



Community: News and Updates



Issue 9: August 2021

Join the KBA Community [click here](#) or [email](#)
If you wish receive further information on the below items, please email
chair.kba.community@keybiodiversityareas.org

CONTENTS

[GLOBAL NEWS](#)

[Key Biodiversity Areas Multi-site Proposal Form](#)

[International Day for Biological Diversity 2021: Recognition of KBAs in the Convention on Biological Diversity Post-2020](#)

[Global Framework's targets on Protected and Conserved Areas](#)

[AFRICA](#)

[Mozambique](#)

[Zambia](#)

[Madagascar](#)

[More KBA News from Africa](#)

[AMERICAS](#)

[KBA for Sei Whales Aggregation](#)

[Americas Regional Update](#)

[ASIA-PACIFIC](#)

[Asia Regional Update](#)

[Pacific Regional Update](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[GLOBAL NEWS](#)



Key Biodiversity Areas Multi-site Proposal Form

New Tools for Identifying and Proposing Key Biodiversity Areas

At the request of several Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) proposers, the KBA Secretariat has developed a multi-site proposal form that can be used to propose more than one site at a time (unlike the original proposal form). This form has several additional advantages in that it provides a full list of taxonomic groups to select from (which can be shortened by typing the first few letters of the group) and enables quicker review and validation by the Regional Focal Points and KBA Secretariat. It also gives the threshold range areas needed to apply Criterion B2 to comprehensively assessed taxonomic groups. Some additional fields have been added to provide additional data required to confirm presence of a species at a site as well as sufficient reproductive units. Please use this form for both multi-site and single site proposals from now onwards.

The list of taxonomic groups and range-restricted species has been updated and a list of the required and recommended documentation for proposals also has been updated. These are all provided together with the new proposal form at the [tools section](#) of the KBA website.

The proposal form requests that users provide the site code (sitrecid) for a KBA that already exists, where adding trigger elements to a site or re-assessing sites. This can be obtained from the KBA website by clicking on the specific site in the [map of sites](#) on the website –the last number in the URL for the factsheet is the Site number used in the World Database of KBAs (WDKBA) –e.g <http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/30946> - this is site 30946. Similarly, there are species ID numbers (specrecid) to code the species – these have also been provided in the tools section of the website.

If you have any queries about using these tools please contact the [Regional Focal Point](#) for your region. Good luck using them.

Source: [KBA Secretariat]

International Day for Biological Diversity 2021: Recognition of KBAs in the Convention on Biological Diversity Post-2020 Global Framework's targets on Protected and Conserved Areas

IUCN Director General specifically notes the importance of Key Biodiversity Areas in achieving the proposed 30x30 Target for Protected and Conserved Areas

21 May 2021 marked the International Day for Biological Diversity. This year, the event takes place not only during the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic, but significantly, in the year leading up to the 15th Conference of the Parties (CoP)

to the United Nation's Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

As many of you are aware, CBD CoP 15 marks a critical stage in the future conservation of biological diversity. At CBD CoP 15, parties to the CBD will have to decide whether to adopt the draft proposed strategy currently known as the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the goals, milestones, targets, and indicators set out in the draft Post-2020 Framework.

The Post-2020 Framework builds on the CBD 2011-2020 Strategy and sets ambitious targets for achievement by 2030 in a global, coordinated framework that is to be implemented primarily at a national level. Ultimately, the Post-2020 Framework seeks to ensure that by 2030, the world is on a path to reach the CBD's 2050 Vision for Biodiversity of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

The Post-2020 Framework has four long-term goals for 2050 related to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity. Of significance to the KBA Community are the goals related to the percentage of the planet protected and conserved by 2030, as well as the reduction in the number of threatened species by 2030. The call for 30% of the planet to be protected and conserved by 2030 by a coalition of CBD Party countries, and numerous conservation bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) is ambitious but considered necessary to halt the decline in biodiversity.

