



# BirdLife's Climate Change Programme

Supporting an equitable, carbon-neutral, nature-positive future

## Addressing climate change: why biodiversity matters

Climate change is a major threat to people and to the ecosystems upon which we all depend. As highlighted in the latest intergovernmental science-to-policy reports (e.g. IPBES, 2019), the climate impacts on biodiversity are multiple and already being felt, affecting species distributions and the composition of ecological communities, spreading invasive alien species and fragmenting habitats. This is undermining the supply of vital ecosystem services – such as food and clean water – and reduces our ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change. But biodiversity is also part of the solution, with great potential for nature-based solutions to help us mitigate and adapt to climate change.

## BirdLife International Climate Change Programme

Since 2010, BirdLife's Climate Change Programme has been delivering high impact scientific research, policy advocacy and project support on the ground to enhance synergies between climate action and biodiversity conservation. Through BirdLife's unique Partnership, we work across every level, from grassroots projects to national and global level decision-making, towards a healthier planet. Our priorities include:

- 1. Measuring the climate change impacts on biodiversity and birds:** BirdLife is involved in a suite of scientific collaborations to assess the severity of threat posed by climate change to different species and their natural habitats. Using the latest modelling, BirdLife has developed global syntheses mapping changes in the composition of the world's bird communities and areas of high biodiversity and carbon values to prioritise conservation efforts and advise climate change responses.
- 2. Promoting and delivering biodiversity-inclusive nature-based solutions:** Nature-based solutions can help people and ecosystems adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change while simultaneously protecting, sustainably managing, and restoring biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and associated ecosystem services. The BirdLife Partnership has extensive experience of conserving and managing forests, wetlands and other Key Biodiversity Areas in different parts of the world and supports Partners to scope and implement biodiversity-inclusive nature-based solutions that increase ecosystems' ability to regulate future climate change and support the rights and role of Indigenous People and local communities in conservation.
- 3. Supporting renewable energy solutions that do not harm biodiversity:** Sustainable renewable energy sources are critical for combatting climate change. However, we must make sure that the expansion of renewable energy doesn't lead to further biodiversity loss or ecosystem damage. Through the Climate Change Programme and other relevant initiatives (e.g. see below), BirdLife is involved in a range of activities that aim to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem considerations in renewable energy decisions. BirdLife has also developed the tools, guidance, knowledge-sharing platforms and experience to demonstrate that it is possible to site and operate renewables so that they avoid and mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity.
- 4. Empowering national partners and local voices in the global climate policy arena:** As an accredited observer of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), BirdLife attends all major UNFCCC meetings to share scientific expertise and advocate for the explicit integration of biodiversity in actions to address climate change. Through the delivery of policy positions and local success stories, we support Partners to work with their governments in the raising of national ambition and action through the protection and restoration of forests and other carbon dense ecosystems.

