

# Community: News and Updates

Issue 1: July 2019  
[Join](#) the KBA Community

## GLOBAL

### Webinar

Title: [“Guidelines for using A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas”](#)

Presenter: Dr Charlotte Boyd

Date: This webinar will be presented twice to accommodate different time zones. Both webinars will be on the same topic.

Please email [chair.kba.community@keybiodiversityareas.org](mailto:chair.kba.community@keybiodiversityareas.org) to receive a calendar invitation for your preferred date.

Our Zoom can only accommodate 100 participants per session.

Time Zone	10 (11) July	11 July
USA, Seattle	6pm (10 July)	8am
South Africa, Jhb	3am (11 July)	5pm
Kenya, Nairobi	4am (11 July)	6pm
China, Beijing	9am (11 July)	11pm

### KBA Regional Focal Points

The Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Programme recognises that there is a need to have people on each continent who can help guide the establishment of National Coordination Groups, help train in the application of the KBA Criteria, and provide the first assessment of proposed KBAs before they are submitted to the KBA Secretariat. Regional Focal Points (RFP) will play this role and work with the KBA Secretariat to roll out the KBA Programme in each region. [Read more to find out who your RFP is...](#)

### Twitter

Follow [@KeyBiodiversity](https://twitter.com/KeyBiodiversity) for the latest updates in the KBA world.

### Mainstreaming Biodiversity

KBAs are sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity. KBAs have strong links to international conventions, especially the CBD and SDG. The ‘Guidelines on Business and KBAs’ is an example of how KBAs can be linked and mainstreamed across sectors. Two training manuals have been produced by BirdLife International, on mainstreaming biodiversity. [Read more...](#)

### Guidelines for Proposing KBAs

Guidelines for proposing KBAs have been published and are available on the KBA website at: <http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/what-are-kbas>. This document describes the process that should be followed, the roles of the various actors who will be involved, how guidance can be obtained from the KBA Regional Focal Points, and how to complete the KBA interim proposal form (available from the Regional Focal Points or KBA Secretariat).



# AFRICA

## KBAs in Africa

The African region has shown great initiative in establishing National Coordination Groups (NCGs) and in the national uptake of the KBA Standard. [Read more...](#)

While it is a global programme, KBA identification is a bottom-up process, largely driven by local organizations and experts through KBA NCGs; which is an essential characteristic to ensure the future safeguard and conservation of these sites. KBA data, stored on the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas, are being used in many different ways to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

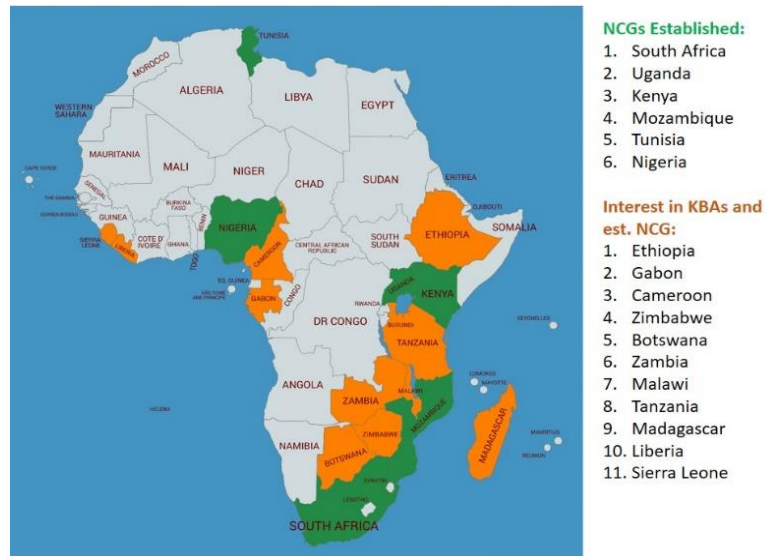


Figure 1: African countries interested in or active with KBAs, e.g. establishing National Coordination Groups. (D. Marnewick)

