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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INDIA

Pench tiger crossing NH-7 raises concern

Vijay Pinjarkar | TNN | Updated: Jul 10, 2019, 5:50 IST



Trending Globally Trending in India Viral Videos This is Serious



Tiger crosses national highway, jumps over crash barrier, video goes viral

Pench Tiger risks life by crossing highway in broad daylight

Nation Next Newsroom | Jul 10, 2019 20:09

Home > Buzz









Tiger Crossing National Highway And Jumping Crash **Barrier Triggers a Debate on Wildlife Conservation-Watch Video**

Tiger jumps crash barrier after crossing National Highway. Watch here.

Published: July 10, 2019 7:56 PM IST

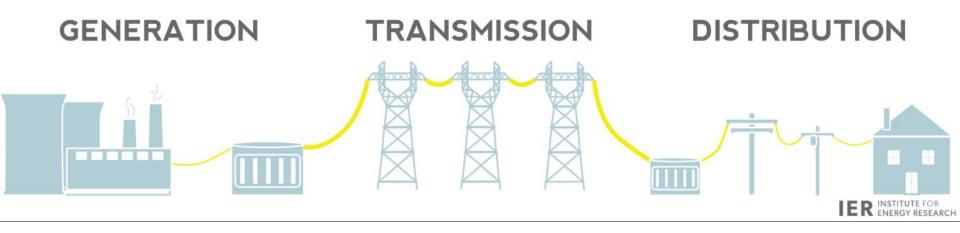
By India.com Buzz Desk ☑ Edited by Kritika Vaid ☑ 💆







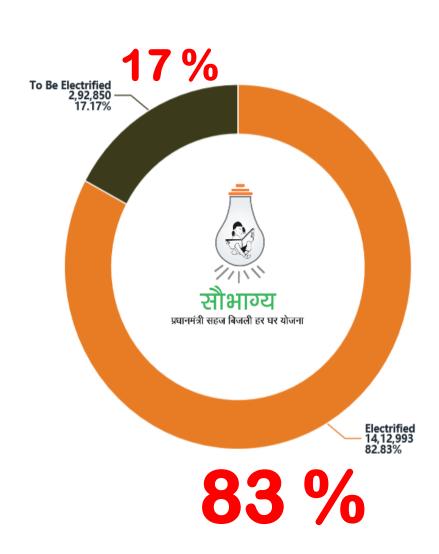




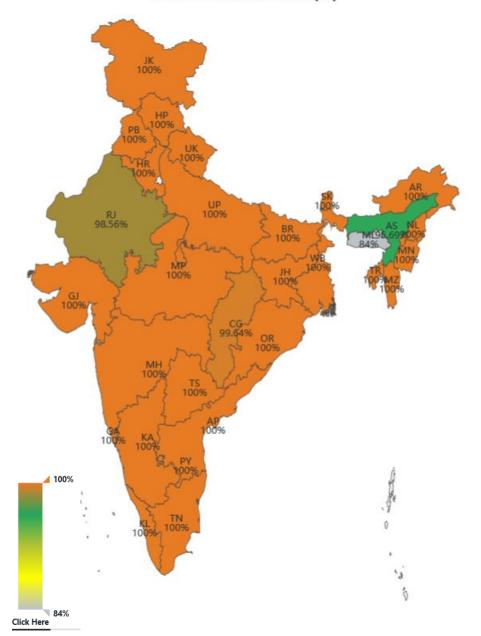
- Energy is needed for economic growth, for improving the quality of life and for increasing opportunities for development
- Until few years ago India was amongst the most electricity deprived country in the world, where more than 400 million people in 78 million homes were without access to electricity (UNEP, 2008; World Bank, 2009).
- More than 50% of rural, poor households in India were still un-electrified

Household Progress From 11-OCT-2017 Out of 17,05,843

Household Electrified: 14,12,993

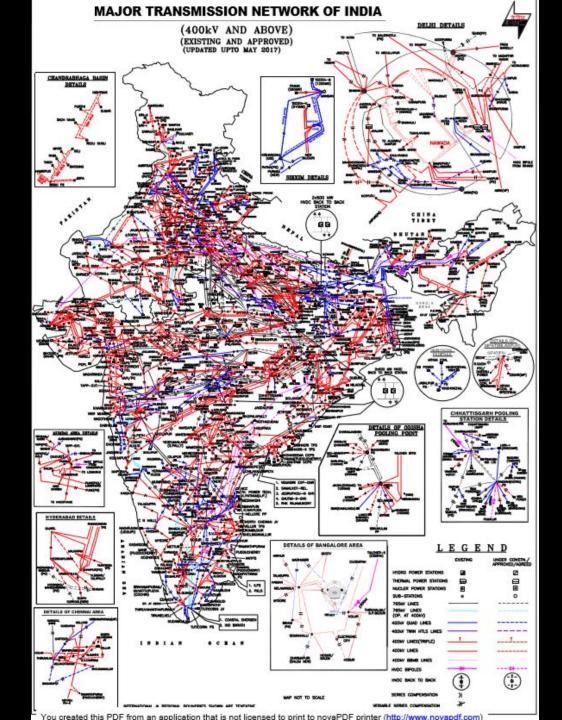


Electrification Status (%)





