



# Together for Birds and People

Conserving threatened birds through the  
maintenance of socio-cultural landscapes

The First Global Conference of the IPSI  
Public Forum: On the Ground Activities

BirdLife International

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Our mission is to:

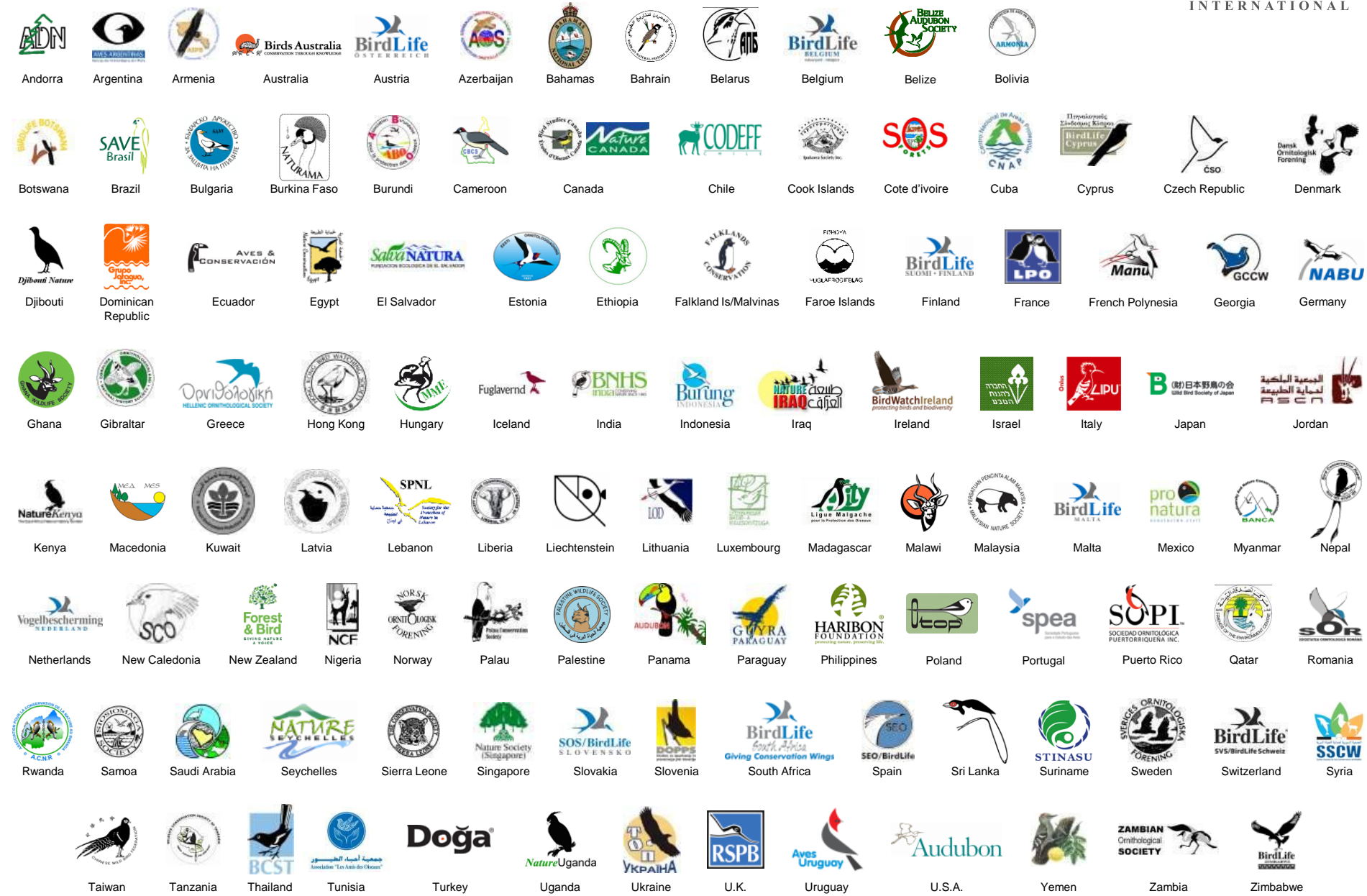
Conserve wild birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, by working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources



