



Our Impact

2021 Annual Review



We would like to express our deep appreciation for the generous support of our Honorary President, HIH 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.

BirdLife is grateful to the 88 Partners who made their annual contributions to the running of the Secretariat. In addition, VBN (Netherlands) contributed to the Partner Emergency Support Fund. Lastly, we would like to acknowledge the support of the following BirdLife Partners who have contributed through fundraising and unrestricted financial contributions to the global conservation programmes: The RSPB (UK), VBN (Netherlands), Audubon (USA), Natuurpunt & Natagora (Belgium), NABU (Germany), Birds Canada, SVS/ BirdLife Switzerland, LPO (France), LIPU (Italy), DOF/BirdLife Denmark, SOF/ BirdLife Sweden, and SEO/BirdLife (Spain). BirdLife South Africa acted as sub-regional hub for coordinating fundraising and implementation of the East Atlantic Flyway Initiative in Southern Africa.

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A message from our Chair



2021 has been a year in which the biodiversity and climate crises have not only been re-confirmed and highlighted by very recent scientific reports and the UN and its Secretary General António Guterres with

especial urgency, but the public has expressed increasing awareness and engagement as well. As this review will demonstrate, BirdLife, which will celebrate its centenary in 2022, has played an important role in this – participating in both the initial Kunming Biodiversity COP and the slightly later Glasgow Climate COP.

The breadth of BirdLife’s effectiveness from policy and advocacy to site restoration and species protection, all the while mobilising our 117 Partners around the globe, is impressive. And I’m pleased to say it is becoming increasingly evident and visible in the eyes of significant funders as we closed out 2021 with the announcements of ambitiously scaled projects involving – among others – the Bezos Earth Fund for Key Biodiversity Areas and the Asian Development Bank for critical wetlands along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

When we contemplate the scale of the challenge facing our planet, we know that conservation works. When we act, nature is resilient. As the American poet Emily Dickinson wrote nearly 200 years ago:

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -
Truer words have rarely been spoken!

Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias

Chair, BirdLife Council

A message from our CEO



I deeply share Bráulio’s hope. Conservation works! BirdLife proves this day in and day out. Our family of Partners connecting national communities around the globe, our ground-breaking, highly cited science,

and our proven nearly century-old track record of saving species from extinction and sites from destruction is increasingly recognised for its value and effectiveness. We are determined to intensify the synergies of our strategic pillars of Sites, Species, Systems and Society and roll out projects that scale up our experience globally.

An important example of this came as 2021 drew to a close. We launched a ground-breaking partnership with the Asian Development Bank for a \$3-5 billion wetland conservation project along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (see more on page 10). We intend to replicate this approach on the planet’s seven other major flyways.

As we prepare next year to celebrate our 100th anniversary and convene for our Global Partnership Congress to agree on our strategy for the next critical decade, our commitment, enthusiasm and energy for the fight ahead is in full flight.

So yes, my hope, our hope at BirdLife, is a magnificent thing with feathers, undergirded with science and tireless work, and empowered by millions of people, around our magnificent planet.

