Updated range metrics and a global population estimate for the Critically

 Endangered Philippine Eagle using a spatial ensemble habitat model

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Short title: Philippine Eagle range metrics and population size

Abstract

Many range-restricted taxa are currently experiencing severe population declines yet

lack fundamental biological information regarding distribution and population size.

Establishing baseline estimates for both these key biological parameters is however

critical for directing long-term monitoring and conservation planning for at-risk range-

restricted species. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Red List uses three spatial range metrics that define species distributions and inform

extinction risk assessments: extent of occurrence (EOO), area of occupancy (AOO)

and area of habitat (AOH). However, calculating all three metrics using standard

IUCN approaches relies on a geographically representative sample of locations,

which for rare species is often spatially biased. Here, we apply model-based

interpolation using an ensemble Species Distribution Model (SDM), correlating

occurrences with remote-sensing derived environmental covariates, to calculate

IUCN range metrics and a global population estimate for the Critically Endangered

Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*). Our ensemble-averaged SDM had high

predictive accuracy and was able to identify key areas of Philippine Eagle habitat

across the species global range. We estimated an AOH = 49,426 km^2 and from this

metric calculated a maximum EOO = 609,697 km^2 and a minimum EOO = 273,794

km^2, with an AOO = 54,695 occupied cells. Based on inferred habitat from the AOH

metric and territorial habitat area from home range estimates, we provide an updated

global population estimate of 677 breeding pairs (range: 549-772 pairs), or 1354

mature individuals, across the entire Philippine Eagle range. We demonstrate that

even when occurrence sampling is geographically biased, robust habitat models can

be built which enable quantification of IUCN range metrics and a baseline population

size estimate. In the absence of adequate location data for many rare and

threatened taxa, our method is a promising spatial modelling tool with widespread

applications, in particular for island endemics facing high extinction risk.

Keywords: area of habitat, area of occupancy, extent of occurrence, population

size, range metrics, Species Distribution Models

Introduction

Species that are rare due to either a restricted geographic range, habitat specificity,

or small population size are at greater risk of extinction because their populations

may not be as resilient to perturbations in the environment (Rabinowitz *et al.* 1986;

Gaston 1994). Therefore, quantifying the two key biological parameters of range

extent and population size is fundamental for directing conservation action for

threatened rare taxa (Marcer *et al.* 2013; Syfert *et al.* 2014). Habitat loss and

fragmentation are the two primary threats to biodiversity globally (Díaz *et al.* 2019),

in particular for tropical biodiversity hotspots (Brooks *et al.* 2002). Determining

baseline range size metrics and population estimates for threatened species with

restricted ranges and low abundance can thus inform long-term conservation

monitoring by quantifying the effects of habitat loss and fragmentation on range

extent and population size for these at-risk taxa (IUCN 2001; Brooks *et al.* 2019).

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List uses two

spatial range metrics that seek to define species distributions and inform extinction

risk assessments (IUCN 2019): extent of occurrence (EOO) and area of occupancy

(AOO). EOO represents the upper bound of a species distribution, measuring the

overall geographic extent of localities and degree of risk spread. Conversely, AOO

represents the lower bound of a species distribution. By quantifying where the

species actually occurs, AOO is thus linked to population size (Gaston & Fuller

2009). Recently, the IUCN developed a new deductive range metric, area of habitat

(AOH, Brooks *et al.* 2019), defined as the extent of habitat factors, such as landcover

and elevation, for a species within its range. Estimating AOH is important because it

can be used in supporting conservation risk assessments by quantifying habitat loss

and fragmentation (Brooks *et al.* 2019; Sutton *et al.* 2021).

Various spatial workflows have been proposed and implemented for calculating

AOH, which overlay and clip elevational and landcover preferences within the range

of species presence points (Brooks *et al.* 2019). Deductive methods using clipped

environmental layers with expert-drawn maps (Harris & Pimm 2008), or inductive

modelling methods using inverse distance weighted interpolation (Palacio *et al.*

2021), and logistic regression (Dahal *et al.* 2021; Lumbierres *et al.* 2021), have been

successful in estimating AOH but rely on a spatially homogenous sample of

presence points. For many rare species in remote, hard to survey areas presence

data is either insufficient, or may be heavily biased towards a well-sampled region

but lacking elsewhere (Marcer *et al.* 2013; Syfert *et al.* 2014; Dahal *et al.* 2021).

Because of their rarity, occurrence data for these species is limited and thus

calculating range metrics based solely on point data is likely to result in unreliable

range metrics (Pena *et al.* 2014). To overcome this issue of sampling bias in

calculating AOH a new method is required for those rare species with high extinction

risk that inhabit remote regions lacking adequate presence data.

The Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) is a large tropical forest raptor and one

of the most threatened raptors globally (Bildstein *et al.* 1998), currently classified as

'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List (BirdLife International 2018). The

Philippine Eagle is endemic to four islands in the Philippine archipelago (Mindanao,

Leyte, Samar, and Luzon), sparsely distributed across lowland and montane

dipterocarp forests (Salvador & Ibañez 2006). The population has declined

drastically over the past 50 years, mainly due to habitat loss through deforestation

(Kennedy 1977; Lewis 1986; Bueser *et al.* 2003; Panopio *et al.* 2021) and

persecution (Salvador & Ibañez 2006; Ibañez *et al.* 2016). Thus, the Philippine Eagle

fulfils all three components of rarity, and along with its large body size and forest

dependency would be associated with a higher risk of extinction (Kittelberger *et al.*

2021). Despite this elevated extinction risk, fundamental aspects of the species

biology such as distribution and population size are still uncertain (Collar 1997;

BirdLife International 2018) and need updating using a robust methodology.

