Capacity building workshop for South, South-east and East Asia on the preparation of the fourth National Report

Tsukuba, Japan

2-4 December 2008

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Outline of the Presentation

- What & who is BirdLife International?
- What information can BirdLife International share?
- How can you access these information?

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL — The world's largest national NGO conservation alliance

What information can BirdLife Partners provide relevant to National Reports?

- General information on birds (number of species, important sites etc.)
- What we know about the changing state of birds (status and trends)
- Why birds are declining (threats)
- What can be done to improve the status of birds (through implementation of NBSAPs, mainstreaming, POWPA)

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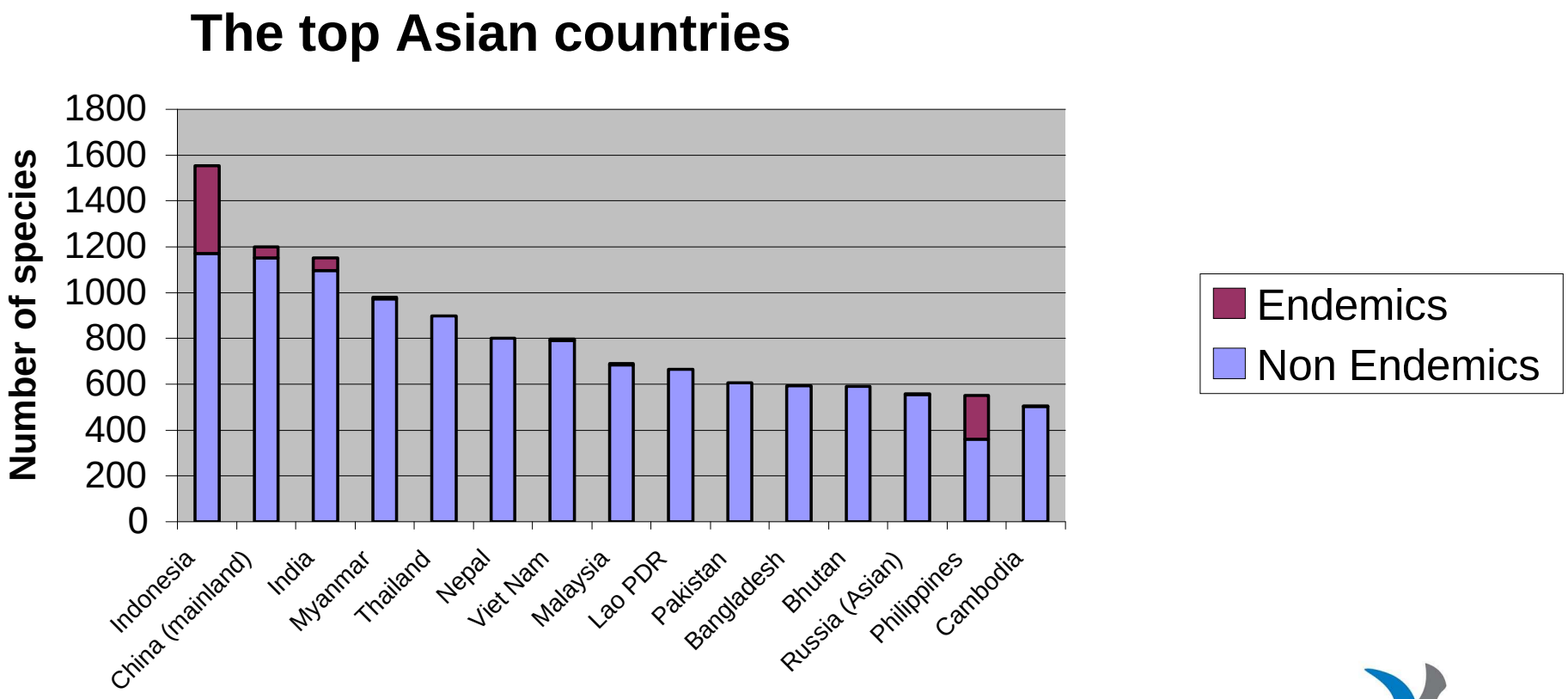
The number of bird species in a country



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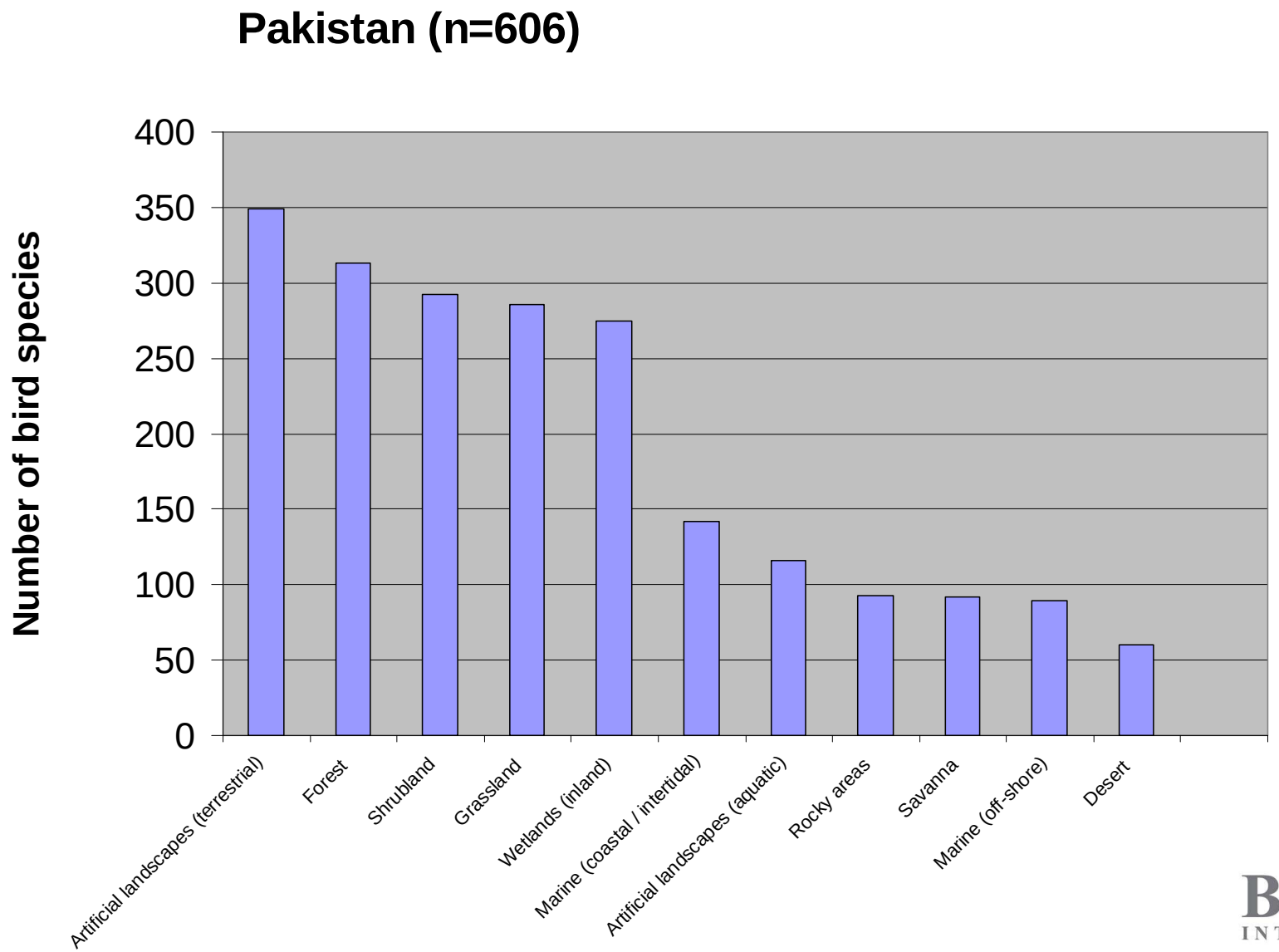
The key habitats for birds in a country



