

# Review of: "Social and Environmental Drivers of Black-Necked Crane (BNC) Habitat Suitability in Bhutan: Insights From Maxent Modelling and Conservation Implications"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

In this article, the Maxent model was used to delineate the habitat suitability of the Black-Necked Crane in Bhutan. The primary objective was to improve the understanding of the current habitat status by leveraging a dataset comprising 23 occurrence records and 10 environmental variables. The investigation revealed that the most significant environmental determinants are distance to settlements, NDVI, distance to roads, and distance to rivers. To validate the robustness of the model, AUC statistics were calculated, revealing an accuracy level of 0.98. The results of this research seem to be very important for conservation and protection strategies.

The paper is well-written and understandable. The paper addresses an interesting and up-to-date topic. The obtained results are very important for the habitat suitability of the Black-Necked Crane in Bhutan.

The weakness is a small sample of occurrence records. The MaxEnt model is not necessarily the most appropriate, especially when dealing with small sample sizes.

However, the authors were paying attention to recommendations regarding the importance of evaluating the best potential combination of environmental features and MaxEnt's parameters.

I recommend this paper for publication.