The KBA Secretariat is advocating for the Post-2020 Framework to specifically refer to Key Biodiversity Areas in its text, targets, and indicators. This call was echoed by the Director General of the IUCN in his statement for the International Day for Biological Diversity. The statement makes specific note of the importance of including Key Biodiversity Areas in the proposed 30x30 target and associated text and indicators. The Director General further stated that the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas can support achieving the proposed 30 x 30 target for protecting the most important places for nature and people, as well as acting as an indicator of progress towards the target. You can read the IUCN Director General's statement here: [IUCN Director General's Statement for International Day for Biological Diversity](#), [IUCN](#)

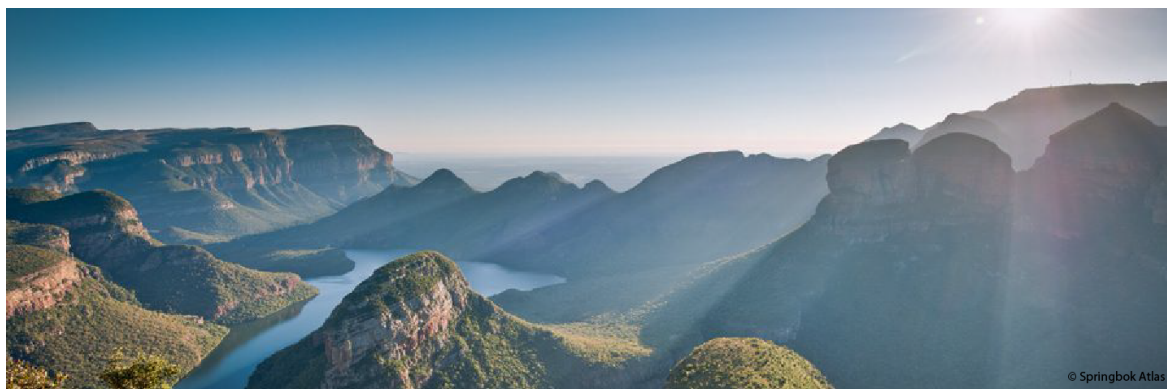
Since the International Day for Biological Diversity, Draft 1 of the CBD Post-2020 Global Framework has been released on 12 July 2021. You can access the Draft here:

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf>

The KBA Secretariat will continue to advocate and promote for the inclusion of KBAs in the Post-2020 Global Framework and urges the KBA Community to lobby their national CBD Focal Points for the inclusion of KBAs into the Framework leading up to the CBD CoP 15.

Source: [KBA Secretariat]

[AFRICA](#)



Mozambique

29 Key Biodiversity Areas identified, assessed, and delineated in Mozambique

Mozambique is one of the first nations to make a comprehensive assessment of its Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), applying the KBA Standard and Criteria across multiple taxonomic groups. A process that started in 2019 and supported by USAID through its SPEED+ project, this effort is a considerable achievement involving the collaboration of more than 20 national institutions from the government, research, education, conservation partners, civil society, and the private sector, with the contribution of more than 100 national, regional, and international experts. Twenty-nine KBAs were identified and delineated, covering a total area of about 139,947 km², with 25 on land and four in the marine environment. The terrestrial KBAs occupy 17% of Mozambique's continental territory and the marine 1% of the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).



Niassa Special Reserve KBA, Mozambique - Valdemar Jonasse

While more than 16,000 KBAs exist in the World Database of KBAs, many of these have been identified for birds only. The KBA Programme is working through the KBA Partnership to encourage the formation of KBA National Coordination Groups in countries to work on making such national assessments. Mozambique established its KBA National Coordination Group in 2019, which is led by the Ministry of Land and Environment, and then pulled together a set of teams to tackle each of the following groups: mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, plants, freshwater fish, insects, and marine biodiversity. The work took two years to identify potential trigger species for KBAs, confirming their presence at a site and formally proposing the sites to the KBA Secretariat and there is a second phase planned to map and identify KBAs for ecosystems and to undertake biological surveys of sites thought to be likely candidates as KBAs.

