

Zones importantes pour la conservation des oiseaux dans le monde

Important Bird Areas of the World

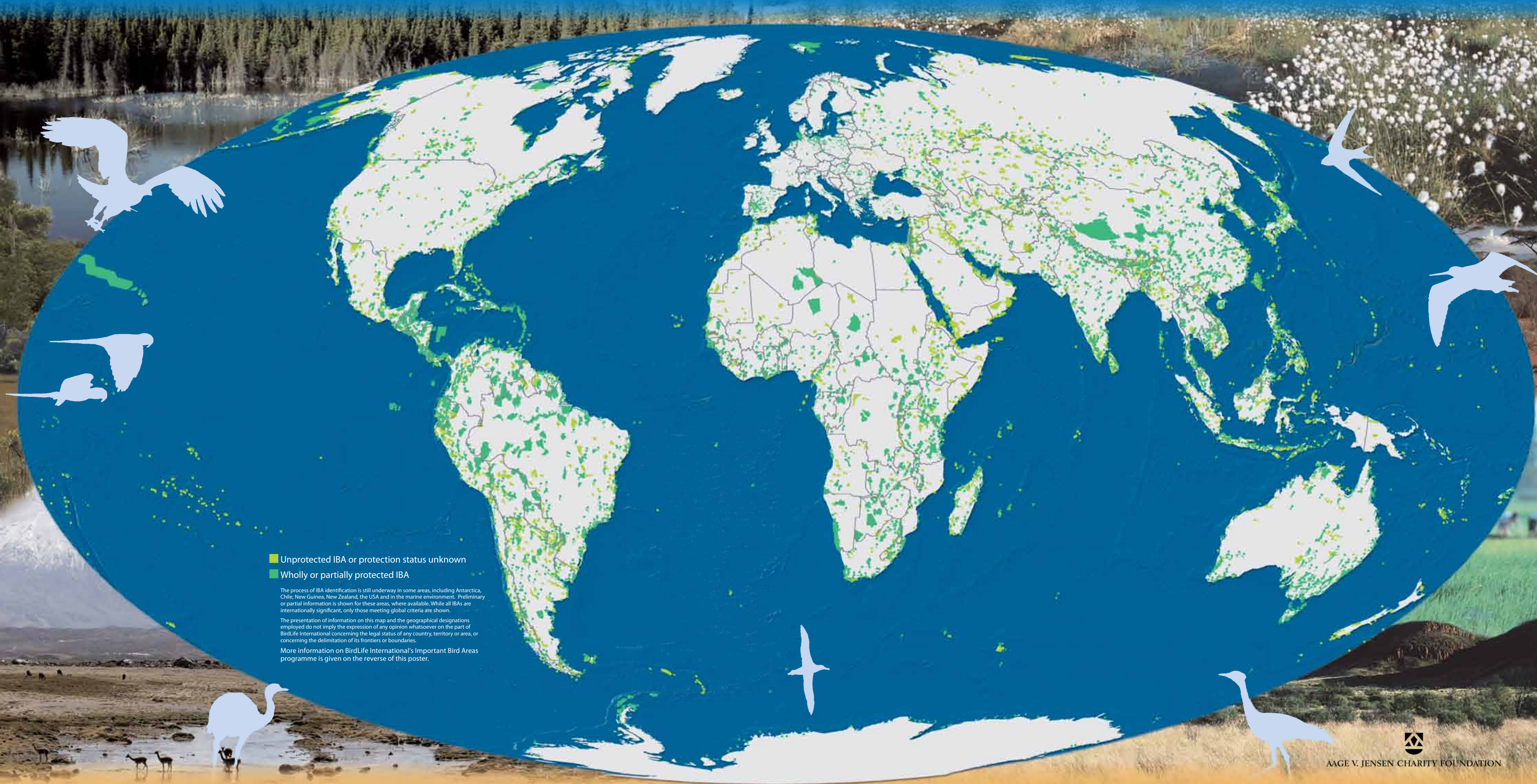
世界上的重點鳥區



Areas Important para la Conservación de las Aves en el mundo

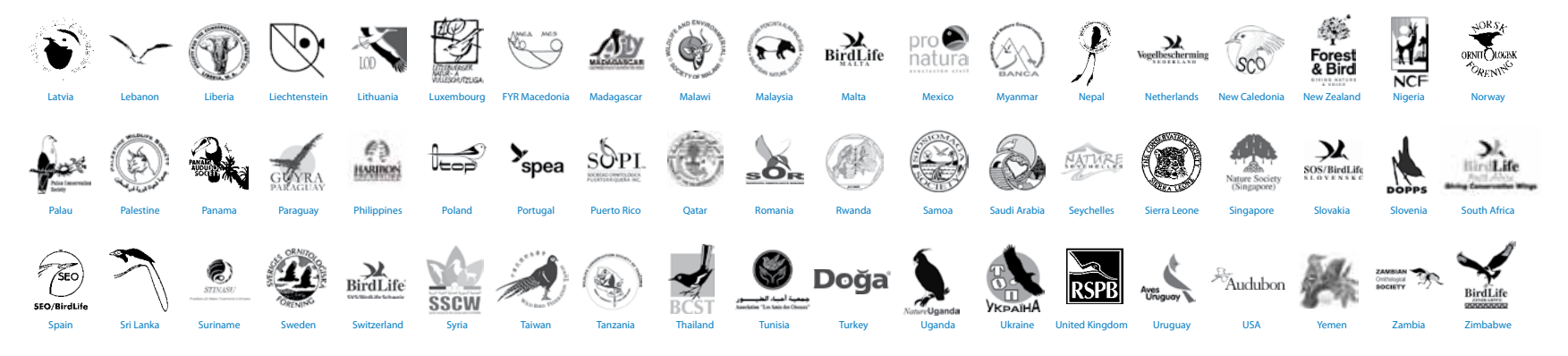
Ключевые орнитологические территории мира

المناطق المهمة للطيور في العالم



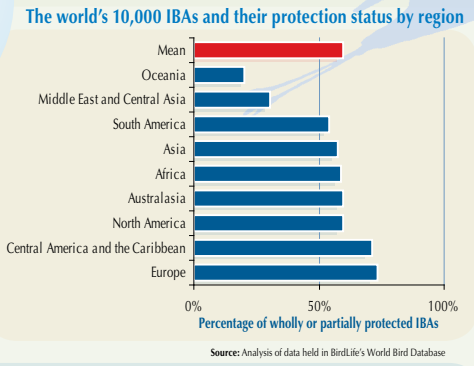
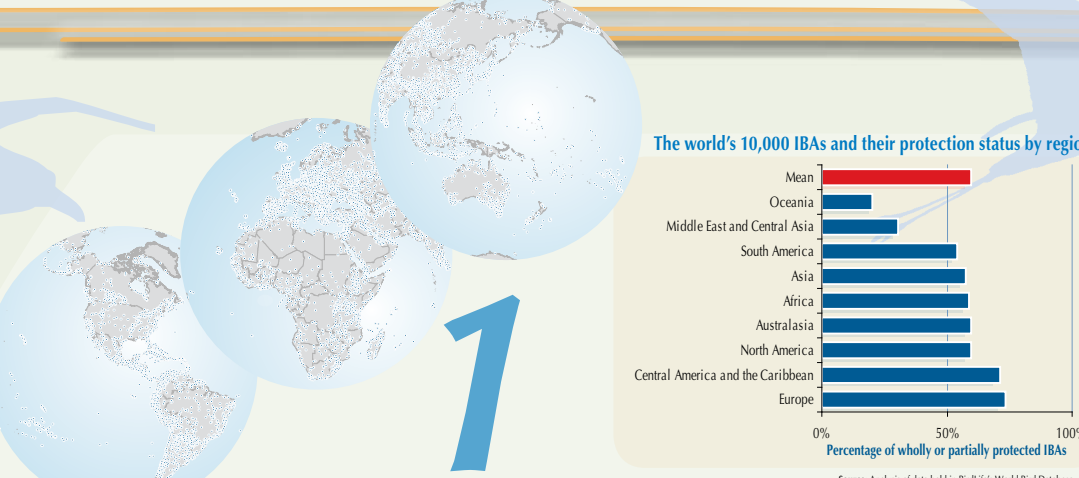
AAGE V. JENSEN CHARITY FOUNDATION

10,000 sites to save    10.000 sites à sauver    10,000 個需要拯救的地方    10.000 sitios para salvar    10,000 территорий подлежат охране    ١٠,٠٠٠ موقع بحاجة للحماية





# Important Bird Areas



**1 ... are the most significant places for conserving birds**

Some places are much more important for birds (and other biodiversity) than others. It is effective to focus conservation effort on these places. For IBAs, the distribution of key bird species defines the key sites—discrete areas of habitat that can be delineated and, at least potentially, managed for conservation. Currently, some 10,000 IBAs have been identified worldwide, with global coverage of terrestrial and freshwater environments nearly complete.

