

## Birds in Europe 3: aims, impacts and delivery via 'European Red List of Birds'



Ian Burfield

European Science & Data Manager, BirdLife International

Birds in Europe 3 kick-off meeting

Mikulov, Czech Republic, 9 February 2012

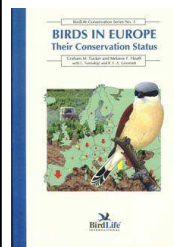
## Talk structure and contents

- Aims of this meeting
- Previous status assessments
- Impacts on knowledge
- Impacts on conservation
- Impacts on science and policy
- Why BiE3? Why now?
- Implementation and delivery
- Consortium members and roles
- Conclusions

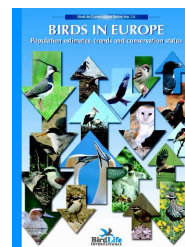
## Aims of this meeting

- Launch
- Introduce
- Inform
- Engage
- Discuss
- Clarify
- Standardise
- Harmonise
- Synergise
- Network
- Collaborate
- Enthuse

## Previous status assessments



BiE1 - 1994  
(1970-1990)

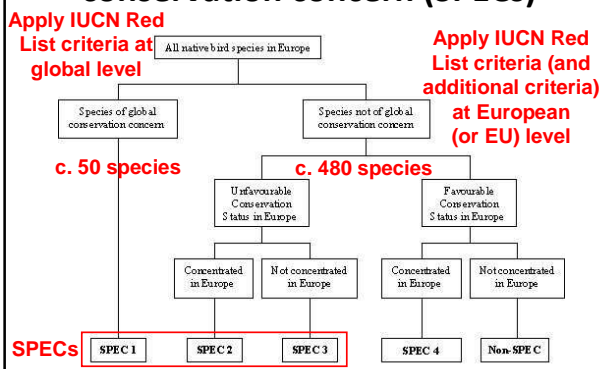


BiE2 - 2004  
(1990-2000)



BiEU - 2004  
(1990-2000)

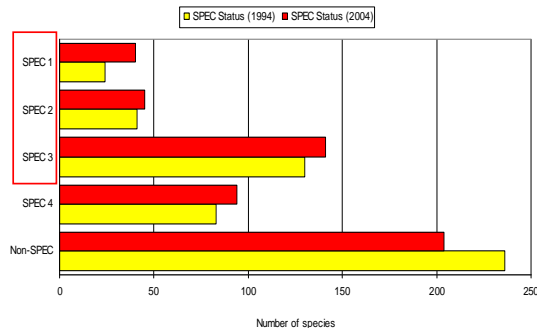
## Identifying species of European conservation concern (SPECs)



## Impacts on knowledge

### Impacts on knowledge

BiE1 (1994): 195 species (38%) SPEC 1-3  
BiE2 (2004): 226 species (43%) SPEC 1-3



### Impacts on knowledge

#### 'Winners' between BiE1 and BiE2

- Status of 14 species improved during 1990s
- Several seabirds, raptors and waterbirds recovered from earlier declines/persecution



### Impacts on knowledge



#### 'Losers' between BiE1 and BiE2

- Status of 45 species deteriorated during 1990s
- Many farmland birds, waders and raptors declined
- Many long-distance migrants declined rapidly

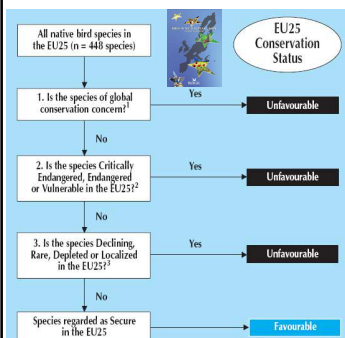


### Impacts on knowledge

#### Additions to global Red List of threatened species

<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	NT (VU?)	
<i>Milvus milvus</i>	NT	
<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	EN	
<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	NT	
<i>Limosa limosa</i>	NT	
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	NT	
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	NT	
<i>Chersophilus duponti</i>	NT	
<i>Sylvia undata</i>	NT	
<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>	NT	
<i>Sitta krueperi</i>	NT	