Mozambique is incorporating these 29 sites in its National Territorial Plan and in its National Marine Spatial Plan as areas where harmful development should be avoided and will be using it to guide protected area expansion in the country. Besides that, under the new draft of the biodiversity offsets regulations, KBAs are proposed as offset receiving areas. KBAs will also be preferential areas for a future national biodiversity monitoring program.

This project was one of the first initiatives worldwide to complete a comprehensive national KBA assessment, applying the 2016 Global Standard and showcasing the important contribution KBAs make to national biodiversity conservation.

Apart from the establishment of the Mozambican KBA NCG, the project also saw the establishment of an NCG for the Red List of Threatened Species. The project also expanded in country capacity, with 130 technicians trained to identify KBAs and assess Red Lists, including 8 young Mozambican biologists trained to organize data and conduct Red List and KBA assessments.

The final products were officially launched at a public event, chaired by H.E. Mozambique's Minister of Land and Environment, on the World Day of Threatened Species, 21 May 2021.

Considering the importance of this successful national KBA identification process for multiple taxonomic groups, the KBA secretariat in partnership with the KBA Community, Wildlife Conservation Society and the Mozambique NCG hosted a comprehensive webinar to discuss this assessment and important lessons learnt for when undertaking national KBA assessments, beginning with establishing a National Coordination Group, mobilising data, and analysing data and sites.

Watch the webinar on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VycikQ9ikNw>

You can also read more on the Mozambican KBA assessment process here: [Mozambique: Leading the Way on the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas | by Wildlife Conservation Society | Medium](#)

Source: [KBA Secretariat, Hugo de Costas, Wildlife Conservation Society]

Zambia

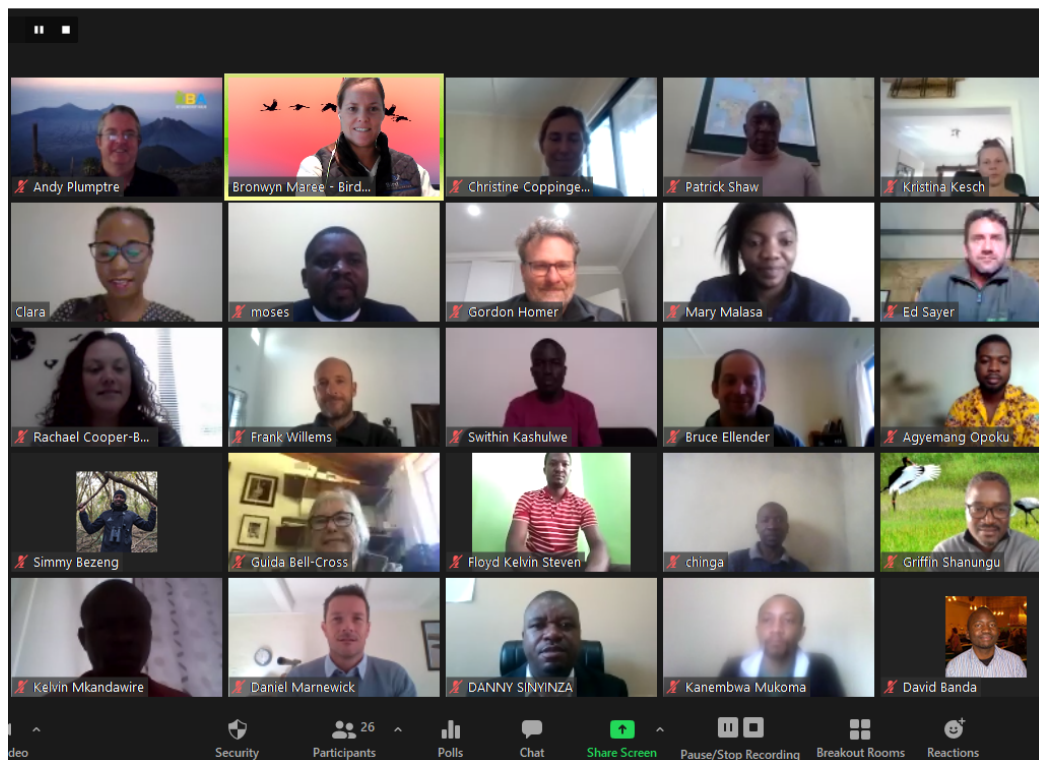
Introducing the KBA concept and processes in Zambia

