

Synergies between migratory bird conservation and the conservation of African ecosystems:

experiences from the BirdLife Africa Partnership

Key messages

African birds are threatened

Bird conservation is good for wildlife and people

BirdLife is working with Partners at a flyway scale across Africa



Many African birds are threatened

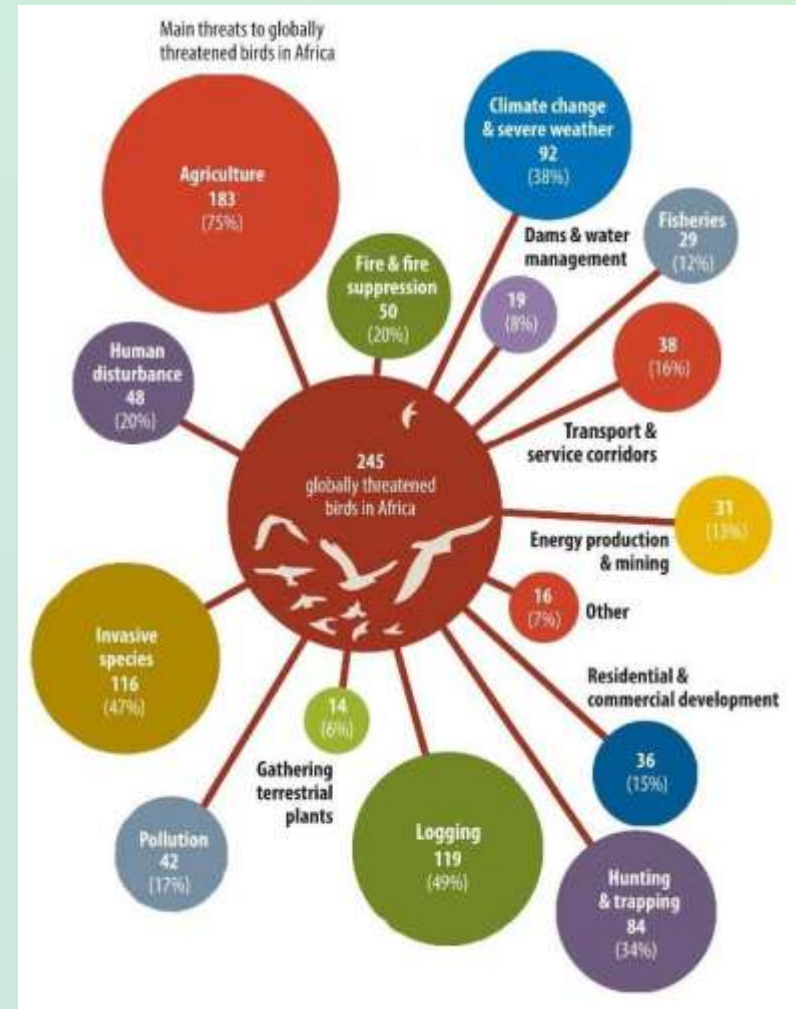
Africa is rich in birds; **2,355** species occurring across the continent

10% of all African birds are globally threatened; more are becoming so every year

> **40%** of migratory birds are declining; nearly **200** are globally threatened

Threats to migrants:

- Habitat destruction and degradation
- Illegal hunting, poisoning and pollution
- Collisions with badly-sited infrastructure like power lines and wind farms



Bird conservation supports wider biodiversity

Monitoring: Bird population status provides a good indication of overall ecosystem health

Site conservation: IBAs significantly overlap with distributions of other wildlife: 87% for mammals (including 79% globally threatened species); 76% for amphibians

Policy mainstreaming: the vast majority of the policies we need to support birds – such as retention of trees in the landscape – also support many other species and habitats

Ecosystem services: birds and their habitats provide services, e.g. seed dispersal, soil conservation, carbon storage, water regulation and quality



Bird conservation is linked to sustainable development

Living on the edge project

- Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Senegal and Nigeria
- An approach that combines **conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity**, including that of migratory birds and their habitats, while **promoting livelihoods, poverty alleviation and increased food security** in the Sahel.



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Creating sustainable livelihoods impacts

