

UNEP's Role in Supporting Implementation of MEAs

**Regional Capacity-Building
Workshop for CMS Non-Parties of
South and Southeast Asia**

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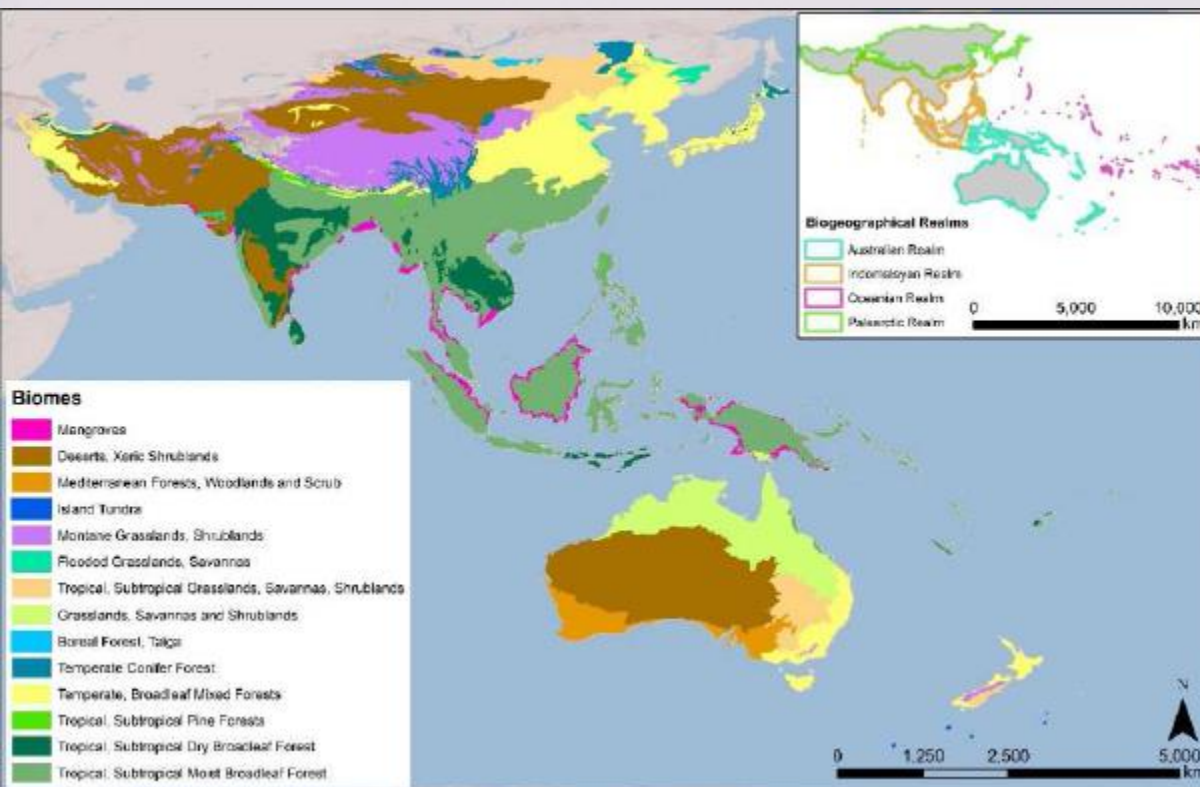


1. Regional & global context: Regional state of biodiversity, SDGs

State of Biodiversity in the Region

Exceptional biodiversity in the Asia Pacific region continues to decline

Region encompasses many different ecoregions & biomes, and has one of the most diverse & richest ecosystems in the world (it holds **20% of the world's biodiversity**, **14% of the world's tropical forests**, and **34% of global coral reefs**, including the greatest number of marine species in the world)



Distribution of main biomes and biogeographical realms on land in the Asia Pacific region (Source: WWF)

Flora and fauna of the region is increasingly threatened with extinction, accelerating loss of habitats (tropical forests, mangroves, wetlands, intertidal areas – critical for migratory birds)

Pressures on Biodiversity in the Region

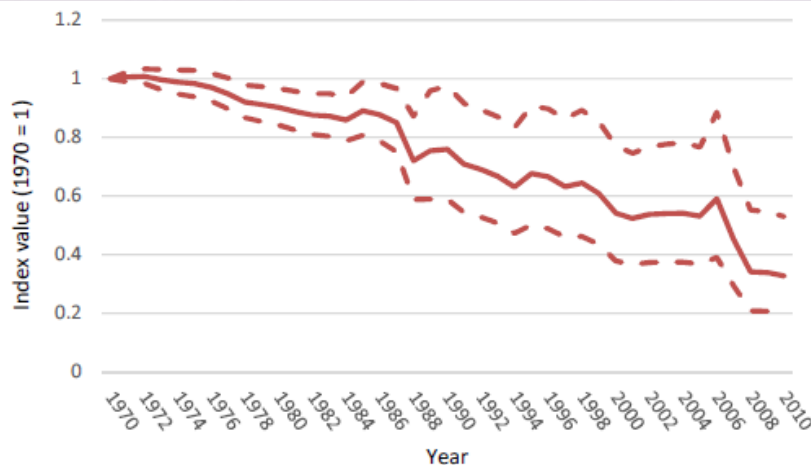
- A combination of human-induced factors are a key driver of biodiversity losses (e.g. unsustainable economic growth, population growth, eutrophication of water bodies, etc.)
- The region continues to experience deforestation and forest degradation (SE Asia lost 13% of its forest area since 1992)
- Rapid growth in demand for wildlife products and illegal wildlife trade (COP 11 resolution)
- Invasive alien species create particular pressures on the oceanic islands (IAS may lead to local extinction or decline in population numbers of certain species and changes to migration patterns, IAS are implicated in over half of known bird extinctions on islands)
- Marine ecosystems are affected negatively by commercial and artisanal fisheries (over-fishing, IUU fishing, etc.)