On 28 June 2021, a virtual KBA and NCG Training workshop for Zambia took place – a welcome first step towards initiating the introduction of KBAs in Zambia and establishing a Zambian National Coordination Group.

This workshop was a collaborative effort by a range of role-players. Dr Bezeng Bezeng, the KBA Regional Focal Point for western and southern Africa, BirdLife South Africa's East Atlantic Flyway Initiative Project Manager, Bronwyn Maree, and the BirdLife partner in Zambia, BirdWatch Zambia, were instrumental in setting up this workshop. This workshop was conducted in collaboration with the KBA Secretariat, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCSI), World Wide Fund for Nature-Zambia (WWF-Zambia) and the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS). The workshop was well attended with representatives from key government departments, conservation Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other relevant stakeholders in Zambia.

The main objectives of this workshop were to, firstly, introduce the concept of KBAs to relevant stakeholders in Zambia; secondly, obtain an understanding of the spatial planning tools and biodiversity data that exists; thirdly, describe the process to facilitate the creation of a NCG; and fourthly, outline the next steps to initiate KBA identification and assessment in Zambia.

After being welcomed to the workshop by the Board Membership Secretary of Birdwatch Zambia, Guida Bell-Cross, a series of informative presentations were held. Dr Andy Plumptre of the Key Biodiversity Areas Secretariat introduced the concept of KBAs, and their role in the broader biodiversity conservation sector. Dr Bezeng Bezeng presented on the KBA assessment process in terms of the Global KBA Standard, KBA criteria and triggers and data requirements. Frank Willems from BirdWatch Zambia presented on National Coordination Groups, their composition, logistics and purpose.



A screenshot of the Zambian KBA Workshop

A series of discussions were also held to assist in crystallizing the issues, challenges, and next steps for the establishment of a Zambian NCG, including its governance structure and commencing with the KBA identification and review process in Zambia. Key considerations for the workshop to discuss included the value of KBAs in Zambia, funding options for the KBA assessment process, existing spatial planning tools and available biodiversity data in Zambia, as well as the identification of additional key stakeholders and role-players.

BirdLife South Africa's Regional Conservation Programme and the KBA Regional Focal Point for western and southern Africa will continue to support BirdWatch Zambia in this important step forward in the identification of areas that support the global persistence of biodiversity in Zambia.

Source: [Dr Bezeng Bezeng, BirdLife South Africa, KBA Regional Focal Point for western and southern Africa]

Madagascar

Working towards establishing a National Coordination Group in Madagascar

Since 2019, the KBA Secretariat, the KBA Community Chair and the KBA Regional Focal Point for western and southern Africa, have been engaging with representatives of the biodiversity conservation community and government role-players in Madagascar to establish a NCG in Madagascar, and to commence the KBA identification and assessment process.

The establishment of the NCG is at an advanced stage, and steps are currently being undertaken to develop and present a virtual KBA training workshop for Madagascar, much like the Zambian KBA training. In addition, a recent Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) proposal that potentially triggers a KBA under Criterion A1G, has been submitted for review.

We look forward to updating you on the important progress being made in Madagascar.

Source: [Dr Bezeng Bezeng, BirdLife South Africa, KBA Regional Focal Point for western and southern Africa]

More KBA News from Africa

Interest in KBAs growing in Africa

Since successfully conducting the Zambian KBA training workshop, the KBA Regional Focal Point for western and southern Africa and BirdLife South Africa's Regional Conservation Programme has been approached to potentially provide KBA training for two more southern African countries.

