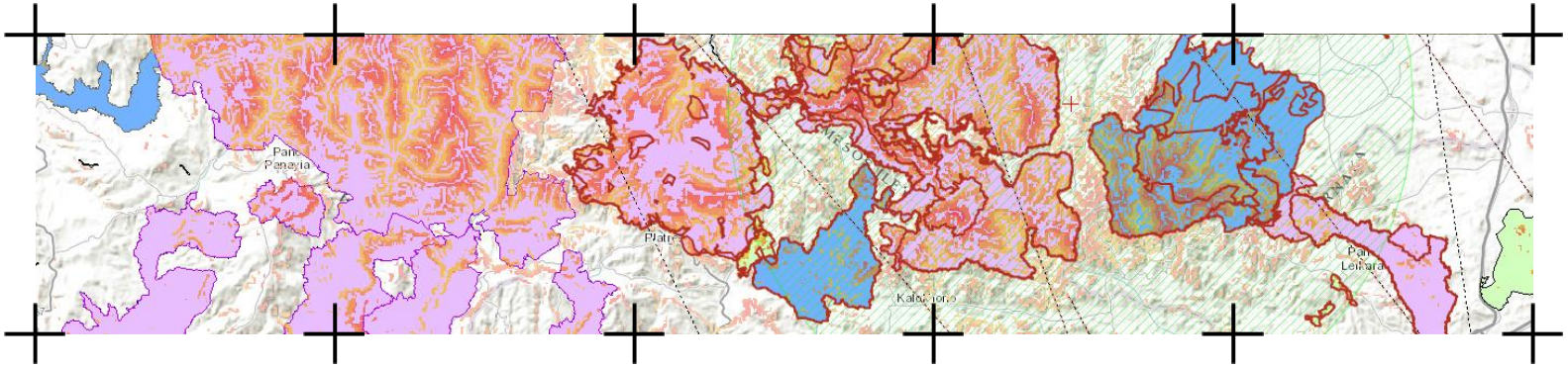
Supporting safe siting of Renewable Energy Development in Northeast Africa and the Middle East - Migratory Soaring Bird Project

BirdLife International



habitat INFO

UNDP

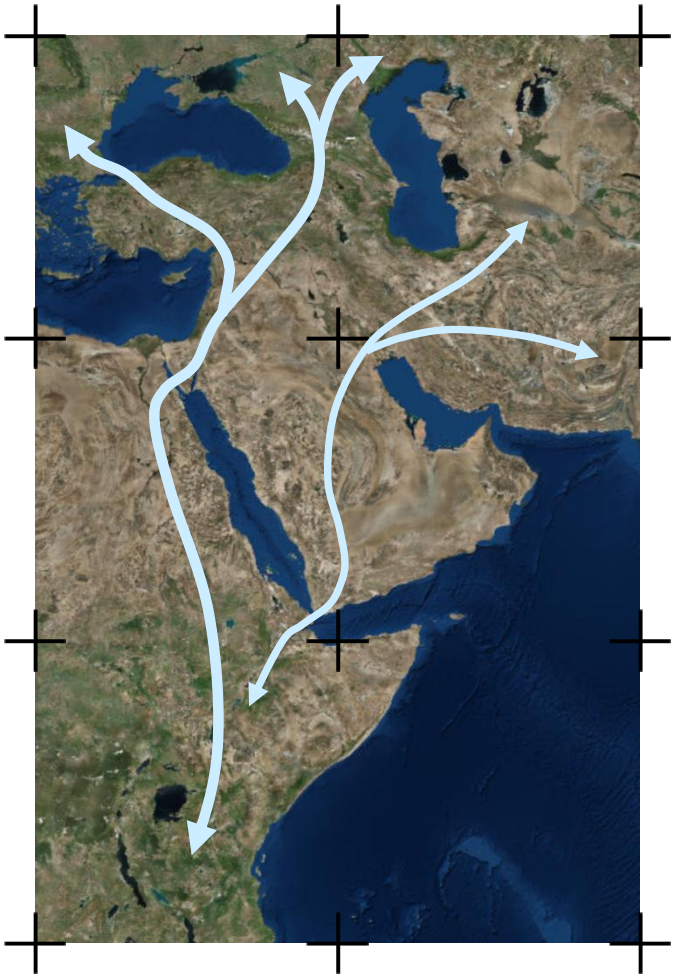
gef

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL

Partnership for nature and people

Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway

- One of the world's most important avian migration routes.
- More than 1.5 million large soaring birds pass through the region each year as they migrate between Africa and Eurasia.