Responses to Biodiversity Loss in the Region

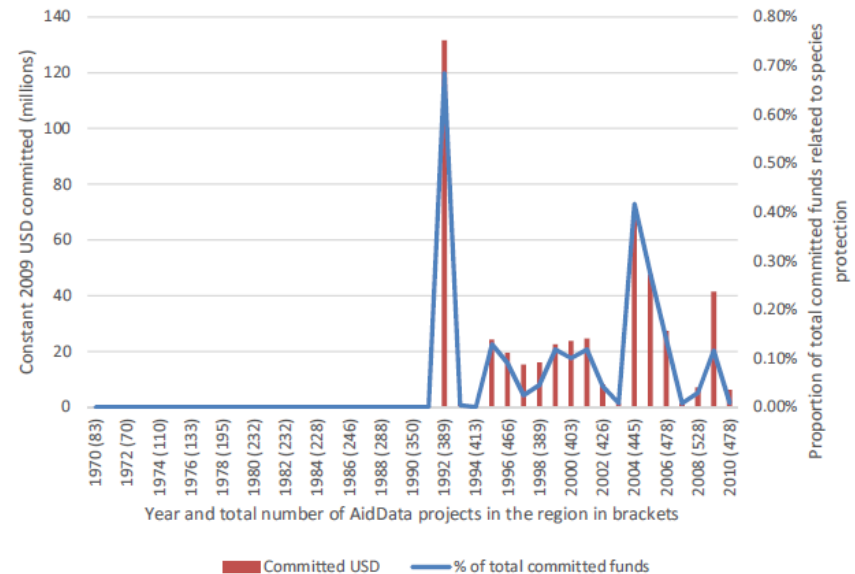
- Development of protected area networks (PA coverage increased steadily since 1990, 13.7% terrestrial, 15.4% marine)
- Growing interest in trans-boundary collaboration on protecting areas of high biodiversity conservation
- Mobilization of resources for Aichi Targets using schemes that recognize values of biodiversity and ES
- Growing use of voluntary certification schemes for fisheries and forests (Marine Stewardship Council Fisheries Standard, forest certification covering 10 million ha by 2014)
- Progress in formulating policies in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets (progress in developing/revising NBSAPs, national legislation on NP on ABS)

Target 12: Reducing risk of extinction

Species in the region are becoming more threatened over time, even with fairly steady development assistance into species conservation in the region



Indo-Pacific Living Planet Index 1970-2010 – declines in species populations
(Dashed lines indicate confidence limit .
Source: McRae et al. 2014)