Patricia Zurita

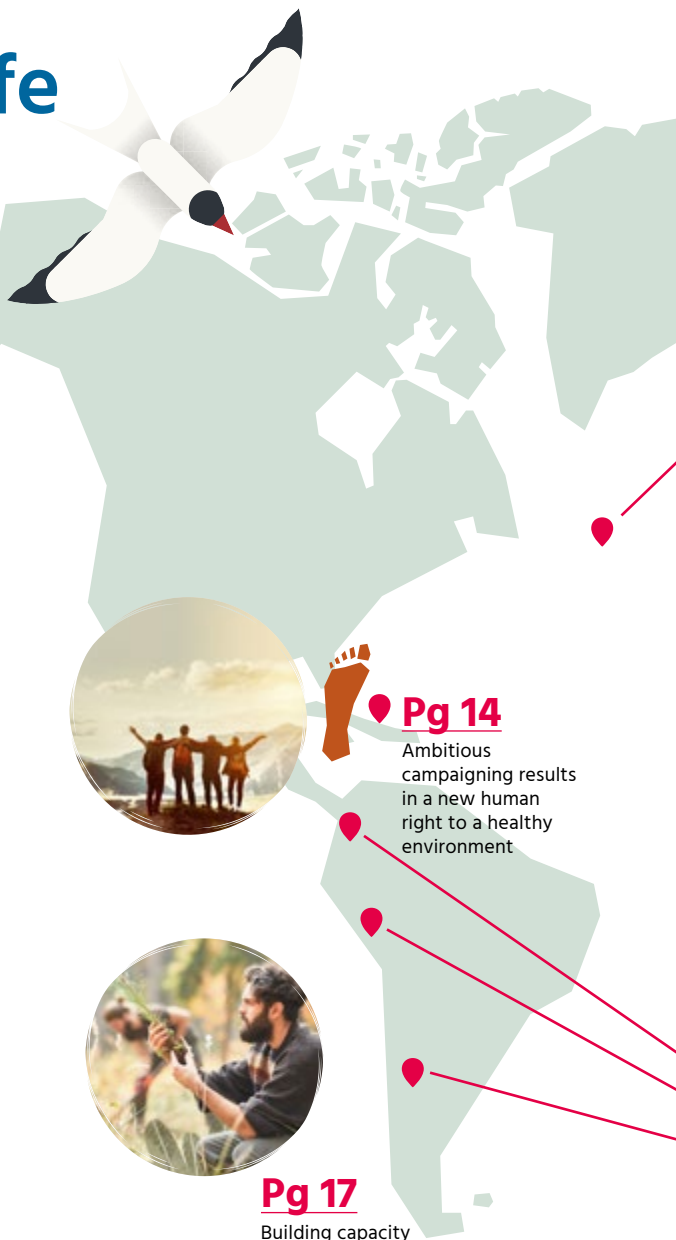
CEO, BirdLife International

We are BirdLife International

Founded in 1922, we are the largest and oldest partnership for nature in the world.

With 119 Partners across all continents, we are driven by our belief that local people, working for nature in their own places but connected through our global partnership, are the key to sustaining all life on this planet.

Pinpointing and protecting vulnerable bird species, conserving the most vital habitats for nature, working to make human impacts kinder to the planet and convincing society to take positive action against climate change and biodiversity loss, we protect birds and nature under threat, so that all life on Earth can flourish.



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Ambitious campaigning results in a new human right to a healthy environment

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Building capacity for conservation



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BirdLife's science helps to secure a new marine protected area



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BirdLife leads the call for a nature positive future at two major global conferences



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Red List update shows hunting, climate change and habitat loss driving worrying declines in iconic Asian bird species



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Protecting the world's most threatened flyway



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Working with local communities to save species on the brink of extinction



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Protecting vultures across Africa and Asia



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\$17 million investment to protect critical sites in the Tropical Andes and Central Africa



Our year in Numbers

Growing our Partnership



3 new Partners

Nature-Communautés-
Développement Senegal



Guinée-Ecologie Guinée



Biosfera
Cape Verde



1 new Affiliate

Asociación
Ecosistemas Andinos
Peru



Our Capacity Building

23
grants



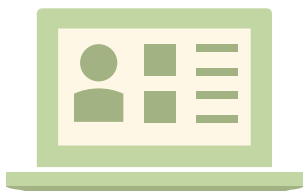
totalling

€417,286

were provided to

20 beneficiary
Partners

for capacity development themes including customer relationship management, website development and more



Our Science

78 scientific papers
published

6,266 citations

for publications with one or more authors with a BirdLife affiliation

Bird Conservation

International – BirdLife’s scientific journal – ranked 2nd of 29 Ornithology journals globally, achieving a record