European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*	852,000
Black Kite *Milvus migrans*	37,000
Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*	60,000
Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*	466,000
Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*	142,000
Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*	75,000
White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*	530,000
Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*	17,000
Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*	66,000

An increasingly perilous journey

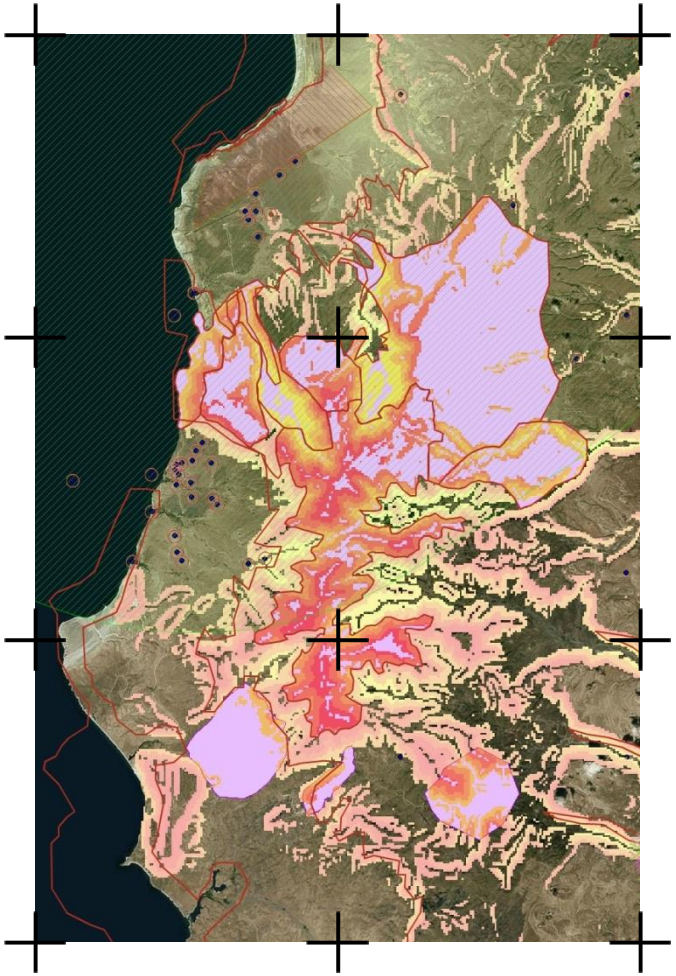
- Ever greater threats along the flyway, including growing collision risk with man-made structures.
- With wind energy set to expand, it is vital that government agencies, developers and funders take steps to avoid demographic-scale impacts on soaring bird species.
- Strategic decision-making over a broad geographical area based on robust ornithological data and expert interpretation is essential.

- Guidance on safe siting

Mapping soaring bird sensitivity

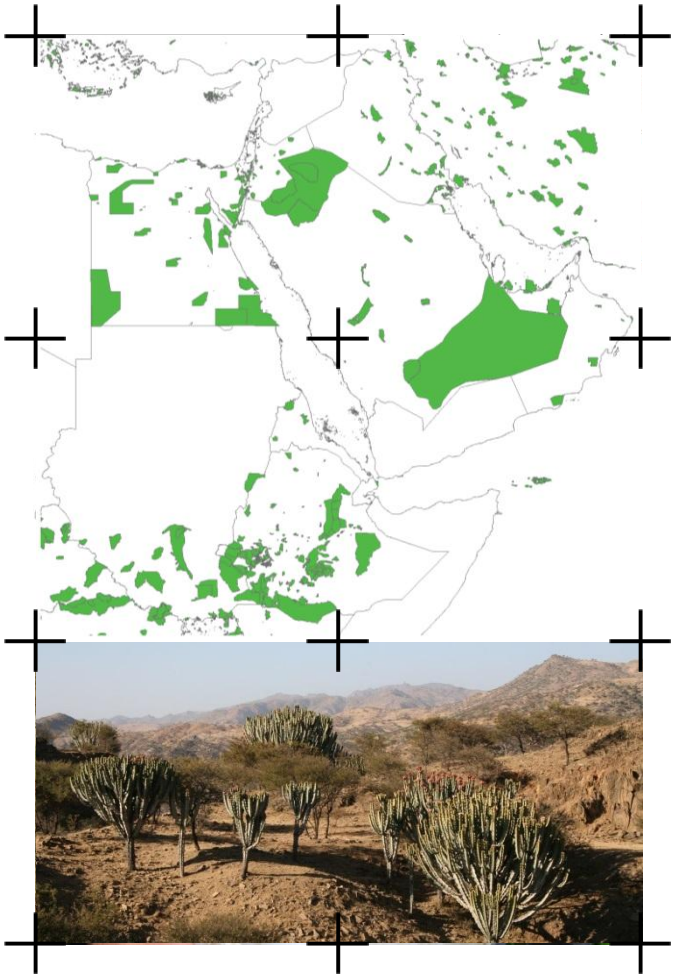
The tool, developed with habitatINFO is an open access repository of spatial ornithological data that:

- Maps bird populations, habitats and flight paths;
- Identifies potentially sensitive locations;
- Avoids the need for costly mitigation and compensatory measures; and
- Informs subsequent impact assessments, such as SEA and EIA, and provides a benchmark against which they can be assessed.



Assembling the datasets

- Access to considerable data through our regional Partners.
- Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs).
- Records from the scientific literature and from Worldbirds.
- Satellite tracking data.
- World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).