### Same criteria applied to subset of data at EU (25) scale in 'Birds in the EU' (2004)



- 216 species (48%) in 'poor condition'
- Used to set a new bird sub-target under Target 1 (Nature) of EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy:
- "By 2020, 50% more species show a secure or improved status"
- By 2020, c. 80% of birds in 'good condition'

### Impacts on conservation

## Impacts on conservation

### 1. Species Action Plans (SAPs) for threatened species



## Impacts on conservation

### 2. Priority EU LIFE funding for threatened species

<i>Accipiter gentilis arrigonii</i>	<i>Columba palumbus azorica</i>	<i>Loxia scotica</i>
<i>Accipiter nisus granti</i>	<i>Columba trocaz</i>	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>
<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	<i>Crex crex</i>	<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>
<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	<i>Otis tarda</i>
<i>Alectoris graeca whitakeri</i>	<i>Dendrocopus major canariensis</i>	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>
<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	<i>Dendrocopus major thanneri</i>	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>
<i>Anser erythropus</i>	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	<i>Perdix perdix italica</i>
<i>Aquila adalberti</i>	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>
<i>Aquila clanga</i>	<i>Falco eleonorae</i>	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>
<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>
<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	<i>Pterodroma feae</i>
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	<i>Fringilla teydea</i>	<i>Pterodroma madeira</i>
<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	<i>Puffinus puffinus mauretanicus</i>
<i>Chlamydotis undulata</i>	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	<i>Pyrrhula murina</i>
<i>Columba bollii</i>	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>
<i>Columba junoniae</i>	<i>Larus audouinii</i>	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>

## Impacts on conservation

### 2. Priority EU LIFE funding for threatened species

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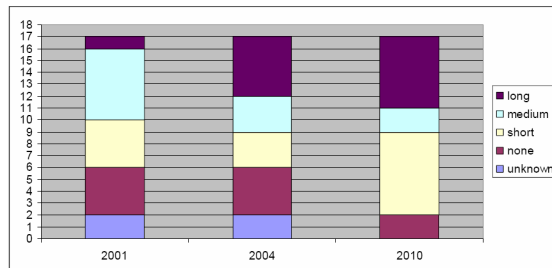
## Impacts on conservation

### 3. Well-implemented action for threatened species



## Impacts on conservation

### 3. Well-implemented action for threatened species



Number of globally threatened and near-threatened species for which SAP recovery targets were met 2001-2010 (n = 17)

## Impacts on conservation

### 4. Lower extinction risk of many threatened species

- Pterodroma madeira* CR → EN
- Phalacrocorax pygmeus* NT → LC
- Aythya nyroca* VU → NT
- Haliaeetus albicilla* NT → LC
- Falco naumanni* VU → LC
- Crex crex* VU → LC
- Columba trocaz* NT → LC
- Columba bollii* VU → LC
- Columba junoniae* EN → NT
- Saxicola dacotiae* EN → NT
- Pyrrhula murina* CR → EN



## Impacts on conservation

### 5. Management Plans for declining huntable species

- *Anas acuta*
- *Netta rufina*
- *Aythya marila*
- *Melanitta fusca*
- *Coturnix coturnix*
- *Vanellus vanellus*
- *Pluvialis apricaria*
- *Numenius arquata*
- *Limosa limosa*
- *Tringa totanus*
- *Larus canus*
- *Streptopelia turtur*
- *Alauda arvensis*

EN?

