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• REPORT

Financial Costs of Meeting Global Biodiversity Conservation Targets: Current Spending and Unmet Needs

Donal P. McCarthy^{1,2}, Paul F. Donald², Jörn P. W. Scharlemann^{3,4}, Graeme M. Buchanan², Andrew Balmford⁵, Jonathan M. H. Green^{5,6}, Leon A. Bennun¹, Neil D. Burgess^{5,7,8}, Lincoln D. C. Fishpool¹, Stephen T. Garnett⁹, David L. Leonard^{10,*}, Richard F. Maloney¹¹, Paul Morling², H. Martin Schaefer¹², Andy Symes¹, David A. Wiedenfeld¹³, Stuart H. M. Butchart^{1,*}

[+](#) Author Affiliations[+](#) Author Notes[✉](#)[†]To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: stuart.butchart@birdlife.org**ABSTRACT**

World governments have committed to halting human-induced extinctions and safeguarding important sites for biodiversity by 2020, but the financial costs of meeting these targets are largely unknown. We estimate the cost of reducing the extinction risk of all globally threatened bird species (by ≥ 1 IUCN Red List category) to be US\$0.875–1.23 billion annually over the next decade, of which 12% is currently funded. Incorporating threatened non-avian species increases this total to US\$3.41–\$4.76 billion annually. We estimate that protecting and effectively managing all terrestrial sites of global avian conservation significance (11,731 Important Bird Areas) would cost US\$65.1 billion annually. Adding sites for other taxa increases this to US\$76.1 billion annually. Meeting these targets will require conservation funding to increase by at least an order of magnitude.

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