The poles that deliver power often criss-cross undeveloped landscapes occupied by numerous avian species









Seven Jumbos Electrocuted to Death In Dhenkanal



Nagarhole (November 2012)

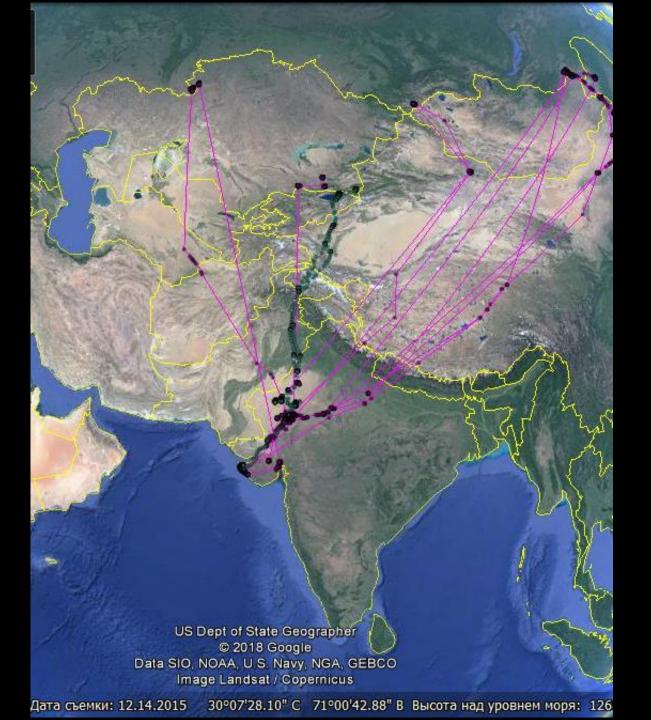
Powerlines – the new death trap



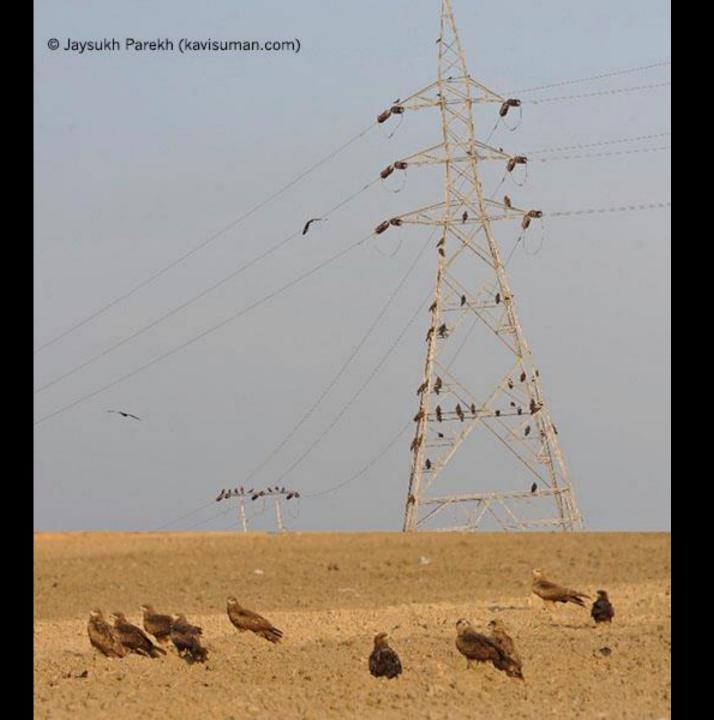






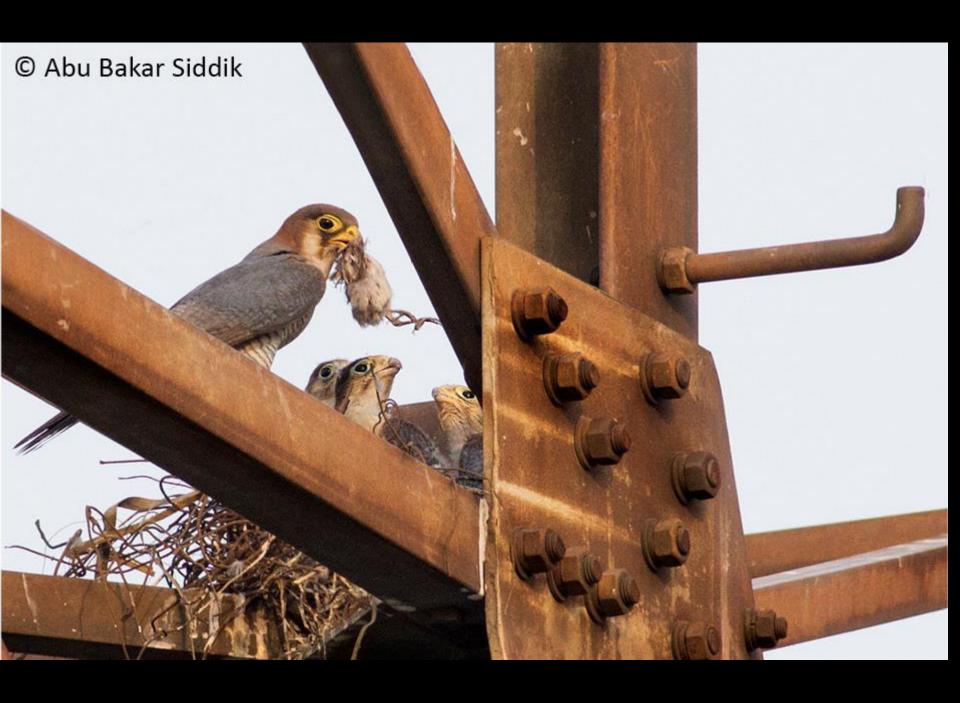










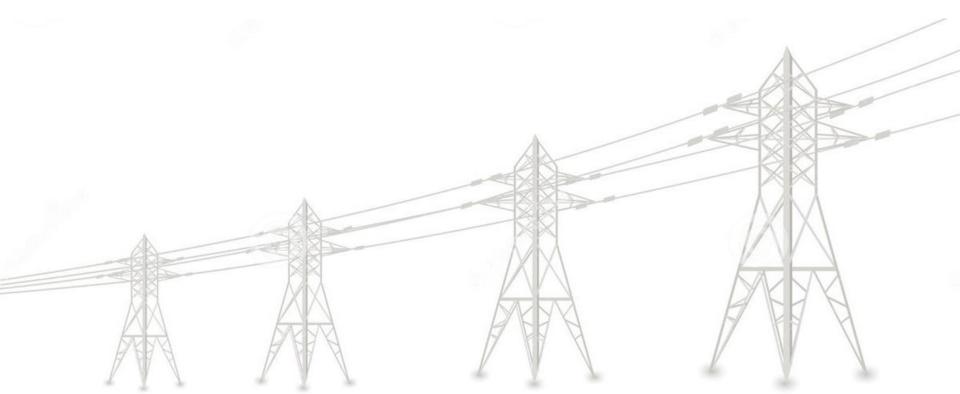




Birds and Power lines

- Power lines are said to pose a major threat to many bird species across the world, in particular endangered species such as birds of prey, which show the greatest incidence of electrocution
- Collision with power lines is a lesser-known problem than electrocution and is harder to detect because it can occur at any point along the transmission line.
- Electrocutions are thought to affect avian populations in Asia, but regional research has not been widely disseminated

- Voltages ≥ 66 kV typically pose little avian electrocution risk, because the phase-to-phase and phase-to-ground separations required from an engineering perspective are usually sufficient to prevent simultaneous avian contact (APLIC 2006).
- These however pose the problem of collisions to birds