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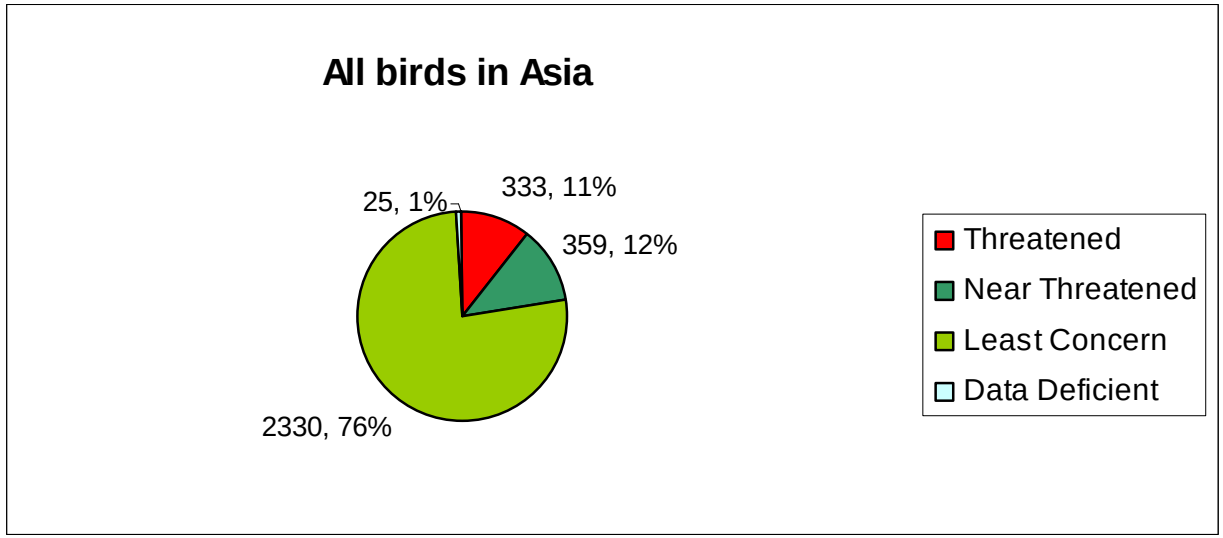
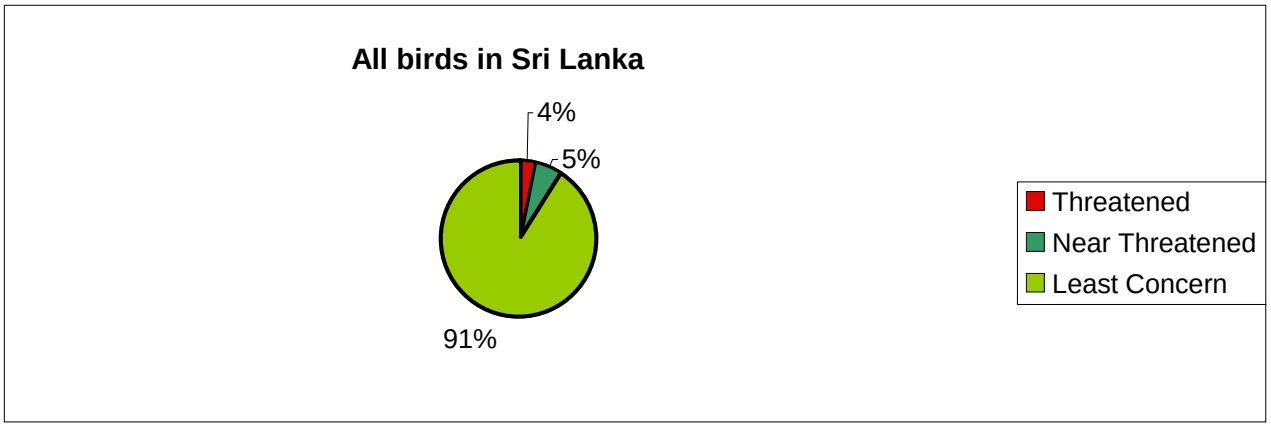
A snapshot of extinction risk following IUCN Red List criteria