Stakeholders involved in biodiversity conservation in Malawi and Angola have expressed interest in gaining more technical knowledge and expertise in the KBA identification and assessment process with the hopeful aim of establishing NCGs in the two countries respectively.

Discussions are currently underway working towards holding KBA and NCG training workshops in Malawi and Angola.

Source: [Dr Bezeng Bezeng, BirdLife South Africa, KBA Regional Focal Point for western and southern Africa]

Training courses in applying the KBA Criteria have also been run for interested conservation practitioners in Ghana, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Sierra Leone and Liberia by the IUCN Freshwater Unit with the aim to follow up and identify KBAs for freshwater species in this part of West Africa.

There is interest in forming KBA National Coordination Groups in several of these countries as a result of the training.

Source: [Dr Thom Starnes, IUCN Freshwater Unit]

AMERICAS



KBA for Sei Whales Aggregation

First KBA for Sei Whales in Falkland Islands Recognised

Ongoing research has revealed that the Falkland Islands, a UK Overseas Territory, are a globally important hotspot for recovering populations of endangered Sei whales. Five years of surveys have shown that these whales visit the pristine coastal waters of the Falkland Islands each summer and autumn; a situation which is virtually unique for this species. The islands offer a remarkable opportunity to see and study this little known and poorly understood whale.

The research has led to a significant achievement; the first ever Key Biodiversity Area being confirmed for Sei whales anywhere in the world. Key Biodiversity Areas cover some of the most important places in the world for global biodiversity.

Before this research began, it wasn't even clear which whale species were being increasingly sighted in the Falkland Islands, nor how many there were, or why they were using the region. Today we know that these sei whales are seeking the Falkland Islands out as a summer feeding ground, and that many return year-on-year to feed on the swarms of tiny crustaceans that are abundant within the newly confirmed KBA waters. A core part of the survey project included taking photographs of the fins and flanks of the sei whales and comparing the unique combinations of nicks, scars, and colour patterns. Around 500 individuals have been identified to date, and the survey work has revealed some fascinating insights into the individual stories of some of the whales. One whale, nicknamed 'Wonky' due to an unusually bent dorsal fin, was identified as travelling from Rio de Janeiro in Brazil to the Falkland Islands, a straight-line journey of over 3,300km in 6 months. This is one of the first insights into defined migration routes of this species. Another was sighted in both 2019 and 2020, and excitingly the second year she was accompanied by a young calf. Whales in the study aren't typically given names, however this mother will be one of the individuals taking part in a *Name The Whale* Facebook campaign that was run by Falklands Conservation in May 2021 as part of the KBA launch.

Dr Caroline Weir, Sei Whale Project lead for Falklands Conservation; *"We are incredibly proud of achieving this Key Biodiversity Area for endangered Sei whales, which is the culmination of five years of pioneering and challenging field research that has really highlighted the importance of the Falkland Islands for this poorly-known species. It's a privilege to work in an area where whale populations appear to be thriving, and fantastic to now see that work translating into global recognition and contributing to the future conservation of these amazing animals".*



Source: [KBA Secretariat]