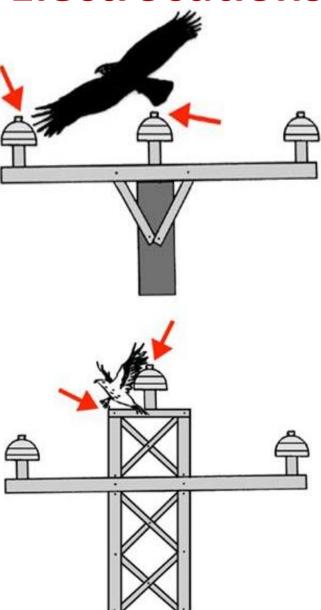
Electrocutions

- Bird electrocutions may occur because of a combination of biological, environmental, and electrical design factors.
- Biological and environmental factors include:
 - Habitat
 - Bird species (body size, behaviour, distribution and abundance)
 - Prey/food availability





Electrocutions



Preventing electrocutions

To prevent bird electrocutions from occurring, one of two methods may be used:

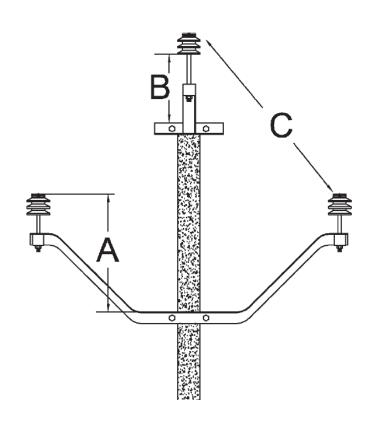
 Framing structures so that there is adequate separation between phases or phases and grounds to accommodate large perching birds.



Preventing electrocutions

• To prevent avian electrocutions, APLIC (2006) recommends 152 cm of horizontal and 102 cm of vertical separation between different phases and between phases and grounded equipment, including concrete poles and grounded metal cross-arms.

• This is the least expensive strategy

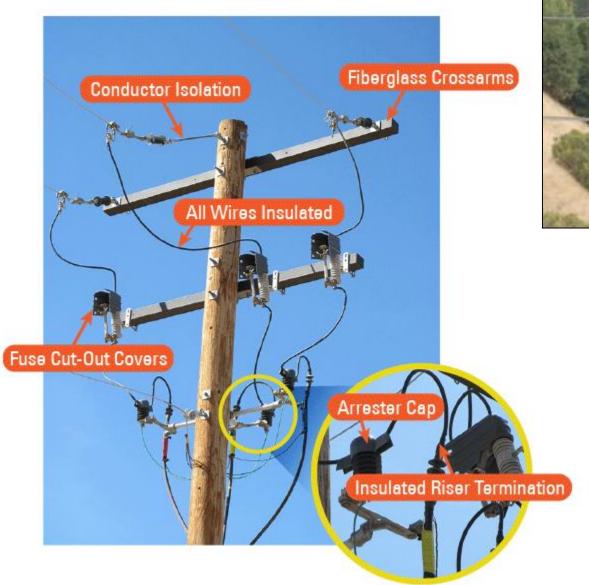


Preventing electrocutions

 Applying covers on phases or grounds where adequate separation is not feasible. Examples of covers include insulator/conductor covers, bushing covers, arrester covers, cutout covers, and jumper wire covers.