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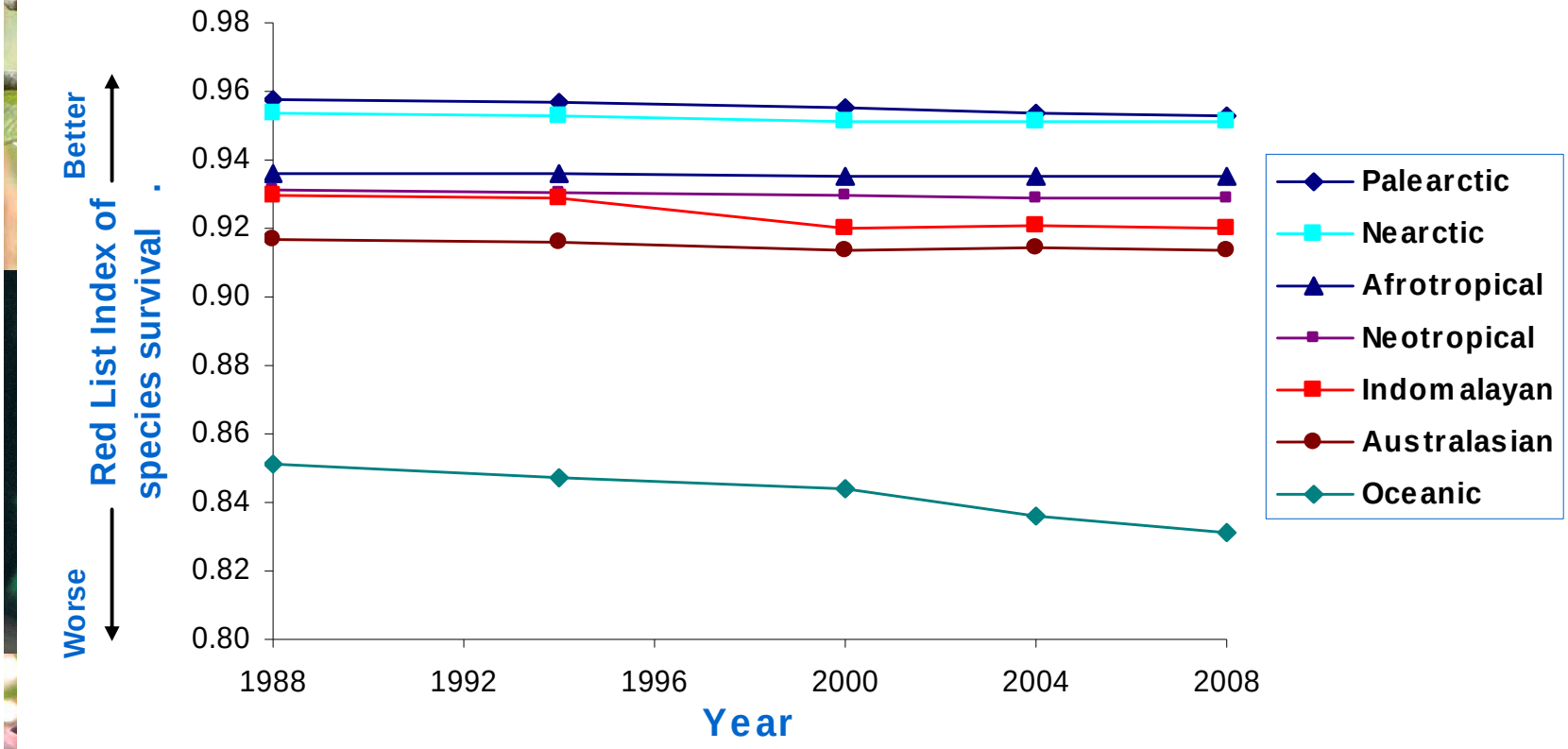
Changes in extinction risk over time

Red List Index for the birds in different biogeographic realms 1988–2008



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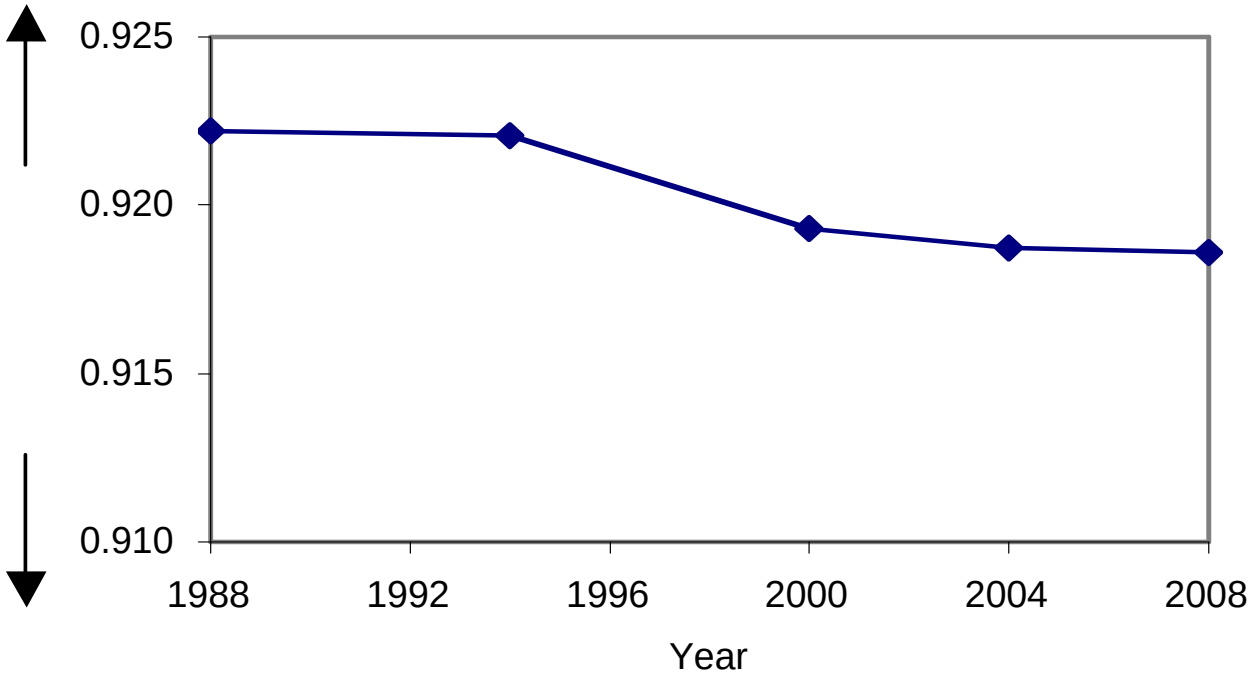
Example of a Red List Index for birds in one Asian country 1988–2008



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- But, what about the rest of biodiversity?
- Bird data are easy to collect & to interpret
- Birds have many useful features as indicators

