



■ What is BirdLife International?

BirdLife International is a Partnership of non-governmental conservation organisations with a special focus on birds. The BirdLife Partnership works together on shared priorities, policies and programmes of conservation action, exchanging skills, achievements and information, and so growing in ability, authority and influence. Each Partner represents a unique geographic area or territory (most often a country). In addition to Partners, BirdLife has Affiliates and a flexible system of Working Groups (including some bird Specialist Groups shared with Wetlands International and/or the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN)), each with specific roles and responsibilities.

■ What is the purpose of BirdLife International? – Mission Statement

The BirdLife International Partnership strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources.

■ Where is BirdLife International heading? – Vision Statement

Birds are beautiful, inspirational and international. Birds are excellent flagships and vital environmental indicators. By focusing on birds, and the sites and habitats on which they depend, the BirdLife International Partnership is working to improve the quality of life for birds, for other wildlife (biodiversity) and for people.

Aims

BirdLife's long-term aims are to:

- prevent the extinction of any bird species
- maintain and where possible improve the conservation status of all bird species
- conserve and where appropriate improve and enlarge sites and habitats important for birds
- help, through birds, to conserve biodiversity and to improve the quality of people's lives
- integrate bird conservation into sustaining people's livelihoods.

Guiding principles

BirdLife International promotes sustainable living as a means of conserving birds, and all other life forms.

BirdLife Programmes are built through a participatory process of:

- linking Partners to plan policy, programmes and actions and to agree chosen priorities
- using the expertise and resources of Partners in all activities as fully as possible
- dividing programme tasks and responsibilities amongst the Partnership according to their wishes, expertise and capabilities
- sharing skills, experience and information within the Partnership so as to develop the capacity of individual Partners
- providing open access to data on birds and biodiversity to enable better informed decision-making
- democratic governance by the Partners
- working through local communities, organisations and individuals
- integrating bird and biodiversity conservation with social and economic development.

BirdLife International works with all like-minded organisations, national and local governments, decision-makers, landowners and managers, in pursuing bird and biodiversity conservation. The global work of the BirdLife Partnership is funded entirely by voluntary donations.

To find out more about how you could support this work please contact the BirdLife International Secretariat, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, United Kingdom.

Tel: +44 1223 277318 Fax: +44 1223 277200 Email: birdlife@birdlife.org Internet: www.birdlife.org



The BirdLife Conservation Series



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- No. 12 *Birds in Europe: population estimates, trends and conservation status*
- No. 13 *Important Bird Areas in Asia: key sites for conservation*

The *BirdLife Conservation Series* publishes results of the programmes of BirdLife International: up-to-date and authoritative information on the status of birds and their habitats throughout the world, the problems which affect them, and the latest developments in conservation research and management.

With its complementary sister publication, the journal *Bird Conservation International*, the *BirdLife Conservation Series* provides a major outlet for the data of interest to both the general and specialist reader.

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