



proteus

Insights from the first-ever “State of the World’s Migratory Species Report”

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23 MAY 2024

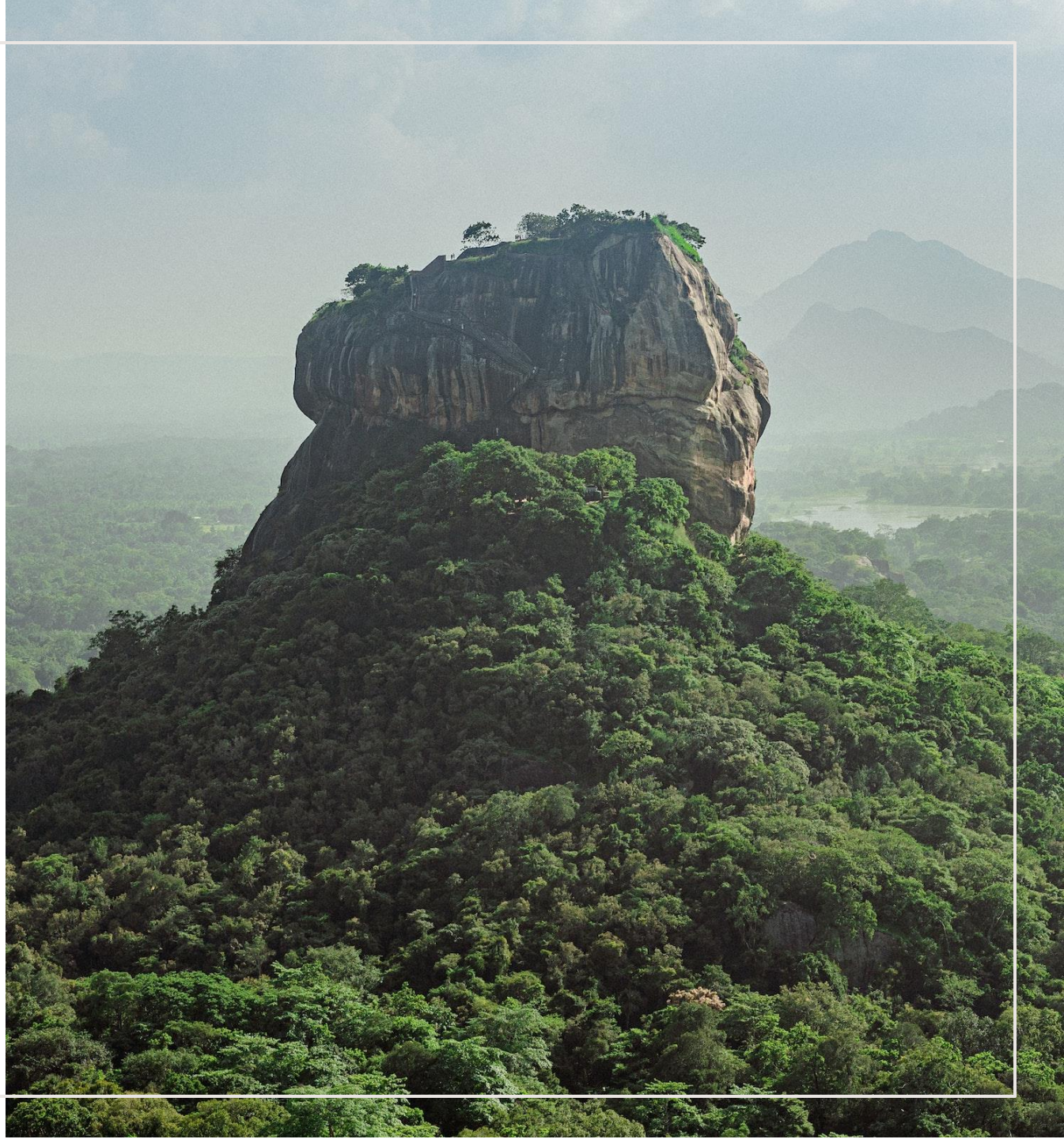
PROTEUS HORIZON SCAN WEBINARS

A series of webinars for Proteus Partners about the latest trends and developments in biodiversity policy, initiatives, data and tools



LOGISTICS

- **Scheduling:** Recorded sessions 12:30 GMT
- **Rules:** Chatham House rule for discussion, but presentation is recorded
- **Topics:** Your suggestions are welcome!





State of the World's Migratory Species

OVERVIEW

- Introduction to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- What is a migratory species and why do they matter?
- Key findings from the first ever State of the World's Migratory Species report
- Relevance for Proteus Partners