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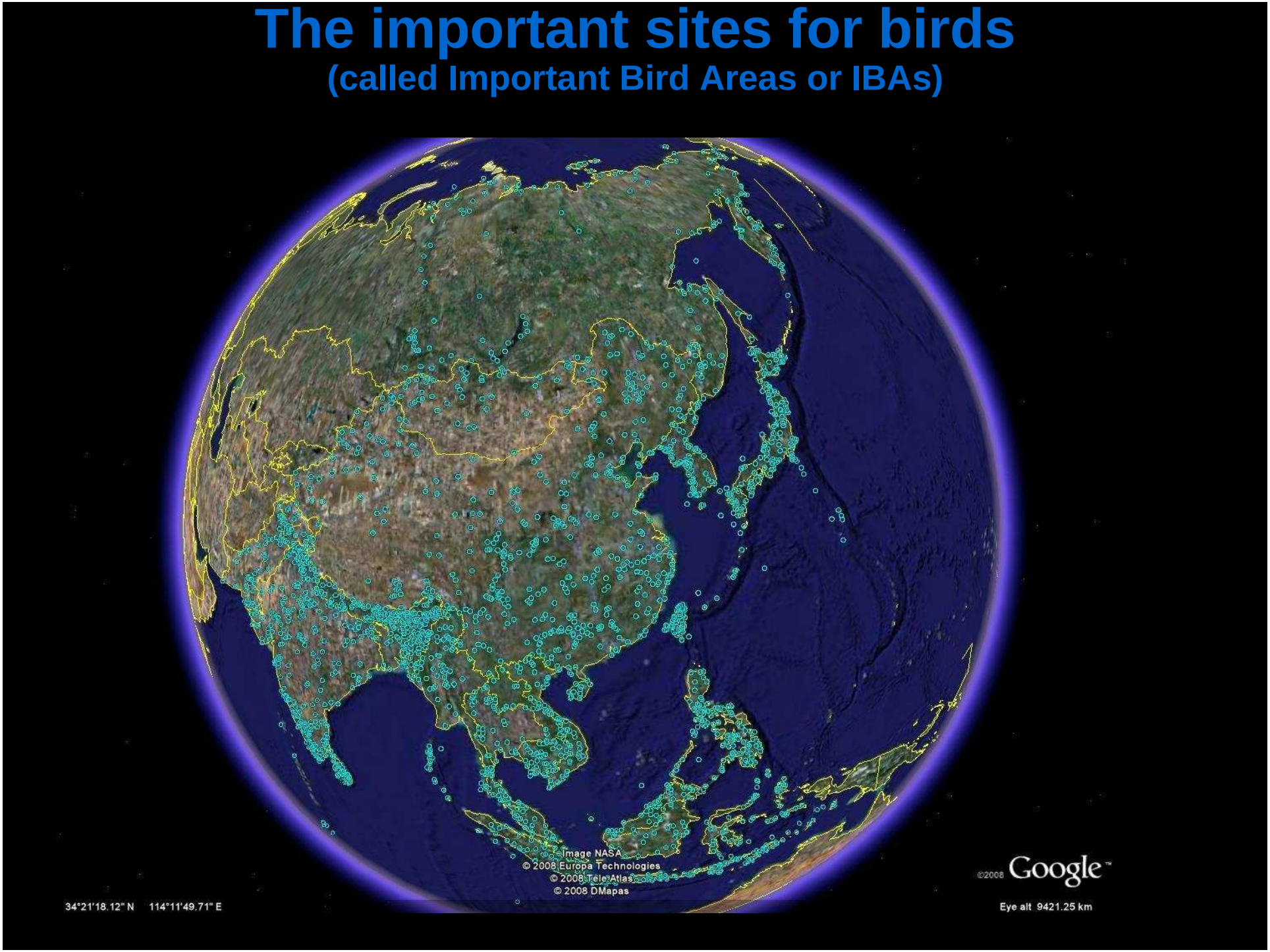
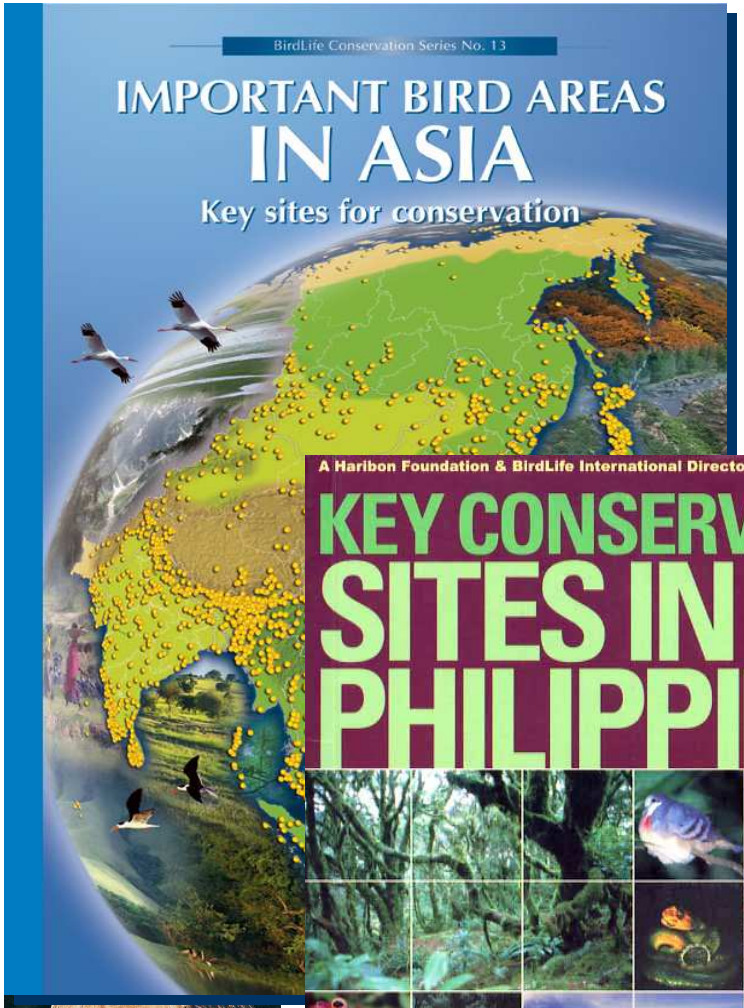
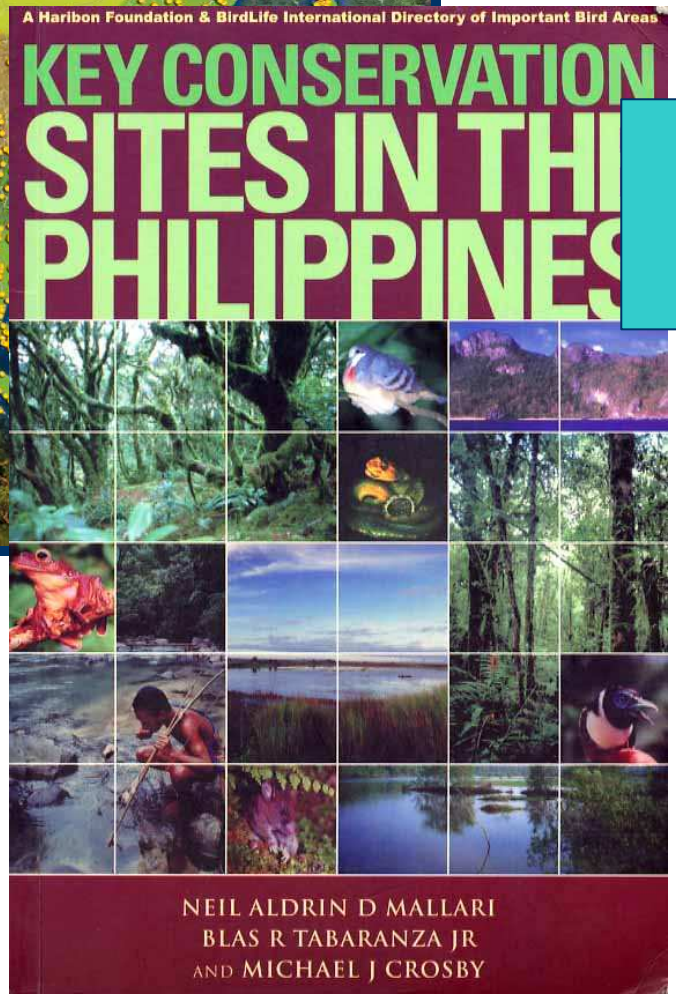
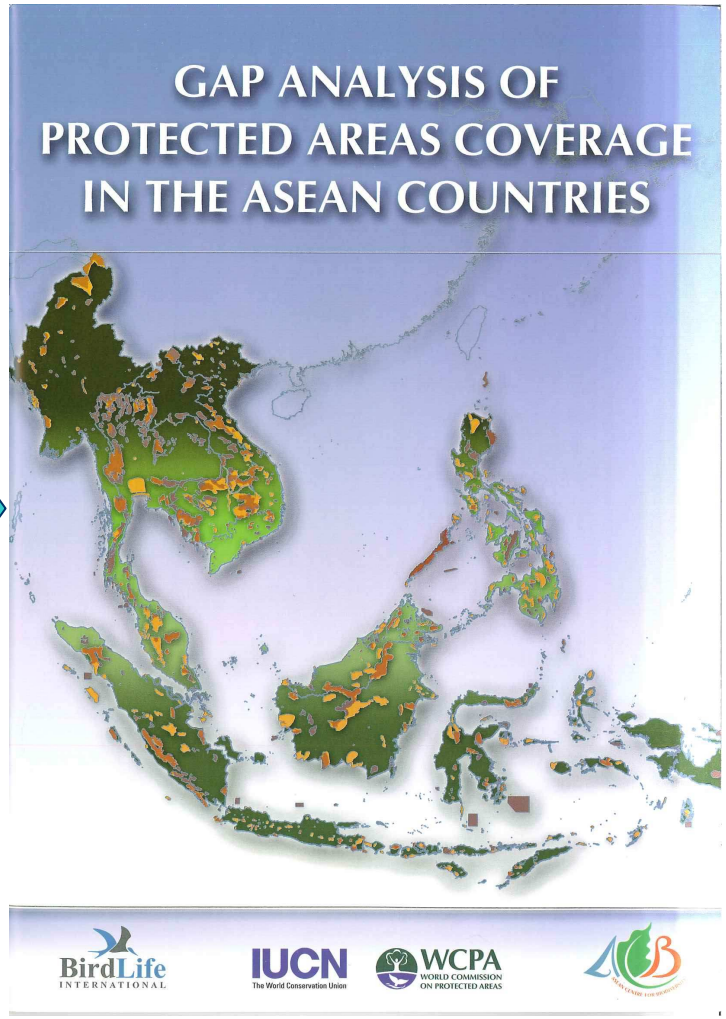
The important sites for birds
(called Important Bird Areas or IBAs)