Most Philippine Eagle research has been conducted on the island of Mindanao

(Miranda *et al.* 2000; Bueser *et al.* 2003), and thus occurrence data are biased

towards this island. Bueser *et al.* (2003), estimated between 82-233 breeding pairs

for Mindanao, and extrapolating this figure across all range islands suggests a global

total of between 340 (BirdLife International 2018) and 500 pairs (Salvador & Ibañez

2006). However, pair densities on the other range islands, especially Luzon, are

unknown and thus this population size figure should be treated with caution (Miranda

et al. 2008). Because of these research disparities, there are no current range-wide

estimates for the species' global range extent and population size, despite it being a

raptor of high priority for research and conservation (Buechley *et al.* 2019). Indeed,

the IUCN Red List suggests that further research into distribution, population size,

and ecological requirements is urgently required to inform conservation actions

(BirdLife International 2018).

Here, we use ensemble-averaged Species Distribution Models (SDMs) calibrated

with presence data for the Philippine Eagle on the island of Mindanao, and then

predict into the other less-well sampled islands using inductive model-based

interpolation (Rodríguez *et al.* 2007; Franklin 2009). SDMs are predictive spatial

models that infer species-habitat associations by correlating species presence points

with habitat covariates that represent the focal species optimal conditions and

resources (Guisan *et al.* 2017; Matthiopoulos *et al.* 2020). Indeed, SDMs are able to

inform IUCN species range metrics and predict habitat in areas that may lack

occurrence data for inclusion in Red List assessments (Marcer *et al.* 2013; Pena *et*

al. 2014; Syfert *et al.* 2014; Breiner *et al.* 2017). Using interpolated model

predictions, range metrics such as AOH, EOO and AOO can then be calculated

based on inferred or predicted habitat following IUCN Red List guidelines (IUCN

2019). First, we present a new approach to estimating species range metrics and

population size based on predicted habitat for the Philippine Eagle, and second, we

outline how our methodology can be incorporated into conservation planning

assessments for rare species facing extinction.

Methods

Species locations

We sourced Philippine Eagle occurrences from the Global Raptor Impact Network

(GRIN, McClure *et al.* 2021), a data information system for all raptor species. For the

Philippine Eagle, GRIN includes nest locations from surveys on Mindanao conducted

by the Philippine Eagle Foundation since 1978 to the present (Miranda *et al.* 2000;

Ibañez *et al.* 2016), in addition to community science data from eBird (Sullivan *et al.*

2009) and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF 2021). Duplicate records

and those with no geo-referenced location were removed and all occurrences were

merged into a single range-wide database. A total of 151 geo-referenced records

were compiled across the Philippine Eagle range after data cleaning. Only

occurrences recorded from year 1980 onwards were included to temporally match

the approximate timeframe of the habitat covariates, whilst retaining sufficient

sample size for robust modelling (van Proosdij *et al.* 2016).

In addition, we included GPS tracking locations from six breeding adult Philippine

Eagles on Mindanao and integrated this dataset with the nest and community

science data to better represent Philippine Eagle habitat use in territorial nesting

areas. The eagles were trapped using either a modified Bal-Chatri (Miranda &

Ibanez 2006) or a large bownet baited with domestic rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*).

Two eagles were instrumented with solar-powered GPS/GSM transmitters while four

eagles had battery-powered GPS satellite transmitters fitted. All birds were marked

with aluminium leg bands – the four females with blue bands on their left leg, and the

two males with green bands on their right leg. A total of 80,966 fixes were obtained

from the four adult females and two adult males from April 2013 to September 2021.

We removed all duplicated records and applied a 1-km spatial filter to this raw

dataset (matching the covariate raster resolution) resulting in 325 spatially filtered

GPS fixes (Fig. S1).

For the Mindanao calibration models we used the subset of nest and community

science occurrences solely located on the island of Mindanao combined with the

filtered GPS tracking fixes. We then manually applied a spatial filter between each

point, resulting in a single occurrence in each 1-km raster grid cell, resulting in a

filtered subset of 435 occurrences for the Mindanao calibration models. We applied a

manual filter to ensure we retained as many of the nest locations and GPS fixes as

priority data points because of their geolocation accuracy and direct relevance to

optimal conditions and resources for Philippine Eagle occurrence. To evaluate the

final ensemble range-wide models we used all nest and community science

occurrence data and applied a 1-km spatial filter between each occurrence,

regardless of the origin of the occurrence point. Applying the 1-km spatial filter

resulted in 101 occurrence records for testing calibration accuracy for the final range-

wide ensemble models.

Habitat covariates

We defined the species' accessible area (Barve *et al.* 2011), as the mainland area of

all known range islands: Mindanao, Luzon, and Leyte and Samar in the Eastern

Visayas (Fig. 1; Salvador & Ibañez 2006; BirdLife International 2018). To predict

occurrence, covariates representing climate, landcover, habitat heterogeneity, and

human land use were downloaded from the EarthEnv (https://www.earthenv.org),

ENVIREM (Title & Bemmels 2018), Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center

(SEDAC; https://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu), and Dynamic Habitat Indices (DHI;

https://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/data/dhis/) repositories. Raster covariate layers were

cropped to a delimited polygon representing the species accessible area (Fig. 1). We

extracted the polygons from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) terrestrial ecoregions

shapefile (Olson *et al.* 2001), which correspond to either lowland or montane moist

tropical forest. For Luzon, we masked out the tropical pine forest ecoregion in the

north of the island because Philippine Eagles are habitat specialists of tropical moist

dipterocarp forests (Kennedy 1977; Bueser *et al.* 2003; Salvador & Ibañez 2006),

and thus unlikely to occur in this ecoregion.

