

# Monitoring Important Bird Areas

Help to monitor IBAs -  
 key sites for biodiversity  
 conservation!

PLEASE:

- ⇒ Answer the questions below.
- ⇒ Give details wherever possible.
- ⇒ Return a completed form once a year if you are resident at a site or a regular visitor, but note that relevant information is helpful, at any time.
- ⇒ Consider making use of sketch maps as an additional means of recording key results, such as the precise location & extent of threat, sightings of key species, extent of particular habitats, routes taken and areas surveyed etc.
- ⇒ Return the completed form to the National IBA Coordinator or equivalent of the BirdLife Partner in your country. For details of BirdLife Partners see [www.birdlife.org/worldwide](http://www.birdlife.org/worldwide) or write to BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK

**PART I. ESSENTIAL INFORMATION** (please use a different form for each site)

Name of the IBA \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Postal address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/fax \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

**What does this form cover?** (tick one box)

(a) the whole IBA

(b) just part of the IBA

If (b), which part/how much of the whole area?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you live at or around the IBA?**

(a) Yes

(b) No

If (b) when did you visit the IBA and for how long?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

what was the reason for your visit(s)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Part II. MONITORING THE IBA

You don't need to answer all the questions or fill in all the tables – please just put down the information that you have available.

### THREATS TO THE IBA ('PRESSURE')

General comments on threats to the site and any changes since your last assessment (if relevant):

In the table opposite and overleaf, please score each threat that is relevant to the important birds at the IBA, based on your observations and information, for Timing, Scope and Severity. In the 'details' column, please explain your scoring and make any other comments. Please note any changes in individual threats since the last assessment. If threats apply only to particular bird species, please say so.

Use the following guidelines to assign scores for Timing, Scope and Severity. The numbers are there to help you score, but are intended as guidance only: you don't need exact measurements to assign a score. For scoring combined threats, Timing, Scope & Severity scores should either be equal to or more than the highest scores for individual threats; scores cannot be less than those allocated to individual threats.

Timing of selected threat	Timing score
Happening now	3
Likely in short term (within 4 years)	2
Likely in long term (beyond 4 years)	1
Past (and unlikely to return) and no longer limiting,	0

Scope of selected threat	Scope score
Whole area/population (>90%)	3
Most of area/population (50-90%)	2
Some of area/population (10-50%)	1
Small area/few individuals (<10%)	0

Severity of selected threat	Severity score
Rapid deterioration (>30% over 10 years or 3 generations whichever is the longer)	3
Moderate deterioration (10–30% over 10 years or 3 generations)	2
Slow deterioration (1–10% over 10 years or 3 generations)	1
No or imperceptible deterioration (<1% over 10 years)	0

#### Notes on threat types

- Agricultural expansion & intensification** Threats from farming and ranching as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, including silviculture, mariculture and aquaculture. Note that wood and pulp plantations includes afforestation, and livestock farming and ranching includes forest grazing. Agricultural pest control and agricultural pollution-specific problems apply to '5. Over-exploitation, persecution & control', and '9. Pollution' respectively.
- Residential & commercial development** Threats from human settlements or other non-agricultural land uses with a substantial footprint; resulting in habitat destruction and degradation, also causing mortality through collision. Note that domestic or industrial pollution-specific problems apply to '9. Pollution'.
- Energy production & mining** Threats from production of non-biological resources; resulting in habitat destruction and degradation, also causing mortality through collision. Note that renewable energy includes windfarms.
- Transportation & service corridors** Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them; resulting in habitat destruction and degradation, disturbance and collision.
- Over-exploitation, persecution & control** Threats from consumptive use of wild biological resources including both deliberate and unintentional harvesting effects; also persecution or control of specific species. Note that hunting includes egg-collecting, gathering includes firewood collection, and logging includes clear cutting, selective logging and charcoal production.
- Human intrusions & disturbance** Threats from human activities that alter, destroy and disturb habitats and species associated with non-consumptive uses of biological resources.
- Natural system modifications** Threats from actions that convert or degrade habitat in service of managing natural or semi-natural systems, often to improve human welfare. Note that 'other ecosystem modifications' includes intensification of forest management, abandonment of managed lands, reduction of land management, and under grazing. 'Dams & water management/use' includes construction and impact of dykes/dams/barrages, filling in of wetlands, groundwater abstraction, drainage, dredging and canalisation.
- Invasive & other problematic species & genes** Threats from non-native and native plants, animals, pathogens and other microbes, or genetic materials that have or are predicted to have harmful effects on biodiversity (through mortality of species or alteration of habitats) following their introduction, spread and/or increase in abundance.
- Pollution** Threats from introduction of exotic and/or excess materials from point and non-point sources causing mortality of species and/or alteration of habitats. Note that domestic and urban waste water includes sewage and run-off; industrial and military effluents includes oils spills and seepage from mining; agricultural and forestry effluents and practices includes nutrient loads, soil erosion, sedimentation, high fertiliser input, excessive use of chemicals and salinisation; and air-borne pollutants includes acid rain.
- Geological events** Threats from catastrophic geological events that have the potential to cause severe damage to habitats and species.
- Climate change & severe weather** Threats from long-term climatic changes which may be linked to global warming and other severe climatic/weather events.