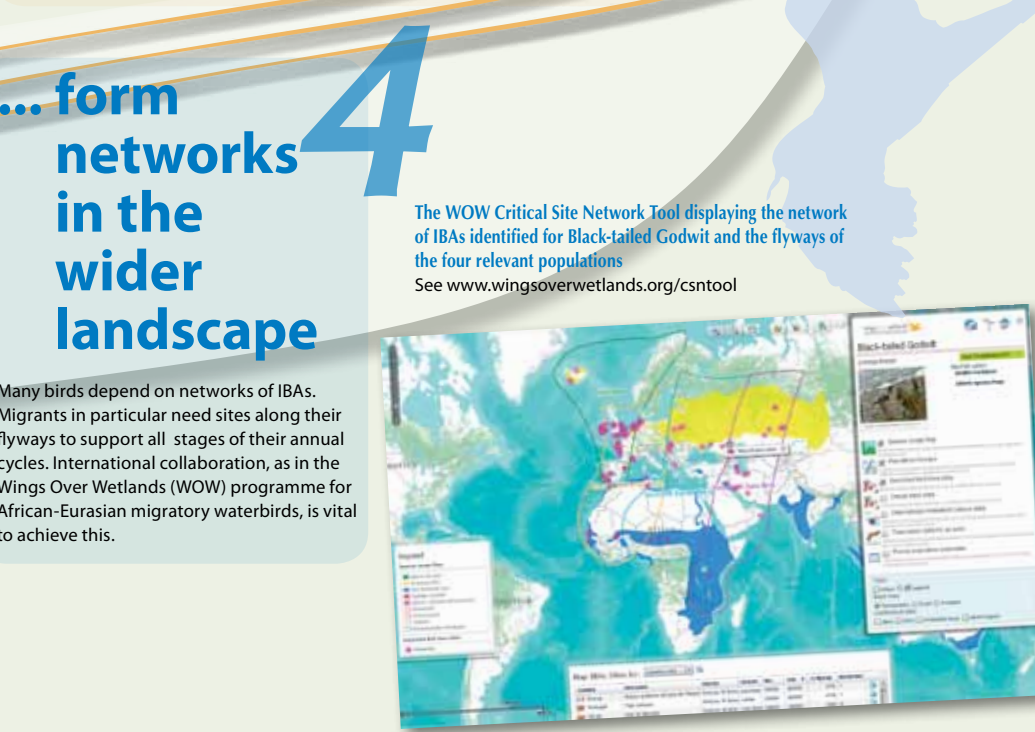
**2 ... are identified using standardised science-based criteria**

Four categories of criteria are used to identify IBAs consistently worldwide. These are based on the two main considerations used in planning site networks for biodiversity conservation: threat (category 1) and irreplaceability (categories 2, 3 & 4).

- 1 Globally threatened species**
- 2 Restricted-range species** (those with breeding ranges smaller than 50,000 km<sup>2</sup>)
- 3 Biome-restricted assemblages** (communities of birds characteristic of a distinct biome)
- 4 Congregations** (large aggregations of one or more species)

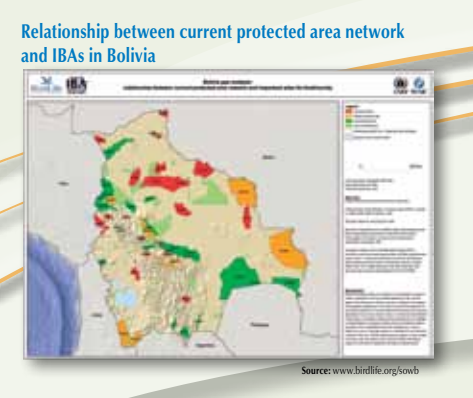
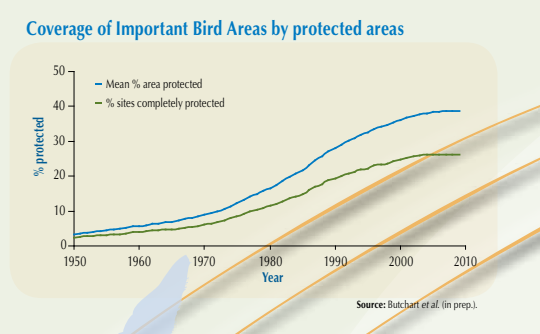
**3 ... are documented through a bottom-up process**