Americas Regional Update

Numerous KBA assessment and review processes taking place in the Americas

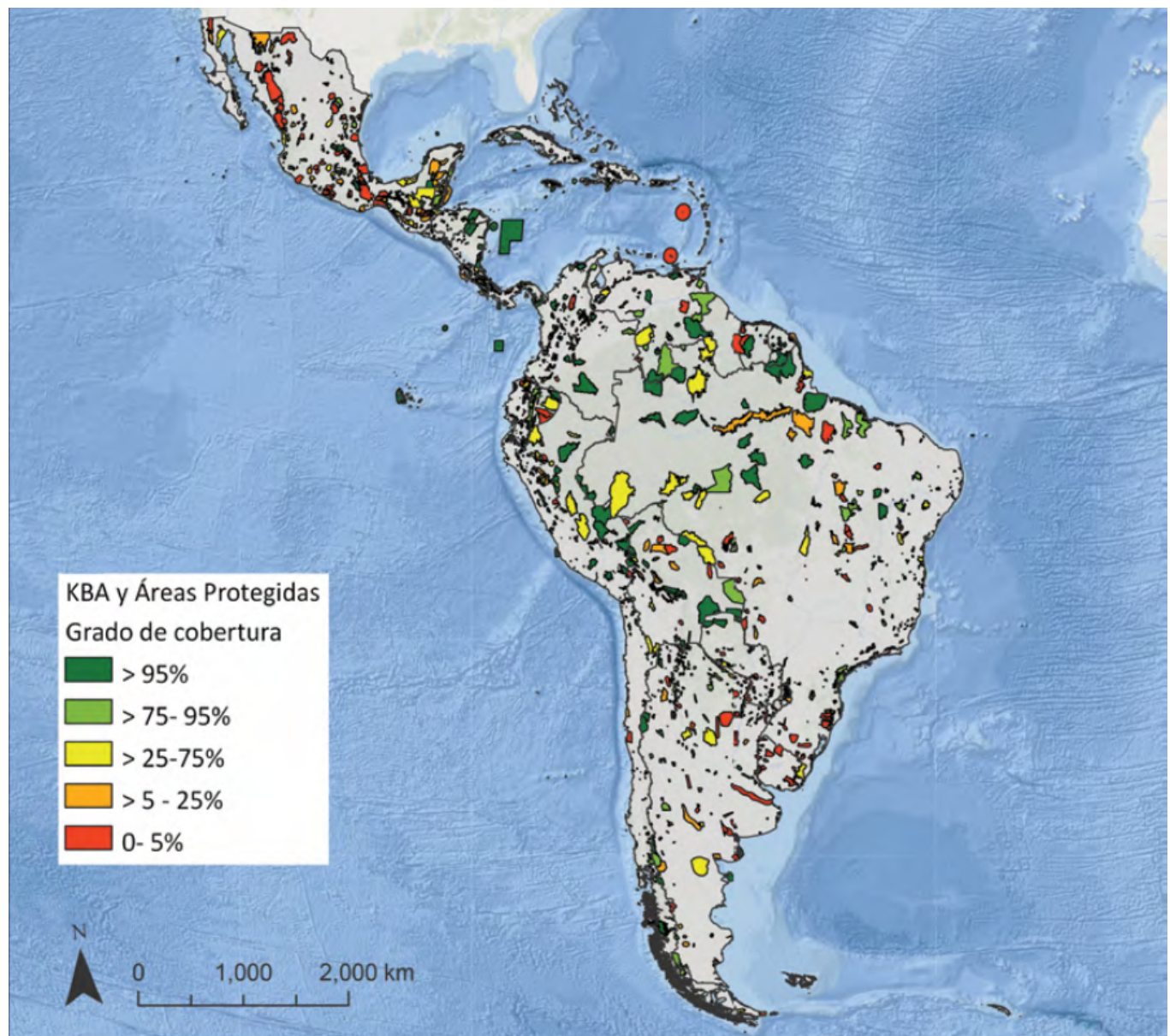
Currently, there are several KBA processes in the region. re:wild (formerly Global Wildlife Conservation) is using the information from the global Red List assessment for amphibians to assess all Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites for this taxa (under A1e criterion). This is a massive effort totaling 338 proposals from almost all countries in the Americas region. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Freshwater Unit has submitted 35 proposals for four of the Tropical Andes Countries: Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.

The National Audubon Society is working with Bahamas National Trust to update three KBAs for the Piping Plover in the Bahamas; and two Ecuadorian NGOs, EcoMinga and Jocotoco, are working to review and propose their private reserves as KBAs.

BirdLife International is working with their national partners in Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, and Brazil to update the polygons and bird populations in over 100 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) which eventually will be submitted as KBA reassessments.