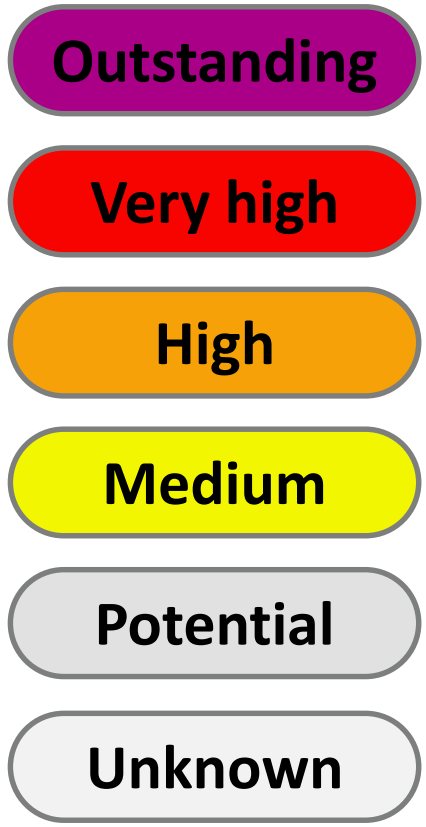
Calculating sensitivity

$SI = SSS^1 + SSS^2 + SSS^3 \ldots\ldots SSS^n$

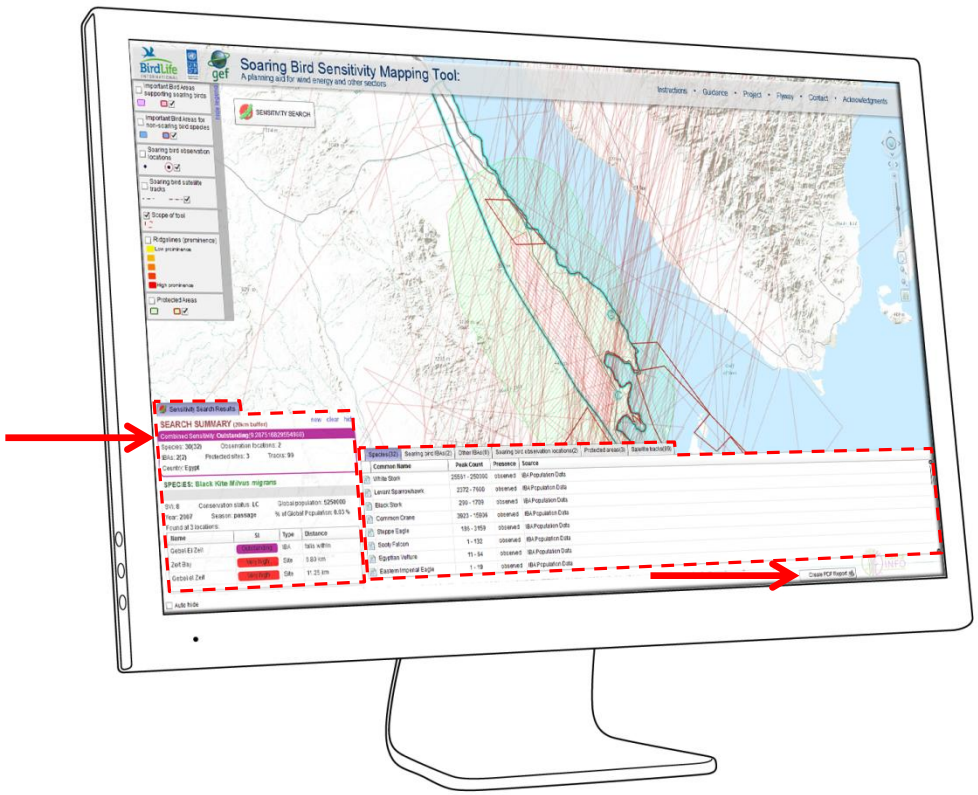
SSS = SSI x Peak Count / Global Population

SSI = SVI x RL

SI Sensitivity Index
SSS Species Sensitivity at Site
SSI Species Sensitivity Index
SVI Species Vulnerability Index
RL Red List Index



The Migratory Soaring Bird Sensitivity Mapping Tool



- Can be used in English, Arabic & French.
- Covers the Middle East & Northeast Africa.
- Import or delineate a site polygon.
- Flexible site buffer.
- Quickly displays, tabulates, summarises & evaluates intersecting data.
- All information downloadable as a PDF report.

Visit the Soaring Bird Sensitivity Mapping Tool at:

tinyurl.com/MSBmap

- Hoping to expand tool geographically…
- Hoping to incorporate more satellite tracking data
- If you have satellite tracking data you would like to contribute in support of safe siting of energy infrastructure please contact: tris.allinson@birdlife.org

MSB Project Guidance on birds and:

a) Wind Energy

b) Power lines

c) Solar Energy

For:

- Governments
- Development banks and financiers
- Developers and consultants
- BirdLife Partners and Civil Society

In English and Arabic

http://www.migratorysoaringbirds.undp.birdlife.org