THREAT TYPES	Scores			DETAILS
	Timing	Scope	Severity	
<b>1. Agricultural expansion &amp; intensification</b>				Give details of specific crops, e.g. oil palm, or animals, e.g. cattle, & issue
Annual crops – Shifting agriculture				
– Small-holder farming				
– Agro-industry farming				
Perennial non-timber crops – Small-holder plantations				
– Agro-industry plantations				
Wood & pulp plantations – Small-holder plantations				
– Agro-industry plantations				
Livestock farming & ranching – Nomadic grazing				
– Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming				
– Agro-industry grazing, ranching or farming				
Marine & freshwater aquaculture				
– Subsistence/artisanal aquaculture				
– Industrial aquaculture				
<i>If more than one threat is scored in this section, please also score here their Timing, Scope &amp; Severity in combination</i>				
<b>2. Residential &amp; commercial development</b>				Give details of type of development & issue
Housing & urban areas				
Commercial & industrial areas				
Tourism & recreation areas				
<i>If more than one threat is scored in this section, please also score here their Timing, Scope &amp; Severity in combination</i>				
<b>3. Energy production &amp; mining</b>				Give details of specific resource & issue
Oil & gas drilling				
Mining & quarrying				
Renewable energy				
<i>If more than one threat is scored in this section, please also score here their Timing, Scope &amp; Severity in combination</i>				
<b>4. Transportation &amp; service corridors</b>				Give details of specific type of transport & issue
Roads & railroads				
Utility & service lines				
Shipping lanes				
Flight paths				
<i>If more than one threat is scored in this section, please also score here their Timing, Scope &amp; Severity in combination</i>				
<b>5. Over-exploitation, persecution &amp; control of species</b>				Give details of issue
Direct mortality of 'trigger' species – hunting & trapping				
– persecution/control				
Indirect mortality (bycatch) of 'trigger' species – hunting				
– fishing				
Habitat effects – hunting & trapping				
– gathering plants				
– logging				
– fishing & harvesting aquatic resources				
<i>If more than one threat is scored in this section, please also score here their Timing, Scope &amp; Severity in combination</i>				

