

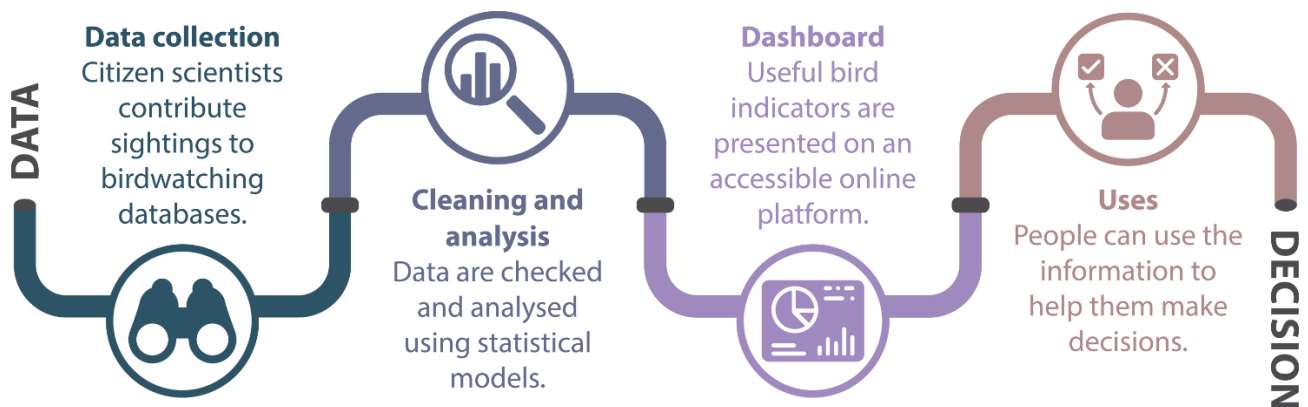


BIRDIE

for Ramsar

About BIRDIE

The **BIRDIE platform** gathers and interprets data about wetlands and waterbirds to provide information that is useful for decision making. It sources data from citizen science databases, which are checked and analysed using statistical models. An online dashboard allows users to access up-to-date indicators about bird distribution, abundance and richness at wetland sites. The information can be used for reporting, management, research and as a resource for birders.



<https://birdie.sanbi.org.za/>

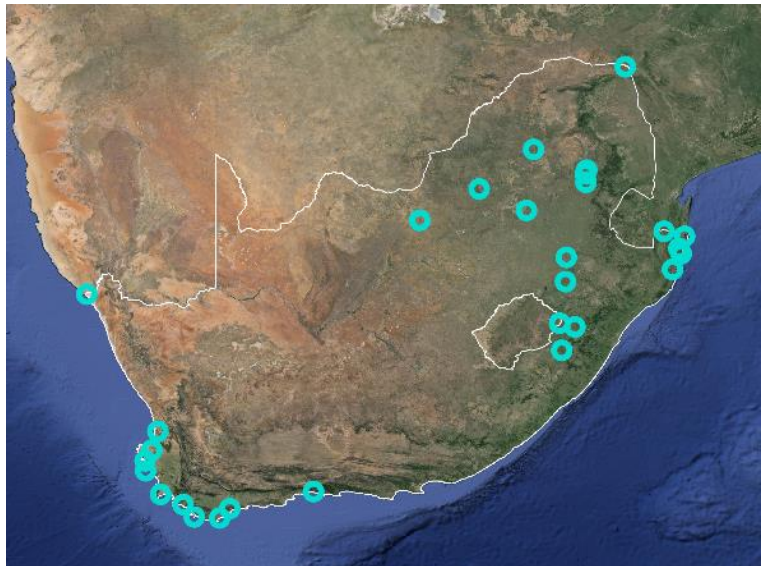




About Ramsar

South Africa is a signatory to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar).

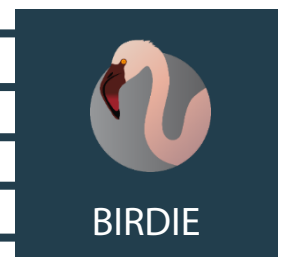
Ramsar is an intergovernmental treaty that seeks to ensure that “wetlands are conserved, wisely used, restored and their benefits are recognized and valued by all”. The Convention designates wetlands to be of international importance if they meet one or more of a set of nine criteria. South Africa currently (2024) has 30 wetlands of international importance. These special wetlands are unique, have high numbers of species from waterbirds to fish to plants, and give shelter to threatened species that depend on wetland ecosystems. South Africa is required to report regularly on the condition and management of its Ramsar wetlands and the challenges they face.



BIRDIE provides information for several Ramsar criteria:



1. Rare or unique wetland types.
2. Threatened species or communities.
3. Endemic, rare or protected species.
4. Critical life stages of species.
5. 20 000 or more waterbirds.
6. 1% of the population of a waterbird species.
7. Indigenous fish species.
8. Food, nursery or spawning for fishes.
9. 1% of population of wetland animal species.



BIRDIE can tell us about Ramsar sites



Sites and Species
summaries and trends

Make your selection:

Please choose a site

On the [Site pages](#) it's possible to select a specific site from the drop-down list of more than 700 wetland sites, including the Ramsar sites in South Africa. On the site pages you will find:

Vital statistics: A summary for the site, including the number of citizen science visits, the total number of species, a list of threatened species and the Waterbird Conservation Value for the latest year.