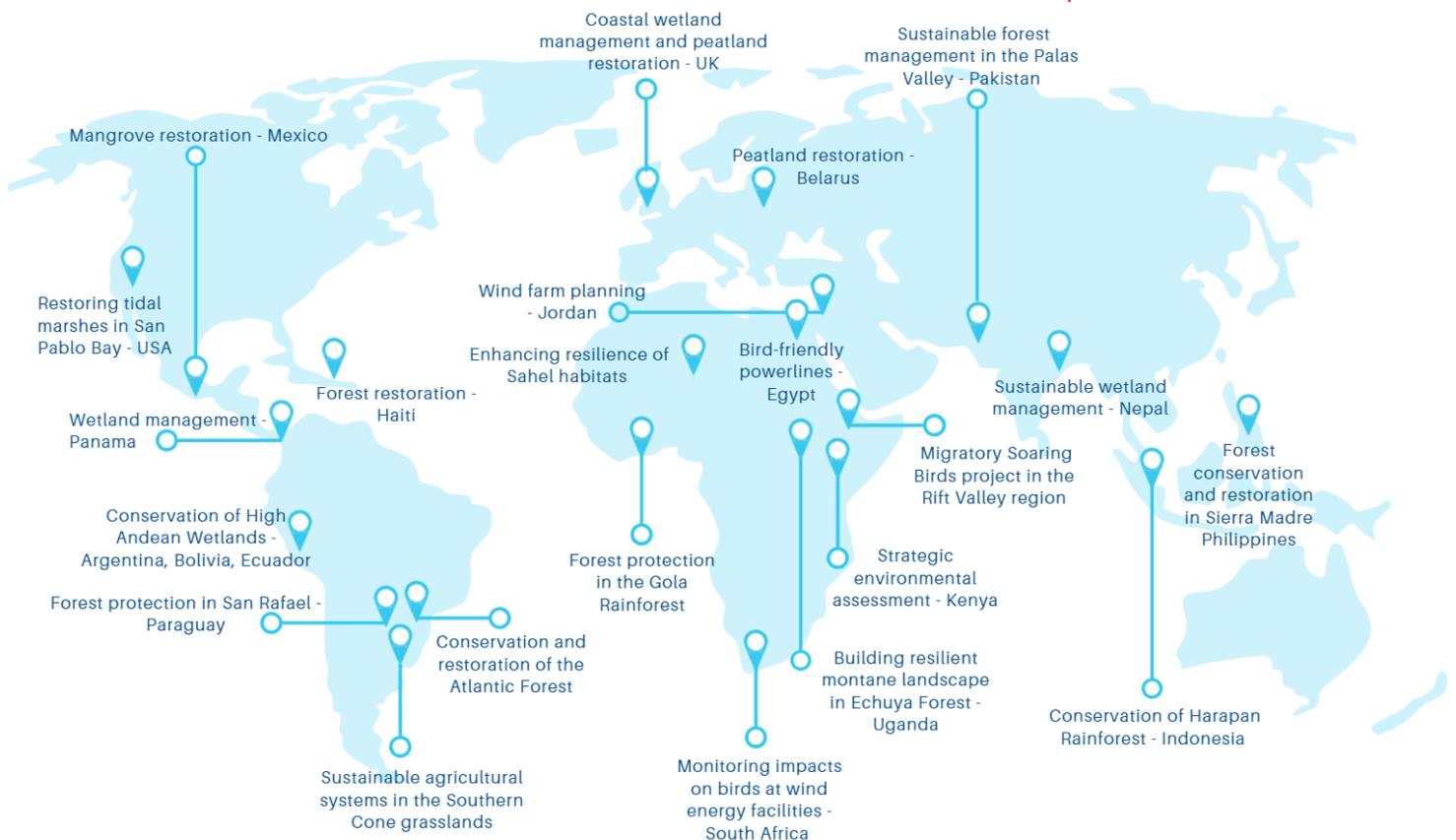
**BirdLife International is the world's largest nature conservation partnership, with 115 partners. Through our unique local-to-global approach, we deliver high impact and long term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.**

**For more information, see [www.birdlife.org/post2020](http://www.birdlife.org/post2020) or contact:**

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## Global vision, local action: some achievements to date

The Climate Change Programme policy and science work has positioned BirdLife International and its Partners as experts in delivering biodiversity-inclusive nature-based solutions and nature-sensitive renewable energy development. The map below gives a flavour of BirdLife Partners' transformative projects on the ground.



## How we work

### Applying world-leading science: Spotlight on spatial mapping for nature, climate and development

Our unrivalled science and Partner experience inform policy and practice. BirdLife and its Partners are [mapping](#) nature (including [Key Biodiversity Areas](#)), carbon and other ecosystem services at local, national, regional and global scale to help governments and other stakeholders identify priority areas for the protection, restoration and sustainable management of priority ecosystems to enhance biodiversity at the same time as providing climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction. In parallel, our [sensitivity mapping](#) is guiding the placement of renewable energy infrastructure to minimise impacts on biodiversity. Together such tools can guide national spatial planning to support global nature, climate and sustainable development goals.

### In partnerships: Spotlight on the CMS Energy Task Force

Our collaborations extend beyond our own Partnership. Established in 2016 and coordinated by BirdLife, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) [Energy Task Force](#) (ETF) – a multi-stakeholder platform that unites governments, multilateral environmental agreements, investors, NGOs and the private sector – works to reconcile renewable energy development with the conservation of migratory species and wider biodiversity. The ETF facilitates the development of guidance and tools for sustainably deploying and retrofitting renewable energy infrastructure and powerlines, shares knowledge and best practice, and addresses knowledge gaps through research.

### At landscape-scale: Spotlight on the Greater Gola Landscape, Sierra Leone and Liberia

In order to ensure long-term resilience, we need to work with stakeholders across landscapes, which may transcend national borders. Extensive tree cover loss in the Gola rainforest is putting the landscape's unique biodiversity and local communities under significant pressure. BirdLife Partners RSPB (BirdLife in the UK), the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL) and the Society for Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL) are working with governments and local communities across this transboundary landscape, delivering nature-based solutions to climate change, supporting people's livelihoods and protecting nature at ecologically relevant scale.