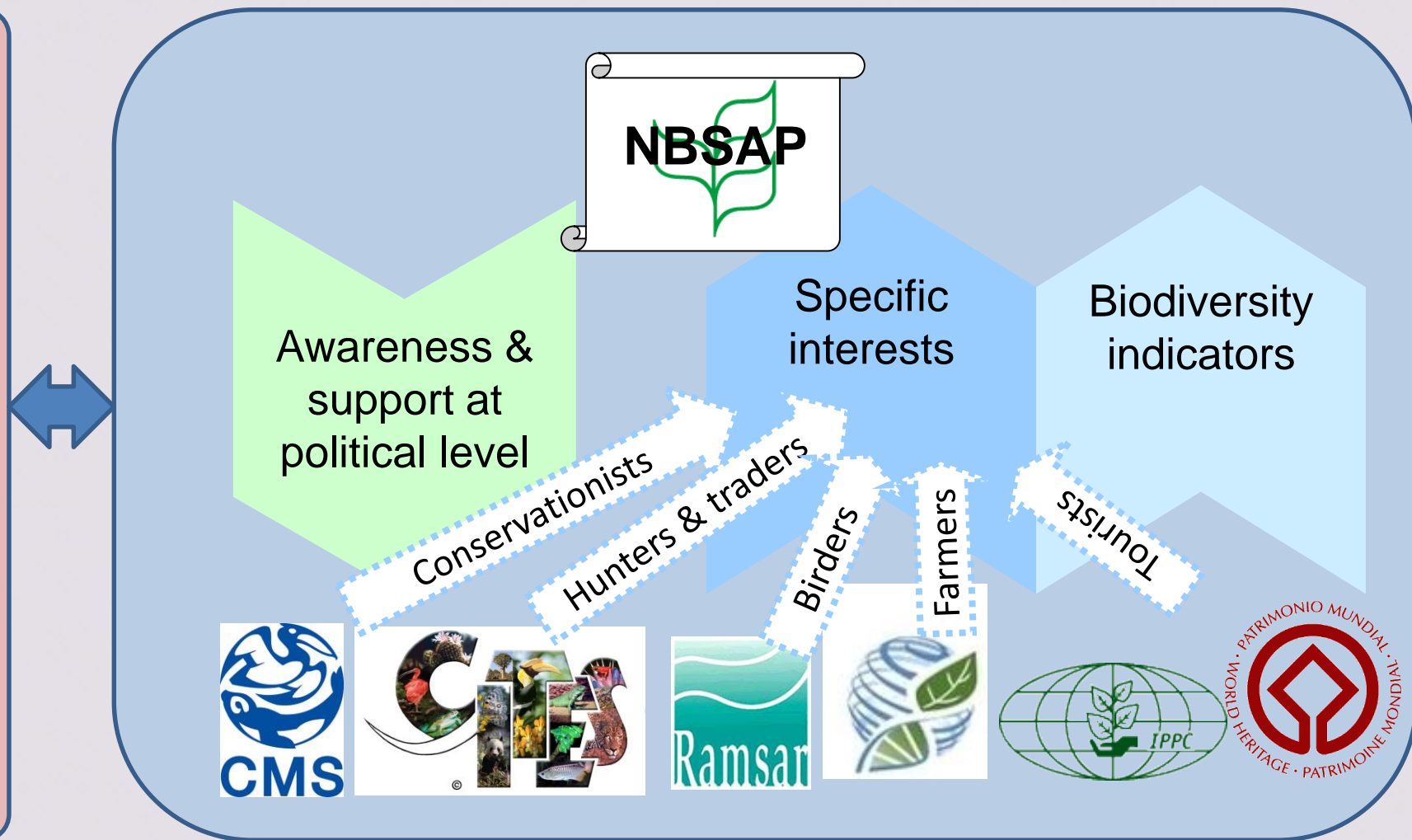


Absolute and proportional investment in species protection by donors on AidData between 1970 and 2010 in Asia-Pacific region

Target 17: Biodiversity strategies & action plans

Some progress has been made by countries in the region in promoting synergistic approaches in updating and implementing NBSAPs, but further efforts are required