Installing perch deterrents and providing raised platforms

Covers/Insulators







Perch deterrents







• In the case of power line collisions, birds collide with one of the wires, generally the earth wire, which is less visible.

• Bird collisions may occur because of a combination of biological, environmental and electrical design factors.





Factors are:

- Habitat, weather, time of day, lighting, human activity
- Bird species (body size, flight behavior, distribution and abundance, flocking behavior, age, sex)
- Power line configuration and location



Porus Khareghat

Lesser Flamingo

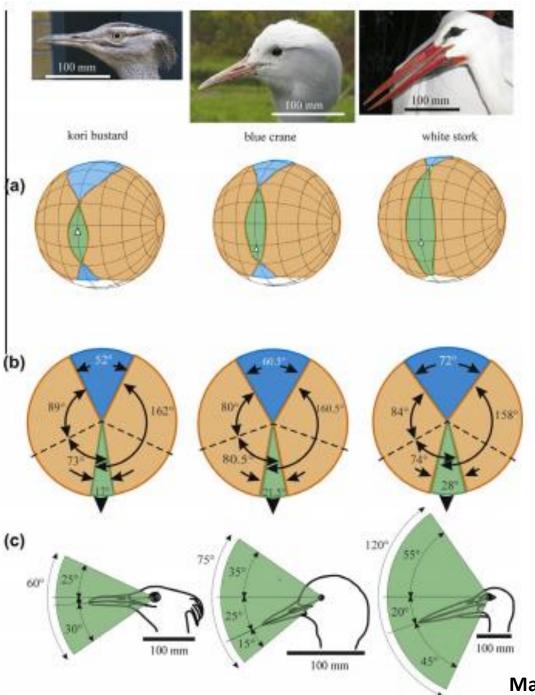








Great Indian Bustard



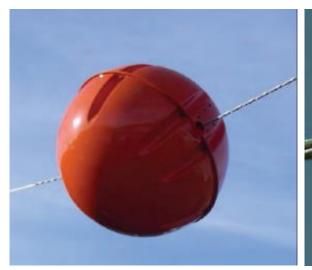
Visual fields in Large Birds

Martin and Shaw (2010)

Preventing Bird Collisions

- Power line spans in collision risk areas may be marked to make the wires more visible to flying birds.
- A variety of line marking devices, including hanging markers, coils, and aviation marker balls, are commercially available.
- Managing surrounding lands (Garbage dumps, Carcass disposal sites)
- When collisions cannot be reduced by another method such as line marking or managing surrounding lands, the configuration of an existing line can sometimes be changed to minimize collisions