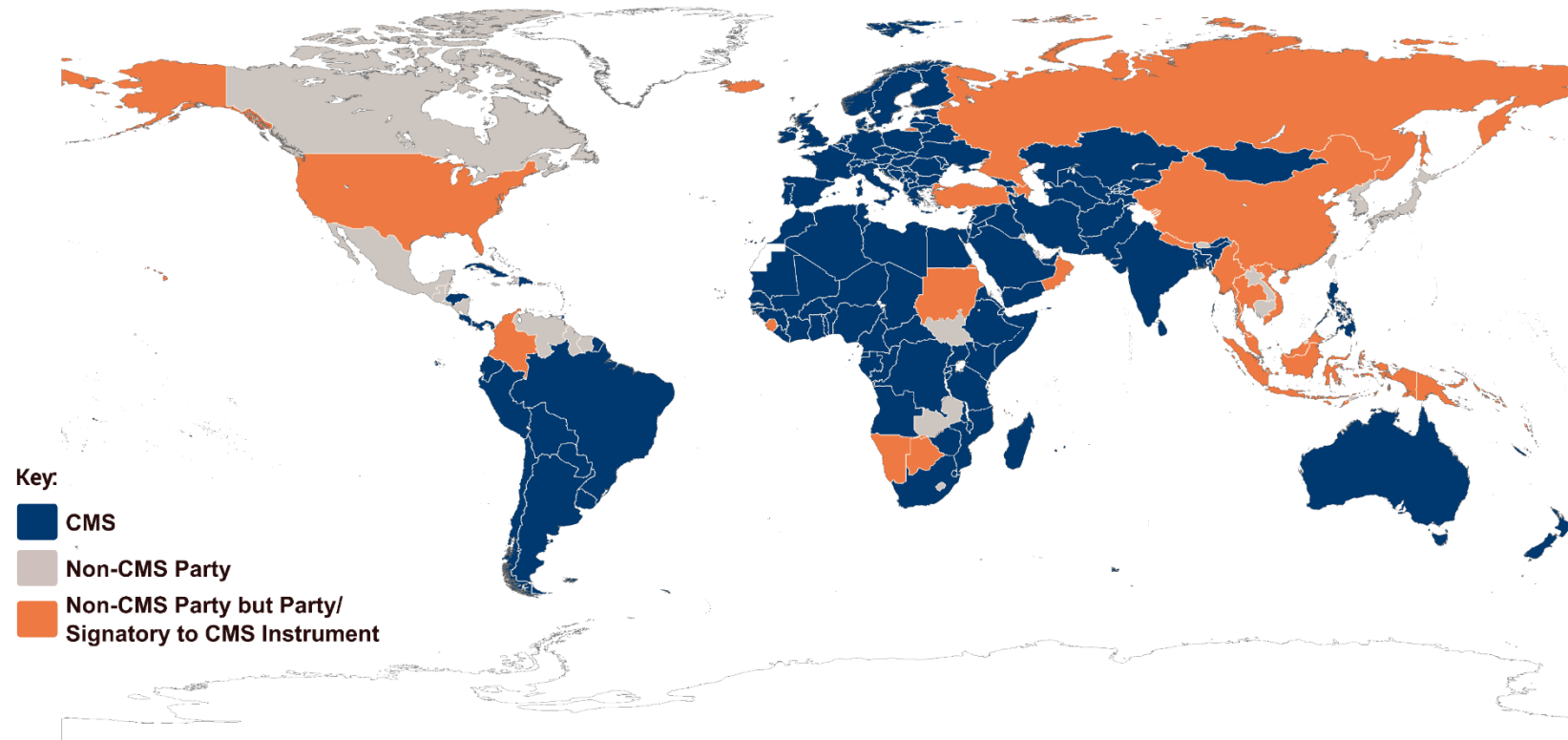


THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES (CMS)

- Global UN treaty on the conservation and effective management of migratory species and their habitats
- Migratory species often cross national borders and as such, they need international cooperation for their survival
- Almost 1,200 migratory species 'listed' in CMS for their protection and/or conservation



