

April 2022 update on the progress of translatE project

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It is our pleasure to give you the second update of the year on the progress of our translatE project. This time we are going to update you on two recent publications as well as the status of our sub projects and recent media coverages.

- New paper: Chowdhury, S., Gonzalez, K., Aytekin, M.Ç.K., Baek, S.-Y., Bećik, M., Bertolino, S., Duijns, S., Han, Y., Jantke, K., Katayose, R., Lin, Mu-M, Nourani, E., Ramos, D.L., Rouyer, M.-M., Sidemo-Holm, W., Vozykova, S., Zamora-Gutierrez, V., & Amano, T. (2022) Growth of non-English-language literature on biodiversity conservation. Conservation Biology.**

We are very happy to see the publication of two papers from the project recently. The first paper [“Growth of non-English-language literature on biodiversity conservation”](#) led by Shawan Chowdhury has been published in Conservation Biology. We show that, contrary to a common perception, the number of non-English-language articles on conservation published per year has been increasing over the past 39 years, at a rate similar to English-language articles (see Figure 1 below). This indicates that non-English-language literature will continue to play an important role in informing conservation science, policies and practices. This work is based on another great collaboration with native speakers of the 15 languages. We would like to thank all the amazing collaborators for their huge contribution!

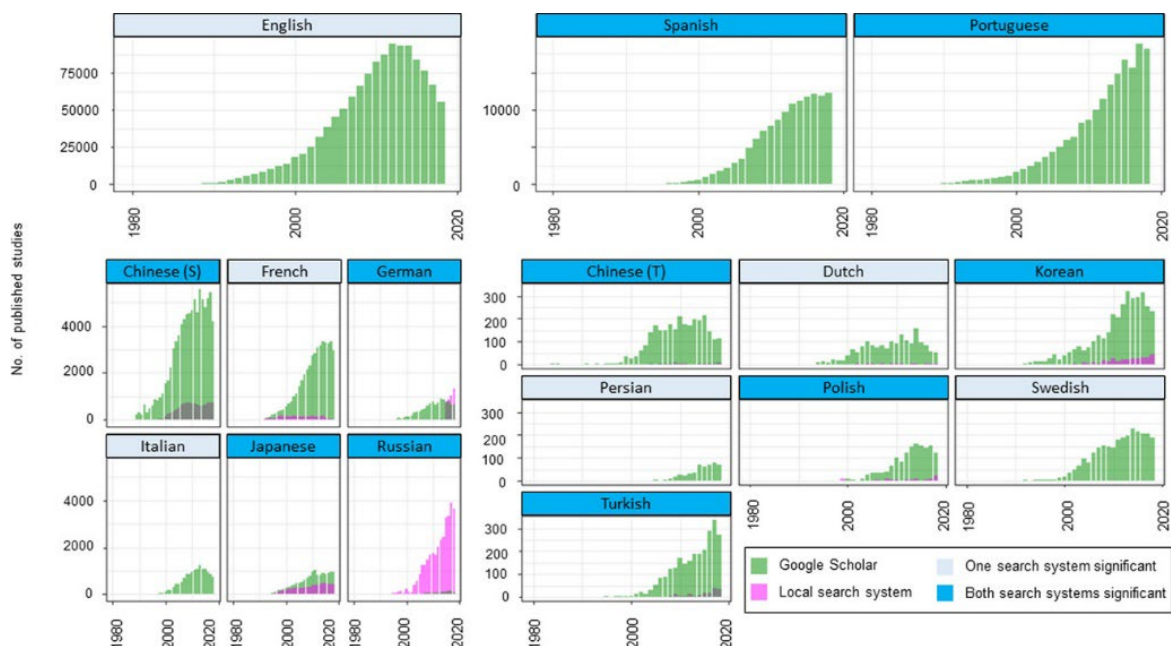


Figure 1. Changes in the number of biodiversity conservation articles published from 1980 to 2018 in 16 languages based on searches for the keywords biodiversity and conservation in Google Scholar and local literature search systems (S, simplified; T, traditional).

2. New paper: Negret, P., Atkinson S., Woodworth B., Corella, M., Allan, J., Fuller, R. & Amano, T. (2022). Language barriers in global bird conservation. PLOS ONE.

In the second paper '[Language barriers in global bird conservation](#)' lead by a previous project member, Pablo Negret, in collaboration with some others, we showed that a surprisingly large number of languages are spoken within the geographical range of each bird species in the world. For example, we found that 1,587 out of the 10,863 extant bird species have 10 languages or more spoken within their distributions.

Importantly, we also showed threatened and migratory species have significantly more languages spoken within their distributions (Figure 2). Particularly high numbers of species with many languages within their distribution are found in Eastern Europe, Russia and central and western Asia. For those species and in these areas, we expect overcoming language barriers to play an especially important role in conservation.

Also check out our [interactive app](#) to learn more about how many species are associated with a particular language and where in the world there are more of those species.

