Last update: 10th October 2024

Living Planet Database – metadata

Data collection process

Data are collected primarily from publicly available sources. The three main categories of the publicly available data are primary literature, secondary literature and data holding organisations (e.g. USGS North American breeding Bird Survey, RAM legacy database). Data are infrequently collected from non-public sources, for example from student research projects or unpublished survey reports.

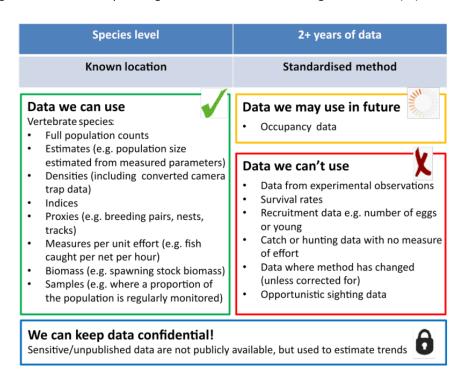
Criteria for including data

Time-series data are included if they meet the following criteria:

- 1. The metric represents abundance or proxy of abundance
- 2. The time-series contains an abundance estimate for at least two years post-1970, which can be non-consecutive
- 3. The abundance estimates are for a single species or subspecies
- 4. The data source is referenced and traceable with a description of the geographic area surveyed so that it can be georeferenced; information on the method used and the units of measurement also need to be provided
- 5. The method used is consistent throughout the time-series or, if different, a correction factor has been applied accordingly. This applies to the type of survey method, the area and the time-period of the survey

Data types included

The data used in constructing the LPI are time-series of either population size, density (population size per unit area), abundance (number of individuals per sample) or a proxy of abundance (for example, the number of nests recorded may be used instead of a direct population count). The table below gives you an idea of what can and can't be used. If you have data you would like to contribute to the Living Planet Database, please get in touch with us at LivingPlanetIndex (at) ioz.ac.uk.



Data Descriptor

Base Information

ID	Unique record number autogenerated
Citation	Full citation. Multiple citations separated with
	Efforts have been made to include letters and characters from all
	alphabets but please let us know of any mistakes
Replicate	Indicates whether the record is a replicate: time-series where the
	data partially overlap with other time-series both temporally and
	spatially. Replicates are excluded from the global LPI but are
	considered useful as they allow for analysis at different scales; for
	example a user may select a species population time-series for
	North America, or the whole of Canada, or each of the 13
	Canadian Provinces and Territories, or a patch of forest,
	depending on the scale of interest.
Included in LPR2024	We use several different processes in the calculation of the index
	to explore the undue influence of particular species and
	populations on the global trend, including species and population
	level jackknifing. This field denotes the populations that were
	included in the most recent global Living Planet Index

Taxonomy

Class	All taxonomic information is entered according to the latest
Order	authority from the following sources:
	alog/fishcatmain.asp
	 Reptiles – Turtles and tortoises (excluding marine turtles) (emys.geo.orst.edu/main_pages/database.html), Crocodilians (crocodilian.com/cnhc/csl.html), for all other reptiles www.reptile-database.org
Common Name	The English common name for the species (not subspecies)

	according to the taxonomic authority.
Subspecies	This is an optional field for subspecies information.

Geography

Location of population	A brief description of the location of the population in this field.
Country list	The country that the population occurs in or contains the greatest
	proportion of its population
All_countries	The country (or countries) that the population occurs in from the list. Marine data are allocated a country if it is within its Exclusive Economic Zone, or as International Waters. Multiple countries are selected in order of proportion of the population it represents starting with the greatest.
Region	This describes the political region a country is assigned to and
	 follows the internationally accepted ISO standard. Africa – The African continent up to and including Egypt, including offshore islands Antarctic – The Antarctic continent, including offshore islands such as Bouvet, Heard Island and McDonald Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, and French Southern Territories Asia – From Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova up to and including South-East Asia, including Cyprus, the Caucasus, the Middle East and Indonesia Europe – Northern, Southern, Western and Central Europe up to and including the Baltic States, Poland and Romania, plus Iceland, Greenland and Svalbard International Waters – Any marine population that lies outside a country EEZ and has been assigned International Waters in the country field Latin America and Caribbean – Mexico southwards and all Caribbean island groups North America – Canada, USA, and Saint Pierre and Miquelon Oceania – Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, and all Pacific island groups
IPBES_region	The Intergovernmental Science- Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) divides the world into different geographic regions to help assess and monitor nature. This denotes the region the population occurs in. Sourced from https://zenodo.org/records/3928281
IPBES_subregion	The Intergovernmental Science- Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) divides the world into different geographic regions to help assess and monitor nature. This denotes the subregion the population occurs in. Sourced from https://zenodo.org/records/3928281
Latitude and Longitude	Data in decimal degrees. For a large area, a midpoint of the range is used.
Specific_location	Indicates if the lat/long is for a specific point location (e.g. a lake or National Park) as opposed to a midpoint of a large area (e.g. a

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Ecology

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System	While the system to which a population is assigned should ideally
	be consistent within each species, this is not always the most
	biologically accurate representation for many generalists,
	particularly birds. The following guidelines are used to assign a one
	main system to each population:
	 Where was the population monitored?
	2. In which system does the species spend the majority of its
	time?
	3. Which system does the species primarily rely on to sustain
	itself?
	4. In which system does the species breed?
	5. In which system is the species most threatened?
Terrestrial/Freshwater/Marine	These fields indicate the realm that a terrestrial population occurs
realm	in. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0169156.s003
Marine ocean	These fields indicate the ocean that a marine population occurs
	in. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0169156.s003
Terrestrial/Freshwater/Marine	These fields indicate the biome that a population occurs in.
biome	Biomes are taken from the upper level WWF Ecoregion categories,
	and they differ for terrestrial
	(<u>www.worldwildlife.org/science/ecoregions.cfm</u>) and freshwater
	(<u>www.feow.org</u>) populations. Marine biomes have not ye been
	mapped so these are largely tagged as 'Unknown'
Native	Whether the population occurs in its native range according to the
	species account on the IUCN Red List

Population Data

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Units	A brief description of the units the population data were reported
	in taken from the data source
Population Data	The annual population value as it appears in the data source.