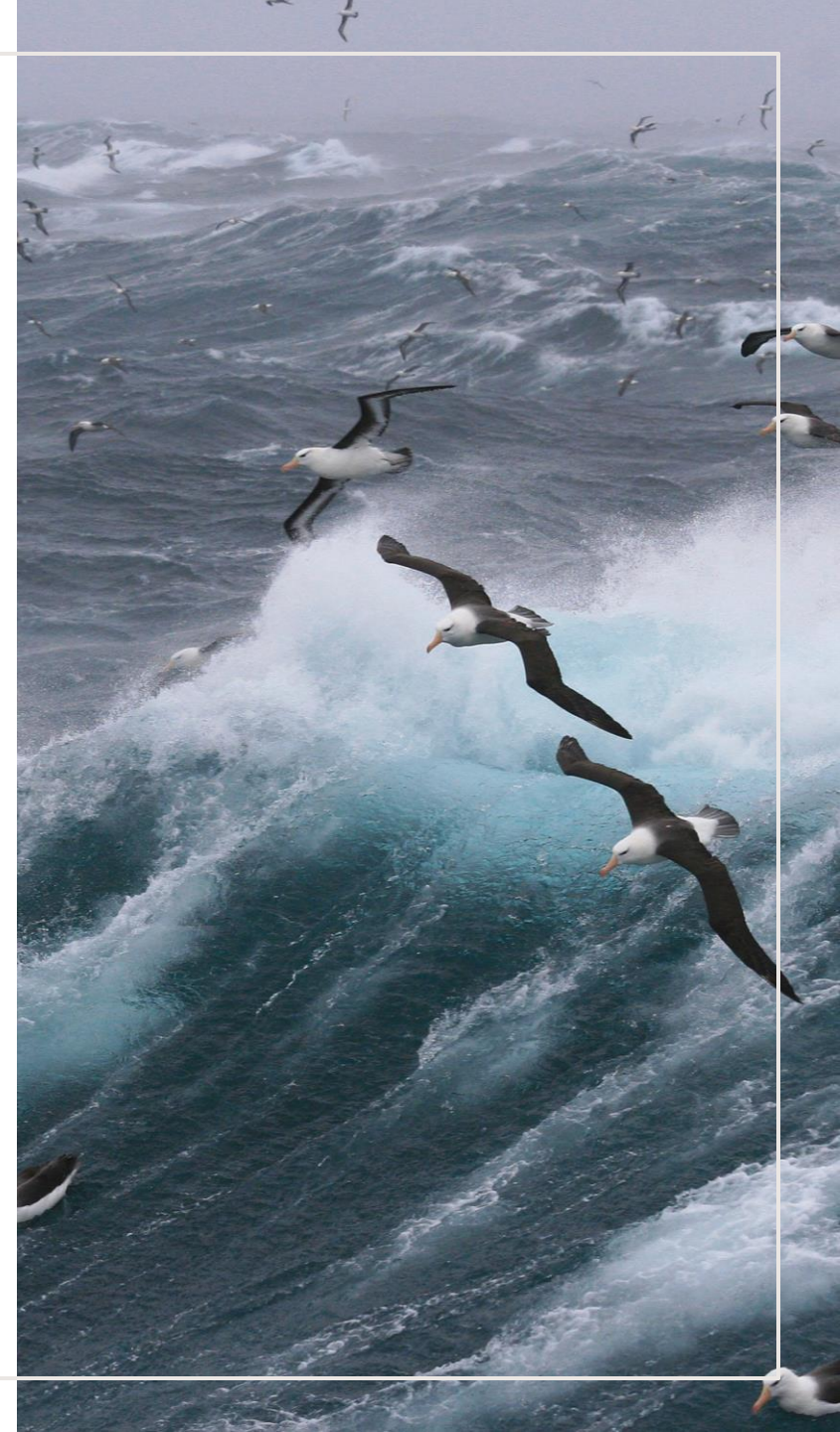
PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES (CMS)



Base layers: United Nations Geospatial, 2023. Projection: Robinson Sphere. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

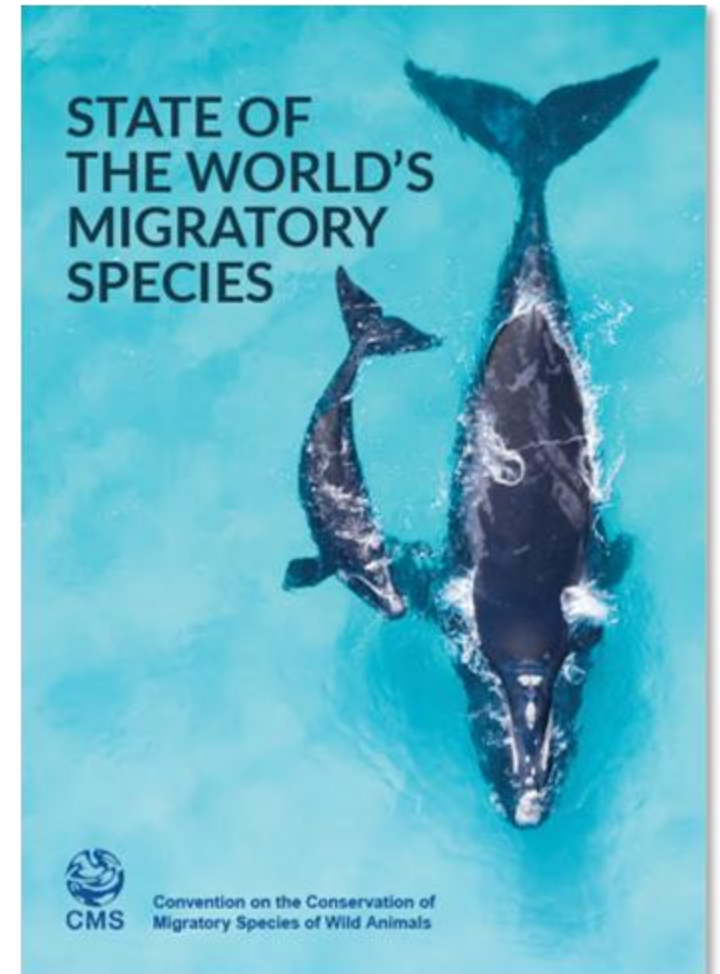
MIGRATORY SPECIES AND WHY DO THEY MATTER?