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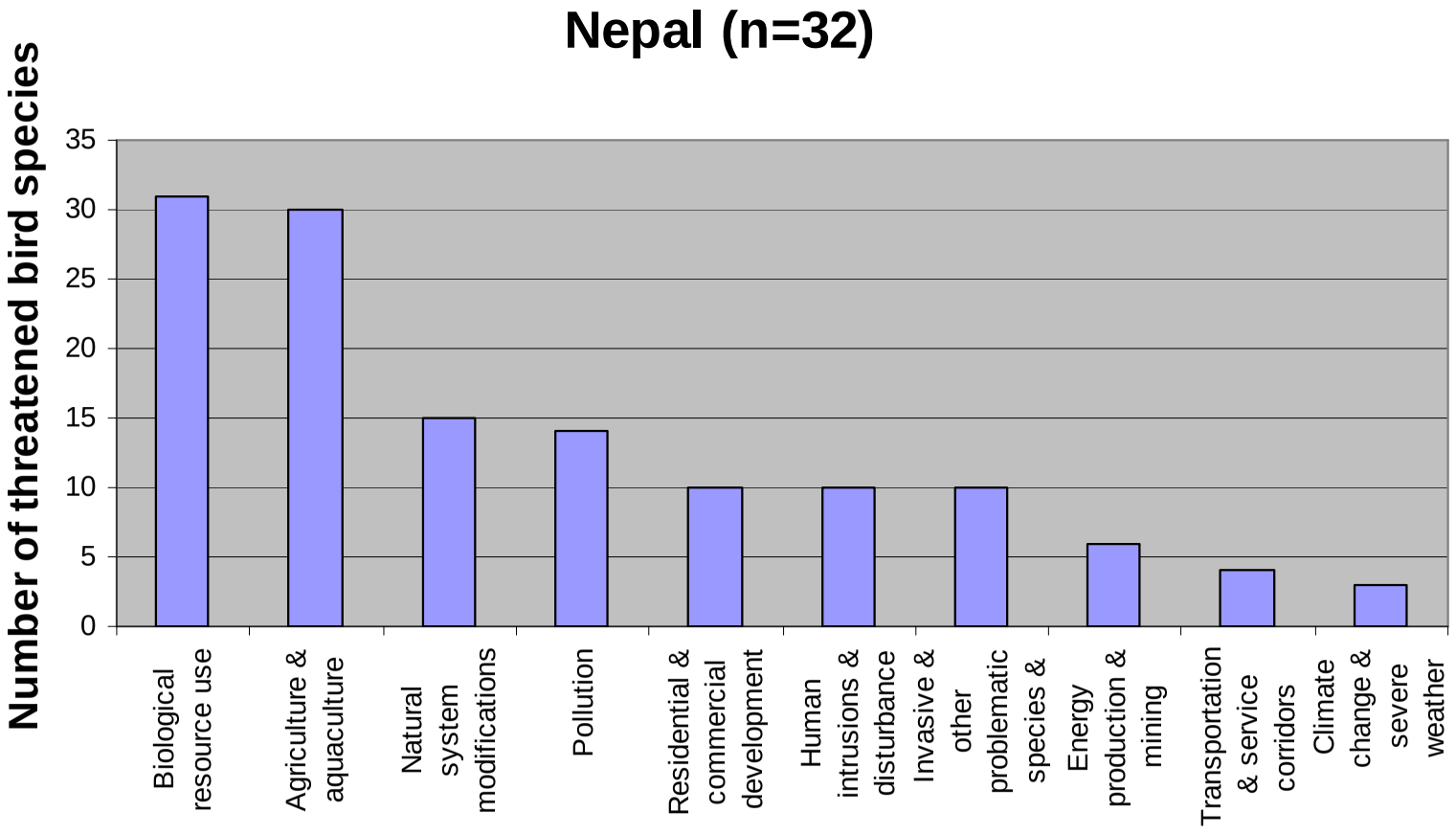
The main threats to birds in a country