Bird Diverters



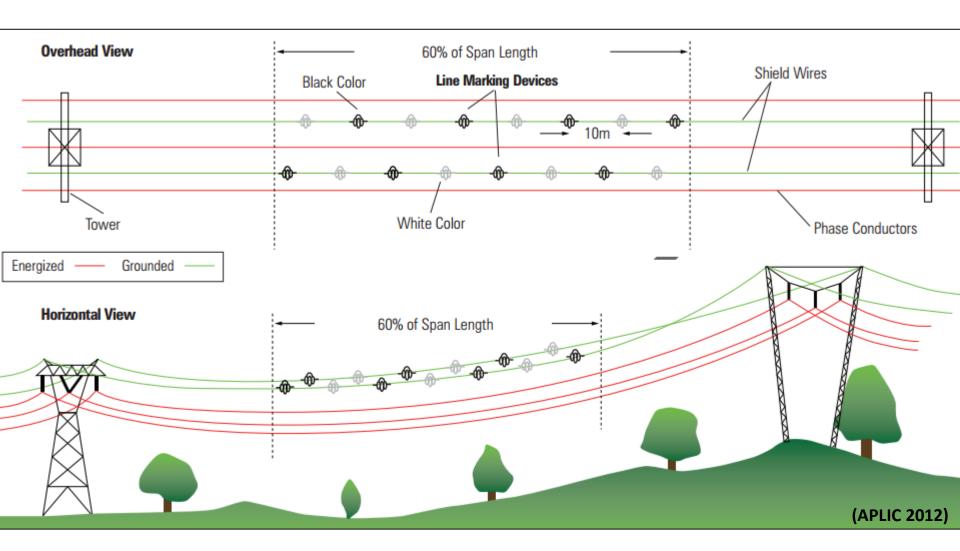




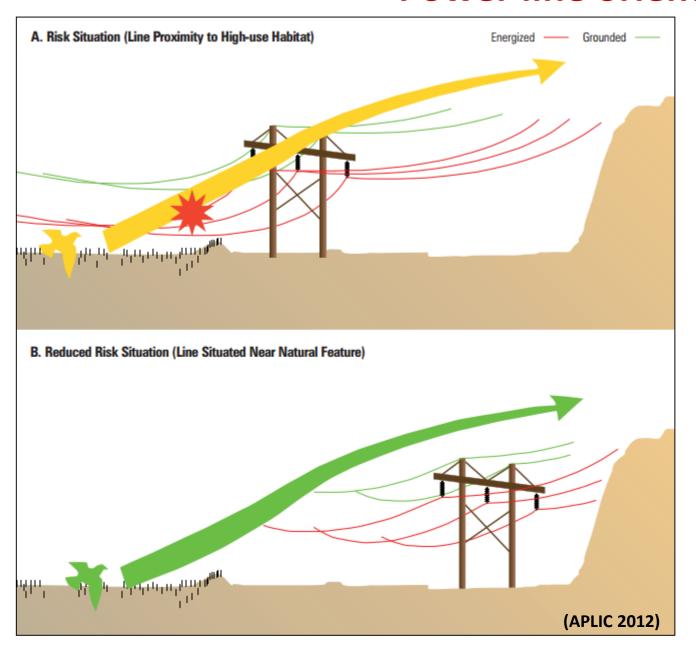




Placement of line marker devices

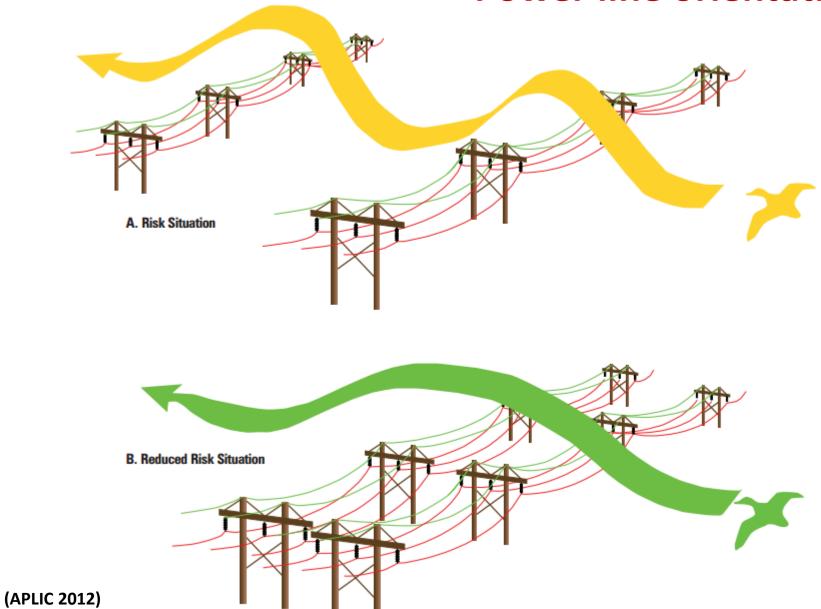


Power line orientation



Power line orientation

Grounded



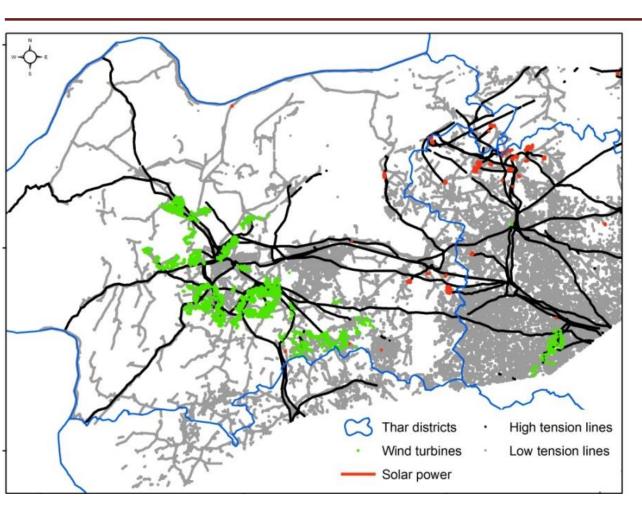
CASE STUDIES

Bustard Recovery Program Wildlife Institute of India













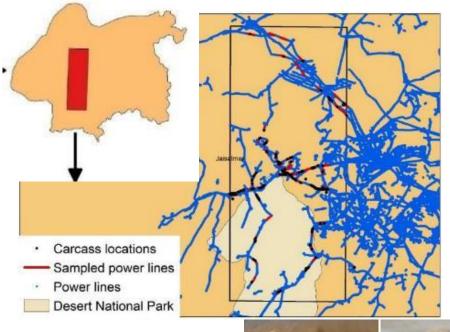


4 GIB mortality detected in Thar (2017–18)

& estimated deaths of ~18 GIB / year (15% population)

How to assess the impact of power-lines on bird populations?