Wherever possible IBA identification and documentation are led by the BirdLife Partner organisation in-country. This feeds the best local knowledge into the process and builds engagement and capacity for conservation and monitoring. By mid-2010, five continental directories and 126 national IBA inventories had been published, in a variety of languages.



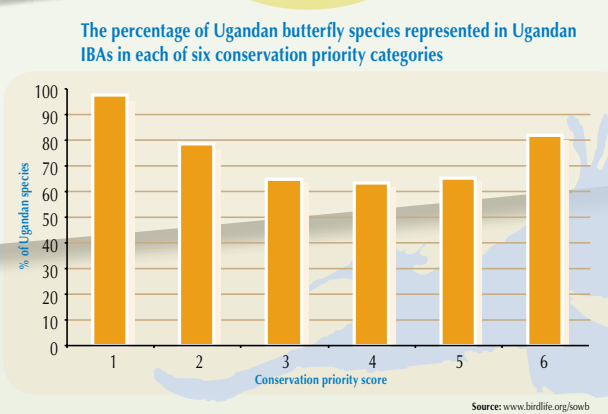
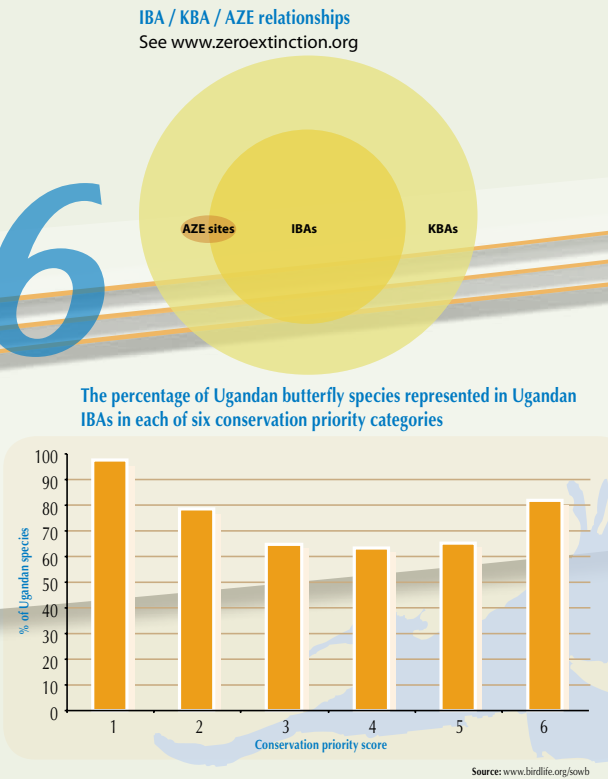
**7 ... highlight gaps in protected area networks**

The Programme of Work on Protected Areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity encourages countries to establish and maintain comprehensive and ecologically representative protected area networks. Combining data on IBAs and existing protected areas highlights some of the most important gaps. Despite recent increases, only some 25% of IBAs are fully legally protected.



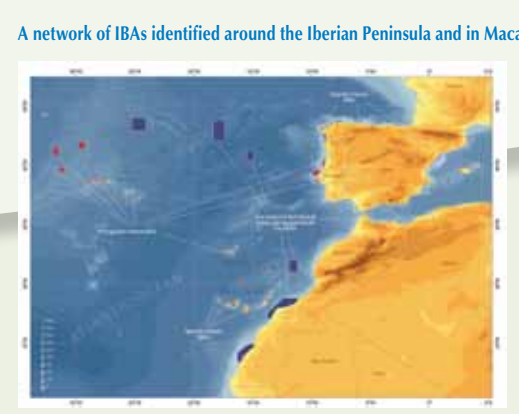
**6 ... support a wealth of other biodiversity**

Evidence shows that IBA networks are disproportionately important for other animals and plants. They are an effective 'first cut' of the overall network of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), the most significant sites for biodiversity conservation worldwide. The highest conservation priorities of all KBAs are the Alliance for Zero Extinction sites (AZEs), those holding the last remaining populations of Critically Endangered or Endangered species. Some 600 AZEs have been identified worldwide, of which more than half are also IBAs.