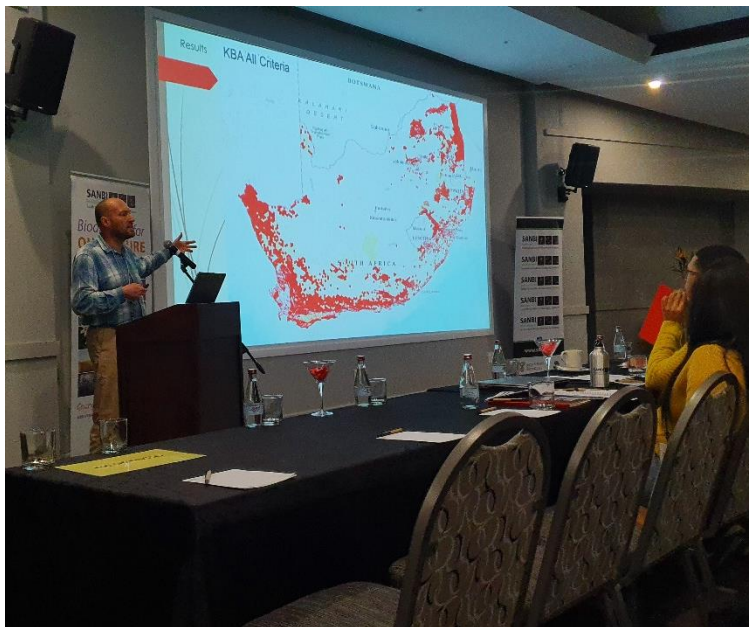


Photo 1: The draft revised KBA network for South Africa being presented at the annual Biodiversity Planning Forum, June 2019. (D. Marnewick)

African countries, such as South Africa, Mozambique, Uganda and Kenya are at the forefront of developing functional KBA processes to support the identification of KBAs through local expertise and knowledge. Through the KBA Partnership, the KBA Community, and through projects such as Biodiversity Assessment for Spatial Planning in African (BASPA), other African countries are being supported to overcome these challenges and improve their biodiversity planning and spatial prioritisation.

South Africa is currently undertaking the first national level KBA review, using spatial planning experts. This is being done in close conjunction with the KBA Technical Working Group (TWG) to ensure that the standard is being applied correctly, and that all national lessons learnt are shared with the TWG and KBA Community.

## AMERICAS

### KBA Canada

The Canadian Key Biodiversity Areas Coalition has a new [website](#).

### Americas pushing for KBAs

The Americas continues to disseminate the concept of KBAs. Thanks to the kind contribution of The Rainforest Trust, there will soon be a new Regional Focal Point for Latin America who will be working closely with Miguel Fernandez, the current Regional Focal Point for Latin America.

The IUCN has published the criteria and guidelines for partners to identify KBAs. Regional IBA/KBA coordinators have distributed the information among BirdLife country partners and offered support to help them in the process. The KBA Secretariat has put together a series of training material to support partners in KBA identification, and Regional Focal Points have been trained to provide guidance on developing proposals for KBAs and in the use of the KBA Proposal Form.



Colombia and the Bahamas have started the process of identification and other countries like Argentina, Brazil, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay have also shown interest in the process. In July, Birdlife will run the first KBA training workshop in the Americas for the BirdLife Partners. This will be held in Corrientes Province, in north-eastern Argentina, including Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, with a focus on the Atlantic Forest of Misiones Province in Argentina.

In Paraguay, the BirdLife International Partner (Guyra Paraguay), WCS Paraguay and WWF Paraguay have joined the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development to advance the official recognition of KBAs and begin establishing the National Coordination Group (NCG). The event was attended remotely by the IUCN and NatureServe whose representatives kindly shared the experience gained in the Tropical Andes with KBA-related training events.



Photo 2 and 3: Key Biodiversity Areas workshops in April 2019 in Bogota and Quito.

The Biodiversity Assessment Unit IUCN and Conservation International), together with IUCN-South America, Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos Alexander von Humboldt (Colombia), Herbario San Marcos (Peru), and Herbario Nacional de Bolivia (Bolivia) are coordinating a project on "Assessing the risk of extinction of plants and updating Key Biodiversity Areas in the Tropical Andes" funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). The project involves identifying and delimiting KBA for reptiles and a selected group of plants of the Tropical Andes of Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia. The first two KBA workshops took place in April 2019 in Bogota and Quito, and the last two are being held in Lima and La Paz. Preliminary results of the project will be presented at the III Latin American and the Caribbean Congress of Protected Areas, in October 2019.