Carcass surveys







Species that collided frequently with power-lines based on carcass surveys



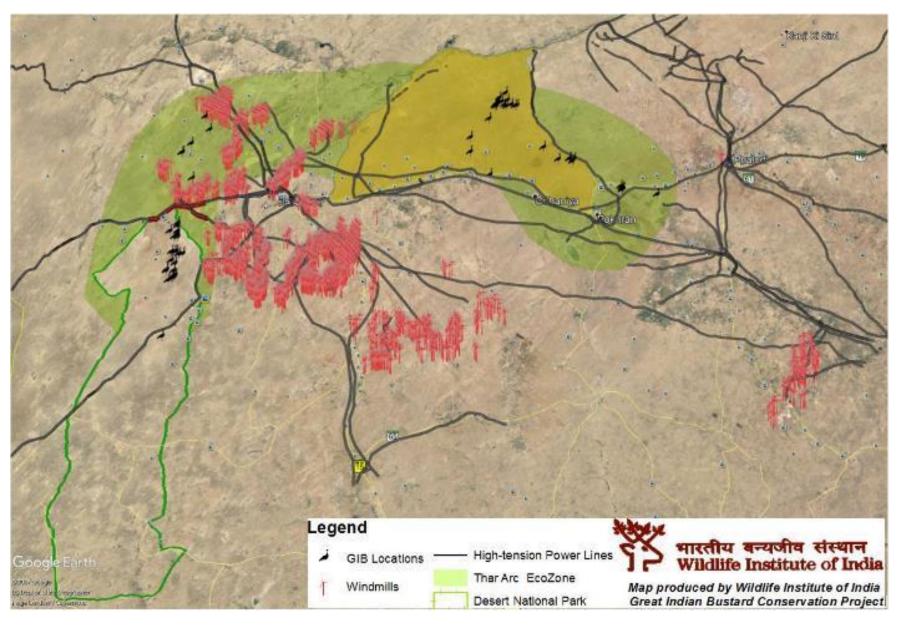




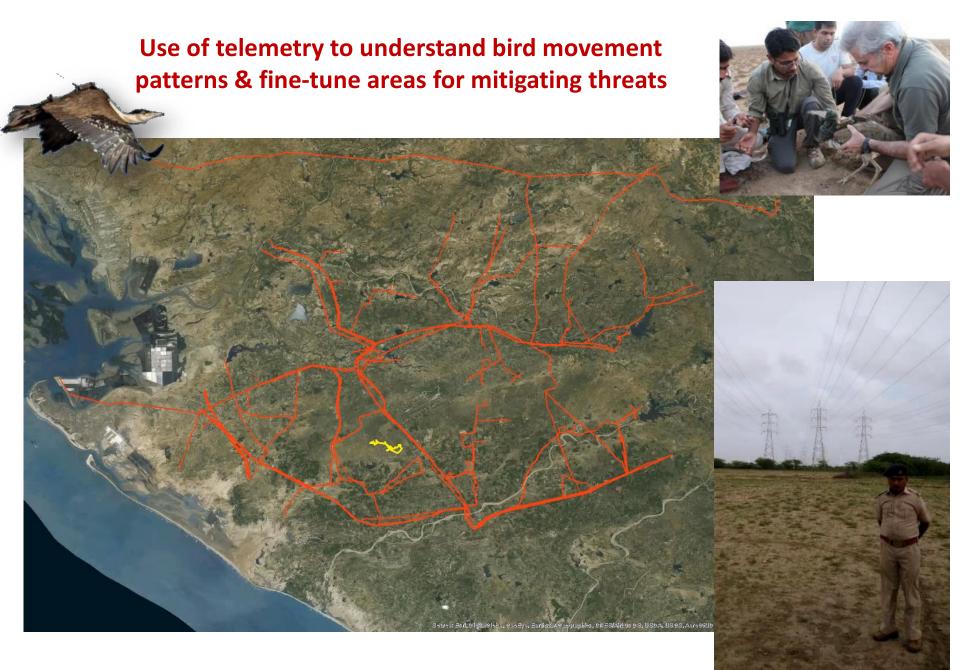


Research to strategize mitigation of power-line impacts on bird populations

Mapping



Research to strategize mitigation of power-line impacts on bird populations



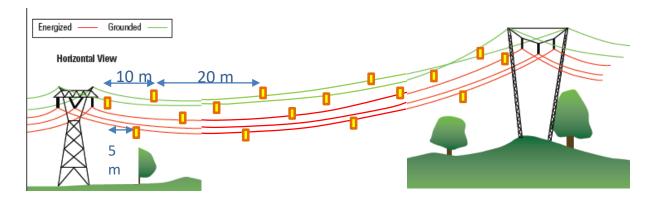
Mitigation of power-line impacts on bird populations

- Sensitization workshops to disseminate the evidence to power-agencies
- Meetings with power-agencies to recommend mitigation measures
- Parallel awareness and judiciary processes to implement mitigation measures

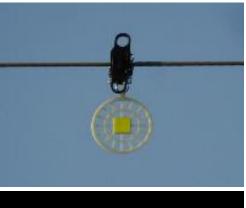
Case-study: Meetings for powerline mitigation in GIB habitats 2016 onwards & pilot installation of diverters in Thar

WII recommendation

- Underground high risk powerlines
- Bird diverters on medium risk powerlines
- Disallow new powerlines in priority habitats



