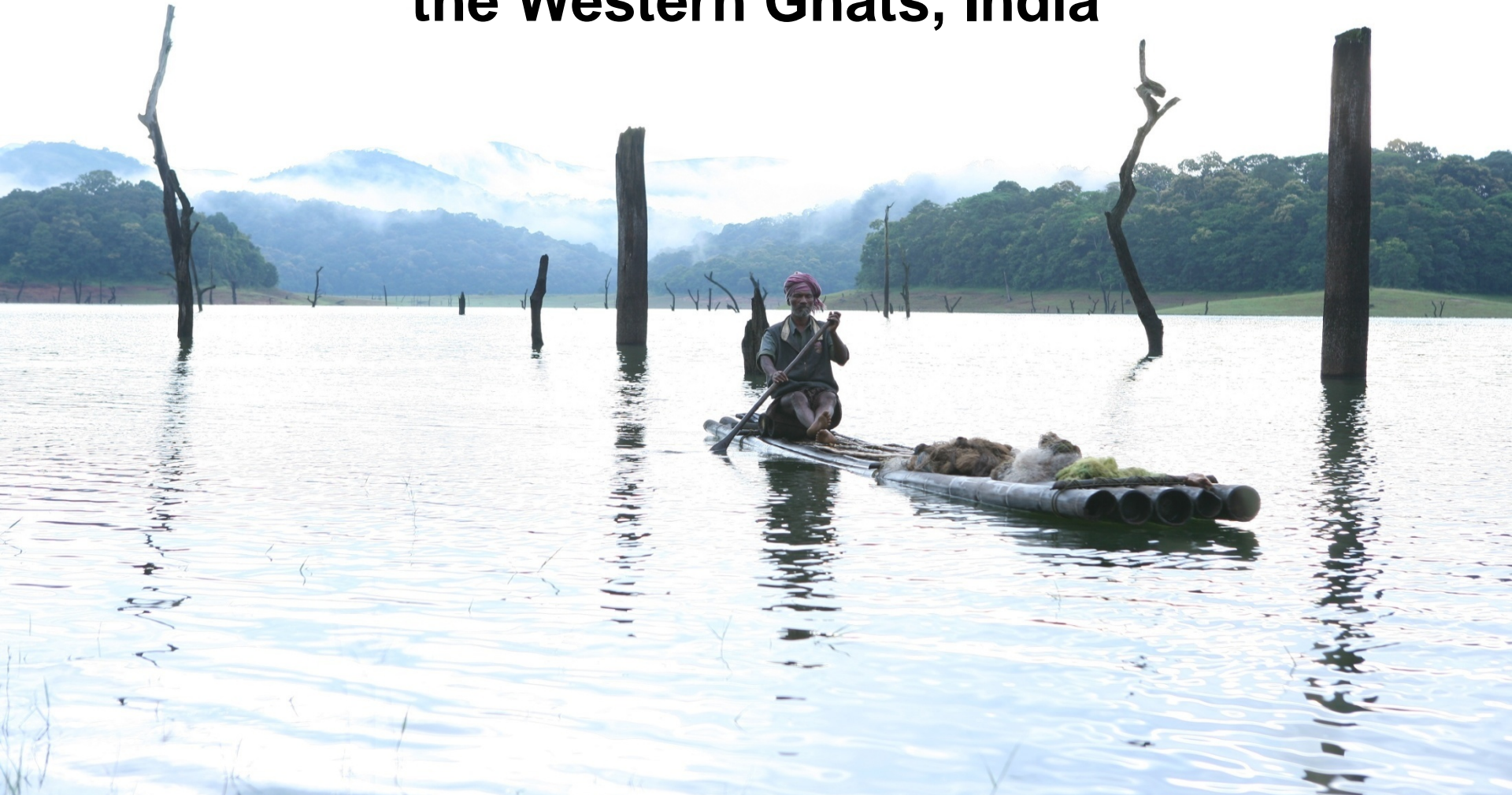


Freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in the Western Ghats, India