2.693
Impact Factor



BirdLife reassessed the status of

998 birds
for the IUCN
Red List

128 species were
reclassified



Our Action

595,000 km²

of ocean designated as a new **Marine Protected Area**

Find out more on page 18



BirdLife’s **Forest Accelerator**

leveraged over

2 million USD

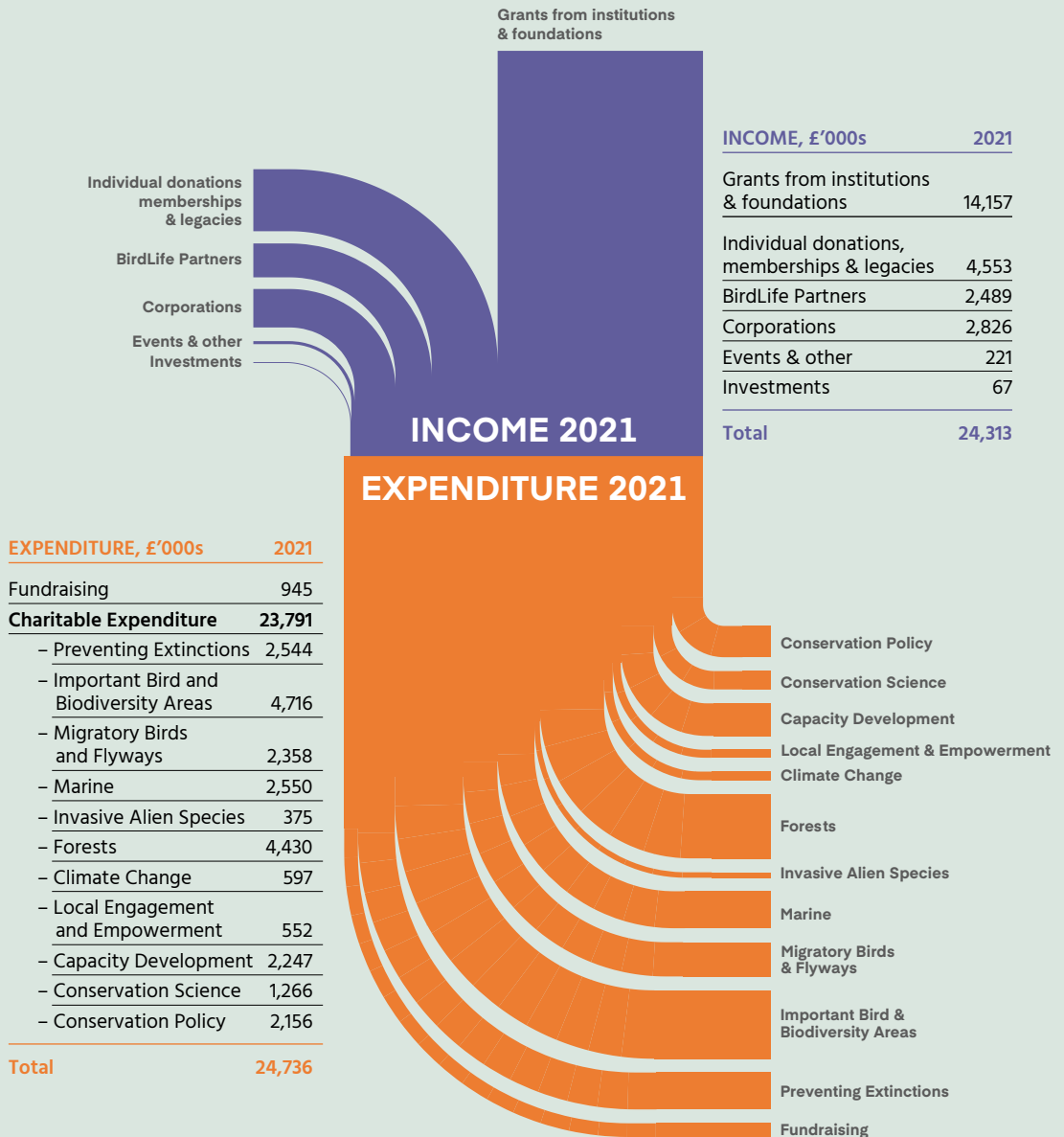
for forest conservation and provided over

14,000 hectares

of forest with better financing for conservation



Financial Results



An aerial photograph of a combine harvester working in a vast, golden field. The harvester is positioned in the lower right quadrant, moving from right to left. The field is filled with rows of mature crops, and the overall color palette is dominated by warm yellows and oranges. The text is overlaid on the upper and lower portions of the image.

Working at scale

**We need to be bold
We need to be ambitious
We need to change now**

Intensive agriculture, logging and climate change are some of the biggest threats facing the world's birds. And they all have one thing in common: they are not driven by the actions of individuals but are instead part of wider global systems.

At BirdLife, we are determined to change these systems for the better, to make them work for people and nature. We work with businesses, governments and financial institutions, helping them to understand their dependencies on nature and ensuring their ecological impact is as small as possible.

These efforts can take multiple forms, from advising renewable energy companies on the safest locations to set up wind farms and helping local people to earn carbon credits for sustainable forest management to campaigning for stronger policies on nature at international conferences (see more on page 12).

In the last two years, we have significantly ramped up our efforts in this area, spearheading bold partnerships with businesses to finance large-scale conservation projects to combat the biodiversity and climate crises. 2021 sees us launch one of our most ambitious projects to date: a partnership with the Asian Development Bank and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership to protect wetlands along one of the world's major bird migration routes. This \$3-5 billion project will be funded using an innovative blended financial model that will mobilise investments from multiple private foundations, government bodies and regional development banks, making sure nature is integrated into the financial structures of the region (find out more on the next page).

The biodiversity and climate crises are reaching a tipping point and we need to systematically redesign our relationship with the planet to tackle the greatest threats to nature. We will only do this by reversing the perverse subsidies that are destroying nature and replacing them with incentives and innovative financial mechanisms that can protect and restore nature.

We need to be bold. We need to be ambitious. We need to change now.



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Protecting the world's most threatened flyway

In October 2021, BirdLife launched the Regional Flyways Initiative (RFI), an innovative collaboration to secure at least \$3 billion to protect priority coastal wetlands along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF). Beyond safeguarding crucial sites for the migrations of millions of waterbirds, the initiative also provides a template for the type of large-scale conservation efforts needed to tackle the biodiversity and climate crises.

Stretching from New Zealand and Australia to Arctic Russia, the EAAF consists of a chain of over 900 globally important coastal wetlands that are essential to the annual migrations of roughly 50 million waterbirds. Along with their importance for biodiversity, these wetlands also absorb vast amounts of carbon and provide a range of benefits to the estimated 200 million people that live alongside them. However, a combination of land reclamation, urbanisation and pollution have destroyed and degraded numerous wetlands along this flyway.