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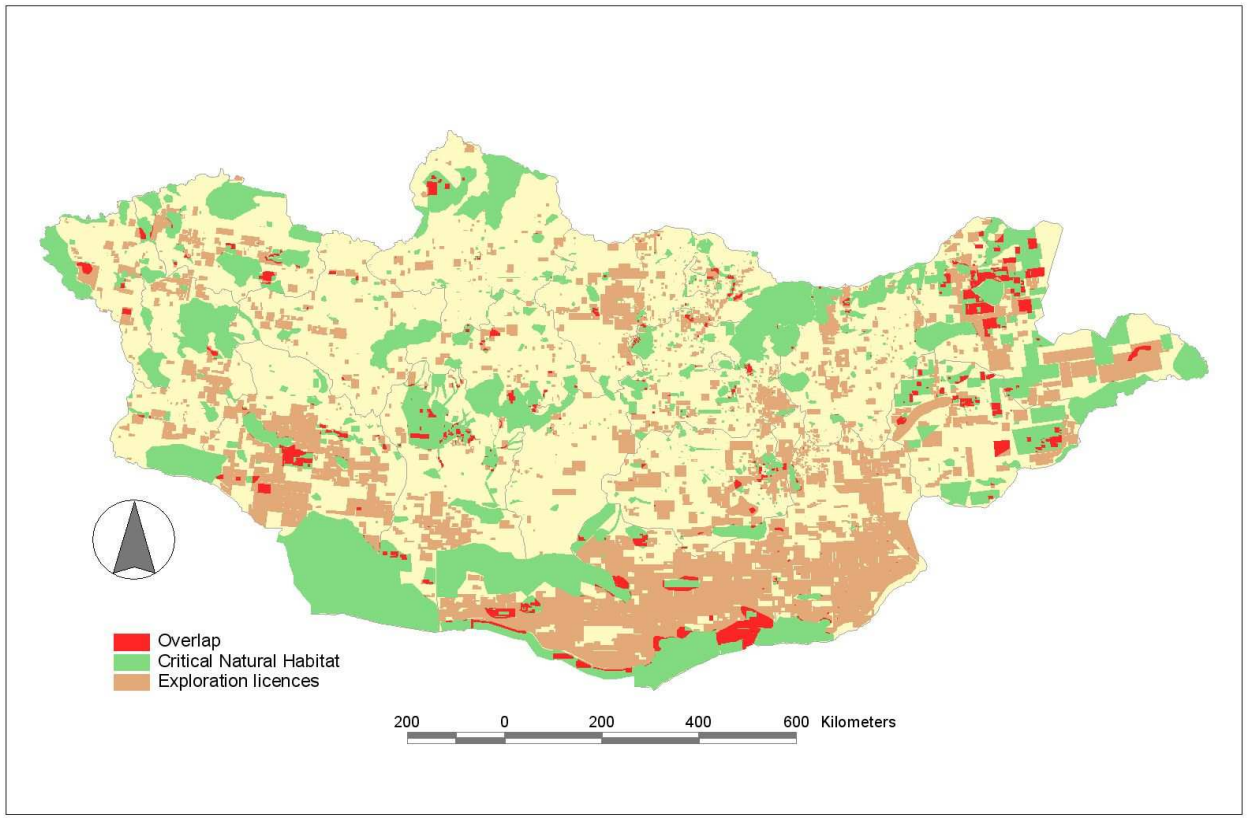
Examples of potential threats…

Overlap between exploration licenses and Critical Natural Habitats in Mongolia



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Harapan Rainforest, Indonesia

- New law passed to allow forest restoration concession
- Agreements established by national, provincial & district governments
- Supportive relationship developed with local law enforcement bodies

- Trust Fund being established
- Strong efforts being put into developing capacity among local communities
- Potential to raise carbon financing for 'Avoided Deforestation' from 2012

Examples of implementation

Timor-Leste's first National Park

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State of the world's birds

- Home
- Advanced search
- Introduction
- State
- Pressure
- Response
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Asian vulture populations have declined precipitously in less than a decade

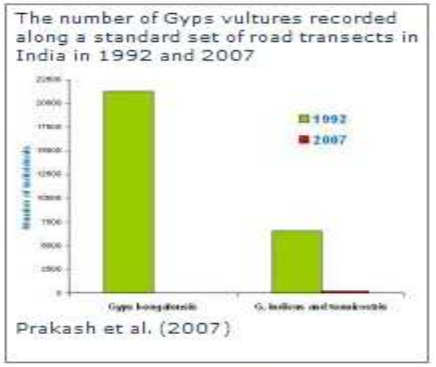
Slender-billed Vulture, © J C Eames

Five charismatic vulture species that were once common throughout the Indian subcontinent are suffering precipitous population declines as a result of exposure to lethal residues of diclofenac, a veterinary painkilling drug, in livestock carcasses.