2030 Development Agenda & SDGs

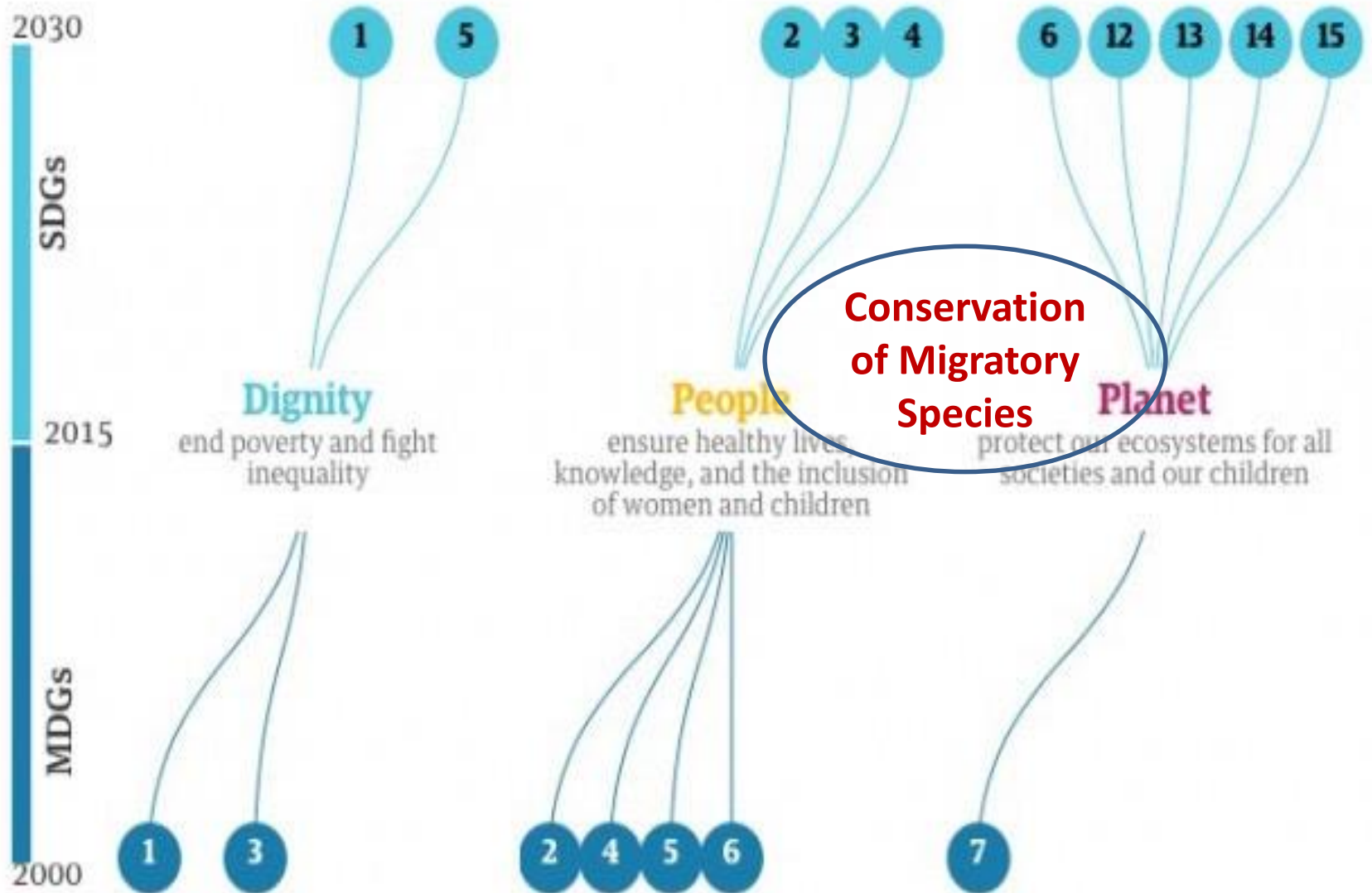


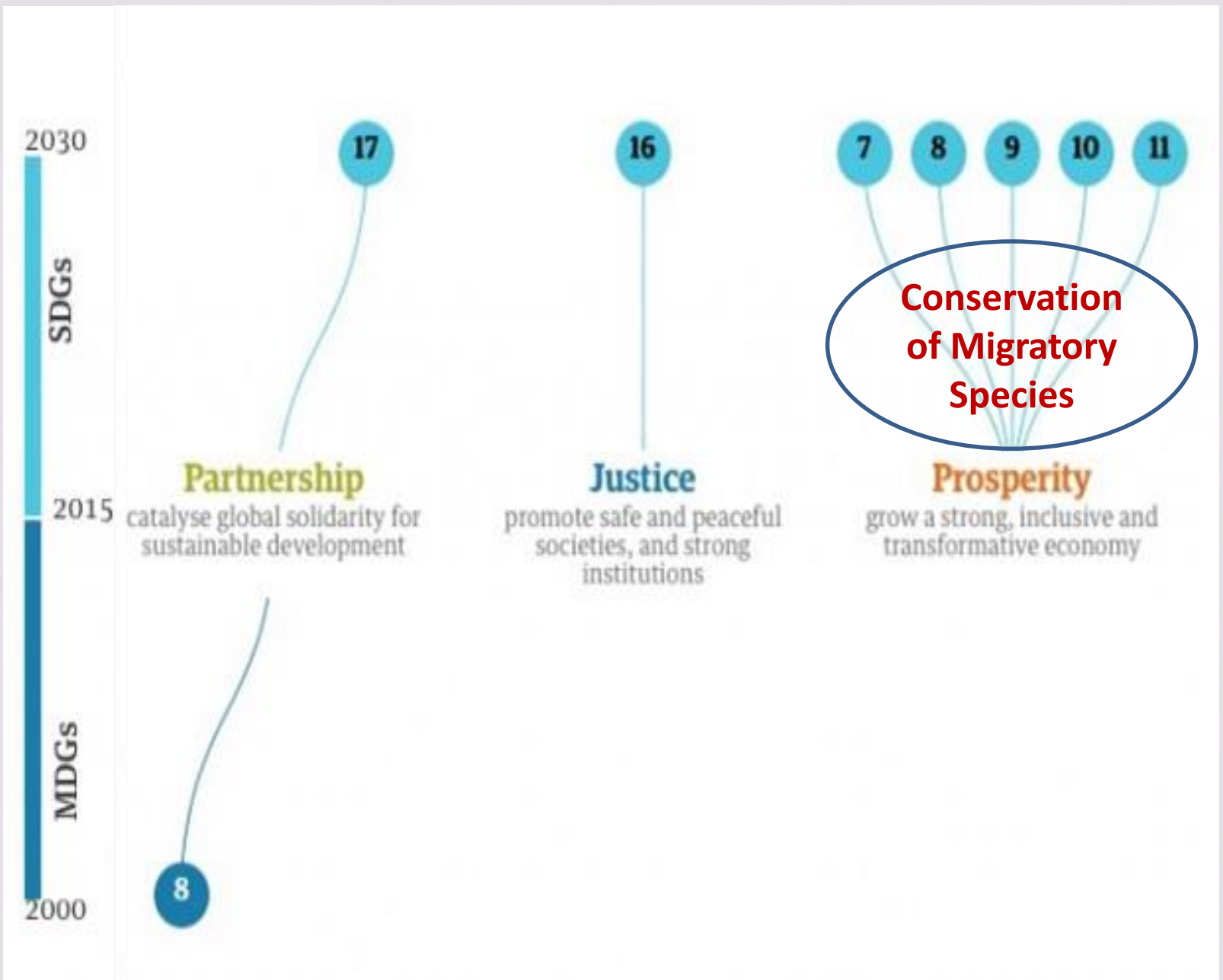
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

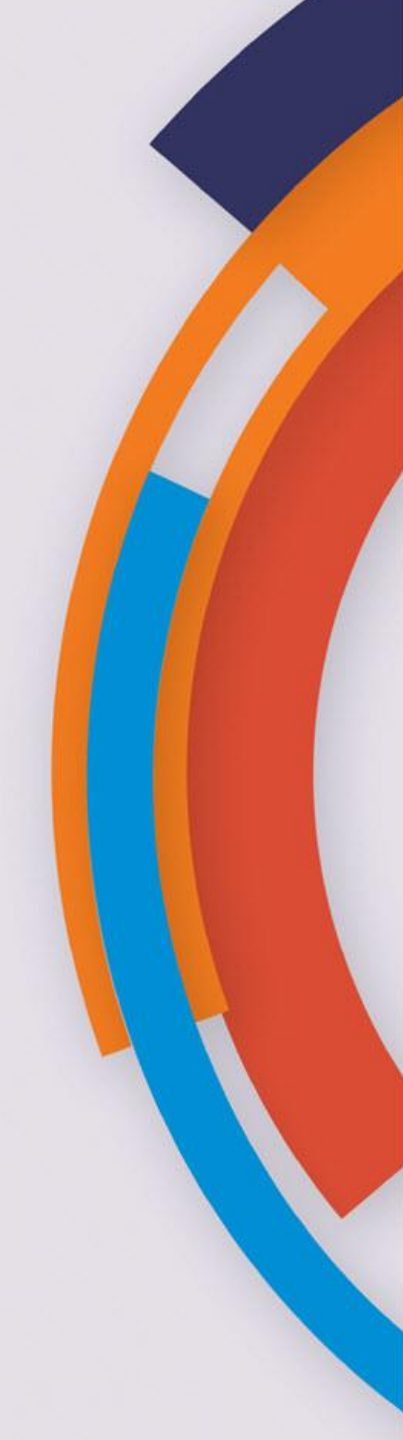
In September this year, following the progress made under the MDGs, global leaders finalized the **2030 Development Agenda** at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York.