In October 2021, the long-term prospects for the EAAF were boosted as BirdLife, the Asian Development Bank and the East Asian-Australasian Partnership launched the Regional Flyways Initiative, securing at least \$3 billion to conserve and restore

an initial 50 priority coastal wetlands. The funds are being sourced to establish an innovative blended financial model, mobilising investments from private foundations, government bodies and regional development banks, and will help to ensure nature is integrated into the financial structures of the region. The initiative will also actively involve local communities throughout its design and execution, making special efforts to include women, Indigenous Peoples and young people. We plan to replicate this unique model across the other major flyways of the world, which also require a large-scale, cross-border conservation efforts.

“With the planet at a tipping point from the biodiversity and climate emergencies, this type of innovative, integrated, large-scale and broad approach is commensurate to the challenge... the conservation and financial framework we are establishing in this initiative will be scaled up and capable of being applied to the planet’s other important flyways.”

Patricia Zurita



© Ondrej Prosimsky/Shutterstock

The Jiangsu Yancheng Wetlands Protection Project

The Regional Flyway Initiative draws inspiration from the Asian Development Bank supported Jiangsu Yancheng Wetlands Protection Project, which demonstrated tremendous potential for regional upscaling. When the Jiangsu Yancheng Wetlands Protection Project began, over half of the area's wetlands had been destroyed or degraded. However, following funding to manage and protect two nature reserves and

two forest farms, 452 square kilometres of wetlands were restored. This restoration led to an astounding 365% increase in waterbird populations in the Rare Bird Nature Reserve core zone. The project also provided over 2900 sustainable employment opportunities for local community members. This success culminated in the Yancheng Wetlands being designated a UNESCO World Heritage natural site, securing its long-term protection.

Nature positive future

With the climate crisis accelerating at an unprecedented rate, and ecosystems worldwide on the verge of collapse, we are running out of time to save the natural world. This year, BirdLife was a crucial voice at several major global conferences, urging international leaders to put the conservation and restoration of nature at the heart of their plans in this next critical decade.

Biodiversity back on the agenda

Following delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in October 2021 world leaders convened in Kunming, China for the UN's Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to adopt a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Having failed to meet the Aichi targets, this 10-year international strategy for nature is crucial, and as the world's largest partnership for nature, BirdLife was uniquely placed to help develop the framework and galvanise global support for it.

BirdLife called for governments to negotiate through an ambitious 'nature-positive by 2030' lens. This means halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030, so we are on a clear and measurable path to recovery, where species and ecosystems are at the framework's core. It is crucial this message continues to be pushed over the next few conferences before the final framework is adopted at the UN's Biodiversity conference in December 2022.

On behalf of BirdLife and several other organisations, including the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), BirdLife's CEO Patricia Zurita also gave an impassioned speech at the conference on the importance of protecting nature at this crucial junction in human history.

Nature and climate go hand in hand

In November, international leaders, climate experts and campaigners convened in Glasgow for the UN's Global Climate Conference (COP 26). Representatives from the BirdLife Secretariat and Partners worldwide were in attendance, campaigning for stepped-up climate action and for nature to be at the heart of these efforts. Through showcasing examples of conservation successes brought about through our projects, we demonstrated that conserving and restoring critical habitats not only benefits biodiversity, but also has a positive impact on people and is integral to stopping climate change.

While a last-minute change to the wording of a resolution to phase 'down' rather than phase 'out' coal led to dismay from conservation NGOs worldwide, there were promising signs that the international community has finally recognised the full importance of conserving nature in our efforts to fight a climate change. For example, governments made a welcome new commitment to halt deforestation by 2030, supported by \$14 billion of public and private funding.

Now, however, it is important they act to make this commitment a reality.

“We must now conserve and restore the world’s key biodiversity areas, the integrity and intactness of its ecosystems and its incredible diversity of species – as a win/win/win solution to the biodiversity, climate, and health crises.”

Patricia Zurita in her speech at the October 2021
CBD COP 15 conference in Kunming





ONE PLANET ONE RIGHT

As COVID-19 rampaged around the globe changing life as we know it, it became clearer than ever that for people to live healthy lives, they need to live on a healthy planet. This inspired Patricia Zurita, BirdLife's CEO, and Asuncion Ruiz, Director of SEO/BirdLife, to step up their advocacy work to create a better world for nature and people.



Ambitious campaigning results in a new human right to a healthy environment

From these conversations BirdLife's **#1Planet1Right** campaign was born. Calling for the United Nations to add the right to a healthy environment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, this was our most ambitious campaign to date.