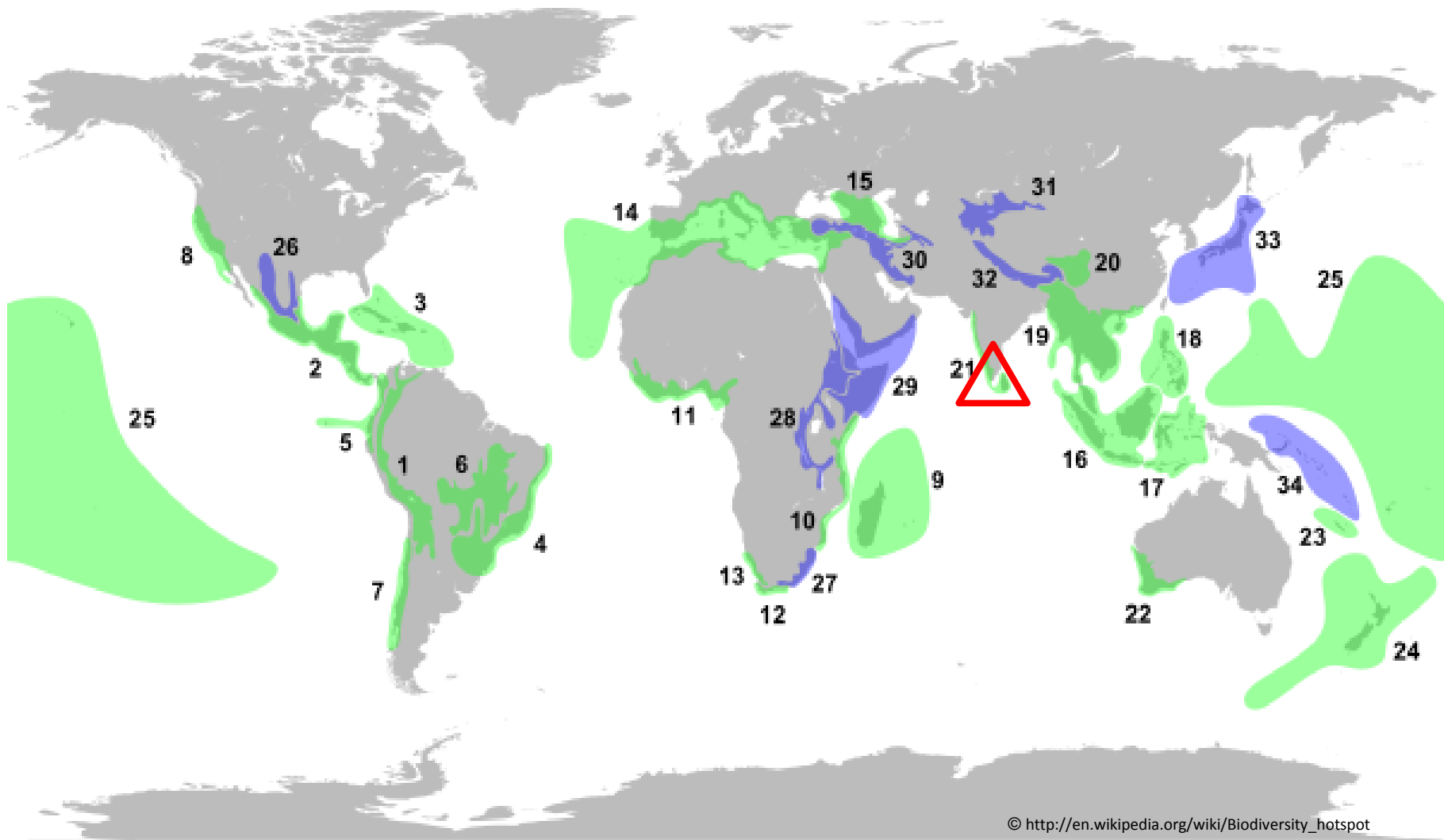


Rajeev Raghavan, Kevin Smith, Emma Brooks, Sanjay Molur and