Conservation advocacy





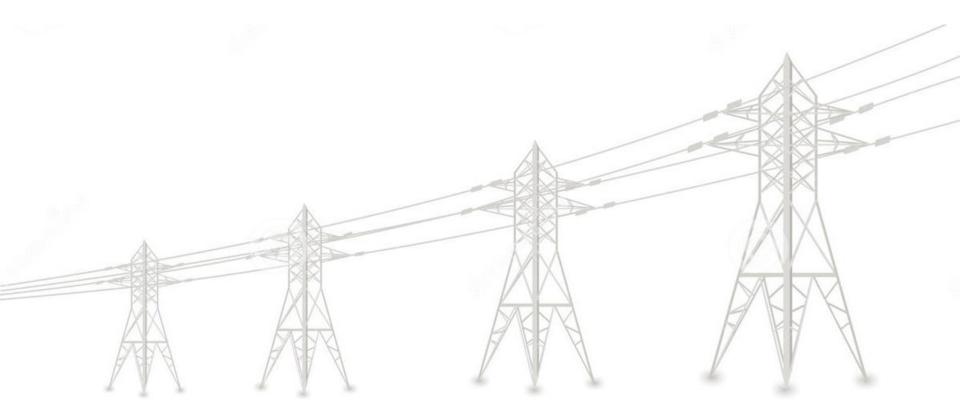
Cost calculations:

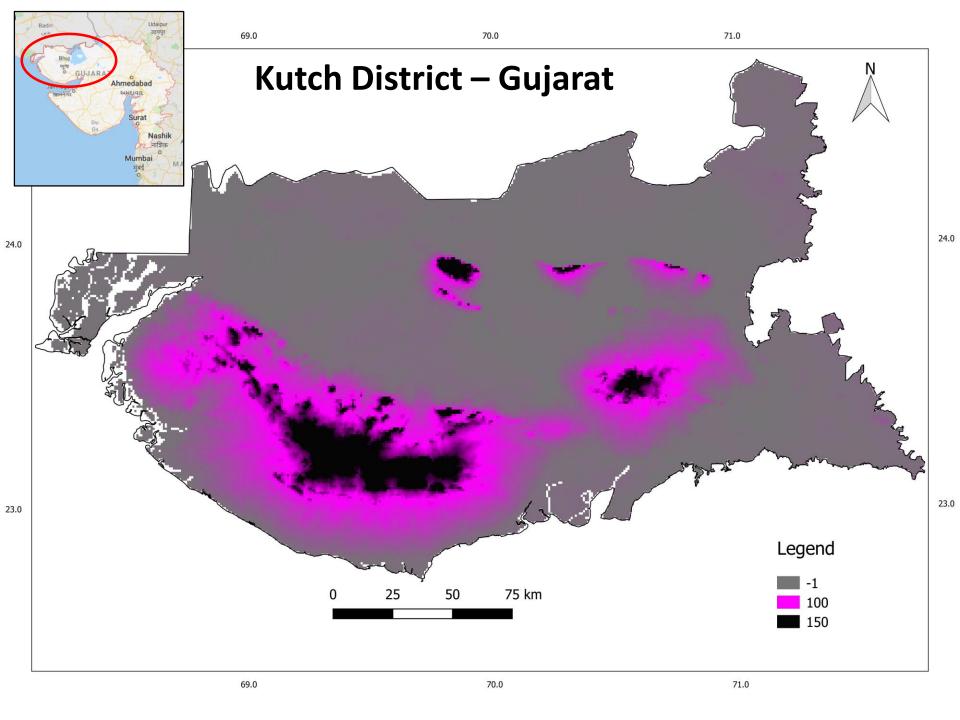
1 diverter / 5 m Central 80% marking

- ~ 160 diverters / km
- ~ 5000 INR/unit
- ~ 8 lakh INR/km (export)
- ~ 2 lakh INR / km (local)

Preventing Bird Collisions

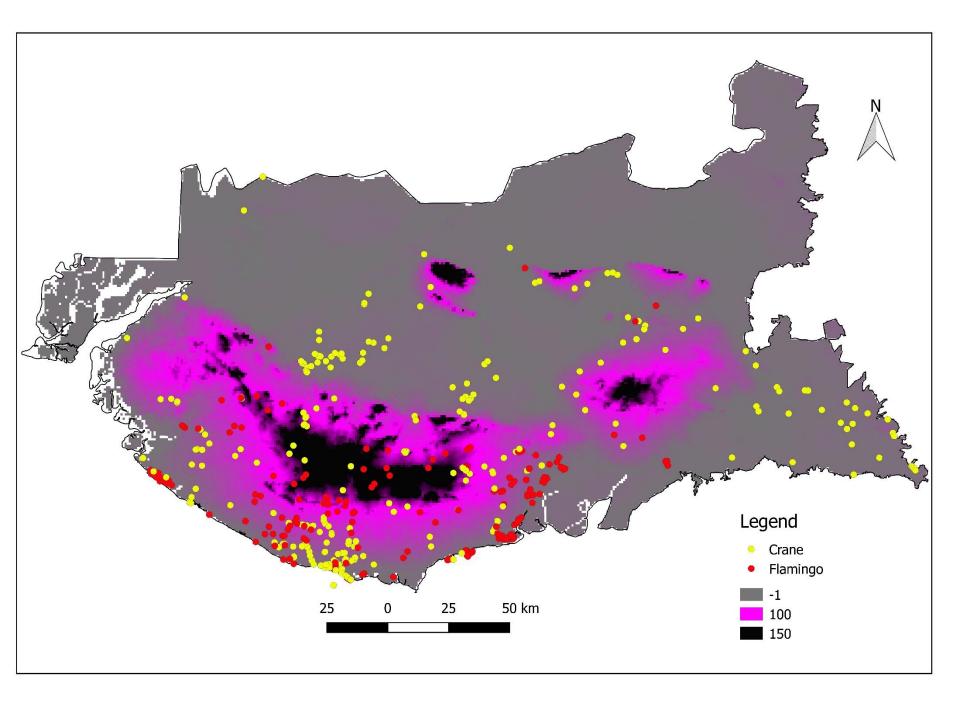
• Burying power lines may be a solution to bird collisions in some instances, but can cost from 3 to 20 times more than that of overhead power lines and have other environmental impacts