Descriptions: General information about the site, like what province it's in, whether it's a Ramsar site, whether its protected, who manages it and an interactive map of the site. Further information about the wetland at the site, such as size, type, condition and hydroperiod.

Bird information: All the waterbird species observed at the site are listed in a table, with information about their habits and habitats. You can filter the table to show threatened species. The table also shows rate of change for bird populations – whether they are increasing or decreasing over a five- and ten-year period.

Summary: The summary table shows bird population numbers for the latest year, and how these correspond with the 1% threshold used by Ramsar.

BIRDIE tables are downloadable as .csv files.

What waterbird species are found at Ramsar sites?

What threatened species are found at Ramsar sites?

What is the population size at Ramsar sites?

How does that compare to the 1% threshold?



BIRDIE provides summary info for Ramsar reporting



Reporting Tool
for RAMSAR

The [Reporting tool for Ramsar](#) is a summary of all the Ramsar sites in South Africa. The table shows information about the wetland, when it was declared and the criteria met. It gives the latest Waterbird Conservation Value for each site.

Waterbird Conservation Value: Is a new experimental measure of how important a wetland is for the population of waterbirds. It takes account of the proportion of the populations of the different species that are present at a wetland site. A site can be important because it hosts a great proportion of a single species, or large proportions of many species. A large value means that the wetland is important for waterbird conservation. The value can change over time to show trends. We welcome feedback on this new indicator via the BIRDIE website.

How important is a Ramsar site for waterbirds?

How is the value of the site changing?



BIRDIE shows maps and graphs of waterbird indicators



Exploration Map
interactive map viewer

The [Exploration Map](#) includes ways to explore, interact with and filter bird indicators and ancillary data layers on a map. All maps and graphs can be saved as image files.

Distribution: Where each species is found across South Africa, based on occurrence models.

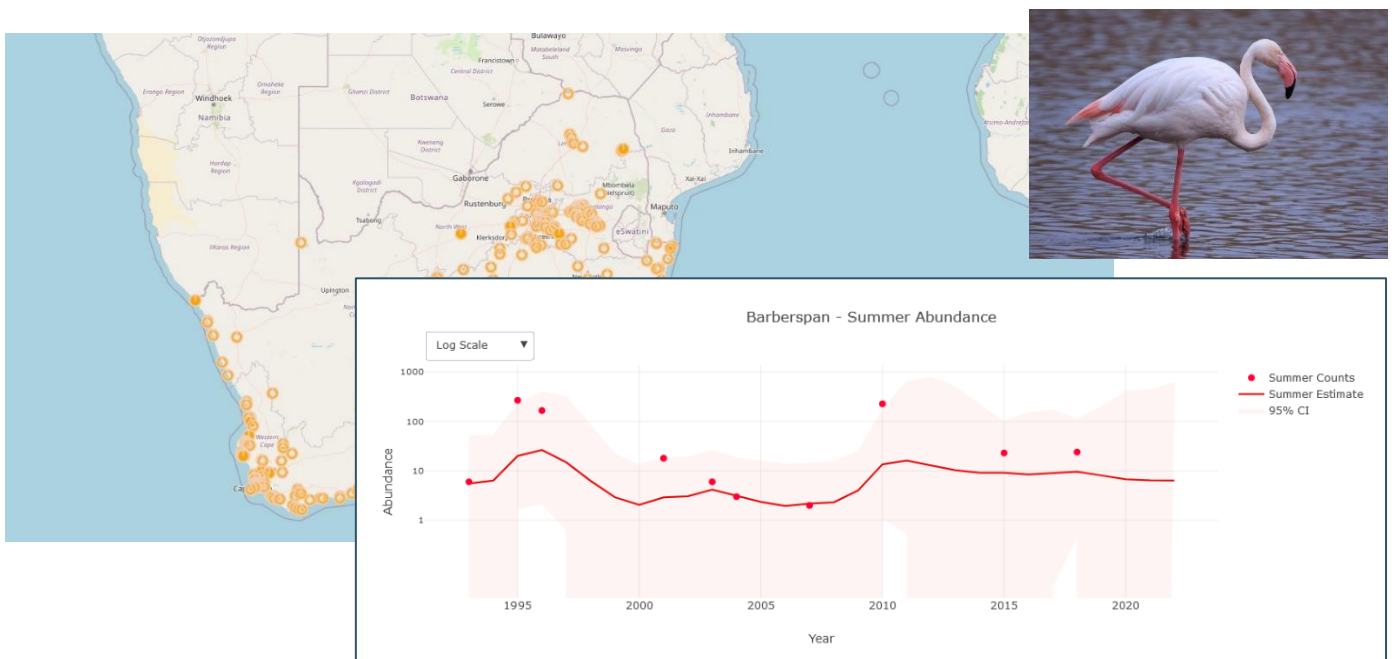
Abundance: The number of individuals of a species estimated to be present at each site. Selecting a site shows a graph of abundance trends over time.

Species richness: The estimated number of waterbird species across South Africa.

Ancillary data: Additional data about temperatures, precipitation, water levels, vegetation greenness (NDVI) and more can help to provide clues for why population numbers are changing.

Where are waterbird species found and which are endemic?

What is the abundance of bird species at Ramsar sites?



Access underlying data from BIRDIE



Web Services
OpenAPI

You can use BIRDIE's [OpenAPI](#) to download the underlying data, perform your own analyses and build your own summaries.

For more information view the [FAQ](https://birdie.sanbi.org.za/) on the BIRDIE website: <https://birdie.sanbi.org.za/>

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