation, in 2017 the Programme focused on supporting rice farmers living near Western Siem Pang to help conserve Cambodia's national bird, the Giant Ibis.

Supporting young conservationists around the world

For over 30 years, BirdLife has supported early-career conservation professionals to become tomorrow's conservation leaders, recognising the importance of giving young people the support they need to kick-start their conservation careers. In 2017, 22 initiatives from the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) and from the BirdLife/Birdfair Young Conservation Leaders (YCL) programme participated in a two-week leadership and management training course in Sulawesi, Indonesia. Some of the initiatives awarded include a search for the Slaty Egret in Zambia (by [Birdwatch Zambia](#), BirdLife Partner); creating nest boxes for hornbills in Malaysian Borneo; and researching the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper in China.



Photo A CLP team conserving the Bornean Hornbill / Sanjitpaal Singh



Photo Oriental Dollarbird / Shutterstock

Finances 2017

The BirdLife Secretariat had a strong growth with total income increasing 39% to £22.3 million in 2017, compared to £16 million in 2016. The increase in income has supported growth in our conservation programmes. The Secretariat's total expenditure however also increased, by 21% to £19.7 million in 2017, compared to £16.3 million in 2016.

After accounting for restructuring costs, the Secretariat achieved a small surplus of £22,630 on unrestricted funds. The restructuring plan implemented has helped the organization save £1.1 million against its unrestricted budgeted expenditure in 2017, and savings will continue to flow in 2018 to make BirdLife more robust against the headwinds of today's charity sector.



Photo Arctic Terns / Tony Brindley

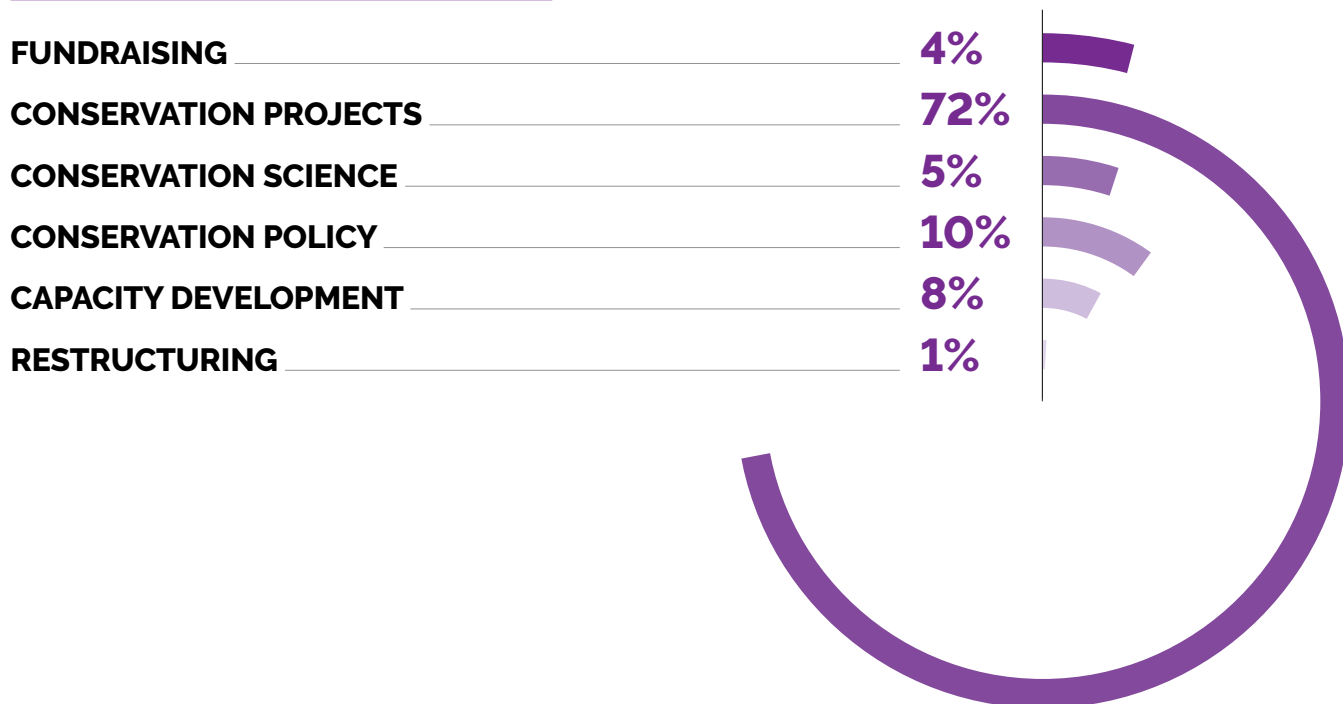
Income, £'000s	2017	2016
Events and other	1,111	802
Corporations	1,619	2,176
Grants from institutions and foundations	15,890	9,995
Individual donations, memberships and legacies	1,402	971
BirdLife Partners	2,115	1,879
Investments	150	198
Total	22,287	16,021

Expenditure, £'000s	2017	2016
Fundraising	825	1,201
Charitable Expenditure	18,619	15,126
- Preventing Extinctions	2,467	1,462
- Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas	3,837	3,908
- Migratory Birds and Flyways	2,244	1,482
- Marine	1,526	651
- Invasive Alien Species	368	238
- Forests of Hope	2,569	1,298
- Climate Change	250	352
- Local Engagement and Empowerment	681	813
- Capacity Development	1,611	1,803
- Conservation Science	1,036	1,149
- Conservation Policy	2,040	1,970
Restructuring	208	0
Total	19,652	16,327

Income



Expenditure



Together we are BirdLife International Partnership for **nature** and **people**



www.birdlife.org

BirdLife International is the world's largest nature conservation partnership. Through our unique local-to-global approach, we deliver high impact and long term conservation for the benefit of nature and people