Since its launch in 2019, **#1Planet1Right** has brought together the entire BirdLife Partnership and became a global movement endorsed by over 100,000 citizens, hundreds of organisations and prestigious figures including Greta Thunberg, Chris Packham, Margaret Atwood and Dr David Boyd, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment.

This tireless campaigning resulted in a historic victory in October 2021 when the UN Human Rights Council unanimously voted in favour of introducing a new human right: **the right to a healthy environment.**



**121,558
people**

**from across
the world
signed our
petition**



**Over
1,350** **civil
society**

**organisations support
the right to a healthy
environment**

This monumental success truly demonstrates the power of the BirdLife Partnership and signals what we hope will be the beginning of a new, progressive era in environmental policy.

“It is time for global recognition of the human right to a healthy environment – recognition that can lead to stronger policies, at all levels, to protect our planet and our children.”

Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations



Hatch by BirdLife: giving root to conservation across the *globe*

Launched in October 2020, Hatch is a BirdLife Partnership initiative that supports the growth and performance of environmental civil society organisations around the world. Harnessing the collective power of the BirdLife Partnership, we provide customised support to individuals and organisations so that they can accelerate and grow their impact.



Building a better understanding of Microfinance

Microfinance instruments are widely recognised as a valuable development tool to support community empowerment and poverty reduction; however, the usefulness of these tools in enabling biodiversity conservation is not yet fully understood. In 2021, we carried out a review to better understand their effectiveness in supporting biodiversity conservation across the Partnership.

Our assessment of the opportunities and challenges across the Partnership incorporated learnings from BirdLife Partners supporting local communities to implement microfinance tools in Tanzania, Kenya, Liberia, Nepal, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Our findings showed very encouraging social and environmental outcomes, from increased motivation to participate in conservation activities and local livelihood improvements to higher levels of social resilience and the empowerment of women.

These results show that community-level small-scale financial instruments are a positive tool for conservation, paving the way for sustainable conservation on the ground. Drawing on these experiences, we are hoping to pilot the use of microfinance tools at a greater scale within the Partnership by linking community revolving funds to our priority conservation work involving safeguarding vultures in Africa and reducing illegal killing of birds in the Mediterranean.



Investing in the future of conservation

Introducing the Graeme Gibson Fellowship

A new fellowship launched in memory of Graeme Gibson – one of BirdLife’s great champions – will ensure that the next generation of leaders in the conservation sector are equipped with the right skills to tackle the biodiversity and climate crises and other critical challenges facing nature at this time.

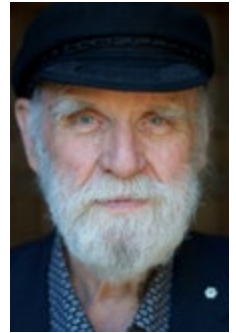
A long-time supporter of BirdLife, Graeme served as the Honorary Co-Chair of BirdLife’s Rare Bird Club until 2018. During his tenure, Graeme was a larger-than-life champion of the BirdLife model and was deeply supportive of its global grassroots leadership. So in Graeme’s memory, his partner Margaret Atwood kicked off the Fellowship’s design and launch with an inaugural gift. Her belief that honouring him called for investing in leadership echoed his life-long commitment to service nature and birds.

The programme will focus on a range of critical leadership, communication and change-management skills – for example, team building, public speaking, negotiation skills and crisis-management techniques – that will be tailored to each fellow’s local and international context. It will cultivate leaders who have the vision, values, character and competencies to shape the future.

The first group of Fellows will be recruited in early 2022. This inaugural cohort will include 10 individuals from across the BirdLife Partnership with at least five years of conservation practice and real-world conservation experience.



Graeme
Gibson
Fellowship
by BirdLife



The Conservation Leadership Programme

Our focus on developing future conservation leaders is longstanding. 30 years ago, BirdLife launched the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP), a ground-breaking training initiative which invests in some of the most promising early-career professionals in conservation. Working in partnership with Fauna & Flora International and the Wildlife Conservation Society, we provide grants, training, mentoring and internships to individuals who represent the future of conservation.

15 Future Conservationist Awards were selected in 2021, with five projects focusing on the protection of birds in five different countries. These ambitious projects range in focus from conserving threatened shorebirds through community-based conservation in the Red River Delta in Vietnam to testing conservation and habitat restoration methods to preserve avifauna in Rapa, French Polynesia.

We also received an additional \$35,000 from the March Conservation Fund in 2021 which will contribute to the selection of two Future Conservationist Awards next year prioritising bird-related projects in low to middle-income countries.

BirdLife's science helps to secure a new Marine Protected Area



Bottom: Great Shearwaters feeding © Maitin Abreu. Top and right: Northern Fulmar and Atlantic Puffin © Paul F. Donald.