This introduced the **17 Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs** for the period 2016-2030 (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>)









2. UNEP's work and its role in supporting countries on CMS

UNEP's mandate

"to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda..."



Assessing global, regional and national environmental conditions and trends



Developing international and national environmental instruments



Strengthening institutions for the wise management of the environment

UNEA 2014

A new world body that places environmental issues at the heart of international affairs and provides fresh impetus to tackle growing global challenges.

UNEP's Menu of Services



UNEP in Asia and the Pacific



Resource Efficiency

1st region with 'Roadmap for Sustainable Consumption and Production' – SCP (based on Rio+20 approved 10-Year Framework)

18 countries completed SCP policy reviews and have SCP Indicators



Ecosystem Management

53 Ecosystem management and restoration projects in 32 countries

7 Countries assisted to address threats of coastal erosion caused by sea-level rise

Strengthened Spatial planning for ICZM in over 15 Pacific Island Countries

Support to ASEAN countries on undertaking valuation and natural capital accounting

Technical support to 26 countries on Access and Benefit Sharing - CBD Aichi and Nagoya Protocol



Environment Under Review

30 countries undertaking national State of Environment & thematic assessments

UNEP Global Environment Outlook – open access data analysis & policy support by global community of practice

UNEP in Asia and the Pacific



Climate Change

Assisted 22 countries to prepare their **National Communications** for the UNFCCC

Supported 30 countries **to access over US\$52 million for adaptation, mitigation, low carbon growth** and readiness to deal with climate change



Disasters & Conflicts

Undertook **post-tsunami assessments** in Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Nepal and Sri Lanka

Established helpdesk during recovery phase of **cyclone Nargis** in Myanmar; assisted UNDAC effort for **Typhoon Haiyan** ; recently **Nepal earthquake**



Environmental Governance

Technical, legal and capacity building support provided to countries in implementing MEAs (biodiversity, chemicals/wastes, ozone, climate change, etc.)

Strengthened environment and climate change components of 14 UN Country Plans (UNDAFs) and 9 national countries' development plans .



Harmful Substances & Hazardous Waste

Ozone depleting substances (ODS) phase-out management plans developed in 31 countries

e.g. 10 tons of ODS destroyed in Nepal and 7,000 tons of illegal waste seized by World Customs Organization with UNEP support

Developed alternatives to DDT malaria vector control

UNEP's Work on MEAs

Regional focal points for biodiversity-related MEAs posted in UNEP Regional Offices

- Support MEA secretariats' work in different regions
- Support Governments in implementing MEAs (access to information, capacity building, technical advisory services, etc.)
- Support efforts in promoting synergistic implementation of MEAs (NBSAPs, joint pre-COP/post-COP consultations at the regional level, etc.)

Support provided through various projects of UNEP

- China Fund projects on NBSAPs, ABS for ASEAN Member States
- MEAs Information Management Initiative
- Project on synergies among biodiversity-related MEAs
- Other projects that cover other aspects of MEA implementation (Natural Capital valuation and accounting, ecosystem assessments, etc.)
- Support to GEF project development



3. Examples of GEF projects that support implementation of CMS

Example of GEF project: Dugong & Seagrass Conservation



Enhancing the Conservation Effectiveness of Seagrass Ecosystems Supporting Globally Significant Populations of Dugongs Across the Indian and Pacific Ocean Basins



PROJECT OUTCOMES

1. Community-based stewardship
2. Sustainable fisheries practices and financing (e.g. Blue Ventures)
3. Increased availability and access to critical knowledge needed for national decision-making
4. Informing policy on regional dugong and seagrass conservation needs

**Building on CMS
Dugong MoU!**

Partner Countries

Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and Vanuatu

Example of GEF project: Siberian Crane Wetlands Project



Protecting a network of globally important wetlands in Eurasia that are of critical importance for migratory waterbirds and other wetland biodiversity

- Using the globally threatened Siberian Crane as a flagship species, linking 16 key wetlands along the species' western and eastern flyways