William Darwall

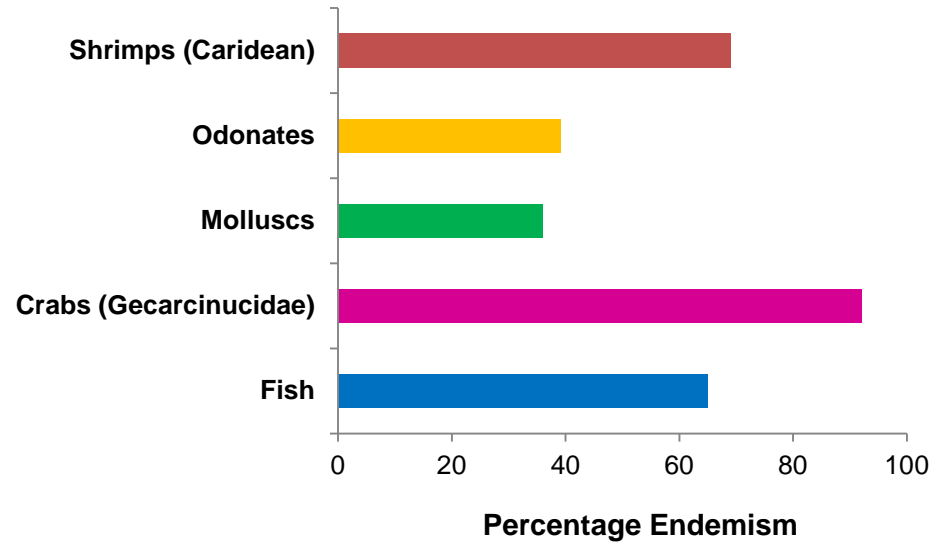
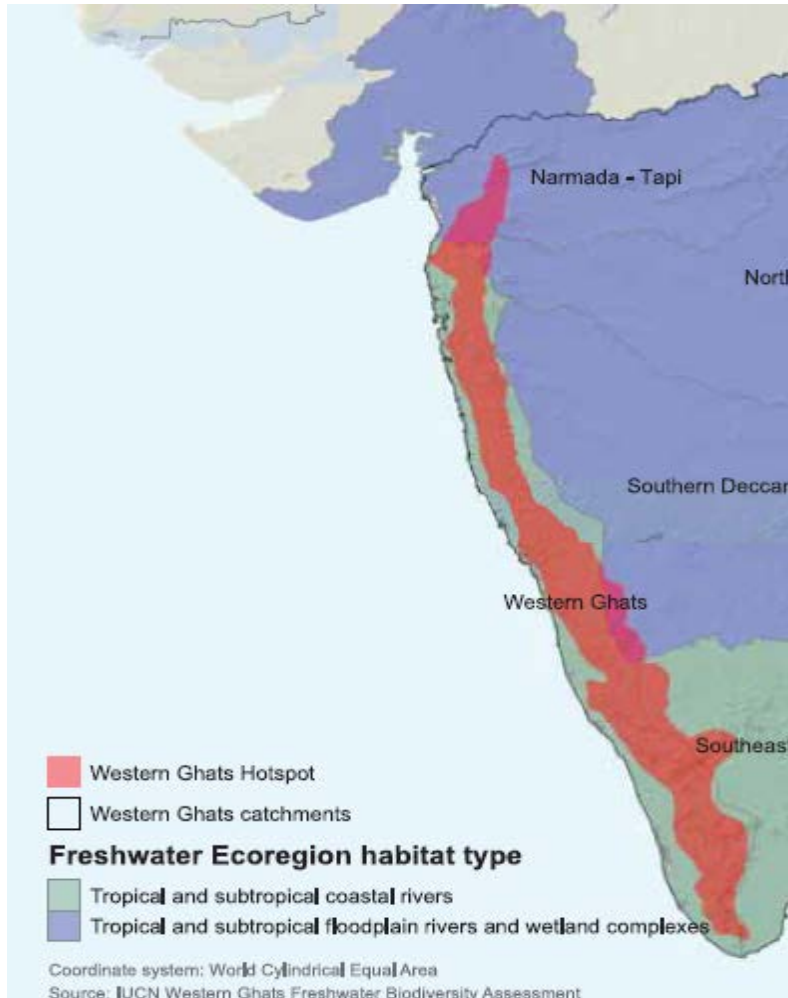