- Migratory behaviour is found in all major groups of animals, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects
- They are essential to healthy ecosystems and a healthy planet
- They provide a source of nutrition, economic benefits and underpin key ecosystem services such as pollination, pest control, transporting nutrients and climate mitigation



STATE OF THE WORLD'S MIGRATORY SPECIES

- First ever global overview of the conservation status, main threats and actions to protect migratory species
- Focuses on the 1,189 species listed in CMS, with additional analyses for the wider group of migratory species not covered by the Convention
- Provides support for evidence-based decision-making by CMS Parties and other stakeholders
- Raises awareness of the challenges and success stories in the conservation of migratory species

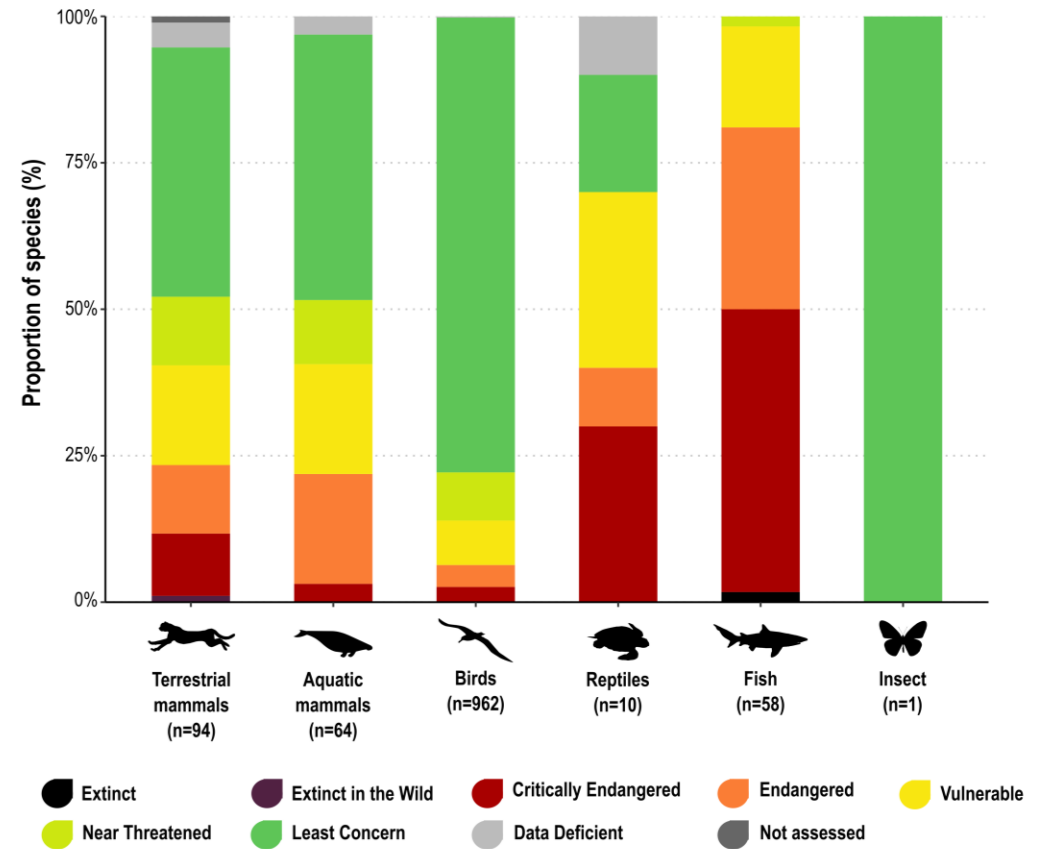


KEY FINDINGS: CONSERVATION STATUS

- 44% of CMS species have declining population trends and 1 in 5 are threatened with extinction
- Global extinction risk is rising for both CMS species and migratory species as a whole
- Fish are of particular concern:



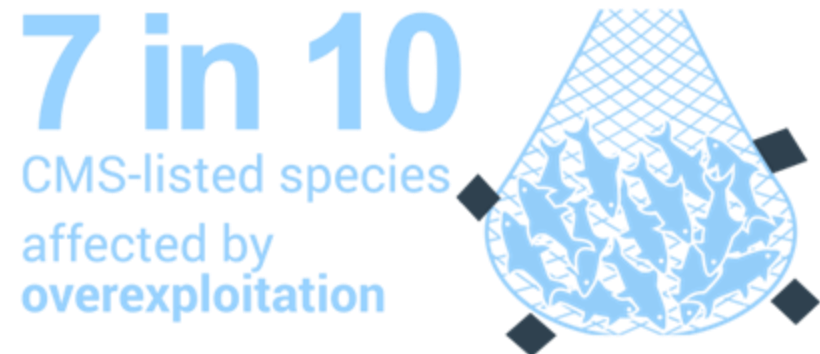
97% of CMS fish species are threatened with extinction



Proportion of CMS species in each IUCN Red List category, by taxonomic group (CMS, 2023).

KEY FINDINGS: MAIN PRESSURES

- Top two pressures: **overexploitation** and **habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation**
- Other key threats include climate change, pollution and invasive species



KEY FINDINGS: IMPORTANT AREAS UNDER PRESSURE

9,500

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) identified for CMS species

51%

Half of the area of KBAs is not covered by protected or conserved areas

58%

Monitored sites are under unsustainable levels of pressure

?

Crucially, not all key sites have been identified

ACTIONS TO CONSERVE MIGRATORY SPECIES AND THEIR HABITATS

Conservation and recovery of migratory species and their habitats is possible

Examples of efforts underway:

- Identifying, restoring, protecting and connecting key sites for migratory species
- Tackling overexploitation





What can businesses do?