PROJECT OUTCOMES

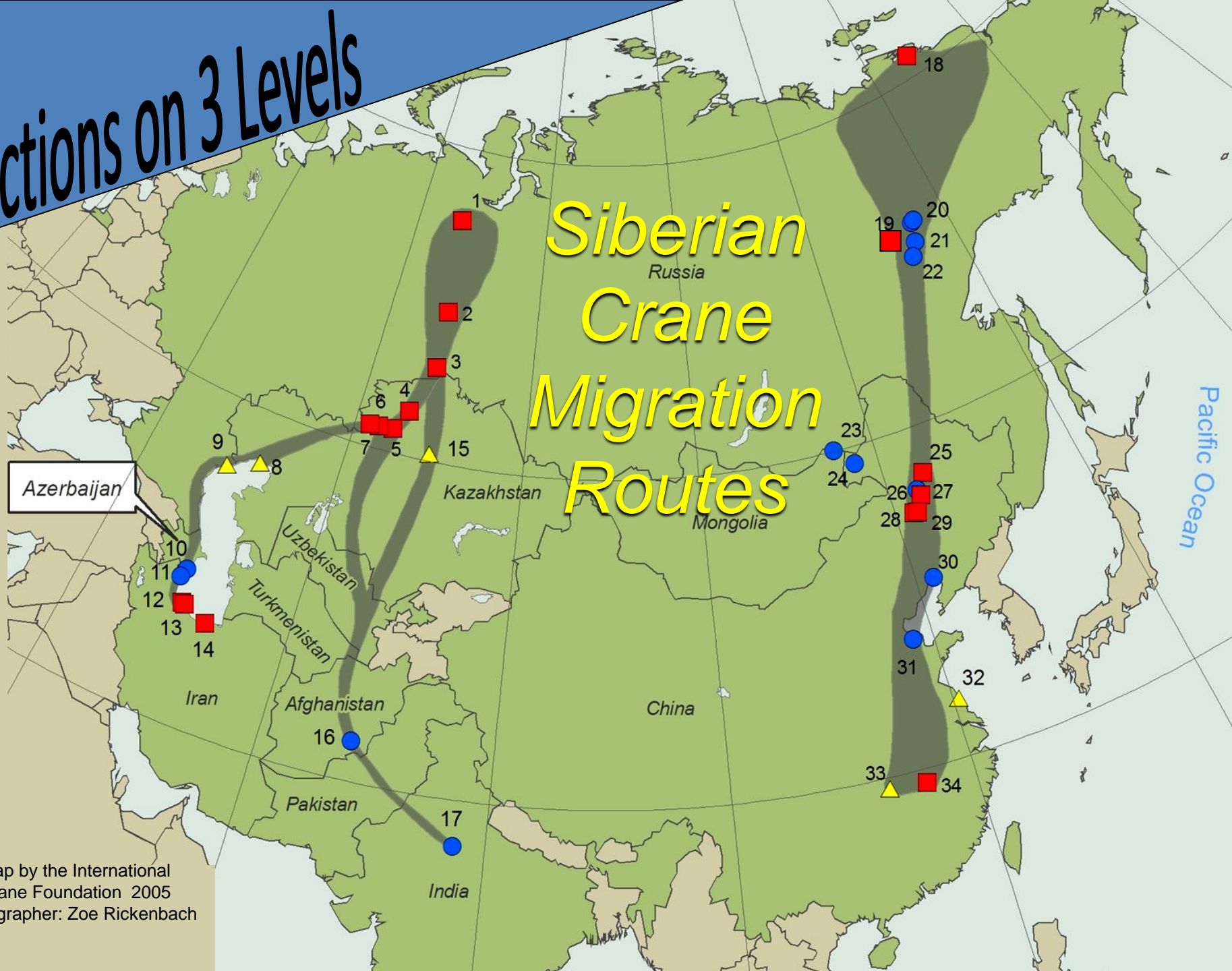
1. **Site level:** Reducing external threats and ensuring necessary water flows to maintain ecological health of wetlands
2. **National level:** Support to monitoring and training across sites, applied research to inform decisions, improve legislation, policy and planning to support wetland and waterbird conservation
3. **International level:** Flyway-level conservation – the network of wetland sites along the entire migratory pathways of the cranes