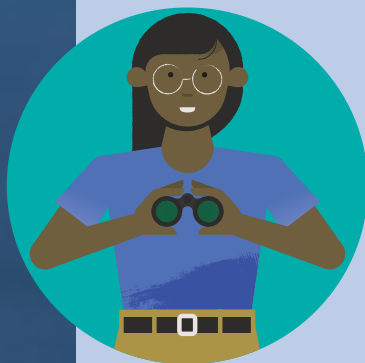
In October 2021, the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Seamount (NACES) was designated a Marine Protected Area, covering over 500,000 km² – an area the size of France – and supporting over a million wintering Atlantic Puffins, following a decade of work led by BirdLife International.

The BirdLife Seabird Tracking Database houses the largest collection of seabird tracking data in existence. Being able to follow seabird journeys is vital to protect them, particularly as their behaviour at sea is not well understood.

This tracking data was instrumental in the designation of NACES as a Marine Protected Area. Previously unknown to science, currents in this area stir up plankton and fish from deep within the ocean and attract up to 5 million birds from 21 species to feast on the abundance.


Seabirds are one of the most threatened groups of birds and currently don't have adequate protection when at sea. With this designation, the area will now be protected from pressures such as fisheries, disturbance and deep-sea mining, benefitting not just the seabirds who congregate there but other marine animals found in the area such as Leatherback Turtles and Blue Sharks.

This is the first high seas Marine Protected Area to be identified from tracking data – a huge win for seabirds, BirdLife, and marine conservation.



70%

One recent study estimated that between 1950 and 1970 monitored seabird populations declined by 70%.



The area is used by **2.9–5 million** birds from **21 species**

5 globally threatened species depend on this area for their survival

- **Bermuda Petrel** (*Pterodroma cahow*)
- **Zino's Petrel** (*Pterodroma madeira*)
- **Desertas Petrel** (*Pterodroma deserta*)
- **Black-legged Kittiwake** (*Rissa tridactyla*)
- **Atlantic Puffin** (*Fratercula arctica*)

\$17 million investment in the Tropical Andes and Central Africa

In December, the Bezos Earth fund invested \$17 million dollars in BirdLife and our Partners through two grants – helping us to identify, expand and bolster the protection of critical sites in the Tropical Andes and Central Africa. Along with safeguarding nature, these grants will also help secure vital carbon stores and support sustainable development for local communities and Indigenous Peoples living within these regions.



Safeguarding biodiversity in the tropical Andes

The larger \$12 million grant has been invested to support Conserva Aves, a unique collaboration between BirdLife and our American Partners, The Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), as well as RedLAC (the Network of Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Funds). By focusing on the conservation of North American migratory birds, Conserva Aves galvanises support from an array of international actors to protect and increase habitat connectivity in the tropical Andes, which are critical sites for these species during their migrations.

The Bezos grant will specifically be used to help establish and bolster the protection of 30-40 important protected areas in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. These grasslands and forests are some of the most biodiverse on earth, yet as with many areas of South America, they are threatened by widespread habitat loss and degradation. The grant will also be used to support local communities and Indigenous Peoples living adjacent to these areas to develop sustainable livelihoods.

Mapping critical sites for nature in the Andes and Congo Basin

A second \$5 million grant has been invested to BirdLife on behalf of the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) Partnership to identify and help protect the most important sites for nature in the tropical Andes and Congo Basin. KBAs are a crucial framework for site-based conservation efforts, using a common global standard – first developed by BirdLife – to identify the most critical sites for sustaining life on Earth. While we know that the tropical Andes and Congo Basin are biodiversity hotspots and critical carbon sinks, pinpointing the precise locations of the most important sites is a significant challenge.

This grant will be used to support – and in some cases establish – national KBA coordination groups. These groups made up of local stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, will expand and strengthen the KBA network across the two regions, providing vital information for decision-makers to plan conservation efforts towards priority sites.

1,500

Over 1,500 bird species occur in the Tropical Andes

9

BirdLife Partners across the Americas collaborating to implement Conserva Aves

+450,000ha

Establish and bolster the protection of 450,000-600,000 ha in the tropical Andes by 2027

7

Strengthen and expand KBA networks in 7 countries across the Andes and Congo Basin in two years

The Red List

The IUCN Red List is the most comprehensive guide to the conservation status of animals, plants and fungi. Nicknamed the barometer of life, it tells us how species are coping and what needs to be done to prevent their extinction. BirdLife is the official authority for birds, so each year our Red List team gather the latest data to reassess the status of birds around the world.



“Illegal and unsustainable trapping of birds has decimated many larger birds in South-east Asian forests, with ground birds being among the worst affected groups thanks to the abundance of easily available snares.”

Ding Li Yong

Flyways Coordinator for BirdLife Asia

The Red List update always brings mixed feelings, as our science reveals which species are moving closer or further from extinction. This year was no different, with worrying declines in several iconic Asian bird species and remarkable recoveries for several species in the Americas.