Six continuous covariates were used at a spatial resolution of 30 arc-seconds (~1-

km): Climatic Moisture Index (CMI), Evergreen Forest, Habitat Homogeneity, Human

Footprint Index (HFI), Leaf Area Index (LAI) and Mosaic Forest. CMI is a scaled

measure ($-1 \leq CMI \leq 1$) of the ratio of annual precipitation and annual

Figure 1. Range map for the Philippine Eagle with our model accessible area (dark grey) and IUCN

range map (hashed blue areas) and IUCN EOO polygon (hashed blue line). Yellow polygons define

the national boundary of the Philippines outside of the species accessible area. Black points define

unfiltered Philippine Eagle occurrences from nests and community science data. For clarity, GPS

locations from the six tagged adults in Mindanao are shown in Fig. S1.

vegetation structure, composition and diversity) derived from textural features for

Enhanced Vegetation Index (EVI) between adjacent pixels representing habitat

heterogeneity; sourced from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer

(MODIS, https://modis.gsfc.nasa.gov/). Homogeneity varies between zero (zero

similarity = maximum heterogeneity) and one (complete

similarity) to represent the spatial variability and arrangement of vegetation species

richness on a continuous scale. Evergreen and Mosaic Forest are consensus

products of percentage landcover integrating GlobCover (v2.2), MODIS land-cover

product (v051), GLC2000 (v1.1) and DISCover (v2) (Tuanmu & Jetz 2014), used

here to represent both closed and open dipterocarp forest.

Human Footprint Index (HFI) represents human population density, land use, and

infrastructure, including built-up areas and access routes such as roads and rivers

(WCS, CIESIN 2005). We included HFI because we expect Philippine Eagles to

avoid areas of high human impact. Leaf Area Index (LAI) is a measure of the amount

of foliage within the plant canopy based on MODIS vegetation products and is used

here as a composite Dynamic Habitat Index (DHI) product spanning the years 2003-

2014 (Radeloff 2019). LAI values range from 0 (bare ground) to > 10 (needleleaf

coniferous forest) and is a key driver of primary productivity (Asner *et al.* 2003). The

DHI product summarises three measures of vegetation productivity: annual

cumulative, minimum throughout the year, and seasonality as the annual coefficient

of variation. Combined, we used the LAI Dynamic Habitat Index as a proxy for food

availability, assuming that higher LAI values would be associated with higher species

richness (Hobi *et al.* 2017).

Covariates were selected *a prioiri* to those related empirically to resources and

conditions influencing Philippine Eagle distribution from previous studies (Kennedy

1977; Bueser *et al.* 2003; Ibañez *et al.* 2003; Salvador & Ibañez 2006). We aimed to

include both landcover and topographic factors from the AOH model criteria (Brooks

et al. 2019) but added covariates for climate, human impact and proxies of food

because these are important variables for determining species distributions (Franklin

2009). We excluded elevation and terrain roughness because including both

covariates in initial calibration models resulted in restricting predictions to unrealistic

areas of high elevation and topographic complexity, without capturing the full range

of environmental conditions and resources available to the Philippine Eagle. All

selected covariates showed low collinearity (Variance Inflation Factor < 2; Table S2).

Ensemble Spatial Logistic Regression model

Most Philippine Eagle occurrences and nest locations deposited in GRIN are from

the island of Mindanao, with sparse occurrences across the eastern Visayas and

Luzon (Fig. 1). Due to this geographical sampling bias, which would likely bias any

model predictions (Syfert *et al.* 2014), we developed a novel Ensemble Spatial

Logistic Regression (ESLR) model workflow (Fig. 2) to first predict habitat suitability

for Mindanao (Fig. 2, box 3a). Next, we then projected each Mindanao model into the

islands of the Eastern Visayas and Luzon (Fig. 2, boxes 3b,c), before finally merging

each island model into a single range-wide prediction from each algorithm (Fig. 2,

box 3c). We fitted four logistic regression-based algorithms via maximum likelihood

estimation: penalized generalized linear model (GLM); generalised additive model

(GAM); and Multivariate Adaptive Regression Splines (MARS), fitted with no

interactions between covariates, and with interactions fitted between covariates

Figure 2. Ensemble Spatial Logistic Regression workflow for the Philippine Eagle Species Distribution Models.

(MARS*inter*). Full details on the parameter settings for each algorithm are outlined in

the Supplementary Material. We limited model complexity in all four algorithms

because this is necessary when the primary goal is to use SDMs for predictive

transferability in space (Helmstetter *et al.* 2020).

We parametrized the spatial logistic regression models using a fine pixel grid (~1-

km), equivalent to fitting a Poisson point process model (PPM) with loglinear

intensity (Baddeley *et al.* 2010), because the PPM framework is the most effective

method to model presence-background data as used here (Warton & Shepherd

2010). Using the ensemble workflow generates robust predictions compared to

single-algorithm models (Araújo & New 2007; Valavi *et al.* 2021), accounting for any

model uncertainty between each algorithm prediction (Marmion *et al.* 2008). We

used an ensemble of tuned individual model algorithms because this methodology

outperforms other ensemble modelling methods (Valavi *et al.* 2021). We only used

regression-based algorithms with semi-parametric functions because these types of

models predict better with a lower number of presences, as used here, compared to

complex non-parametric data-driven machine learning methods (James *et al.* 2013;

Valavi *et al.* 2021).