PROTECTING KEY HABITATS AND MIGRATION ROUTES

Critical sites for migratory species and barriers to migration should be avoided

Businesses should integrate migratory species considerations into spatial planning processes and follow the Mitigation Hierarchy

Business impacts on migratory species can have consequences beyond national borders

Several datasets and screening tools exist to support spatial planning for migratory species. For example:

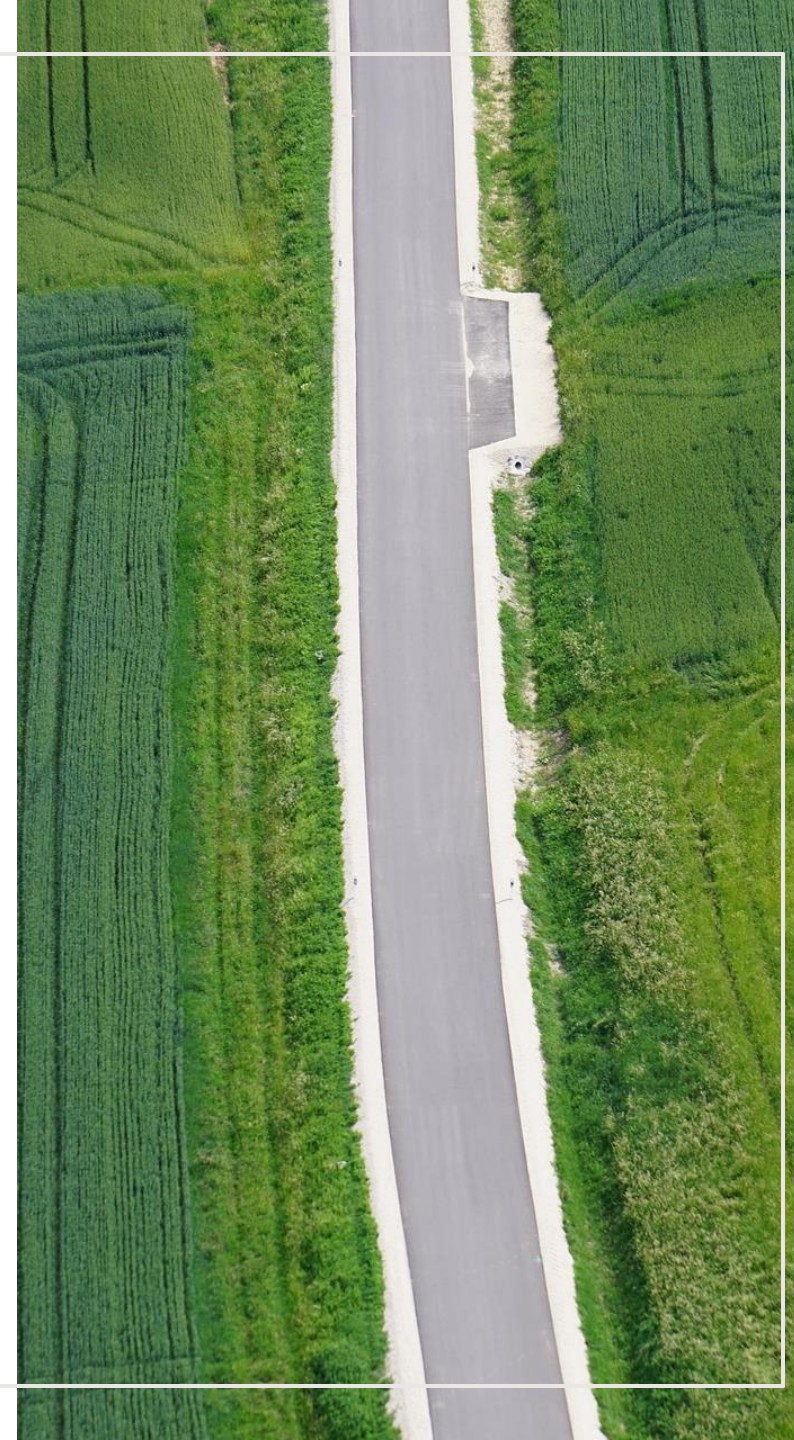
- [IBAT](#) (IUCN Red List, KBAs & protected areas, bespoke reports)
- [AVISTEP](#) for birds and energy planning
- [MiCO](#) for marine species



PROTECTING KEY HABITATS AND MIGRATION ROUTES

Guidance has been developed that can also support addressing ecological connectivity in infrastructure development:

- IUCN guidelines on [Addressing ecological connectivity in the development of roads, railways and canals](#)
- CMS guidelines for [Addressing the impact of linear infrastructure on large migratory mammals in Central Asia](#)



LINKS TO SENSITIVE LOCATIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY IN REPORTING STANDARDS

Areas important for ecological connectivity are being recognised as sensitive areas in new reporting standards, including the TNFD LEAP approach

These areas are likely to be important for migratory species

| Area | Criteria | Recommended metrics and reference datasets |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Biodiversity importance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Areas containing ecosystems that are rare or very localised, highly threatened, important for ecosystem connectivity, and/or associated with key evolutionary processes.• Areas important for ecological connectivity – including important ecological corridors, areas and routes that are important for seasonal migratory patterns and areas that provide adaptive space for species to spread across a landscape in the face of changing environmental conditions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, seamounts or coastal upwellings;• Ocean+ Habitat datasets such as mangroves, seagrasses, coral reefs;• World Database of Ecological Corridors (upcoming);• Eurasian African Bird Migration Atlas; and• Atlas on Migratory Ungulates (under development by Global Initiative on Ungulate Migrations (GIUM)). |