The Latin America and Caribbean Protected Planet Report 2020:

On 28 April 2021 the Latin America and Caribbean Protected Planet report was released, analysing progress in the fulfillment of the components of Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 51 countries and territories of this region. This report brought together 58 authors from more than 40 organisations between governments, academic institutions, national and international NGOs, and international cooperation agencies, and includes a chapter on KBAs. The report, coordinated by RedParques, UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA), World Wide Fund Inc. (WWF), and the IAPA Amazon Vision Project, is available at:



KBAs in the Latin America and Caribbean Protected Planet Report, 2020

KBA Coordination in Latin America and the Caribbean:

To improve the coordination and response to the numerous proposals received in the region, Miguel Fernandez will from now on act as the main contact for KBA processes in Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay, while David Díaz remains as the main contact point for the rest of the countries, except Brazil, which due to its extension will be coordinated by both co-RFPs.

Tropical Andes Observatory:

A Consortium led by the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) held a four-day workshop from May 17-19 2021, where more than 150 people gathered with the goal of imagining a better future in harmony with nature in which biodiversity information is a critical component for decision making in the Tropical Andes. The Essential Biodiversity Variables, the Red List of Species, the Red List of Ecosystems, and the Key Biodiversity Areas framework concepts were discussed as to how these systems and processes can help inform the region's most pressing problems. The Consortium brought to the discussion table a holistic and inclusive group of stakeholders (some for the first time) to

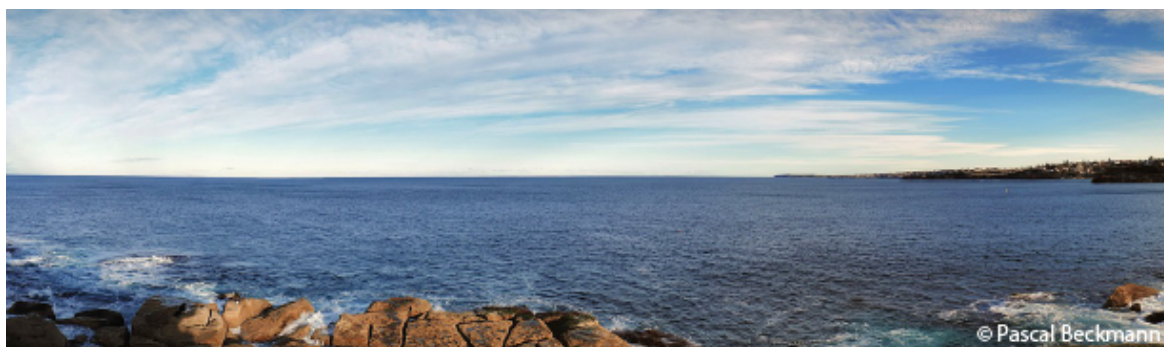
discuss and understand what information on biodiversity these groups require to make their activities more sustainable. This group of stakeholders included experts in remediation for mining projects, petroleum and natural gas companies, hydropower, agribusiness, agricultural insurance, multilateral banking, private sector, the gastronomy industry seeking to recover and revalue the use and production of biodiversity products, ecotourism initiatives, environmental education, risk management experts, representatives of indigenous communities, and the community that works in biodiversity conservation and the generation of biodiversity information. The results of the Consortium will help to design a scalable, and actionable Biodiversity Observation Network tailored to the needs of users in the region.

National Coordination Group in Uruguay

Rossana Berrini (National Bureau for Biodiversity and Ecological Services) and Adrián Azpiroz (Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas Clemente Estable and KBA Community Representative for the Americas) have initiated the process to put together a National Coordination Group. Several senior scientists (covering taxonomic and ecological groups such as plants, marine biodiversity, vertebrates, and conservation genetics) have been invited to establish a primary leading unit that will establish short-term guidelines to advance KBA work in the country. The group will facilitate the participation of all relevant stakeholders related to biodiversity conservation whose expertise will be critical to build a strong science-based initiative. Preliminary consultations with national authorities indicate that there is willingness to consider KBA-related input to inform future conservation strategies in the country.