State of the world's birds:

www.birdlife.org/sowb

Griffon vultures of the genus *Gyps* were formerly very common throughout South and South-East Asia, with White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* considered one of the most abundant large birds of prey in the world. Vulture populations declined across much of the region in the first half of the twentieth century, but they remained common on the Indian subcontinent, where populations were maintained by an abundant supply of livestock carcasses. In the late 1990s, however, the Indian populations of White-rumped Vulture, Indian Vulture *G. indicus* and Slender-billed Vulture *G. tenuirostris* crashed, with dramatic declines also observed in Nepal and Pakistan. Survey work in India indicated that populations of these birds had declined by c.95% in less than a decade, between 1993 and 2000 (Prakash *et al.* 2003; see figure), leading to their classification in 2001 as Critically Endangered (BirdLife International 2001). Current evidence suggests that populations of these species are continuing to fall rapidly (Green *et al.* 2004, Gilbert *et al.* 2006), to the extent that White-rumped Vulture has now declined in numbers by 99.9% since 1992 (Prakash *et al.* 2007).



Prakash et al. (2007)

Declines are also occurring in non *Gyps* vultures in these countries, with Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* and Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* now classified as Endangered and Critically Endangered respectively (Cuthbert *et al.* 2006, BirdLife International 2008). Although threats such as reductions in food availability and poisoning from exposure to pesticides may play a role in the declines, there is very strong evidence that the causal factor is an anti-inflammatory painkilling drug, diclofenac, which has been used widely on the Indian subcontinent since the early 1990s (Green *et al.* 2004, Oaks *et al.* 2004). Experiments show that vultures and other scavenging birds are highly susceptible to diclofenac and are killed by feeding on the carcass of an animal that has died soon after being treated with the normal veterinary dose (Green *et al.* 2006, Cuthbert *et al.* 2007, Green *et al.* 2007). Modelling shows that only a very small proportion of livestock carcasses need to contain a level of diclofenac lethal to vultures to result in population declines at the observed rates (Green *et al.* 2004). Unless the use of diclofenac is urgently controlled, the extinction of these vulture species, all of

EN Red-crowned Crane *Grus japonensis*

2008 IUCN Red List Category (as evaluated by BirdLife International - the official Red List Authority for birds for IUCN): **Endangered**

Justification This species is classified as Endangered because it has a very small population, and although the population in Japan is stable, the mainland Asian population continues to decline owing to loss and degradation of wetlands through conversion to agriculture and industrial development.

http://www.birdlife.org/datazone

Family/Sub-family Gruidae

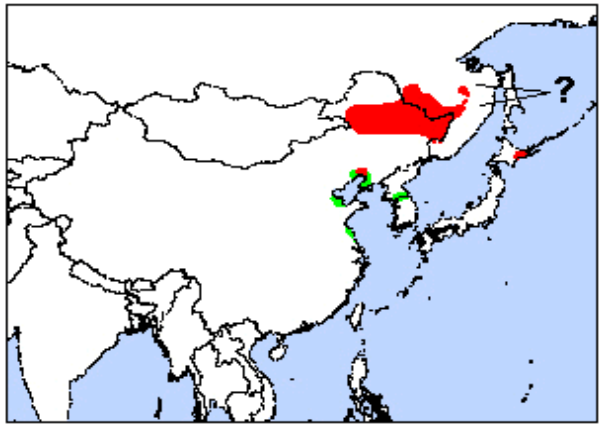
Species name author (Müller, 1776)

Taxonomic source(s) Sibley and Monroe (1990, 1993)

Identification 150 cm. Very large, predominantly white crane. Black face and neck, but with white patch extending from behind eye to nape. Red crown. White primaries and black secondaries and tertials. **Similar spp.** Siberian Crane *G. leucogeranus* and Whooping Crane *G. americana* have black primaries and white necks. Black-necked Crane *G. nigricollis* has grey body. **Voice** High-pitched, penetrating calls.

Population estimate	Population trend	Range estimate (breeding/resident)	Country endemic?
1,650	decreasing	551,000 km²	No

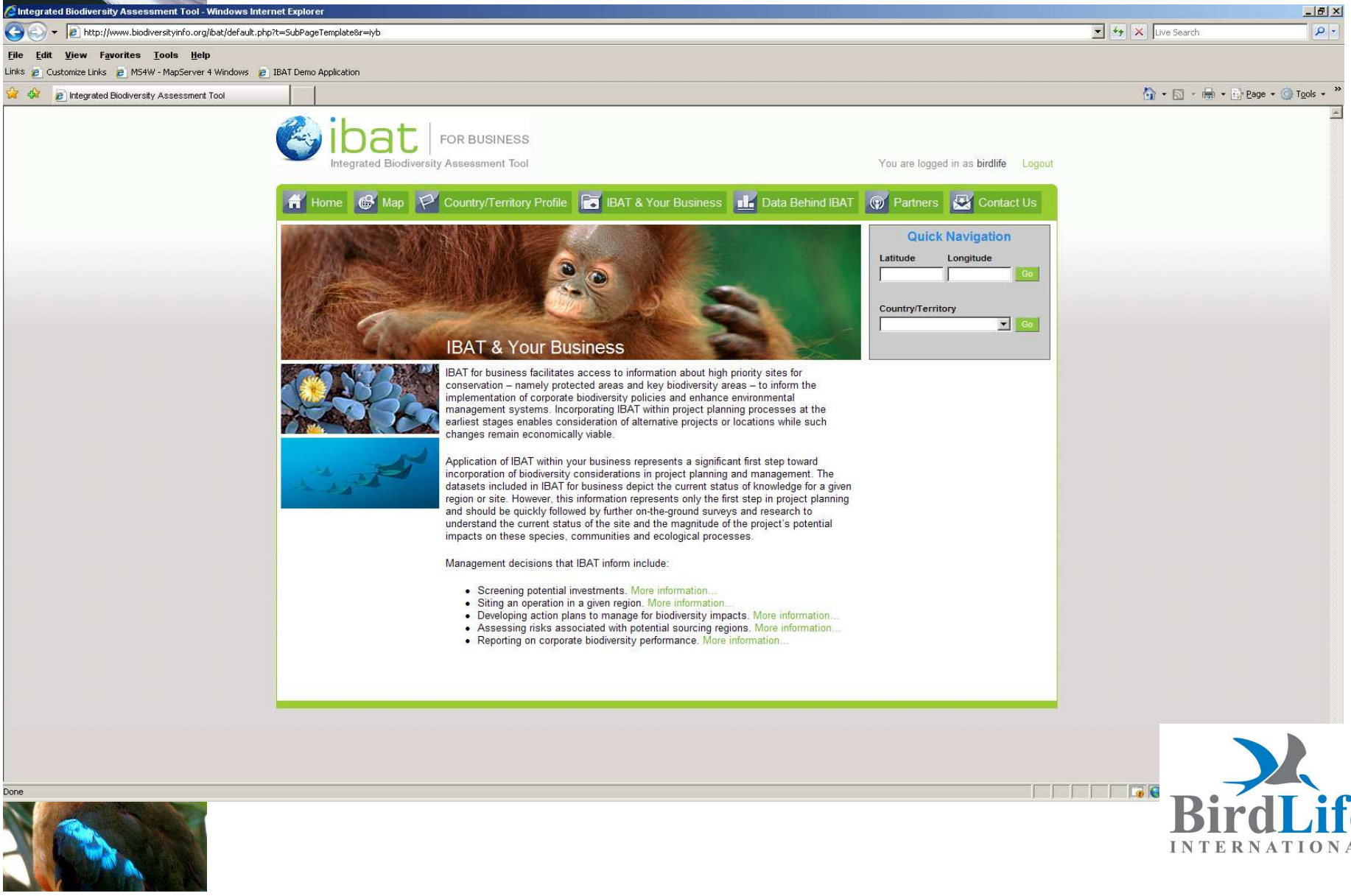
Range & population *Grus japonensis* breeds in south-eastern **Russia**, north-east **China, Mongolia** (first record in 2003[1]) and eastern Hokkaido, **Japan**. The Russian and Chinese populations mainly winter in the Yellow river delta and the coast of Jiangsu province, China, and the Demilitarised Zone, **North Korea/South Korea**. Staging areas exist along the Yellow river between the provinces of Shanxi and Shaanxi. The Japanese population is non-migratory. The population is estimated at c.2,750 birds, although since it has a long generation length (12 years), this figure is likely to include only 1,650 mature individuals[3]. Trends are difficult to infer from population estimates, because due to habitat degradation wintering sites are becoming more concentrated and counts are therefore likely to be becoming more accurate, but it is likely to be declining on mainland Asia[3]. The wintering population in China totals c.1,000 birds and probably declining, with another 600-750 in North/South Korea[3]. The resident population in Japan has increased to c.1,000 birds and has now reached carrying capacity and stabilised[3].