Source: TNFD Guidance on the identification and assessment of nature-related issues: The LEAP approach, Table 4 Criteria for sensitive location identification and reference datasets

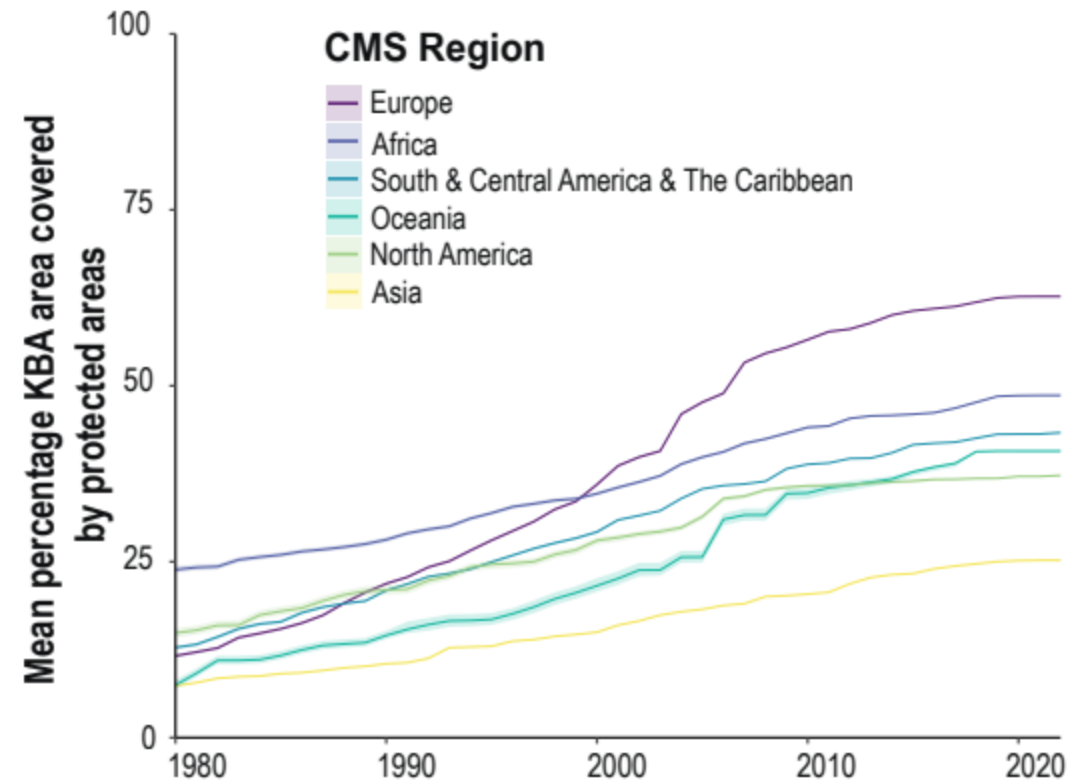
PROTECTING AND CONSERVING KEY HABITATS FOR MIGRATORY SPECIES

Protected and conserved areas are essential for the conservation of migratory species

51% of the Key Biodiversity Areas identified for CMS species lack protected area coverage

There may be opportunities for business to support protected area establishment and management effectiveness

Businesses must follow a rigorous human rights-based approach



Trends in protected area coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas identified for CMS-listed species in each region (CMS, 2023)