We evaluated calibration accuracy for both the Mindanao and range-wide models

using a random sample of 10,000 background points as pseudo-absences

recommended for regression-based modelling (Barbet-Massin *et al.* 2012) and to

sufficiently sample the background calibration environment (Guevara *et al.* 2018).

Presence points and pseudo-absences were weighted equally for all models,

allowing consistent sampling across the model calibration area. We did this to avoid

saturating the model with excessive absence weighting, which makes presence

trends difficult to detect (Elith & Leathwick 2007). We used Continuous Boyce index

(CBI; Hirzel *et al.* 2006) as a threshold-independent metric of how predictions differ

from a random distribution of observed presences (Boyce *et al.* 2002). CBI is

consistent with a Spearman correlation (r_s) and ranges from -1 to +1. Positive values

indicate predictions consistent with observed presences, values close to zero

suggest no difference with a random model, and negative values indicate areas with

frequent presences having low environmental suitability. Mean CBI was calculated

using five-fold cross-validation on 20 % test data with a moving window for

threshold-independence and 101 defined bins in the R package enmSdm (Smith

2019).

For the Mindanao models, we tested the optimal predictions against random

expectations using partial Receiver Operating Characteristic ratios (pROC), which

estimate model performance by giving precedence to omission errors over

commission errors (Peterson *et al.* 2008). Partial ROC ratios range from 0 to 2 with 1

indicating a random model. Function parameters were set with a 10% omission error

rate, and 1000 bootstrap replicates on 50% test data to determine significant ($\alpha =$

0.05) pROC values >1.0 in the R package ENMGadgets (Barve & Barve, 2013).

Each range-wide model was then weighted by its CBI evaluation score and a

weighted ensemble generated as a final continuous range-wide prediction (Fig. 2,

box 4). We used Schoener's *D* niche overlap as a measure of spatial agreement

between each of the Mindanao and range-wide models, where 0 = no overlap and 1

= total overlap.

Finally, calibration accuracy for the final range-wide continuous ensemble prediction

was tested using CBI and then converted into a binary threshold prediction based on

expert validation from J.C.I., which we term *model* AOH (Fig. 2, box 5), so as to be

distinct from the standard IUCN AOH methodology (Brooks *et al.* 2019). We

validated our models in conjunction with expert judgement because this approach

gives most benefit to conservation risk assessments (Marcer *et al.* 2013; Syfert *et al.*

2014). Following modelling protocols established by Velásquez-Tibatá *et al.* (2019),

we assessed a range of four binary thresholds for biological realism (median, 75 %

upper quantile, maximizing the sum of sensitivity and specificity (maxTSS) and

Cohen's Kappa), using expert critical feedback to assess the predictive ability of our

models (Fig. 2, boxes 4b,c). Both maxTSS and upper quantile binary models were

evaluated as plausible range extents. We opted for upper quantile because this

threshold is not reliant on measuring predictive ability based on unknown pseudo-

absences as used here (Merow *et al.* 2013), unlike measures that use specificity

such as maxTSS (Liu *et al.* 2013). We followed a participatory modelling process

methodology to ensure a robust expert validation of our models, concurring with

current knowledge of species biology and its application to conservation planning

(Ferraz *et al.* 2020).

Range sizes

To calculate *model* AOH in suitable pixels we reclassified the continuous prediction

to a binary threshold prediction (Fig. 2, boxes 4a,b), using all pixel values equal to or

greater than the upper quantile threshold from the continuous model. We calculated

two further IUCN range metrics from our *model* AOH binary prediction. First, Area of

Occupancy (AOO) was calculated as the number of raster pixels predicted to be

occupied, scaled to a 2x2 km grid following IUCN guidelines (IUCN 2018) in the R

package redlistr (Lee *et al.* 2019). Second, we converted the *model* AOH raster to a

polygon using an 8-neighbour patch rule and applied a smoothing function using the

Chaikin algorithm (Chaikin 1974) in the R package smoothr (Strimas-Mackey 2021).

From this we calculated Extent of Occurrence (EOO), fitting a minimum convex

polygon (MCP) around the furthest boundaries of the smoothed *model* AOH polygon

following IUCN guidelines (IUCN 2018). We calculated both a maximum EOO,

including all the area with the MCP, and a minimum EOO, masking out the areas

that could never be occupied within the MCP, in our case over the ocean (Mercer *et*

al. 2013). All range metric calculations were performed using a Transverse

cylindrical equal area projection following IUCN guidelines (IUCN 2018). General

model development and geospatial analysis were performed in R (v3.5.1; R Core

Team, 2018) using the dismo (Hijmans *et al.* 2017), raster (Hijmans 2017), rgdal

(Bivand *et al.* 2019), rgeos (Bivand & Rundle 2019), and sp (Bivand *et al.* 2013)

packages.

Population size estimation

Based on the premise that territorial, central-place foragers, such as the Philippine

Eagle, require a semi-fixed area of habitat to survive and reproduce, we calculated

the number of Philippine Eagle pairs our *model* AOH could support as directly

proportional to the available habitat within a given home range required by a

breeding pair of Philippine Eagles (Kennedy 1977; Rabor 1989). We based the

habitat area required for each pair on home range estimates from six breeding adult

Philippine Eagles fitted with satellite telemetry tags (Table S1). Because of varied

telemetry sampling rates between the six adults, we subsampled the raw location

fixes using a minimum 3-hour interval between fixes to achieve consistency across

individual estimators. We calculated home range sizes using three different

estimators to provide a range of habitat area estimates for calculating population size

because of variation in outputs between different home range estimation methods

(Signer & Fieberg 2021). All home range estimates were calculated in the R package

adehabitatHR (Calenge 2006), using code adapted from Tétreault & Franke (2017).

