Protecting threatened birds

Title

Species recovery plans

Action for threatened species in Europe

Because species extinction is irreversible it is in the core of conservation practice as one of the most obvious dimensions of biodiversity loss. BirdLife tries to prevent species extinction by lobbying for a wide range of legislation and implementation, species recovery plans, funding for action and the protection of sites and ecosystems.

The aim of recovery plans is to ensure that through international cooperation coordinated action can be taken by multiple countries and stakeholders. In Europe and Central Asia recovery plans are produced and adopted by the European Commission and international conventions (AEWA, CMS, Bern). Ideally recovery plans should be known and used by all stakeholders whose actions may affect the status and conservation of the species or the habitat it uses. The translation and implementation of the international plans into national or regional plans and actions for conservation are a crucial aspect of a successful species recovery plan.

BirdLife Partners and the secretariat are involved in the scientific work for many of the threatened species as well as in the promotion and implementation of the plans. An overview of the species recovery plans adopted by the EC can be found here : http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/index_en.htm

Funding for action - BirdLife Preventing Extinctions Programme

In September 2008 BirdLife launched an ambitious programme to counteract the diverse array of threats to birds by delivering conservation actions – underpinned by science – where they are most needed. The programme is implemented globally by the BirdLife Partnership, with some Partners focused on implementing action; others more on fundraising. Two communities play a central part in the programme: BirdLife Species Guardians – experts who take the lead in conserving threatened species in their country; and BirdLife Species Champions – organisations or individuals who raise awareness of and fund the vital conservation that is so urgently required.

In Europe and Central Asia, Partners and Species Champions are getting tangible conservation conservation action ongoing for several of the threatened seabirds, Azores Bullfinch and Sociable Lapwing: [link to pages on PEP international website]

- Azores Bullfinch – habitat restoration and monitoring
- Balearic Shearwater – monitoring of colonies and feeding areas
- Sociable Lapwing – research and monitoring
- Zino’s Petrel – breeding colony restored after fire and breeding success improved