NT

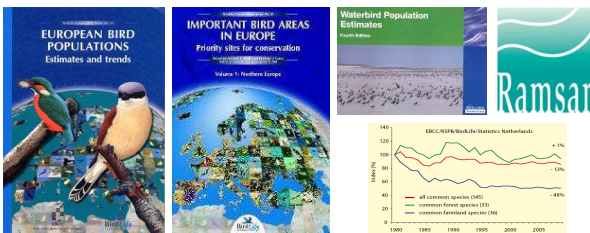
NT



## Impacts on science and policy

## Impacts on science and policy

- The best available data on European bird populations
- The core basis of IBA criteria thresholds, and thus SPAs
- Major input to 1% thresholds, and thus Ramsar sites
- Weighting in PECBMS indices, and many other analyses



doi:10.1098/rspb.2000.1325

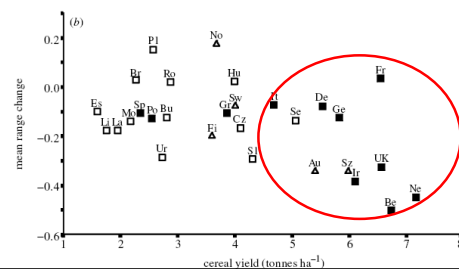
## Agricultural intensification and the collapse of Europe's farmland bird populations

P. F. Donald<sup>1</sup>\*, R. E. Green<sup>1,2</sup> and M. F. Heath<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK

<sup>2</sup>Conservation Biology Group, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EJ, UK

<sup>3</sup>BirdLife International, Willbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK



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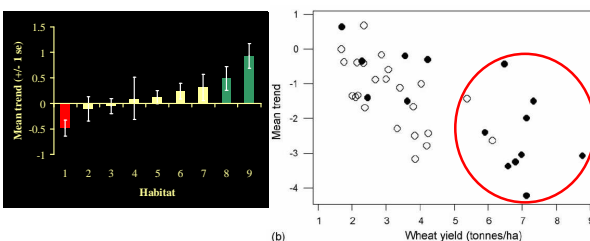
www.elsevier.com/locate/agrue

## Further evidence of continent-wide impacts of agricultural intensification on European farmland birds, 1990–2000

Paul F. Donald<sup>a,b</sup>, Fiona J. Sanderson<sup>a</sup>, Ian J. Burfield<sup>b</sup>, Frans P.J. van Bommel<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK

<sup>b</sup>BirdLife International European Division, Droevendaalsesteeg 3, P.O. Box 127, 6700 AC Wageningen, The Netherlands



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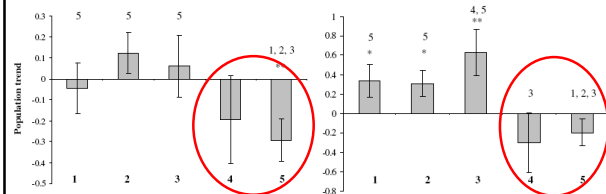


## Long-term population declines in Afro-Palearctic migrant birds

Fiona J. Sanderson<sup>a,b</sup>, Paul F. Donald<sup>a</sup>, Deborah J. Pain<sup>a</sup>, Ian J. Burfield<sup>b</sup>, Frans P.J. van Bommel<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK

<sup>b</sup>BirdLife International, European Division Office, Droevendaalsesteeg 3, P.O. Box 127, 6700 AC Wageningen, The Netherlands



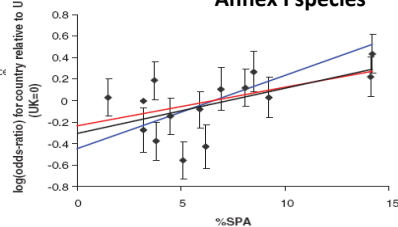
## International Conservation Policy Delivers Benefits for Birds in Europe

Paul F. Donald,<sup>1,\*</sup> Fiona J. Sanderson,<sup>2</sup> Ian J. Burfield,<sup>2</sup> Stijn M. Bieman,<sup>3</sup> Richard D. Gregory,<sup>2</sup> Zoltan Waijczyk<sup>3</sup>