**5 ... are also being identified across the oceans**

Many seabird breeding sites and significant coastal areas for non-breeding species are already listed as IBAs. Their boundaries are now being extended to include foraging areas, where appropriate. Work is ongoing to identify IBAs (as Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas—EBSAs) in the open oceans.



**4 ... form networks in the wider landscape**

Many birds depend on networks of IBAs. Migrants in particular need sites along their flyways to support all stages of their annual cycles. International collaboration, as in the Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) programme for African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds, is vital to achieve this.



**8 ... facilitate implementation of international agreements**

IBA information is relevant to a number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. For the Ramsar Convention, IBA identification criteria are closely aligned with those used to select wetland sites of international importance. Thus, IBAs that potentially qualify as Ramsar sites, but have yet to be designated, can easily be highlighted.



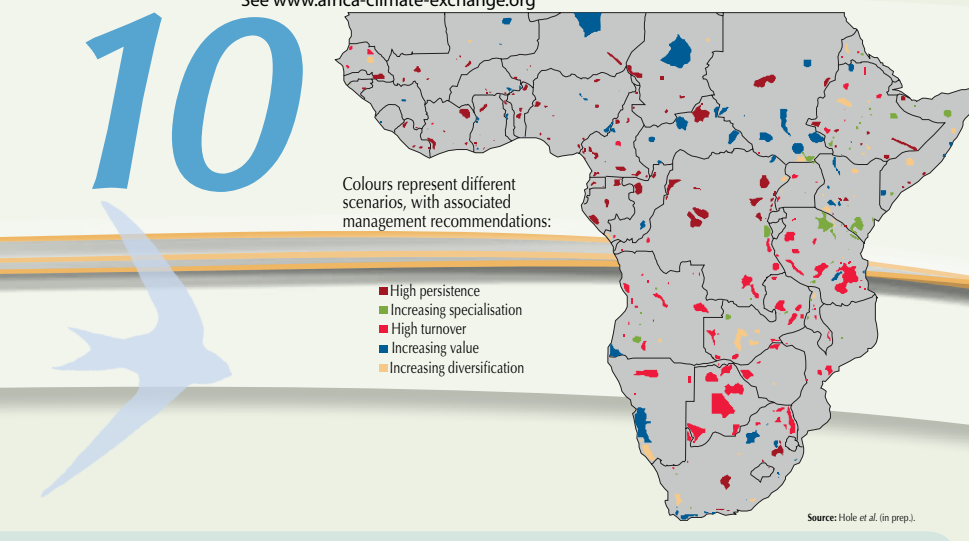
**9 ... inform environmentally responsible development**

The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) provides decision-makers with critical information so that biodiversity considerations can be integrated at the earliest stages of project planning. Spatial information on IBAs is used by IBAT to help inform environmental impact assessments, management plans and business operations.



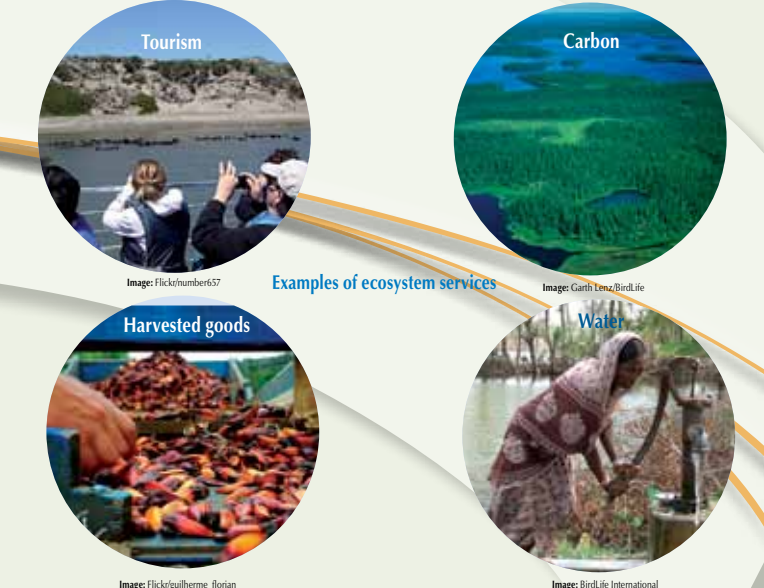
**10 ... enable adaptation to climate change**