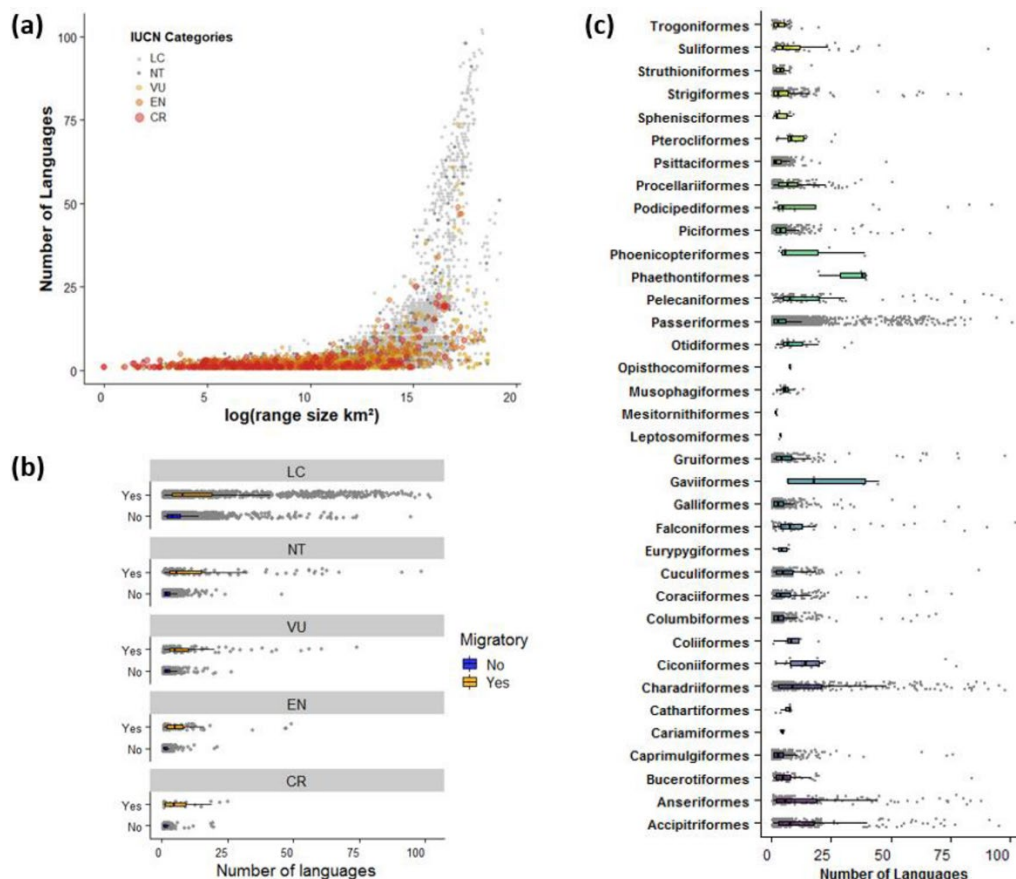


Figure 2. (a) Relationship between bird species' distribution range size and the number of official languages within their distribution. IUCN threat categories are shown in different colours. Number of official languages spoken within each species' distribution by (b) migratory status and IUCN threat categories, and by (c) taxonomic order.

3. Update on the project on the cost of being a non-English speaker in academia

This project component is led by Tatsuya and it has been possible thanks to the help of seven country coordinators (Bangladesh, Bolivia, Nepal, Nigeria, Spain, the UK, and Ukraine) and a brilliant team of specialists on the topic. We have already produced results and are now about to start writing up a manuscript. With the paper we are seeking to make a real difference in reducing adverse consequences of language barriers for non-native English speakers in academia.

4. Update on the project on overcoming language barriers to academic publishing

This project is led by Henry Arenas-Castro and we have been exploring journals' commitment to overcoming language barriers to academic publishing. Henry has already produced preliminary results and we are finalising some extra analysis before we start writing up a manuscript. Many thanks again to the 30 collaborators who helped us to collect data from over 200 journals' websites and also delivered structured surveys to more than 700 journal editors.

5. Other news

Our work featured in The Guardian

We are pleased to see our recent [work](#) on the importance of non-English-language literature is featured in The Guardian's series "The age of extinction". Read the article here: [Lost in translation: is research into species being missed because of a language barrier?](#)

The screenshot shows the top of a Guardian article page. At the top left, it says "Support the Guardian" with "Available for everyone, funded by readers" and buttons for "Contribute" and "Subscribe". To the right, there are links for "Search jobs", "Sign in", and "Search", along with "Australian edition". The main navigation bar includes "News", "Opinion", "Sport", "Culture", "Lifestyle", and "More". Below this, a sub-navigation bar lists "Environment", "Climate crisis", "Energy", "Wildlife", "Biodiversity", "Oceans", "Pollution", and "Great Barrier Reef". The article title is "Lost in translation: is research into species being missed because of a language barrier?" under the "The age of extinction" series. The author is "Sofia Quaglia" and the date is "Mon 4 Apr 2022 18:30 AEST". The main image shows a person's hands holding a small, vibrant black frog with bright yellow and green spots.

Tatsuya's interview in the Royal Society of Chemistry's magazine

Recently Tatsuya was also interviewed by the Royal Society of Chemistry's magazine, *Chemistry World*, for an article on the dominance of English in science and its consequences. The article nicely covers views from a variety of experts on this issue and is well worth a read (and a very nice header image! See below). Reat the article here: [Publish in English or perish.](#)



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First 'International student writing workshop' at the University of Queensland's Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science (UQ CBCS)

In March 2022, to support international students whose first language is not English, the CBCS held a workshop on how to effectively write science in English. This is a great initiative to help address challenges faced by those students who is undertaking HDR programs at UQ.

These are the news for the last trimester of the year. Keep safe and well.