# Birds: Indicators of biodiversity, environment, sustainability



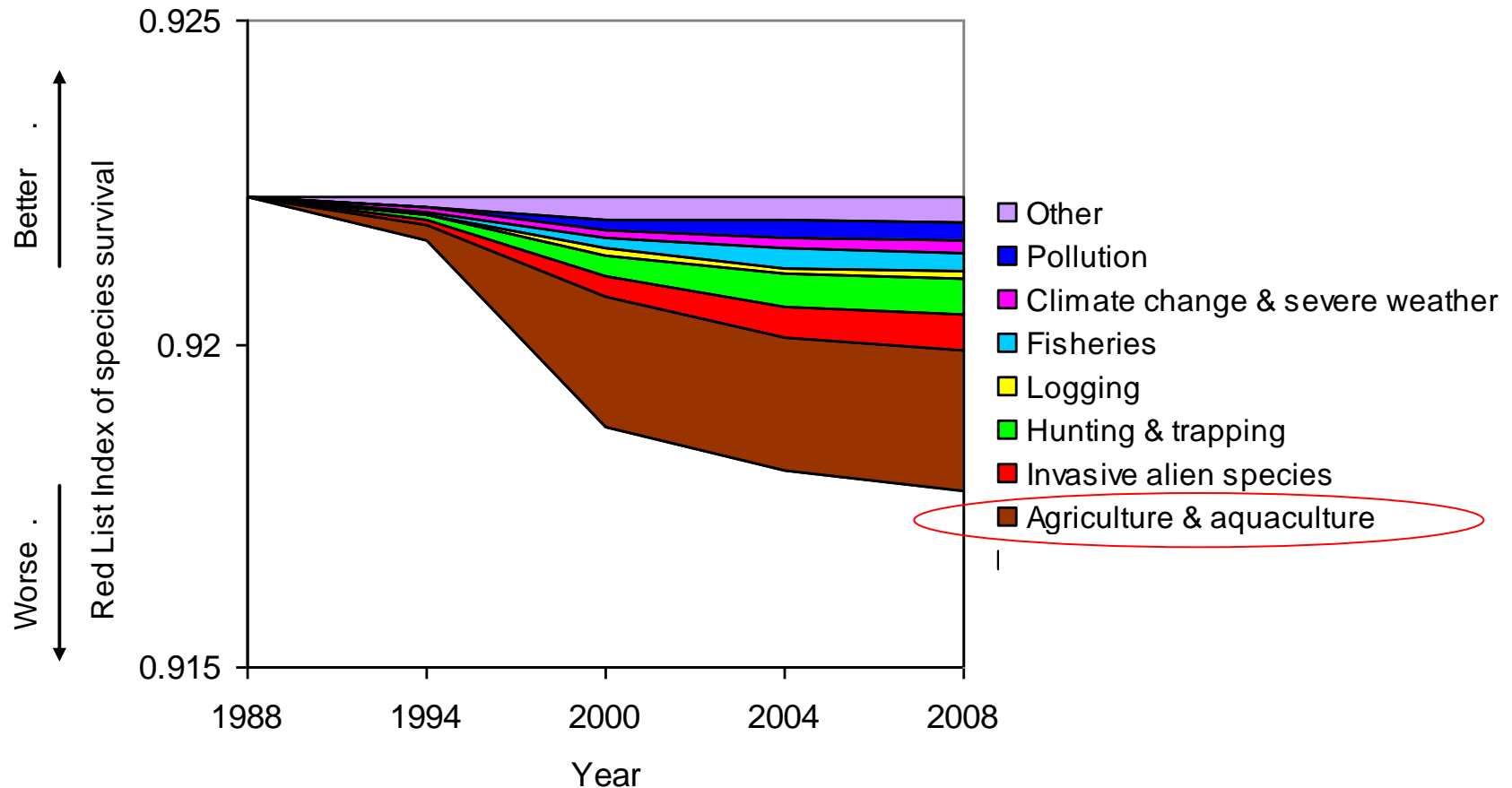
# BirdLife is : The world's largest alliance of conservation NGOs active in 113 countries / territories



BirdLife is indigenous and grass roots  
A world wide constituency  
> 2.3 million members, 10 million supporters



# What are the main threats driving species to higher categories of extinction risk?



# Example 1:

## Pampas grasslands in the Americas

- The grasslands of the Southern Cone of South America - Argentina, Uruguay, Rio Grande do Sul state (Brazil) and southern Paraguay
- Unique and globally significant concentration of grassland biodiversity
- Cattle ranching in natural grasslands important to long-term conservation
- Threat: recent intensification of agricultural production
- Cattle ranching in natural grasslands important to long-term conservation
- BirdLife and Partners: Alliance initiative for the conservation of the grasslands (e.g. increase value of beef by guaranteeing and certifying products)



# Example 2:

## ***Dehesa* cork oak in Europe**

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- ***Dehesa* (in Portugal) -biodiversity-rich agro-ecosystems in Europe**
  - **Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*); Black vulture (*Aegypius monachus*); Spanish imperial eagle (*Aquila adalberti*)**
  - **Production of cork has been keeping the forest rich in biodiversity; however, recent replacement of cork with plastic used in wine bottles has thrown the sustainable system into crisis**
  - **70 percent of cork revenues from wine industry**
  - **UK - world's biggest importer of wine**
  - **RSPB (BirdLife in UK): public awareness campaigns to educate wine industry and consumers about cork's role in preserving wildlife**



# Example 3:

## Wet grasslands in Cambodia

- Western Siem Pang forest, with a characteristic wet meadow and pool (trapeang), of critical importance for some of the rarest species
- 5 globally critically endangered birds including White-shouldered Ibis (*Pseudibis davisoni*) - a dramatic decline owing to the widespread and ongoing conversion of their habitats for plantation
- People traditionally graze their cattle and buffaloes at the trapeangs, keeping grasses short and maintaining the trapeangs wet
- BirdLife and Partners' initiative for the conservation of the trapeangs (e.g. promote the designation of Western Siem Pang as "Protected Forest")

# Example 4: Kinangop grasslands in Kenya, Africa



- **Sharpe's Long claw (*Macronyx sharpie*) - globally threatened grassland-specialist bird – prefers short grassland interspersed with dense tussocks**
- **People traditionally coexisted with the antelopes that kept the grassland as ideal habitat for the claw**
- **Threat: heavy grazing of the land by cattle and the disappearance of tussocks**
- **BirdLife Partners' initiative for the conservation of the grasslands by replacing cattle with sheep to protect the grassland**

Thank you



**WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR BIRDS AND PEOPLE**

*Delivering solutions for our changing world*

