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Environmental Change Analytics Framework for Predicting Species Migration Alterations Under Climate Variability

Dr. Parvindar Kaur Chhabda[1*], Dr. Arvind Kumar Saxena[2], Sayanti Benerjee[3]

[1]Assistant Professor, Kalinga University, Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India. Email: ku.parvindarkaurchhabda@kalingauniversity.ac.in, ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0006-9775-7254*
[2]Assistant Professor, Kalinga University, Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India. Email: ku.arvindkumarsaxena@kalingauniversity.ac.in, ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0003-8827-0493
[3]Assistant Professor, New Delhi Institute of Management, New Delhi, India. Email: sayanti.banerjee@ndimdelhi.org, ORCID: https://orcid.org/0009-0005-7414-1716

Key Words	Abstract
Species migration, Climate variability, Migration timing, Route alteration, Phenological mismatch, Demographic sensitivity, Wildlife movement ecology.	Mobile species depend on cues of predicted environmental conditions to accurately time the travels, so that present at resources and optimal habitats, and also for optimal breeding conditions. Changes in climate are altering these cues, which affect the timing of migration departure, changes in migratory routes, and mismatches with the presence of resources. Historical studies analyzing movements are typically focused on temporal and spatial changes separately, and often in one species; thereby compromising a more integrative picture. It is the aim of the Environmental Change Analytics Framework to integrate historical movement data with climate variability measures and species demographic sensitivity to jointly predict altered migratory timing and routes, drawing on and connecting studies of avian migration under changing climate, genomic monitoring on animal response, the link between demography and environment, amplification of human-wildlife conflict, implementation of assisted migration strategies, and changes on riverine fauna. Although it is not yet fully validated through active monitoring efforts, the developed framework can help predict populations vulnerable to migratory species based on altered behavior as part of broader adaptive mitigation strategies. Future validation experiments on active animal sampling, migration systems, and climate conditions would be needed.

* Corresponding Author's email: ku.parvindarkaurchhabda@kalingauniversity.ac.in
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Introduction

All migratory forms, namely terrestrial animals, birds, and fish, move according to specific seasonal signals that help them to migrate between places where reproduce and nourish themselves. Climate change influences the reliability of these global signs. It causes changes in migration timing and pathways. Provided that field studies aimed at studying migration changes due to global warming demonstrate changing migration patterns with the magnitude of such shifts varying from region to region, researchers stress that one cannot claim the uniformity of migration changes of one species during the whole migration journey (Gong et al., 2025). In addition, studies of the genetic aspect of species adaptation to the changing environment show that today genomic tools enable scientists to analyze the genetic bases of migratory behavior more effectively (Bernatchez et al., 2024).

It was found in studies attempting to understand the relationship between demography and the environment more efficiently to help understand how ranges change with climate change that a population's demographic characteristics such as survival rates and reproductive rates affect a population's response to climate fluctuations (Malchow et al., 2023).

The Environmental Change Analytics Framework is introduced as an approach to address this overarching void suggested by the cited literature, i.e. The lack of a synthetic framework, building upon progress in both spatiotemporal prediction of species movements, genome-based monitoring of species responses to climate, and demographic range dynamics for predicting modification in timing and pathway collectively for a species population's range.

There are three primary contributions of this article. (1) study present an analytic structure that predicts route and timing changes jointly rather than independently predicting route and timing as migration outcome. A change in either dimension of migration commonly leads to changes in the other dimensions. (2) directly inject demographic sensitivity into the predicted structures so that sensitive populations that will be more or less impacted from climate related alterations in timing and route can be identified from less sensitive ones at the risk of declining demographics. (3) the study expands beyond changes in migratory timing and routes per se and predict additional cascade impacts (changes in animal-human interface, for instance).

Section II will detail some of the weaknesses in current method's based on the recent advancements in research concerning climate motivated human wildlife interactions, assisted migration genomics, impacts of hydrological change. Section III will outline the framework for route and timing predictors. Section IV will discuss outcomes of migration change alterations in relation to what has been done by current migration studies and validate its relevance. Conclusion and areas for validation.

Limitations in Existing Migration-Pattern Analysis

Research on climate change as a global driver of human-wildlife conflict shows that changes in animals' movements, mainly shifts in migratory patterns, put wildlife in close contact with human settlements and agricultural fields, which is one effect of changing migration patterns that most migration pattern studies do not consider (Abrahms et al., 2023). Research on the application of genomics in assisted migration planning with the help of climate change methods illustrates that it is possible to use genomic data on adaptability when deciding on how to support species experiencing migration disruptions but empirical usage of these data in the migration management is very limited as compared to the available analytical methods (Chen et al., 2022). Research related to changes in water hydrology and biodiversity along river ways due to human activity and climate variability reveals that migrating species living by rivers experience both climate variability and hydrological transformation caused by human activities, which suggests that migration pattern studies focusing exclusively on climate variability fail to consider the full impact of disruption affecting migratory species in transformed river systems (Zolfagharpour et al., 2022).