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

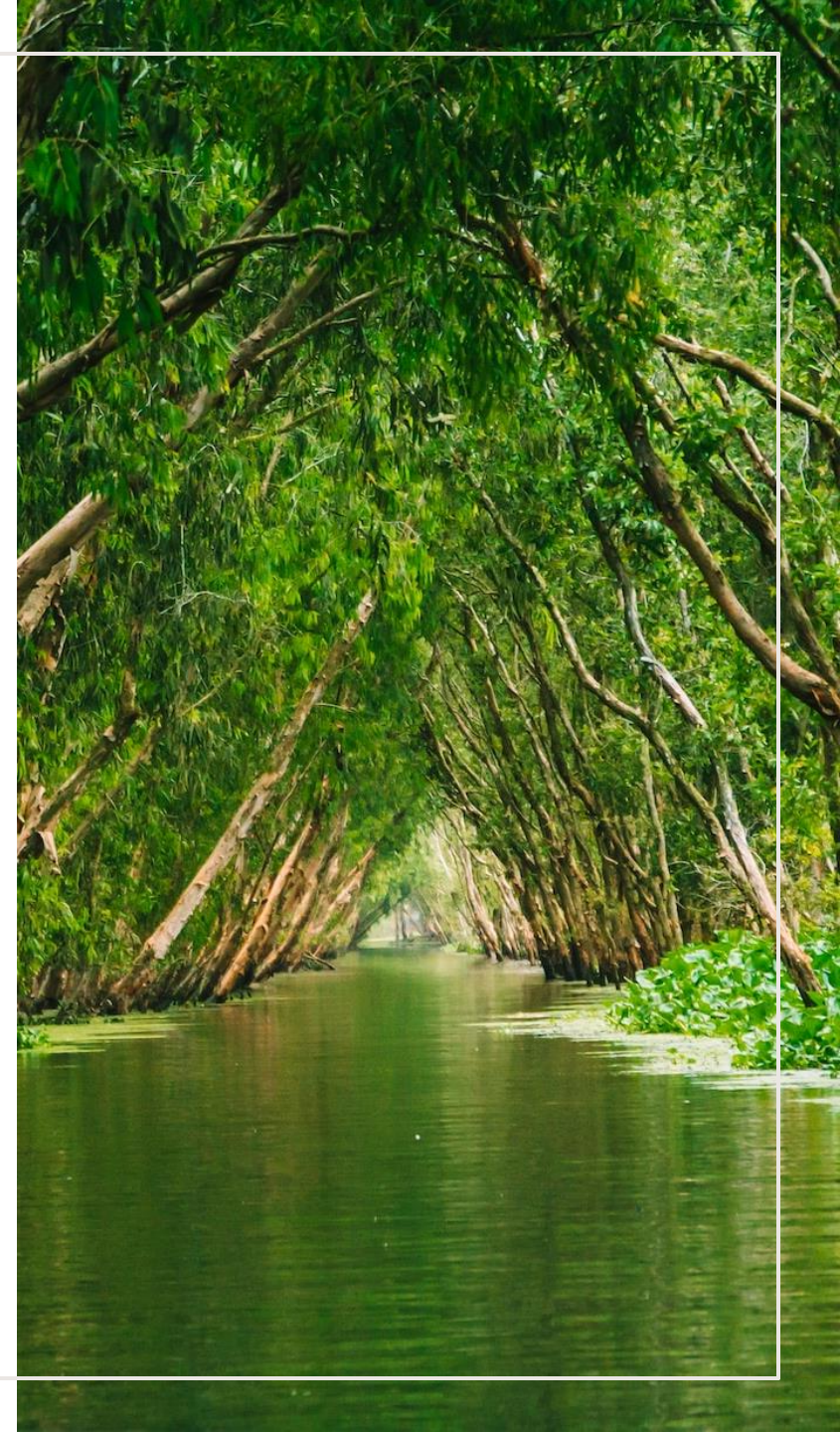
Going beyond mandatory requirements for restoration, businesses can undertake voluntary restoration action

Many sources can help highlight priority areas for action:

- [STAR](#) (Species Threat Abatement and Restoration) metric available through IBAT)
- [Global Restoration Opportunities](#) layer (currently for Europe only, global coming soon)
- [Ecosystem Integrity Index](#) layer (coming soon)
- [Global Forest Watch](#)