**Building on CMS
Siberian Crane MoU!**

Partner Countries: China, Kazakhstan, Iran, Russia

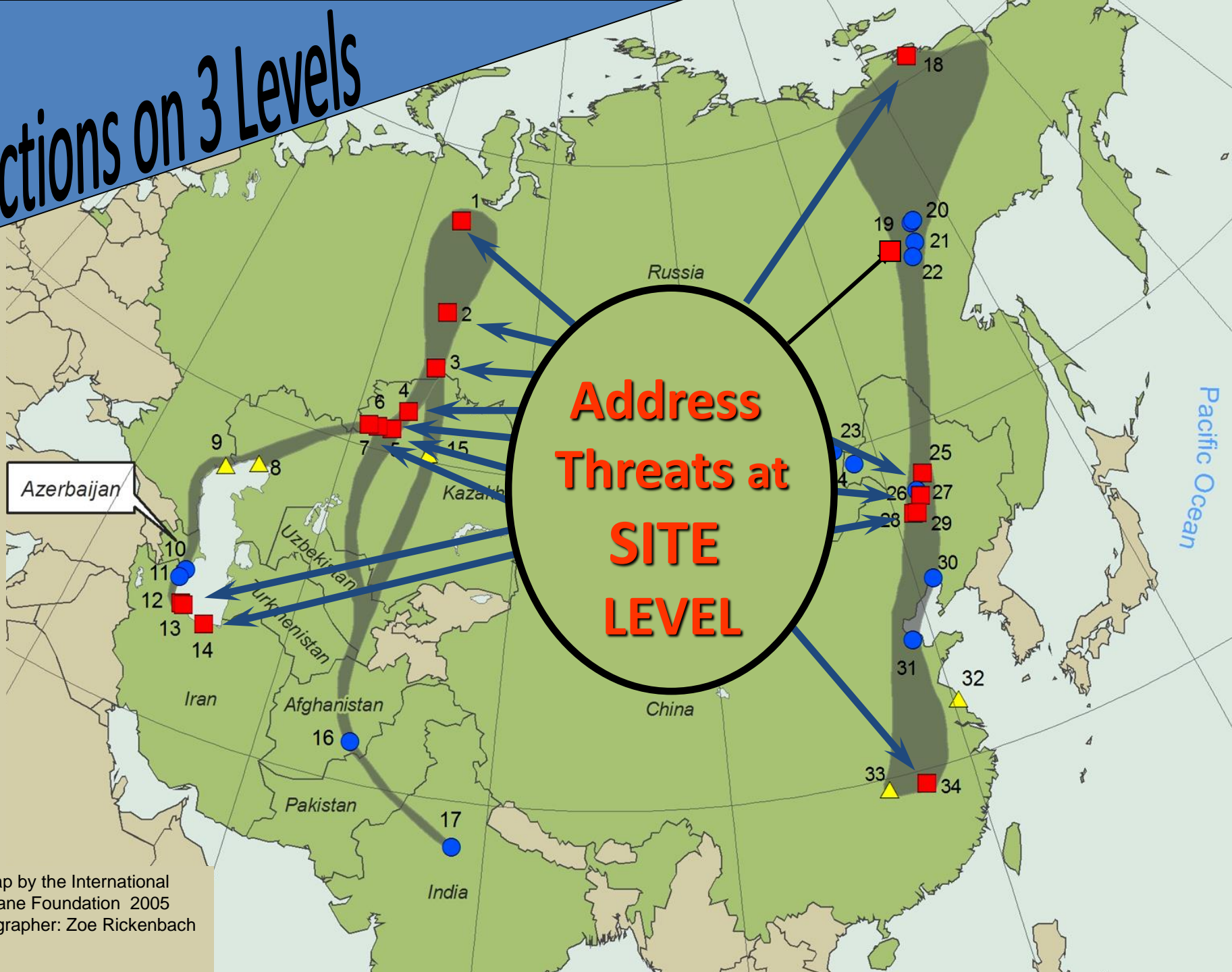
Actions on 3 Levels

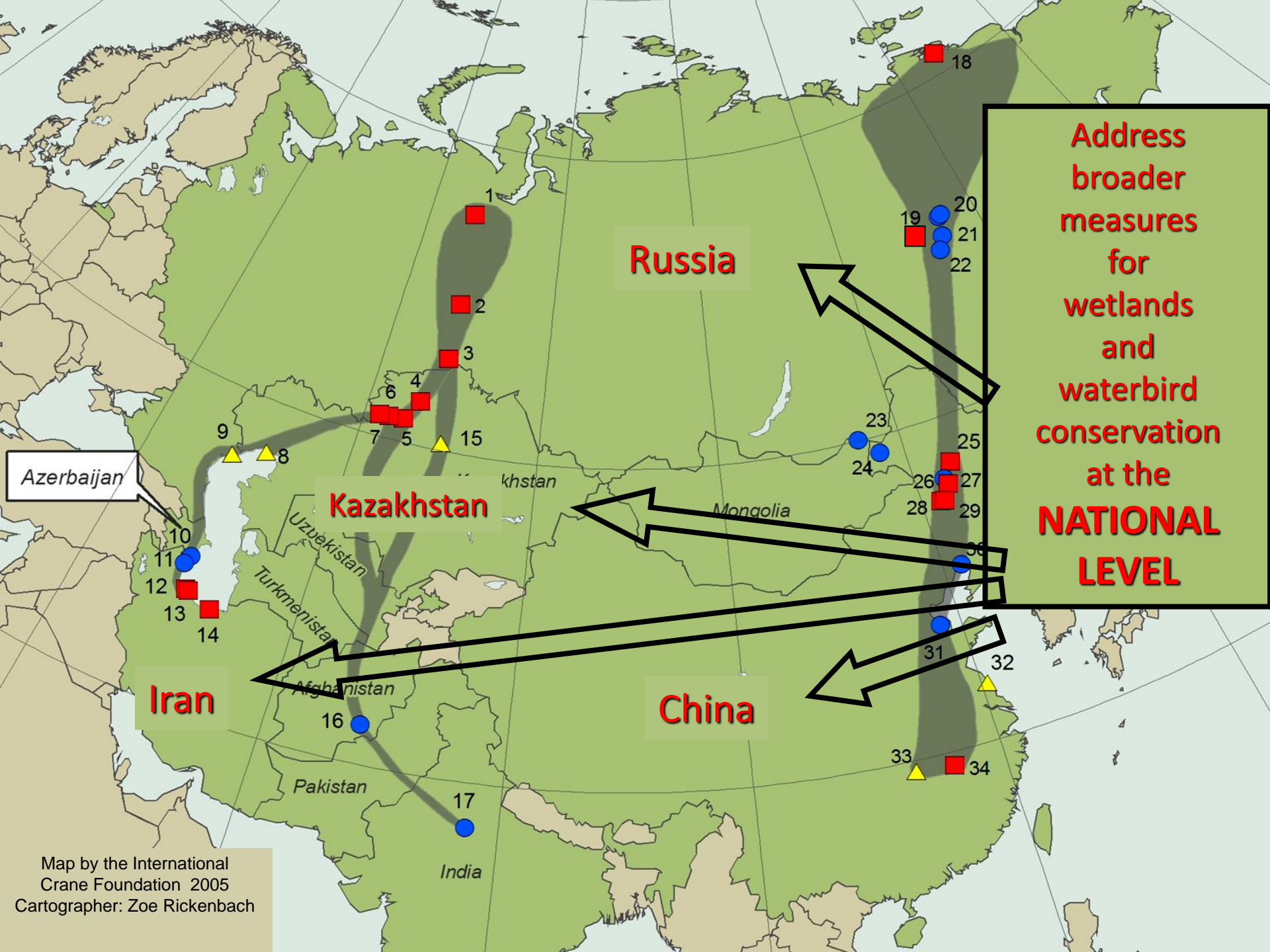
Siberian Crane Migration Routes



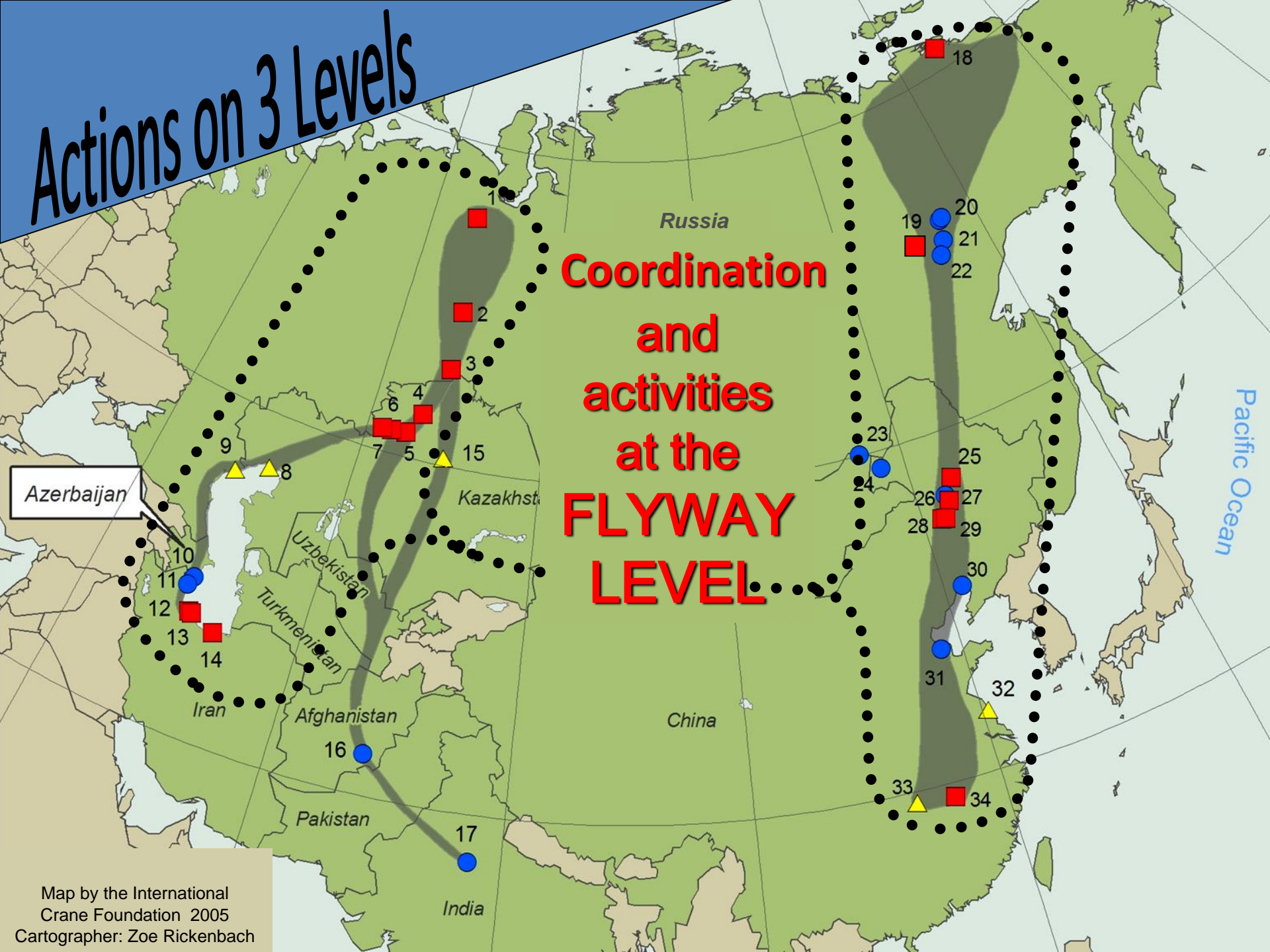
Actions on 3 Levels

**Address
Threats at
SITE
LEVEL**





Actions on 3 Levels





Lessons learned & opportunities

- GEF projects provide opportunities for building effectively on existing mechanisms and frameworks of CMS, and to further promote collaboration among Range States for the conservation of migratory species and their critical habitats
- Building on existing mechanisms and frameworks of CMS is effective in ensuring sustainability and replication beyond the lifetime of projects, which is one of the important requirements of GEF projects

THANKS!