These insights indicate some important limitations of existing knowledge on migration pattern analysis. Human-wildlife conflict studies underscore the fact that migration alteration affects humans and animals in ways not accounted for in traditional migration analysis which focuses solely on the patterns of movement. Genomics research on assisted migration supports the idea that management decision-making can now rely on certain tools that have not previously been used in migration management and thus create a gap between data analysis and conservation actions. Hydrological alterations research indicates that migratory animals reliant on river systems face more complex anthropogenic impacts resulting from climate change that climate-oriented migration analysis may fail to capture. These findings suggest that the migration alteration prediction model developed must not only consider the human-wildlife interaction implications of the process under consideration but also be designed to facilitate the application of the findings of the analysis in practice.

Analytics Framework for Route and Timing Prediction

Historical Movement and Baseline Migration Characterization

The framework begins by assembling a historical archive of migration movements for a species' migratory population to construct a baseline characterization of patterns in phenology, route choice and stop-over sites during past climates. The baseline would include equivalent information to that being used in the field of spatiotemporal avian migration study, and account for region variation along various portion of the migratory pathway and not view the migratory course as an integrated whole, since research demonstrates climate-driven change may differ along various parts of a migratory path.

Climate Variability and Demographic Sensitivity Integration

In addition to this baseline description, the framework links climate variation metrics, important at different sections of the migration routes, to information about the demographic sensitivity of the assessed population group. This linkage is informed by evidence suggesting how, in different environmental conditions, parameters of survival and reproduction shape the extent to which a population's range, movement pattern, migration extent may change allowing the framework to differentiate, in conditions of climate variation along the migratory routes, more versus less demographically flexible populations. If available genomic data on migratory timing and/or route fidelity are provided, this information further serves to highlight the behaviourally flexible populations which should be able to adapt the behaviour with time.

Route and Timing Alteration Prediction with Consequence Assessment

Lastly, the proposed framework produces a combined estimate of bothrouteand timing alteration for the migratory population being studied (an indicator of evidence that migration alteration in one dimension occurs in conjunction with altering the other, not in isolation). This final module accounts for further, subsequent consequence-estimating outcomes of anticipated alteration – particularly likelihood of future human encroachment or agricultural land use in an altered pathway or during altered timing windows, and multiplicative effects if altered pathways cross anthropogenically- altered waterways or habitat).

Migration Alteration Findings and Validation

Anticipated Findings

The expected results of the Environmental Change Analytics Framework build on present day research into bird movements as the framework itself has not been deployed as part of an operating monitoring program. Using site-based climate conditions for specific routes, alongside migratory timing patterns, the framework should give a more localized prediction of migration interference. The studies in this field have shown that cliamte change impacts vary significantly from place to place along flight paths suggesting that prediction segmented by pathway is more appropriate. Taking demographic sensitivity in to account suggests that this analysis should provide us with populations that will adapt from those which are likely to experience migration failure and decline with change.

Comparison with Existing Migration Analysis Approaches

The outlined approach offers a more Holistic assessment than typical climate–migration models in which spatial and temporal dynamics of migration alterations are typically considered separately. Modeling both, climate-driven alterations in space and time allows for reliable forecast of climate impacts on movement changes. In combination with spatial and climate-driven changes of the habitat and hydrology, it results into a better assessment of anthropogenic pressures on migration routes. Beyond just projecting future migration patterns it identifies possible conservation implications from shifting migration routes to the increased overlap between animal's habitat use and human's' use of space.

Implications and Limitations

The Environmental Change Analytics Framework Environmental Change Analytics Framework aids proactive conservation management by identifying at risk migratory populations ahead of major declines and can help managers to target management actions at those populations predicted to be at higher risk. The framework's consequence analysis tools may also support future identification of potential future human–wildlife conflicts in new migratory corridor locations. Additional work is needed to test the Environmental Change Analytics Framework using actual long-term migration observations in the field combined with more robust comprehensive datasets (including movement, demography, genomic data, and environmental data). challenge will be that most migratory species currently lack such data. Similarly, predicting consequences on habitat and hydrology will likely depend on availability of comprehensive landscape monitoring data for many of the areas used by migratory species to move.

Conclusion

The paper has introduced the Environmental Change Analytics Framework that serves as a conceptual method for assessing how changes in climate will influence the migration of species. The Environmental Change Analytics Framework combines past behavior of species in terms of migration, climate change data, and demographic sensitivity to forecast how species are likely to change the migration routes and timings and also to understand the consequences of such changes. The Environmental Change Analytics Framework helps to mitigate the shortcomings of migration studies by taking into consideration the effects of human-wildlife interactions, closing the gap between ladies of the gene and the practical side of migration management, and analyzing the impacts of anthropogenic hydrology changes. Ongoing validation of the framework in different real-life applications will be one of the lines of future research in this area and a greater use of genomic evidence in applied management.

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