Conservation of the planet's biodiversity will depend on international policy intervention, yet evidence-based assessment of the success of such intervention is lacking. Poor understanding of the effectiveness of international policy instruments exposes them to criticism or abandonment and reduces opportunities to improve them. Comparative analyses of population trends provide strong evidence for a positive impact of one such instrument, the European Union's Birds Directive, and we identify positive associations between the rate of provision of certain conservation measures through the directive and the response of bird populations. The results suggest that supranational conservation policy can bring measurable conservation benefits, although future assessments will require the setting of quantitative objectives and an increase in the availability of data from monitoring schemes.

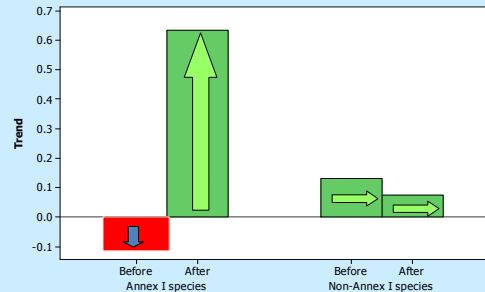
Because global threats to biodiversity are largely anthropogenic, already considerable in scale, and accelerating rapidly

2007 VOL 317 SCIENCE www.science



The higher the % SPA coverage, the more positive the bird species trends, especially Annex I species

## Annex I species did significantly better in EU after introduction of Birds Directive (Donald *et al.* 2007)



## Why BiE3? Why now?

## Why do we need BiE3?

See BiE2, page 2:

- “The dynamic nature of bird populations means that **numbers can alter rapidly over short periods**. Regular updates of the conservation status of Europe's birds are therefore essential, both to **assess the effectiveness of conservation efforts** and to **ensure that species in most need of attention receive it promptly**.”
- The next comprehensive reassessment of the conservation status of European birds is scheduled for 2012–2014.”

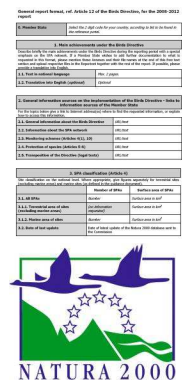


## Lots of new data collected and collated



## Birds Directive Article 12 reporting format

- Developed since 2008 by EC, Member States and consultants
- Goal: to streamline and harmonise Article 12 reporting with that under Habitats Directive Article 17
- Move from 3-yearly process-based reporting to 6-yearly outcome-based reporting – much more useful
- Member States to provide at least basic information on all regularly occurring wild bird species
- Additional information on SPA trigger species (Natura 2000)





### Synchrony between planned cycles for reporting under Articles 12/17 and BiE3

Decade	2001-2010										2011-2020									
Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
Article 17 report																				
Article 12 report																				
Birds in Europe																				

### Some advantages of linking these processes

- Eliminate wasteful/costly duplication of effort
- Minimise risk of conflicting data sets emerging
- Maximise consensus on resulting data submitted
- Add value to EU data by placing them in wider contexts (pan-European, flyway, global)
- Build and strengthen collaborations between statutory bodies and data holders (inc. NGOs)
- **Provide one common, agreed, unchallenged data set – for various uses over next six years**

### Implementation and delivery

### EC contract: 'European Red List of Birds'

- May 2011: EC issued call for tender

#### 3 objectives:

- Produce European Red List of birds, following IUCN criteria/guidelines, at pan-European and EU27 scales
- Provide technical assistance to EU Member States for first reporting round under new Article 12 system
- Provide technical support to the EC, the EEA and the ETC-BD for the EU level assessment (composite report)



### Bid submitted by consortium in June 2011

- BirdLife International (BLI) 
- European Bird Census Council (EBCC) 
- Wetlands International (WI) 
- International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) 
- Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology (SOVON) 
- British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) 
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) 
- Czech Society for Ornithology (CSO) 
- Stichting BirdLife Europe (SBE) 

