

How can Key Biodiversity Areas be useful for funding agencies?



Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are sites of importance for the global persistence of biodiversity. They are identified using a standard set of 11 criteria based on scientifically-derived thresholds. Sites that are KBAs have a globally significant proportion of a population of one or more species, or a globally significant amount of an ecosystem or site of ecological integrity. The criteria and thresholds were developed through several years of consultation in the conservation community and are published as an [IUCN standard](#). The KBA criteria can be applied to all species or ecosystems in terrestrial, freshwater, marine and subterranean realms. As a result, KBAs provide a standardised method for identifying globally important sites for biodiversity conservation that can be applied in all countries and biomes, and are a critical tool for conservation management and site-based decision-making.

KBAs are identified nationally, bringing together data and expertise from within a country and where necessary from external experts. The designation of a site as a KBA does not prescribe how it should be managed, but site managers are urged to implement management that ensures the stability, integrity, or increase of the species or ecosystem that triggers KBA status. Countries are encouraged to establish KBA National Coordination Groups to oversee the process of identifying, delineating, monitoring and conserving KBAs. KBAs are an indicator of Sustainable Development Goals 14.5, 15.1 and 15.4 and of Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Funding agencies are encouraged to invest in the identification and conservation of KBAs because:

- KBAs provide a standardised approach to assessing sites of importance for biodiversity across the world
- KBAs are recognised by international conventions as important sites for biodiversity conservation
- KBAs can help focus funding on the sites that are globally important for species or ecosystems
- KBAs are being used to guide protected area expansion in countries
- KBAs are being used by the private sector to guide their planning and risk mitigation
- Under any area-based target for the post2020 agenda, KBAs provide guidance on *where* any expansion should occur to increase conservation impact

To find out more visit www.keybiodiversityareas.org.