For calculating the median habitat area and population size estimates we fitted

Kernel Density Estimators (KDE) using a 95 % bivariate normal kernel with an ad-

hoc reference smoothing parameter (h_{ref}). We then fitted 99 % Minimum Convex

Polygons (MCP) to calculate the maximum habitat area, and thus minimum

population size, and Local Convex Hulls (LoCoH) using the sphere of influence

radius method (r-LoCoH, maximizing all nearest neighbour distances (Getz *et al.*

2007)), for calculating the minimum habitat area and thus maximum population size.

We summed all individual home range estimates from each adult and calculated a

median value for each estimator method. We then used the three median values

from each estimator method to apply an overall median, and minimum to maximum

range for the area of territorial habitat. Using the territorial habitat area from the three

estimates, we then calculated the median, and a range of minimum to maximum

population sizes of potential breeding pairs that our *model* AOH prediction could

support using the formulation of Kennedy (1977),

385                                    $$\widehat{T} = (N/n)\, t$$

where T_{hat} = total population size; N = area of habitat; n = territorial habitat area and t

= sample total multiplied by 2. We used the IUCN Red List definitions for population

size as the total number of mature individuals across the species range (IUCN

2019), then divided that figure by 2 to give the number of potential breeding pairs.

Results

Ensemble Spatial Logistic Regression models

All four Mindanao models had high calibration accuracy, were robust against random

expectations (Table 1), and had high spatial agreement (Table S3). The largest

continuous areas of Philippine Eagle habitat were predicted across the eastern and

central mountain ranges of Kitanglad, Pantaron, Diwata, and the Bukidnon plateau

(Fig. 3). Patchy areas of habitat were identified throughout western Mindanao,

largely confined to areas of steep, forested terrain, and extending further south into

the Tiruray Highlands and Mount Latian complex. Little habitat was predicted across

the now largely deforested lowland plains.

Table 1. Model accuracy and null model metrics for all four model algorithms using Continuous Boyce

Index (CBI) and partial ROC (pROC) for both the Mindanao and range-wide Species Distribution

Models.

	Mindanao		Range-wide
Model	CBI	pROC	CBI
Penalized GLM	0.906	1.645	0.891
GAM	0.930	1.602	0.934
MARS	0.938	1.627	0.827
MARS*inter*	0.930	1.644	0.852

Figure 3. Continuous Species Distribution Models for the Philippine Eagle on the island of Mindanao
using four logistic regression-based model algorithms. Maps denote habitat suitability predictions with
red areas (values closer to 1) having highest habitat suitability, yellow moderate suitability and blue
low suitability (values closer to zero).

Using the GAM response curves, Philippine Eagles on Mindanao had a strong,

positive association with high percentage of evergreen forest (Fig. 4), with a peak for

CMI = 0.3, and a steadily increasing response to habitat homogeneity from 0.2-0.8,

indicating a preference for moist, densely forested areas with medium to high

vegetation species richness. Conversely, Philippine Eagles were negatively

associated with mosaic forest cover and more likely to be associated with lower

values of HFI, peaking at 25, indicating low tolerance to human land use. Philippine

Eagles had a negative response to increasing Leaf Area Index, suggesting habitat

use of open canopy areas with an LAI of 0.5, decreasing steadily to denser canopies

with an LAI of 3.

Figure 4. GAM response curves with 95 % Confidence Intervals (grey shading) derived from

maximum likelihood estimates obtained from the continuous GAM prediction for Mindanao.

All four range-wide predictions were in general spatial agreement (Table S4) and

had high calibration accuracy (Table 1; Fig. S2). The final range-wide continuous

ensemble model had higher predictive performance than all the individual range-

wide models (CBI = 0.977; Fig. 5). For the Eastern Visayas, most Philippine Eagle

habitat was predicted in the central mountainous areas of both Leyte and Samar. In

Luzon the largest continuous areas of Philippine Eagle habitat extended along the

east of the island in the Sierra Madres mountain range and in the west of Luzon in

the northern Cordillera mountain range. A further smaller area of habitat was

predicted for the Zambales mountain range in the far west of Luzon, with patchy

habitat predicted across the Bicol peninsula in the south-east of the island.

Figure 5. Range-wide Ensemble Spatial Logistic Regression model for the Philippine Eagle using four

CBI-weighted logistic regression-based model algorithms. Map denotes continuous prediction with red

areas (values closer to 1) having highest habitat suitability, yellow moderate suitability and blue low

suitability .

Range metrics and population size

Range metrics and population size

The reclassified binary model (upper quantile threshold = 0.498) calculated a *model*

AOH totalling 49,426 km^2 (Fig. 6). From the *model* AOH, maximum EOO was

609,697 km^2 and minimum EOO 273,794 km^2 (Fig. 6), with an AOO of 54,695

occupied cells. **T**he median territorial habitat area based on the home range

estimates from the six adults was 73 km^2 using the KDE estimator (Table 2; Fig. S3),

with a minimum and maximum range of 64 and 90 km^2 of territorial habitat area

using the median home range estimates from the r-LoCoH and 99 % MCP

estimators respectively (Table 2; Fig. S4). Using our formulation we calculated the

model AOH could support 677 breeding pairs (range: 549-772), or 1354 mature

individuals, across the entire Philippine Eagle range based on the *model* AOH area

of 49,426 km^2. The area of habitat in Mindanao could potentially support 305

breeding pairs (range: 248-348; Fig. S5), in Luzon 310 pairs (range: 252-354; Fig.