The Maleo, a large terrestrial bird endemic to Sulawesi in Indonesia, was uplisted to Critically Endangered due to habitat loss and the unregulated collection of its eggs, which are considered a local delicacy.

The Lesser Florican and Vietnamese Crested Argus were also moved to the Critically Endangered category, with both species being pushed closer to extinction from habitat loss and hunting. Although undoubtedly bad news, these changes in status are also a clear call to action for species conservation.

Results from 2021 show us that this is possible, with several species in the Americas moving to a lower threat category, including the Indigo-winged Parrot. This species was taken off the Critically Endangered list thanks to coordinated conservation efforts in the cloud forest of Colombia’s central Andes. The Hawaiian Goose was also moved down a threat level due to a successful captive breeding programme.

These recoveries provide a glimmer of hope that with swift and effective conservation action, threatened species can recover.



Protecting vultures across Africa and Asia

When you see vultures soaring on a thermal, it's easy to believe they are invincible. Miles above us, their broad wings carrying them through the sky apparently effortlessly, it can be easy to forget the threats they face when they rejoin us on the ground. But these charismatic birds are in considerable danger and concerted local to global action is needed to ensure their survival.

Across Africa and much of Asia, vultures have suffered catastrophic and unprecedented population declines, mainly because of poison. The reasons for poisoning vary by region and range from human-wildlife conflicts and large mammal poaching to the use of veterinary drugs in livestock which are toxic to vultures. Belief-based use of vulture body parts and collisions with energy infrastructure are also significant issues.

We have been hard at work to combat poisoning and belief-based use in both regions and in 2021 we saw encouraging signs of recovery in South Asian Vulture populations following over 20 years of concerted conservation action. This year also marked five years

of implementing our African vulture conservation strategy, with early results showing that our work in the region is starting to pay off.

Combatting the use of vulture body parts for traditional medicine in Africa

The use of vulture body parts in traditional medicines and rituals is a particular concern in Africa and in 2021 BirdLife worked extensively across West Africa – where the threat is most severe – to reduce its impact. Our work focused on understanding the trade and what drives it, changing behaviours away from hunting vultures for belief-based use, improving law enforcement where the practice was already illegal and responding to

poisonings to minimise mortality. We are already seeing evidence that this is working in Nigeria. At the start of the project, 95% of the healers we sampled were using vulture parts compared to only 45% two years later. BirdLife also helped to launch, and is now co-leading, a process to create a West Africa Action Plan to address this and other causes of direct vulture persecution.

Creating safe spaces for vultures

In South Asia – where vulture species populations declined catastrophically in the 1990s – the Vulture Safe Zone model to protect key remaining wild vulture populations has been instrumental in reducing the threat of unintentional poisoning from veterinary drugs.

Several Asian vulture populations are now showing promising signs of recovery and Nepal's first Vulture Safe Zone was recently declared fully secure. Convinced that a similar approach should work in Africa, BirdLife has been developing Vulture Safe Zones on the continent where landowners are employing or have committed to vulture-friendly practices.

