

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.

Thank you so much for providing me the opportunity to review this manuscript. This article will contribute towards devising effective conservation strategies for this species in the future. My comments are:

1. In the Introduction about BNC, a brief about the physiological mechanisms for its adaptation to the high-altitude habitat will help replenish the information gaps and make it interesting.
2. In the Historical Background sub-section, a few lines about its status, referring to the national red list of wildlife species about BNC, will help clarify its current population trend in Bhutan.
3. In the map given in the sub-section of the study area, the polyline showing the flyzone, illustrating the flying corridors, will be very helpful. Similarly, a map of the IUCN home range over the area will elaborate whether the study areas fall within it, hence validated, or were recorded outside that.
4. In the Sub-section on Environmental Variables, a few lines justifying the selection of these or comparing them with other studies will be very helpful. If no literature is found on this species, other studies of different species may be cited as a reference, such as:
 - Hameed, S., Din, J. U., Ali, H., Kabir, M., Younas, M., Ur Rehman, E., ... & Nawaz, M. A. (2020). Identifying priority landscapes for conservation of snow leopards in Pakistan. *PLoS One*, 15(11), e0228832.
 - Rehman, E. U., Din, J. U., Ahmad, S., Hameed, S., Shah, K. A., Mehmood, T., & Nawaz, M. A. (2021). Insight into occupancy determinants and conflict dynamics of grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) in the dry temperate zone of the Hindukush Range. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, 25, e01402.
5. In the Results section, some lines about the habitat expansion and shrinkage in future scenarios would have made this more attractive; though predictions have been made, a time-wise analysis was not provided. This is a suggestive perspective for improvement.
6. In the Discussion, an interesting inference about roosting sites has been drawn, that 60% are on agricultural lands due to the high availability of grain as food, but a superficial overview suggests that human disturbance was not taken into consideration. If such is the case, then it needs some plausible elaboration.