THREAT TYPES	Scores			DETAILS
	Timing	Scope	Severity	
<b>6. Human intrusions &amp; disturbance</b>	Give details of specific activity & issue			
Recreational activities				
War, civil unrest & military exercises				
Work & other activities				
<i>If more than one threat is scored in this section, please also score here their Timing, Scope &amp; Severity in combination</i>				
<b>7. Natural system modifications</b>	Give details of the alteration & issue			
Fire & fire suppression				
Dams & water management/use				
Other ecosystem modifications				
<i>If more than one threat is scored in this section, please also score here their Timing, Scope &amp; Severity in combination</i>				
<b>8. Invasive &amp; other problematic species &amp; genes</b>	Give details of the invasive or problematic species & issue			
Invasive alien species				
Problematic native species				
Introduced genetic material				
<i>If more than one threat is scored in this section, please also score here their Timing, Scope &amp; Severity in combination</i>				
<b>9. Pollution</b>	Give details of pollutant, source if known (e.g. agricultural, domestic, industrial) & issue			
Domestic & urban waste water				
Industrial & military effluents				
Agricultural & forestry effluents & practices				
Garbage & solid waste				
Air-borne pollutants				
Noise pollution				
Thermal pollution				
Light pollution				
<i>If more than one threat is scored in this section, please also score here their Timing, Scope &amp; Severity in combination</i>				
<b>10. Geological events</b>	Give details of specific event and issue			
Volcanic eruptions				
Earthquakes/tsunamis				
Avalanches/landslides				
<i>If more than one threat is scored in this section, please also score here their Timing, Scope &amp; Severity in combination</i>				
<b>11. Climate change &amp; severe weather</b>	Give details of specific event and issue			
Habitat shifting & alteration				
Drought				
Temperature extremes				
Storms & floods				
<i>If more than one threat is scored in this section, please also score here their Timing, Scope &amp; Severity in combination</i>				
<b>12. Other</b>	If the threat does not appear to fit in the scheme above, give details here of the threat, its source if known and how it's affecting the IBA			
1.				
2.				
3.				

## CONDITION OF BIRD POPULATIONS AND HABITATS ('STATE')

General comments on condition of the the site and any changes since your last assessment (if relevant):

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If you have **estimates or counts of bird populations**, or other information on the important bird species at the IBA, please summarise these in the table below:

Bird species or groups	Population estimate (state whether individuals or pairs)	Details/other comments

If you have information on the **area** of the natural habitats important for bird populations at the IBA, please summarise it below. Please note any major changes since the last assessment in the 'details' column.

Habitat	Current area if known (include units, e.g. ha, km <sup>2</sup> ) or code <sup>†</sup>	Details/comments/major changes

<sup>†</sup>Habitat area codes: Choose from Good (overall >90% of optimum), Moderate (70–90%), Poor (40–70%) or Very Poor (<40%)

If you do not know the actual habitat area, give your best assessment of the current habitat area at the site, in relation to its potential optimum if the site was undisturbed. The percentages are given as guidelines only: use your best estimate. Please justify your coding in the 'details' column.

If you have information on the **quality** of the natural habitats important for bird populations at the IBA, please summarise it below. Please note any major changes since the last assessment in the 'details' column.

Habitat	Quality rating*	Details/comments/major changes

\*Habitat quality rating: Choose from Good (overall >90% of optimum), Moderate (70-90%), Poor (40-70%) or Very Poor (<40%).

Give your best assessment of the average habitat quality across the site, in terms of its suitability for the important bird species. The percentage ranges relate to the population density of the 'trigger' species in its key habitat. Thus 100% means that the species is at carrying capacity in its habitat. The percentages are given as guidelines only: use your best estimate. Please justify your selection in the 'details' column.

## CONSERVATION ACTIONS TAKEN AT IBA ('RESPONSE')

General comments on actions taken at the site, including recent changes or developments

Please tick the box next to the text that applies for each of conservation designation, management planning and conservation action below. Please add any details and where appropriate give a brief explanation for your choice.

### CONSERVATION DESIGNATION

- Whole area of IBA (>90%) covered by appropriate conservation designation
- Most of IBA (50–90%) covered (including the most critical parts for the important bird species)
- Some of IBA covered (10–49%)
- Little/none of IBA covered (<10%)

Details and explanation \_\_\_\_\_

### MANAGEMENT PLANNING

- A comprehensive and appropriate management plan exists that aims to maintain or improve the populations of qualifying species
- A management plan exists but it is out of date or not comprehensive
- No management plan exists but the management planning process has begun
- No management planning has taken place

Details and explanation \_\_\_\_\_

### CONSERVATION ACTION

- The conservation measures needed for the site are being comprehensively and effectively implemented
- Substantive conservation measures are being implemented but these are not comprehensive and are limited by resources and capacity
- Some limited conservation initiatives are in place (e.g. action by Local Conservation Groups)
- Very little or no conservation action is taking place

Details and explanation \_\_\_\_\_

## PART III. INFORMATION ON PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES

Please record any IBA-Local Conservation Groups (IBA-LCGs) (e.g. SSGs, Caretaker Groups) established at the site in the table below.