By the end of 2021, over

1,000,000

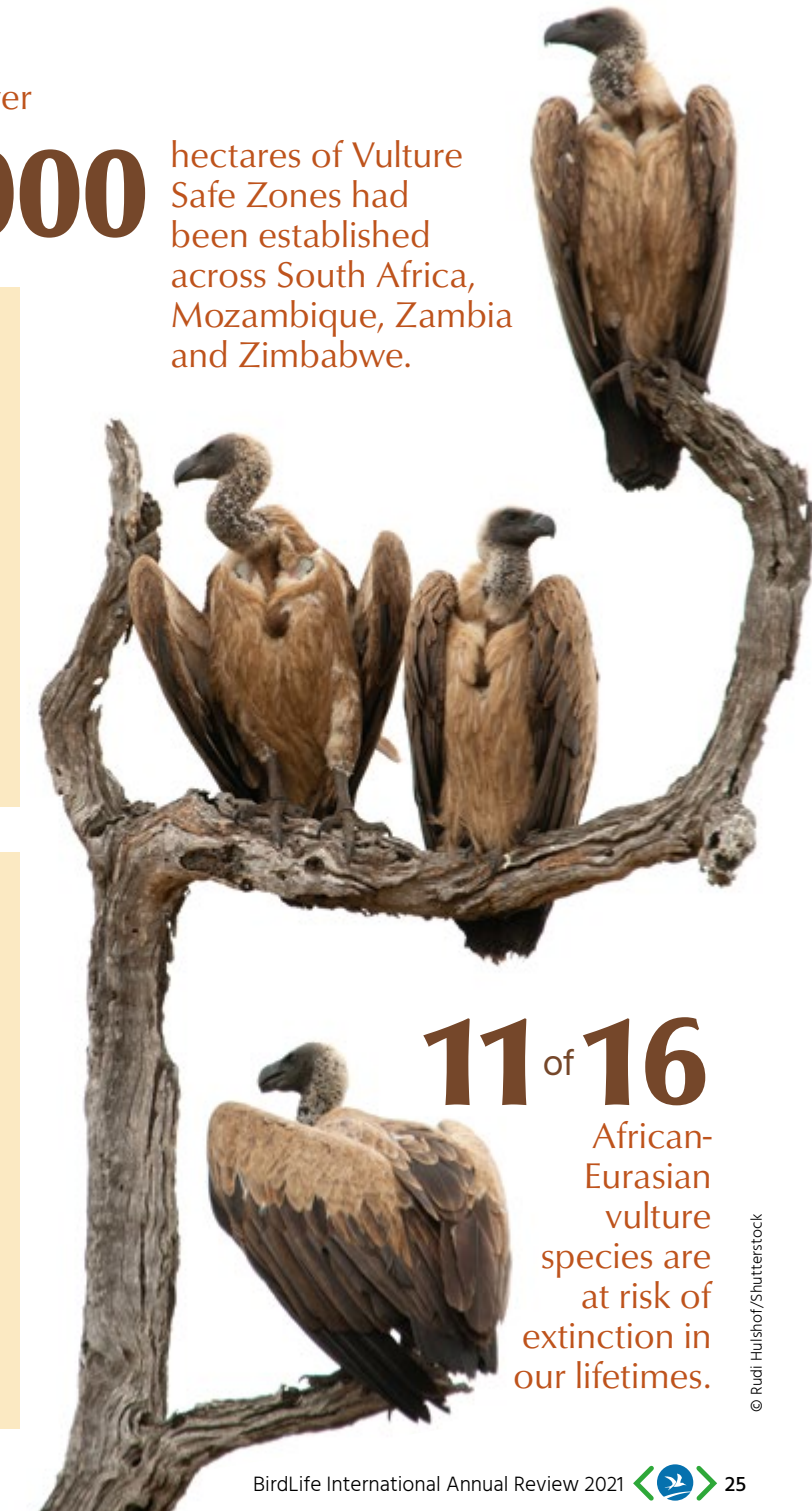
hectares of Vulture Safe Zones had been established across South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Working with local communities

Engaging local communities in vulture conservation through community Vulture Support Groups has been central to our strategy in Africa. These groups of volunteers raise awareness and monitor vulture populations. In Gwayi, Zimbabwe, this led to more nests being found, and neighbouring countries are also now adapting the model to their local contexts.

Anti-poisoning efforts paying off

In East Africa, initial indications suggest that anti-poisoning efforts in Kenya – led by a team of local volunteers and other stakeholders – have reduced the mortality of vultures at poisoning incidents, with the potential to save at least one vulture per incident when previously none were saved. Nine national Partners are now trained in responding to wildlife poisoning incidents.



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African-Eurasian vulture species are at risk of extinction in our lifetimes.

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Preparing soil to grow crops © Ganjar C. Aprianto / Burung Indonesia

20

home permaculture gardens created collaboratively with women in the villages

5

Collaborating with 5 villages around the reserve

4

Critically Endangered bird species populations are stabilising

Working with local communities

Northwest of Sulawesi in Indonesia lies a tiny island called Sangihe that is home to an astonishing 10 bird species found nowhere else on earth. Tragically, all but one of them are threatened with extinction. The BirdLife Partnership has been working extensively with local communities to secure the island's last remaining primary rainforest and save the lives of these rare, remarkable birds.

Sangihe has the highest density of threatened species in Asia and possibly the world. Five of the island's endemic bird species are Critically Endangered, including the Cerulean Paradise-Flycatcher, which was rediscovered in 1998 after ~~26~~ **20** years and for more than a century. However, four of these Critically Endangered species are restricted to a single 5km² patch of forest – the island's last remaining primary rainforest. Unfortunately, this tiny patch of forest is unprotected, and farming activities encroach on its edges.

For 20 years, Burung Indonesia (BirdLife Partner) has been working to secure and restore

Sahendaruman forest on Sangihe. Since 2017, Burung Indonesia and BirdLife have joined forces with local government and several surrounding villages to protect it. Through collaboratively establishing the forest boundaries and negotiating where communities can sustainably extract the resources they rely on, disturbance to the forest has drastically reduced. BirdLife also helped develop home permaculture gardens across the villages, benefitting both the forest and surrounding communities.

Burung Indonesia are now hoping to expand this approach to more villages on the island and – working with the local Forestry Office – have helped to identify areas appropriate for restoration, which will take place over the coming years. Although still in its early stages, the project is already showing promising signs for the four Critically Endangered species. Recent surveys indicate that their populations are now stable – with the Cerulean Paradise-Flycatcher's potentially increasing.

This work has been made possible through the vital help of Peter Eerdmans, a Species Champion for the Cerulean Paradise-Flycatcher.

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