S6) and in the Eastern Visayas 61 pairs (range: 49-69; Fig. S7).

Table 2. Home range estimates for six breeding adult Philippine Eagles using three home range

estimators. r-LoCoH = radius Local Convex Hull; KDE = Kernel Density Estimate, MCP = Minimum

Convex Polygon.

Adult ID	r-LoCoH	95% KDE	99% MCP
001F	61	70	88
002F	85	75	105
003F	37	43	36
004M	66	107	91
005M	53	41	57
006F	120	147	173
Median	64	73	90

Figure 6. Range metrics for the Philippine Eagle showing the reclassified binary *model* AOH area (brown) and EOO (hashed blue polygon). Grey island polygons represent the species accessible area. Yellow polygons define the national boundary of the Philippines not within the species accessible area.

Discussion

Range-restricted tropical raptors are particularly threatened by human-induced land use activities (Bildstein *et al.* 1998; Cruz *et al.* 2021), with many experiencing severe population declines and in need of immediate research and conservation (McClure *et al.* 2018; Buechley *et al.* 2019). Correlating occurrence data from multiple sources with remote-sensing environmental data, we provide a first estimate of Area of Habitat for the Philippine Eagle, update the species' IUCN range metrics, and provide the first empirically derived global population estimate. By establishing baselines for these key biological parameters, our model outputs are useful for directing long-term monitoring and conservation planning for this Critically Endangered raptor. Despite issues of geographic sampling bias in our occurrence dataset, we were able to overcome any analytical setbacks by implementing a robust and straightforward modelling framework. We view our methodology as a widely applicable tool for quantifying species-habitat associations for many taxa of conservation concern, not just raptors. However, we recognise that our model framework would be most effective for use in habitat models for rare species that lack sufficient occurrence data across their geographic range.

Our ensemble-averaged habitat model had high predictive accuracy and was able to identify key areas of Philippine Eagle habitat across all range islands (Figs. 5-6 & S5-7). Indeed, the final ensemble model had higher predictive accuracy than all the individual range-wide models, consistent with previous broad-scale ensemble comparison analyses using a range of taxa (Valavi *et al.* 2021). However, we recognise that our model was unable to predict into certain areas known to have Philippine Eagles present, even though our covariates covered a broad range of

conditions and resources assumed to be optimal for Philippine Eagles. On

Mindanao, our models failed to predict habitat in low-lying areas where several nest

sites are located, and on Luzon where immature eagles have dispersed. Because

evergreen forest cover in Mindanao is largely confined to rugged mountainous

terrain, the correlation with mid to high elevation and rough terrain may not have

been able to predict into lower elevation areas elsewhere. Thus these inaccuracies

may be related to the environmental covariates used rather than the model

algorithms because the erroneous predictions were consistent across all four

algorithms. Perhaps incorporating covariates such as those from remotely sensed

satellite images of current vegetation with sufficient ground truthing may improve

model predictions (Shirley *et al.* 2013; Busetto & Ranghetti 2016). Despite these

minor drawbacks, we view our ESLR method as a promising spatial tool for

modelling species-habitat associations with limited numbers of geographically biased

occurrence data.

Our *model* AOH map updates previous estimates of potential habitat for the

Philippine Eagle, and we note the similarity of our *model* AOH to the habitat map

from Rabor (1989)**.** We were able to use our binary model prediction to calculate a

first estimate for AOO (54,695 occupied cells) and an updated EOO bounded from

the *model* AOH polygon (see Fig. 6). Our maximum EOO (609,697 km^2), was almost

10 % larger than the current IUCN estimate (551,000 km^2; BirdLife International

2018). However, when considering the area of EOO not covering the unoccupiable

area of the ocean, our minimum EOO (273,794 km^2) was nearly 50 % less. We posit

that using a minimum EOO is more relevant for species that range across island

archipelagos because including areas that cannot be occupied within the entire area

of the MCP in the EOO range metric calculation is potentially misleading. We

recognise the need to have a consistent global methodology for species range

metrics but not at the cost of inflating the spread of risk in the EOO range metric for

threatened island ranging species. Thus, we recommend that both a minimum and

maximum EOO be reported in future IUCN range assessments where relevant.

Area of Habitat maps are useful in many conservation applications such as protected

area assessments, targeting surveys and monitoring habitat loss (Brooks *et al.*

2019). Here, we applied our *model* AOH to calculating a key biological parameter

used in IUCN conservation risk assessments, that of a global population estimate

(IUCN 2019). However, we stress that our global estimate of 677 pairs (1354 mature

individuals) is the *potential* breeding population size based on inferred habitat with a

small sample size of home range estimates. Our global population size was higher

than both the current suggested estimates of 340 pairs (BirdLife International 2018)

and 500 pairs (Salvador & Ibañez 2006) and from an earlier estimate of 88-221 pairs

(Rabor 1989). However, the key difference here is that we used an empirical

estimate of habitat area needed for each pair based on home range estimates.

Assuming our baseline population estimate is accurate we urge more investment

and research, such as ground truthing surveys, into conserving these remaining

populations and their forest habitat.