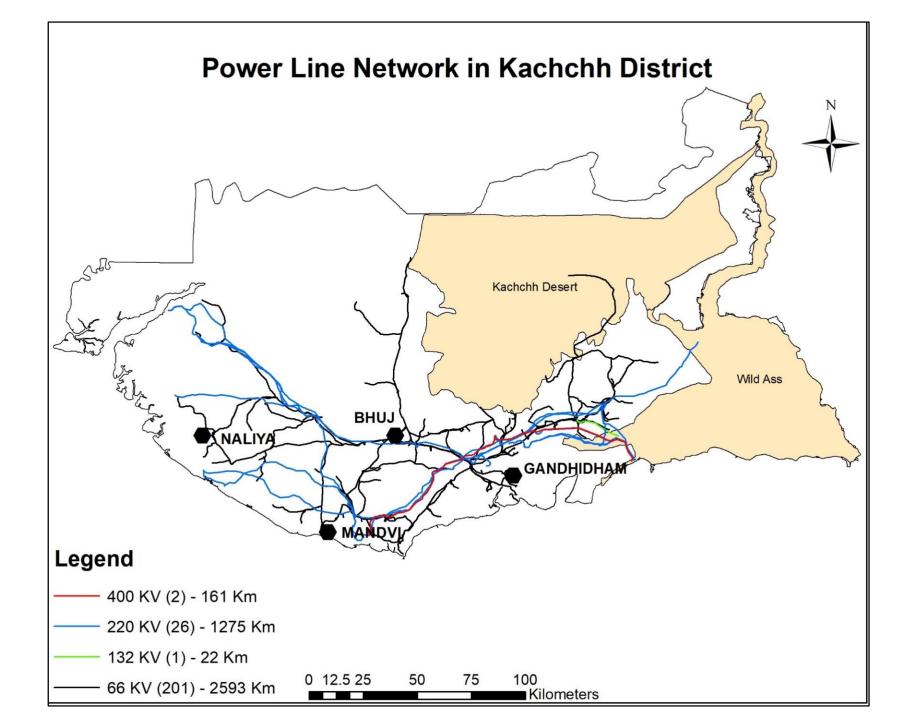




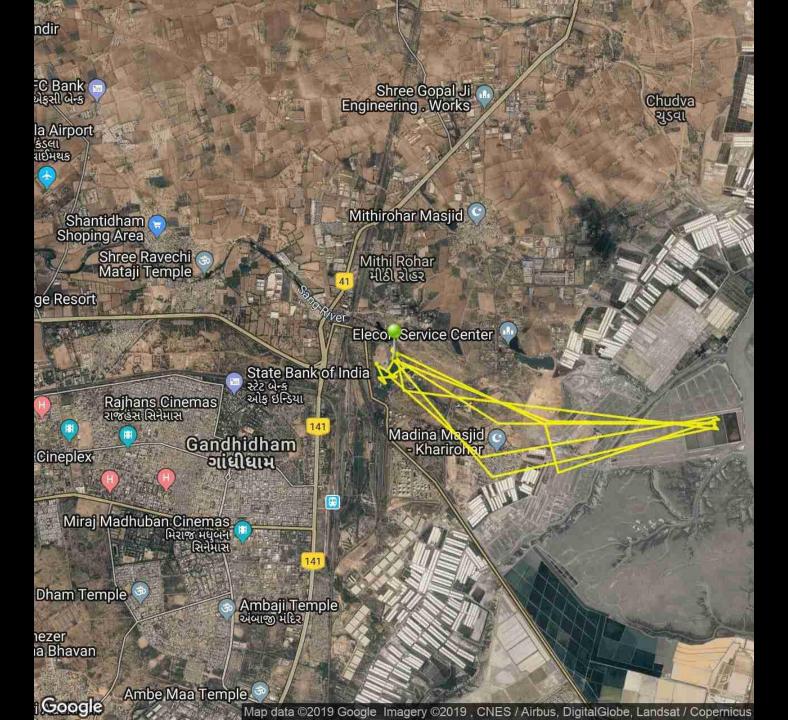














Conclusion

• Realistically, there is no practical way to permanently keep birds out of substations or off transmission structures.

- Knowledge of bird behaviour and interactions is essential in understanding the effectiveness of the deterrents
- All new power lines (distribution lines) to follow construction design standards
- Site-specific collision monitoring surveys are required