IBA-LCG name	Total members	Male members	Female members	Other information

In the table opposite, please indicate the activities undertaken by any CBO, the BirdLife Partner, Government agencies or other organisations or people at the IBA.

#### Notes on action types

- Land/water protection** Actions to identify, establish or expand parks and other legally protected areas.
- Land/water management** Actions directed at conserving or restoring sites, habitats and the wider environment.
- Species management** Actions directed at managing or restoring species, focused on the species of concern itself.
- Education & awareness** Actions directed at people to improve understanding and skills, and influence behaviour
- Law & policy** Actions to develop, change, influence, and help implement formal legislation, regulations (including at the community level), and voluntary standards.
- Livelihood, economic & other incentives** Actions to use economic and other incentives and to influence behaviour.
- External capacity building** Actions to build infrastructure resulting in better conservation, including through civil society development (e.g. enhancing community role in decision-making on natural resource use).

## PART IV. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AT THE IBA

Please indicate the activities taken by the IBA-LCG, CBO, and other organisations/agencies on the table below. This should include current activities, and activities carried out in the last four years.

ACTION TYPES	Action being undertaken by:						DETAILS
	IBA-LCG	Other CBO	BirdLife Partner	Government	Other (specify)		
<b>1. Land/water protection</b>							
Site/area protection							
Resource & habitat protection							
<b>2. Land/water management</b>							
General site/area management							
Invasive/problematic species control							
Habitat & natural process restoration							
<b>3. Species management</b>							
General species management							
Species recovery							
Species (re)introduction							
<b>4. Education &amp; awareness</b>							
Formal education							
Training							
Awareness, publicity & communications							
<b>5. Law &amp; policy</b>							
Public legislation							
Policies and regulations							
Private sector standards & codes							
Compliance, enforcement & policing							
<b>6. Livelihood, economic &amp; other incentives</b>							
Linked enterprises & livelihood alternatives (e.g. ecotourism)							
Substitution (alternative products to reduce pressure)							
Market forces (e.g. certification)							
Conservation payments							
<b>7. Capacity building</b>							
Institutional & civil society development							
Alliance and partnership development							
Conservation finance							
<b>8. Other (e.g. surveys, research, EIAs)</b>							
Non-monetary values (e.g. spiritual, cultural)							
1							
2							
3							

## PART V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please give any further information or details that you think may be helpful. For example • Number of conservation staff and volunteers • Number of visitors • Revenue generated • Interesting bird records • Lists or details of other fauna or flora • Useful contacts (for research or conservation projects, tourism initiatives etc.) • Other notes. Please attach or send more sheets or other documents/reports as necessary.

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*Thank you for taking the time to fill in this form!*



## **The Important Bird Area Programme of BirdLife International**

- ⇒ The function of the Important Bird Area (IBA) Programme is to identify, protect and manage a network of sites that are important for the long-term viability of naturally occurring bird populations, across the geographical range of those bird species for which a site-based approach is appropriate.
- ⇒ The continued ecological integrity of these sites will be decisive in maintaining and conserving such birds. Legal protection, management and monitoring of these crucial sites will all be important targets for action, and many (but not all) bird species may be effectively conserved by these means. Patterns of bird distribution are such that, in most cases, it is possible to select sites that support many species.
- ⇒ The IBA Programme is global in scale and more than 10,000 IBAs have already been identified world-wide, using standard, internationally recognised criteria for selection.
- ⇒ The sites are identified on the basis of the bird numbers and species' complements that they hold, and are selected such that, taken together, they form a network throughout the species' biogeographic distributions.
- ⇒ This network may be considered as a minimum essential to ensure the survival of these species across their ranges, should there occur a net loss of remaining habitat elsewhere through human, or other, modification. Therefore, the consequences of the loss of any one of these sites may be disproportionately large.
- ⇒ The programme aims to guide the implementation of national conservation strategies, through the promotion and development of national protected-area programmes. It is also intended to assist the conservation activities of international organisations and to promote the implementation of global agreements and regional measures.



**[www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org)**

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