Important Bird Areas Click here to view map showing IBAs where species is recorded and triggers any of the IBA criteria.

Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool

http://www.biodiversityinfo.org/ibat/



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IBAT: some of the spatial data available for Asia

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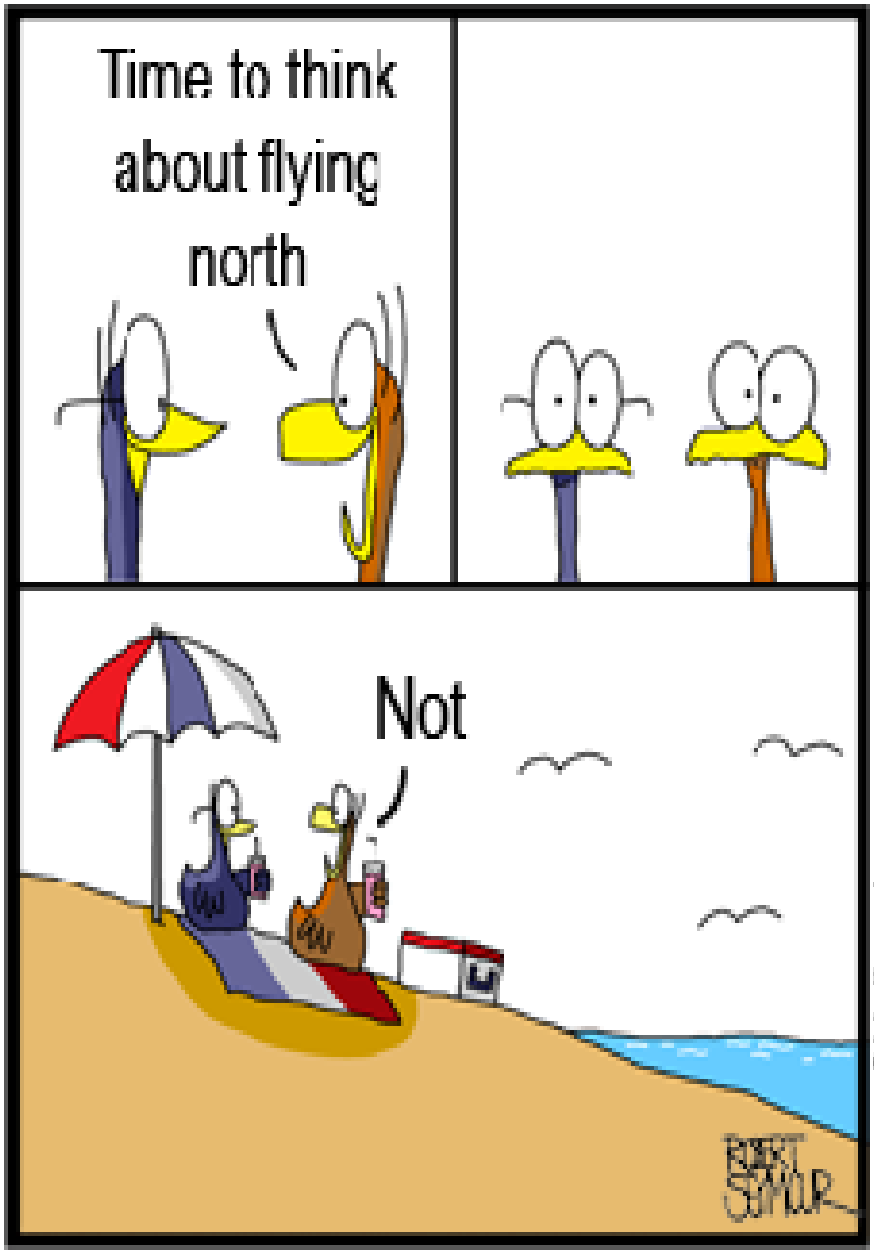
Contact the relevant BirdLife Partner

THAILAND INDIA TAIWAN PHILIPPINES MALAYSIA SINGAPORE JAPAN RUSSIA MYANMAR NEPAL INDONESIA SRI LANKA HONG KONG INDOCHINA



Thank You!

Arigato Istuti

Shukriya

Xie! Xie!

Salamat

Terima kasih

Dhanyabaad

Barkal

Ua tsang

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