Robust measures are needed to maintain biodiversity in the face of climate change. These include efforts to maximise the resilience of ecosystems and facilitate their adaptation to climate change impacts. Modelling such impacts is providing critical insight into likely patterns of enforced changes on the distribution of birds, and so helping to develop adaptive management frameworks for IBAs.

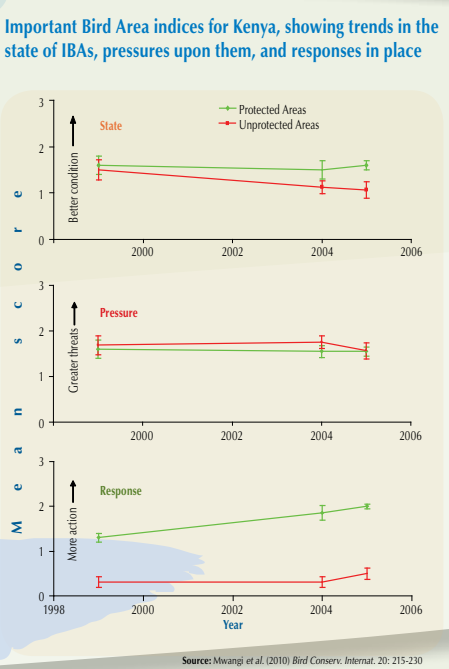


**11 ... provide essential ecosystem services**

IBA conservation maintains biodiversity and ensures sustained flow of numerous ecosystem services to local communities (e.g. harvested wild goods), regionally or nationally (e.g. water) and globally (e.g. carbon sequestration, tourism).

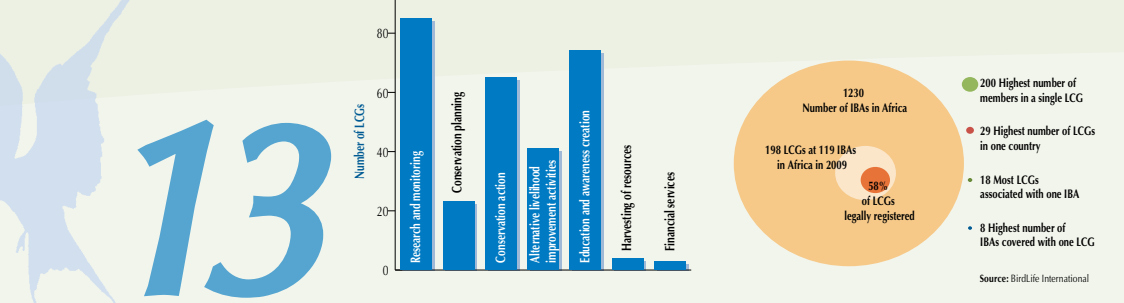


**15 ... are being saved through the conservation efforts of BirdLife working with governments and others worldwide**



**14 ... are monitored to inform policy and action**

IBAs across the world are monitored using BirdLife's standardised and simple methods for scoring their condition (based on the key species and habitats within them), the pressures (threats) that impact them and the conservation responses in place (such as action plans and management activities). Such monitoring, carried out by local groups, volunteers, government staff and BirdLife Partners, generates data for IBA indices that provide powerful tools for quantifying conservation efforts and measuring their impact.



**13 ... are a focus for local engagement in conservation**

Since the late 1990s, BirdLife has been nurturing and networking grassroots groups at IBAs. Numbering over 2,500 worldwide and known as Local Conservation Groups (LCGs), they encourage local participation in conservation and often focus on the most marginalised community members (for example, by formalising land rights for indigenous people, and ensuring that women or members of low status groups are included in decision-making).

**12 ... are vital for livelihoods and wellbeing**

Understanding the consequences of poverty is essential in identifying how biodiversity conservation can improve local livelihoods. BirdLife Partners work with and empower local communities at IBAs to develop site-specific solutions to conservation and development challenges.