Action requires understanding of local contexts and engagement with stakeholders

Political and ecological boundaries don't always align



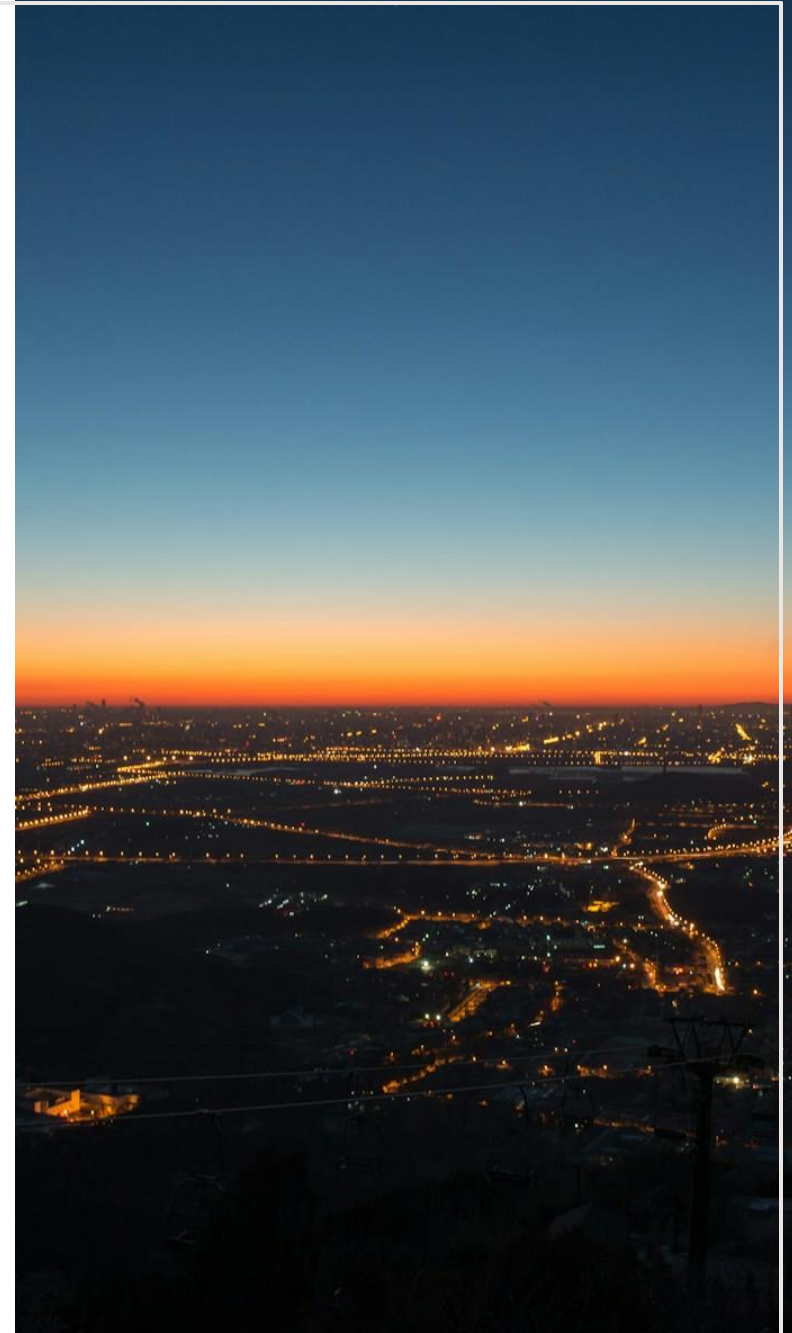
MITIGATING POLLUTION

Pollution – artificial light, anthropogenic noise, plastic, chemical and heavy metals, can cause mortality of migratory species and disrupt their natural behaviours, including migration

Businesses can follow the Mitigation Hierarchy to avoid and minimise the impact of these pollutants as much as possible

Guidance developed under CMS, e.g.

- [CMS Family Guidelines on EIAs for Marine Noise-generating activities](#)
- [National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife](#)

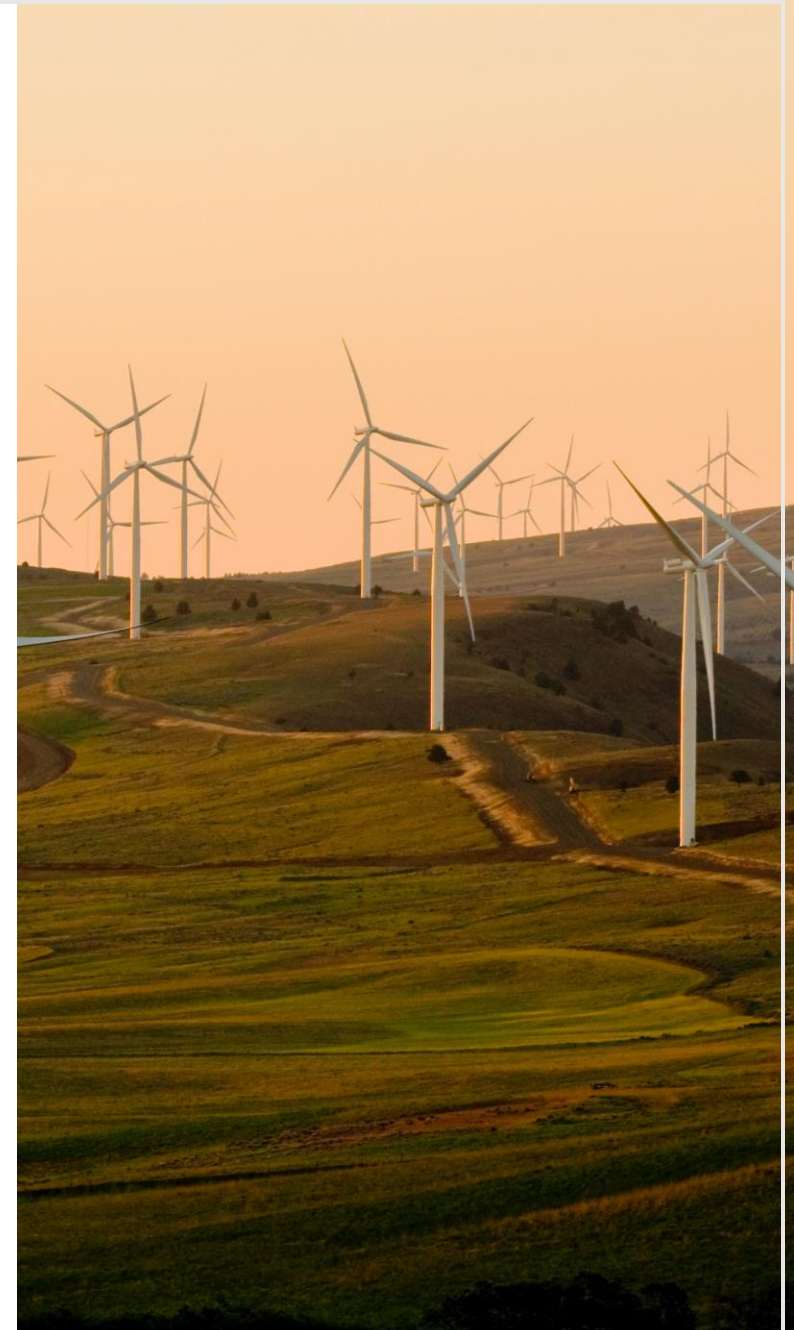


ENGAGING WITH CMS AND PROTEUS RESOURCES

- Consider CMS in context of business environmental policies
- Engage with the [CMS Energy Task Force](#)
- Share site data on migratory species to global platforms like GBIF

Other Proteus resources:

- Migratory connectivity in the ocean [technical brief](#)
- Coming soon: offshore wind energy and migratory species





Thank you

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