Our population estimate for Mindanao (*n* = 305 pairs) was higher than the current

estimate for the island (82-233 pairs; Bueser *et al.* 2003), and higher than other

previous population estimates which used assumed estimates of habitat area

(Kennedy 1977; Krupa 1989; but see Collar 1997). The potential population estimate

for Luzon (n = 310 pairs) was slightly higher than for Mindanao and from a previous

estimate of 33-83 pairs (Krupa 1989), suggesting that more research and

exploratory, ground truthing surveys are required across Luzon to establish how

accurate our baseline population estimate is. Historically, Philippine Eagles were

recorded throughout Luzon (Kennedy 1977) and are known to currently nest in the

eastern Sierra Madre range (Panopio *et al.* 2021), albeit at assumed low densities

(Krupa 1989). Indeed, recent surveys in the north of Luzon discovered the first nest

in the northern Cordillera range (Abaño *et al.* 2016), with our model predicting

extensive Philippine Eagle habitat across both the Sierra Madre and Cordillera

ranges. Interestingly, our estimate of 61 pairs for the Eastern Visayan islands of

Leyte and Samar was far higher than previous estimates (Kennedy 1977; Krupa

1989). Previous pair numbers for Samar estimated between 8-19 pairs (Krupa 1989),

with numbers on Leyte estimated to be between 8-10 pairs (Kennedy 1977), or as

low as 1-4 pairs (Krupa 1989). Similar to the situation on Luzon, we urge more

research and surveys are carried out on both Eastern Visayan islands to ground

truth the estimates given here.

Whilst we envision the possibility of broad applications for our methodology, we

recognise that the spatial workflow we have set out is likely most useful for island

endemic species with low numbers of occurrences, or with pronounced geographic

sampling bias in species locations. There is no one overriding 'best' method for

modelling species-habitat associations but multiple approaches dependent on the

purpose of the study (Qiao *et al.* 2015). Our approach was useful because of its

ability to predict beyond the known range limits of the Philippine Eagle, providing a

potential area of habitat. This was appropriate in this context when our goal was to

provide baseline estimates for global range extent and population size, with

geographically biased species locations, rendering standard habitat modelling

approaches unsuitable. Further, the standard IUCN approach to estimating AOH

uses solely landcover and elevation as covariates (Brooks *et al.* 2019). Here, along

with landcover we also incorporated important predictors for determining species'

habitat associations such as climate and human land use (Guisan *et al.* 2017). We

recommend that analysts consider these key variables in future area of habitat

assessments to fully capture the environmental range limits for a given taxa.

Globally, more than half of all raptor species are threatened, largely due to

increasing human land use activities, driving habitat loss and degradation (McClure

et al. 2018). Quantifying baseline biological parameters, such as range extent and

population size is key to establishing a solid foundation from which to build effective

conservation action (Watson 2018). With the fundamentals of where a given species

is and how many individuals there are, conservation planning can be more effectively

directed to areas of high conservation priority (IUCN 2001; Rodríguez *et al.* 2007).

Our results demonstrate that even with geographically biased occurrence datasets,

useful and accurate habitat models can be produced which can then be translated

into globally recognised range metrics and baseline population estimates. In the

absence of widespread occurrence data for many rare species, our method is a

promising spatial tool with widespread applications for many taxa, in particular for

those island endemic species facing high extinction risk.

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of a veterinarian

Data Accessibility Statement

Upon acceptance the data that support the findings of this study will be made openly

available on the data repository *figshare*

Conflict of Interest

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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Supplementary Material

Ensemble Spatial Logistic Regression model

Penalized GLM

We fitted a penalized generalized linear model (GLM) using elastic net logistic

regression (Zou & Hastie 2005; Fithian & Hastie 2013), in the R packages glmnet

(Friedman *et al.* 2010) and maxnet (Phillips *et al.* 2017). Elastic net logistic

regression imposes a regularization penalty on the model coefficients, shrinking

towards zero the coefficients of covariates that contribute the least to the model,

reducing model complexity (Zou & Hastie 2005; Gastón & García-Viñas 2011;

Helmstetter *et al.* 2020). The maxnet package uses an elastic net (via the glmnet

package, Friedman et al. 2010) to perform automatic covariate selection (lasso) and

continuous shrinkage (ridge regression) simultaneously (Zou and Hastie 2005;

Phillips et al. 2017), evaluating the contribution of all covariates and shrinking low-

contribution coefficients towards zero. Overall, penalizing model coefficients reduces

model variance, resulting in a regression model that generalizes better (Valavi *et al.*

2021). We selected the complementary log-log (cloglog) link function within the

maxnet package as a continuous index of habitat suitability, with 0 = low suitability

and 1 = high suitability.

Optimal-model selection was based on Akaike's Information Criterion (Akaike 1974)

corrected for small sample sizes (AIC$_c$; Hurvich & Tsai 1989), to determine the most

parsimonious model from two maxnet parameters: regularization multiplier (β) and

feature classes (Warren & Seifert 2011). Twenty-eight candidate models of varying

complexity were built by conducting a grid search with a range of regularization

multipliers from 1 to 5 in 0.5 increments, and three feature classes (response

functions: Linear, Quadratic, Hinge) in all possible combinations using the 'k-fold'

method of cross-validation ($k = 5$) in the ENMeval package in R (Muscarella *et al.*

2014). We considered all models with a ΔAIC$_c$ < 2 as having strong support

(Burnham & Anderson 2004) and based on the model with the lowest ΔAIC$_c$ selected

a regularization multiplier of 1 and feature classes, Linear, Quadratic and Hinge.

