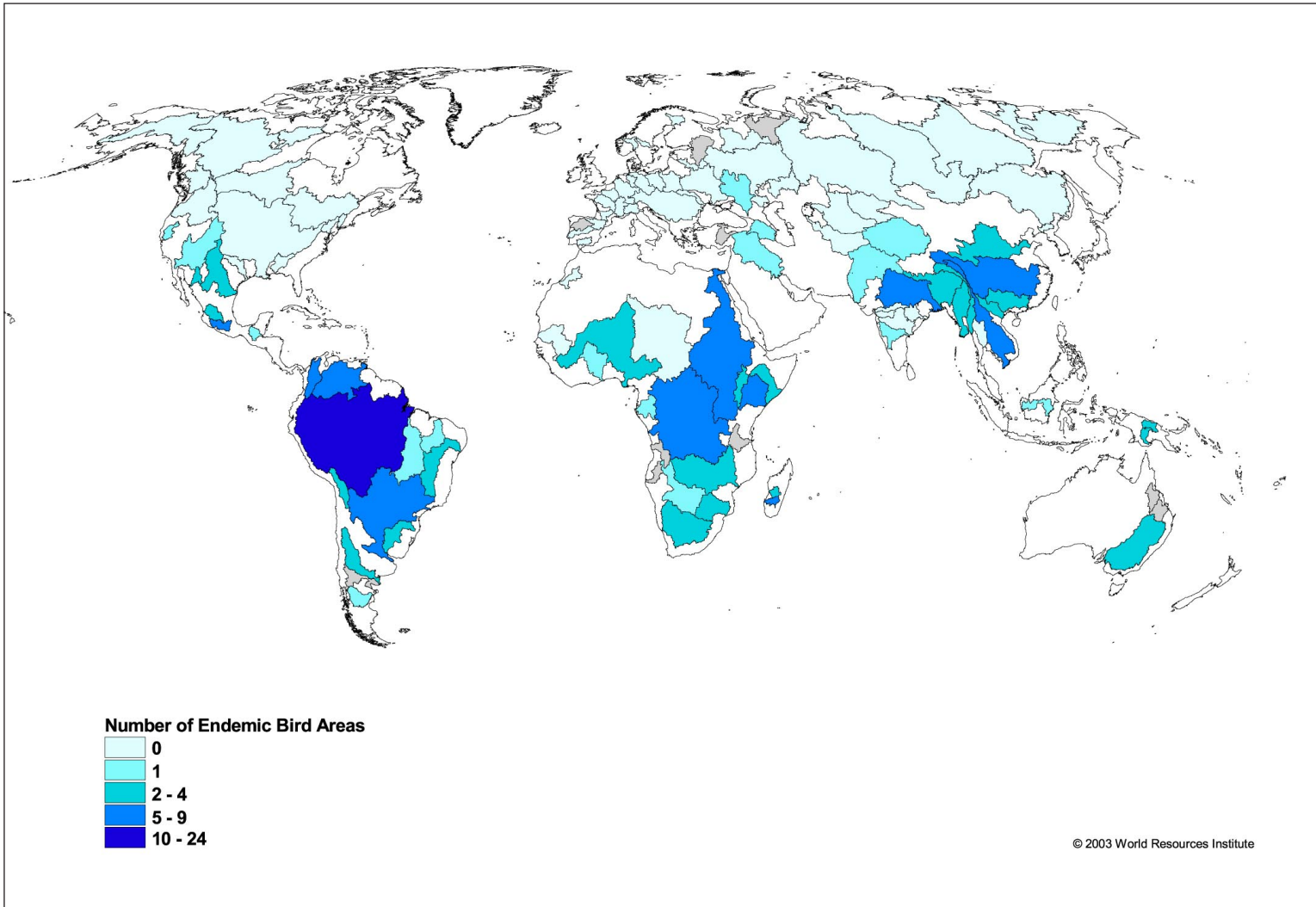




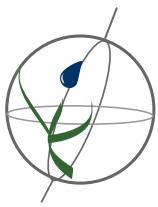
04. Endemic Bird Areas by Basin



Map Description

Birds can be good indicators of terrestrial biodiversity importance, particularly areas of high endemism. In an attempt to prioritize areas of particular conservation importance to birds, BirdLife International has identified 218 endemic bird areas (EBAs) worldwide (Stattersfield et al., 1998). Endemic bird areas (EBAs) refer to areas where landbird species with restricted ranges (i.e., global breeding range of less than 50,000 square kilometers) tend to occur together. More than one quarter of all birds of the world have restricted breeding ranges, that is, they are confined to areas of less than 50,000 km². Restricted-range birds include 816 species currently classified as threatened; this number represents more than one half of all restricted-range birds, and 74 percent of all threatened bird species.

This map shows the number of EBAs by major basin. The size of EBAs varies widely, from tiny islands of a few square kilometers to areas that cover over 600,000 km². Most EBAs are under 30,000 km². The majority support between 2 and 10 restricted-range species, but a few outstanding EBAs support 50 species or more. Watersheds with very high numbers of EBAs are the Amazon basin with 24 EBAs, Orinoco and Magdalena basins with 9, the Mekong with 7, and the Congo, Parana, and Yangtze basins with 6 EBAs each. Nearly half of all EBAs are estimated to have lost more than 50 percent of their key habitats, and more than 10 percent have lost over 90 percent. The relevance of EBAs to conservation goes beyond restricted-range bird species.



04. Endemic Bird Areas by Basin

Analysis by BirdLife International has established that EBAs partially encompass the ranges of many widespread threatened bird species and that they include the key habitats and sites for many more widespread species, including some important migrant birds.

Mapping Details

This map was created using a digital dataset provided by BirdLife International with the location of EBAs and overlaying it with the basin boundaries. There are 218 endemic bird areas worldwide, each represented by a polygon or cluster of polygons. Some EBAs overlap. The number of endemic bird areas in each basin was calculated by counting the number of bird areas that fall either partially or totally within each watershed. Forest ecosystems in the tropics and subtropics are better represented by the EBAs than other ecosystems such as desert and grasslands.

Map Projection

Robinson

Sources

Revenge, C., S. Murray, J. Abramovitz, and A. Hammond, 1998. Watersheds of the World: Ecological Value and Vulnerability. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute, based on data from Stattersfield, A. J., M. J. Crosby, A. J. Long, and D. C. Wege. 1998. *Endemic Bird Areas of the World: Priorities for Biodiversity Conservation*. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International.