Western Ghats-Sri Lanka Hotspot

Unique flora, fauna and fungi
High human population density and pressure



Western Ghats is an exceptional region of freshwater biodiversity and endemism





IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges

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Collateral damage: Western Ghats freshwater species in peril

22 September 2011 | News story

Freshwater species in the Western Ghats, India, are being sacrificed as collateral damage in the race for rapid economic development. For the first time, comprehensive data are available on the conservation status and distribution of all freshwater fishes, molluscs, dragonflies, damselflies and aquatic plants across peninsular India. Water pollution from agricultural and urban sources, overharvesting and invasive species are the major threats that have led to 16% of freshwater species in the region for which we have sufficient data being classified as threatened with extinction on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.

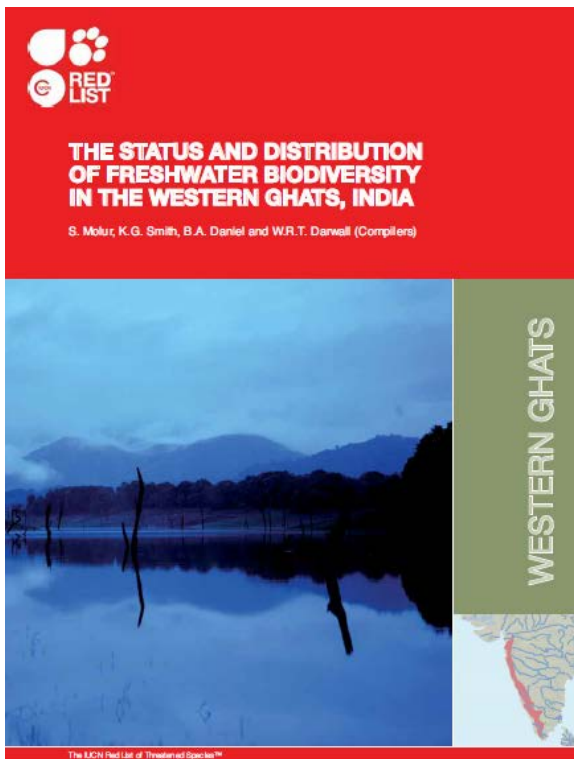
RELATED LINK

[Read the full report](#)



Miss Kerala (*Puntius denisonii*)

Photo: Will Darwall



The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™



Identifying globally significant sites that require conservation action

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) are sites of global significance for conservation of species, derived from a set of criteria based on vulnerability and irreplaceability.

Biological Conservation 148 (2012) 167–179



Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Biological Conservation

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/biocon



Conservation priorities for freshwater biodiversity: The Key Biodiversity Area approach refined and tested for continental Africa

R.A. Holland*, W.R.T. Darwall, K.G. Smith

Global Species Programme, IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK

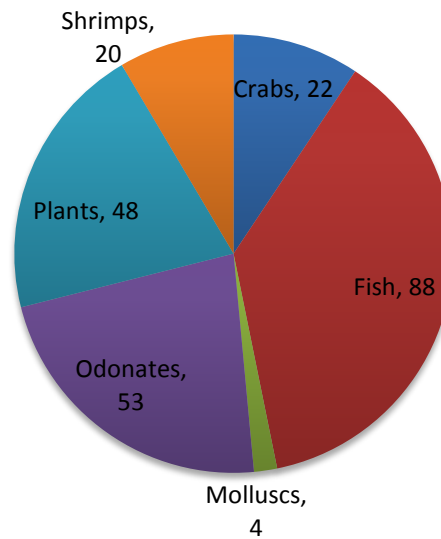
Freshwater KBAs in the Western Ghats

- Funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
- First freshwater KBA project in Asia
- Focused primarily on two Western Ghats states – Kerala & Tamil Nadu (and parts of Karnataka)
- Series of workshops in March 2013 to refine and validate FW KBAs

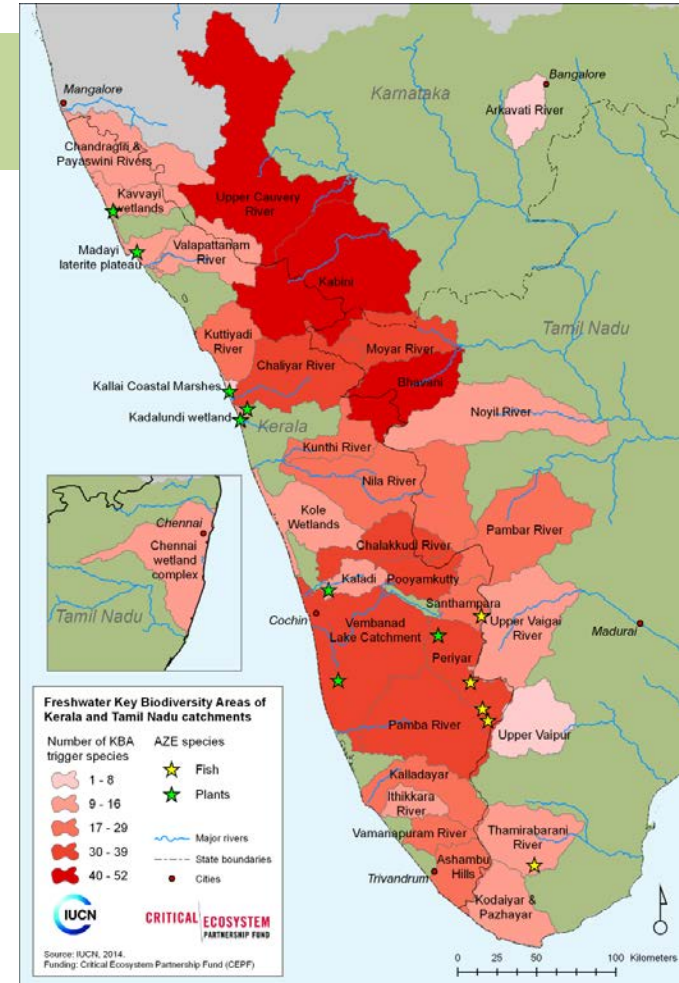
34 Freshwater KBAs



235 KBA trigger species



10 FW KBAs contains one or more AZE species



Periyar KBA

36 trigger species

Highest number of AZE qualified species – three freshwater fish



Follow up

- Policy briefs and white papers
- Consultation with State and Central Government/Departments, and relevant stakeholders
- Education and Outreach campaigns
- Setting up of **India's first freshwater Alliance for Zero Extinction Site** at Periyar National Park
- **Completing KBA prioritization for rest of the Western Ghats region**

Help us protect the last remaining
habitats of endangered freshwater fishes

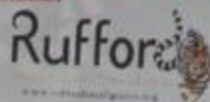


Lepidopygopsis typus
Peninsular Hill Trout

Periyar Tiger Reserve is the only place in the
world where you can find me



The Indian
Alliance for
Zero Extinction



**CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND**