### Examples of consortium proposals

- Encouraging all relevant data holders to engage in process and cooperate to reach consensus
- Planning pan-European kick-off meeting, to ensure comparable approach taken inside and outside EU
- Establishing 'help desk' to provide support on relevant aspects, with an online FAQ repository
- Providing small grants for data collation outside EU
- Developing guidance documents on technical issues
- Ensuring that the quality of national data sets are assessed comparably, with clear audit trails

## Time schedule



- **Oct 2011:** Art 12 reporting kick-off meeting
- **Oct 2011:** received EC's offer of contract
- **Dec 2011:** contract signed and initiated
- **Feb 2012:** pan-European 'BiE3' kick-off meeting
- **Spring 2012:** recruitment of project staff, and negotiation of small grant contracts (non-EU countries in E/SE Europe)
- **2012-2013:** provision of support, as needed
- **Summer 2013:** data deadline for non-EU countries
- **Dec 2013:** data deadline for EU Member States
- **2014:** verification, compilation, analysis, assessment
- **Dec 2014:** publication of European Red List of Birds

## Deliverables

1. Database and maps
2. Web-based fact sheets
3. Summary brochure
4. Poster
5. Interim and final reports



### Not covered by contract

- [SPEC reassessment]
- Updated data inventory (printing/distribution)

### Additional funding needed



## Consortium members and roles

## BirdLife's European Partnership



## BirdLife International

- **Ian Burfield** - European Science & Data Manager, PECBMS Steering Group, European Atlas Committee, EBCC Observer
- **[Project staff** – to be recruited in spring 2012]
- **Stuart Butchart** - Global Research & Indicators Coordinator
- **Andy Symes** - Global Species Programme Officer
- **Ian May** - Head of Information Management
- **Mike Evans** - Conservation Data Manager
- **Mark Balman** - GIS Support Analyst
- **Sarah Stokes** - Financial Controller



## European Bird Census Council

- "An association of like-minded expert ornithologists co-operating in a range of ways to improve bird monitoring and atlas work, and thereby inform and improve the management and conservation of bird populations in Europe"
- The EBCC has no paid staff, but is managed by a Board elected every three years by the General Meeting of the Association, which is composed of two National Delegates from each European country



### Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology

- **Ruud Foppen** - Senior Ornithologist, EBCC Chairman, PECBMS Steering Group, European Atlas Committee
- **Henk Sierdsema** - Senior Biologist, EBCC Spatial Modelling Group (SMOG)
- **André van Kleunen** - Ornithologist



### British Trust for Ornithology

- **David Noble** - Principal Ecologist for Monitoring, EBCC Vice-Chair, PECBMS Steering Group, European Atlas Committee
- **Stuart Newson** - Senior Research Ecologist, EBCC Spatial Modelling Group (SMOG)



### Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

- **Richard Gregory** - Head of Species Monitoring & Research, PECBMS Manager
- **Paul Donald** - Principal Conservation Scientist, International Department



### Czech Society for Ornithology

- **Petr Voříšek** - PECBMS Coordinator
- **Jana Škorpilová** - PECBMS technical assistant
- **Alena Klvaňová** - PECBMS technical assistant



### Wetlands International

- **Szabolcs Nagy** - Head of Strategy and Programme for Biodiversity and Ecological Networks
- **Stephan Flink** - Technical Officer
- **Tom Langendoen** - Technical Assistant



### International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

- **Ana Nieto** - Regional Biodiversity Conservation Officer, IUCN Regional Office for Europe
- **Melanie Bilz** - Programme Officer, IUCN Red List Unit





## Conclusions

- We have done this twice before – we can do it again
- We have assembled the strongest consortium yet
- We are used to collaborating – now we do it formally
- We have the resources to deliver high quality products
- Our work is linked with an official reporting process
- There will be challenges – but we can overcome them
- Let's get down to work – and make BiE3 the best yet!