Thin-plate spline GAM

We fitted a generalized additive model (GAM) using logistic regression with a cloglog

link function using a binomial error term in the R package mgcv (Wood 2011, 2017).

GAMs are a semi-parametric extension of a GLM able to fit flexible responses to

non-linear data, and thus well-suited to complex species-environment relationships

(Leathwick *et al.* 2006). We included thin-plate regression spline smoothers on all

covariates via restricted maximum likelihood to estimate coefficients and control

complexity of the smoother terms (Pederson *et al.* 2019; Saeedi *et al.* 2019). We set

the maximum number of effective degrees of freedom (via the *k* parameter) for each

smoother term at 10 and gamma = 1.4 to avoid over-fitting the data whilst still

allowing some complexity in the functions (Pearce & Ferrier 2000; Granadeiro *et al.*

2004; Kim & Gu 2004). We did not include interaction terms as they often reveal

complex terms in GAMs, ecologically difficult to interpret (Suárez-Seoane *et al.* 2002;

Granadeiro *et al.* 2004).

Multivariate Adaptive Regression Splines

We fitted Multivariate Adaptive Regression Splines (MARS; Friedman 1991) as a

semi-parametric extension of a GLM, fitting piecewise linear basis functions with

recursive partitioning splines using a binomial error distribution. MARS is a flexible

method able to fit complex relationships between response variables and predictors,

in particular for species-habitat associations (Leathwick *et al.* 2006; Elith & Leathwick

2007). MARS assesses non-linear relationships at every data cut point with a knot

for each predictor, similar to a step function. Knots are chosen automatically in a

forward stepwise procedure fitting a linear regression model with the covariate

features. Candidate knots are placed within the range of each predictor, defining a

pair of basis functions. Once a full set of knots has been created, those knots that

contribute the least are removed sequentially by backwards pruning using

generalized cross-validation (GCV) to find the optimal model. We fitted both MARS

models in the R package earth (Milborrow 2018). First, we used the default additive

MARS model (*degree*=1) with a cloglog link function, and second including local

interactions between covariates confined to the non-zero parts of the basis functions

of each predictor (*degree*=2, MARS*inter*) with a logit link function to achieve model

convergence.

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Supplementary Tables

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1037 **Table S1.** GPS metadata for the six tagged adult Philippine Eagles from the island of Mindanao, used

1038 for home range estimation. Fixes are subsampled from the raw data locations using a 3-hr sampling

1039 rate interval.

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ID	From	To	Fixes
001F	16/02/2014	10/05/2015	1,186
002F	22/12/2014	20/01/2016	1,063
003F	11/04/2013	19/02/2014	263
004M	19/04/2014	05/08/2014	190
005M	17/11/2019	12/09/2021	5,252
006F	15/10/2019	05/06/2021	2,344
Total			10,298

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1043 **Table S2.** Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) scores for six habitat covariates used in Species Distribution

1044 for the Philippine Eagle.

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Covariate	R^2	Tolerance	VIF
Evergreen Forest	0.420	0.580	1.725
Climatic Moisture Index	0.408	0.592	1.689
Human Footprint Index	0.333	0.667	1.499
Leaf Area Index	0.146	0.854	1.170
Homogeneity	0.118	0.882	1.133
Mosaic Forest	0.028	0.972	1.029

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1053 **Table S3.** Niche overlaps using Schoener's *D* metric calculated from four Species Distribution Models

1054 for the Philippine Eagle on the island of Mindanao.

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Model	GLM	GAM	MARS
GAM	0.849		
MARS	0.880	0.893	
MARS*inter*	0.839	0.809	0.835

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1058 **Table S4.** Niche overlaps using Schoener's *D* metric calculated from four Species Distribution Models

1059 for the Philippine Eagle across the species range.

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Model	GLM	GAM	MARS
GAM	0.837		
MARS	0.863	0.888	
MARS*inter*	0.817	0.802	0.811

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1075 **Supplementary Figures**

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1077 **Figure S1.** Filtered GPS fixes using a 1-km filter (blue points) for the six tagged adult Philippine

1078 Eagles from the island of Mindanao, used in the Species Distribution Models. Black points denote the

1079 Philippine Eagle occurrences from nests and community science data.

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Figure S2. Species Distribution Models for the Philippine Eagle using four logistic regression-based

model algorithms. Maps denotes continuous predictions with red areas (values closer to 1) having

highest habitat suitability, yellow moderate suitability and blue low suitability (values closer to zero).

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Figure S3. Home range estimates for six adult Philippine Eagles using a bivariate 95% Kernel

Density Estimate (KDE, light grey with black dashed line) and 99% Minimum Convex Polygon (MCP,

red line). Blue points are GPS fixes, white points known nests, with 50% KDE estimate shown in black

dot-dash line.

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1091   **Figure S4.** Home range estimates for six adult female Philippine Eagles using a radius Local Convex

1092   Hull estimator (r-LoCoH) and 99% Minimum Convex Polygon (MCP, black hashed line). Black points

1093   are GPS fixes, white points known nests. The gradient for utilization distribution is represented from

1094   high use (red) to low use (yellow).

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1097   **Figure S5.** Reclassified binary *model* AOH area (dark khaki) for the Philippine Eagle on the island of

1098   Mindanao.

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1105 **Figure S6.** Reclassified binary *model* AOH area (dark khaki) for the Philippine Eagle on the island of

1106 Luzon.

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1111 **Figure S7.** Reclassified binary *model* AOH area (dark khaki) for the Philippine Eagle on the islands of

1112 Leyte and Samar in the Eastern Visayas.

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