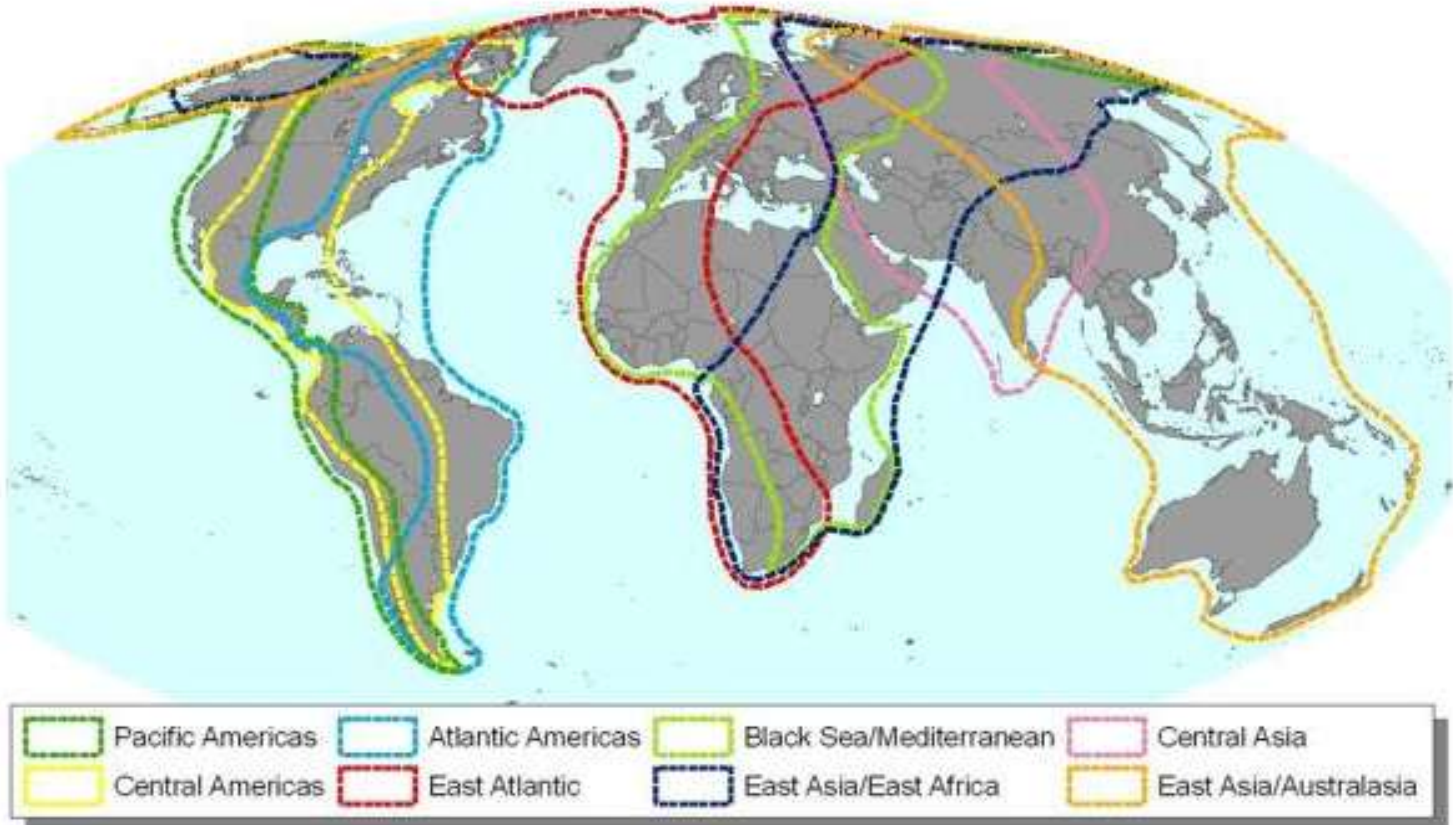
Living on the edge project

- Sustainable fish harvesting and fish farming to reduce hunting of migratory birds, improve diets and increase incomes.
- Protection of arable land and promotion of efficient agriculture.
- Efficient use of fuel wood through energy saving stoves - *reduced desertification, respiratory diseases reduced, more time for economic activities.*



BirdLife Migratory Birds and Flyways programme

Major global flyways for migratory land and waterbirds



Migratory birds programme aims

- Save **flagship globally threatened migratory species**
- To address **landscape-scale barriers** to migration
- To conserve **networks of critical stop-over sites**, through Local Conservation Groups
- To build **capacity** for flyway-scale conservation
- To understand and address the wider **land-use issues** facing migratory birds

We also have eight other global programmes, including Preventing Extinctions and Local Empowerment.



Partners within BirdLife...

- **120** Partners worldwide
- Over 13 million **supporters**
- **63** Partners in the African-Eurasian flyway
- **24** Partners in Africa
- A network with a **wealth of expertise** including with Local Conservation Groups



... And Partners outside BirdLife

- **Private sector** organisations
- **Research** organisations
- Other **NGOs**
- **Conventions** and their instruments
- National **governments**



BirdLife recommendations for the African Wildlife Conservation Strategy

- Tackle **indirect threats**, including habitat loss and inappropriate foreign investment, which will support conservation of all wildlife
- Create a strong link between **conservation and sustainable livelihoods**, so that communities benefit from conservation
- Align the strategy with the **Multilateral Environmental Agreements**, to build on their experience and activities
- **Align relevant EU policies and activities** with the strategy, to ensure cost-effective, joined-up European action for wildlife in Africa



Together we are BirdLife International



The global Partnership for **nature** and people