Source: [David F. Díaz Fernández, KBA co-Regional Focal Point for Latin America and Caribbean / Co-Punto Focal Regional de las KBA para América Latina y el Caribe]

[ASIA-PACIFIC](#)



[Asia Regional Update](#)

The BirdLife Asia Partnership has been working to identify, document and conserve Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) since the late 1990s, and to date has identified around 2,500 IBAs in the Asia region. These sites are all currently treated as Key Biodiversity Areas, but they will be assessed against the KBA Standard over the next decade to ensure that they qualify.

BirdLife published a regional directory of IBAs in Asia in 2004, and since then BirdLife's Partners and other collaborators have published more detailed national IBA directories for 16 Asian countries and territories. However, the IBA data is becoming out-of-date in some parts of the region and the Asian Partners are aiming to update their IBA data by the end of 2022. The new data being collected presents an opportunity to test the sites against both the IBA and the KBA criteria.

The BirdLife Partners in Malaysia, Nepal and Bhutan are currently preparing new national IBA inventories and once the data is available, the sites will be tested against the KBA criteria. Burung Indonesia compiled the KBA data for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership (CEPF) Profile for the Wallacea Hotspot in 2014, using the old KBA criteria, and they are currently working on an update using the new KBA criteria.



Halmahera island, Indonesia © Burung Indonesia/photo by Tri Susanti

In recent months, there has been interest from several Asian countries in identifying new KBAs for a range of taxonomic groups. Flora and Fauna International have completed a major new analysis of karst limestone cave KBAs in Myanmar, with support from the KBA Secretariat. 24 new KBAs have been identified, which mostly qualified under KBA Criterion B1 based on the number of known localities for cave-specialist arachnids, bats, crustacea, fish, insects, molluscs, and reptiles.

In Mongolia, the Nature Conservancy has run a pilot study to test the application of KBA Criterion C on Ecological integrity at four sites which have intact ecological communities with supporting large-scale ecological processes. The Nature Conservancy ran a webinar on this pilot study in mid-June 2021, which can be viewed at

<https://tnc.box.com/s/zsbycnw6c7lw29psz1bpwqmhmejhc8al>.

Elsewhere in the region, KBA proposals on important sites for threatened plants in the Republic of Korea and mammals in Sri Lanka have been reviewed.

Source: [Mike Crosby, BirdLife International, KBA Regional Focal Point for Asia]

Pacific Regional Update

Funding has been received from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund to establish KBA National Coordination Groups in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands by BirdLife International and WCS. Following training in application of the KBA criteria, KBA National Coordination Groups will review and update all existing KBAs in these countries to provide a re-assessment of sites. They will also start the process of identifying new KBAs.

[Source: Mark O'Brien, Regional Focal Point for Australasia and Pacific Islands]

CONTACT US

KBA COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

The current Chair and Regional Representatives of the KBA Community are:

Africa (and Chair) – Daniel Marnewick (chair.kba.community@keybiodiversityareas.org)

Americas – Adrián B. Azpiroz (pampasbirds@gmail.com)

Europe & Central Asia – Vacant

Asia-Pacific – Professor Yongut Trisurat (fforyyt@ku.ac.th)

KBA REGIONAL FOCAL POINTS:

Interim Regional Focal Points have been nominated for the following regions and should be contacted if you have queries about assessing Key Biodiversity Areas or want to nominate a KBA:

Africa (southern and western Africa) - Simeon Bezeng (simmy.bezeng@birdlife.org.za); **(eastern and central Africa)** - Tim Davenport (tdavenport@wcs.org)

Asia - Mike Crosby (Mike.Crosby@birdlife.org)

Australasia and Pacific Islands - Mark O'Brien (Mark.Obrien@birdlife.org)

Latin America and Caribbean- please correspond with both RFPs David Diaz (ddiaz@keybiodiversityareas.org) and Miguel Fernandez (Miguel_Fernandez@natureserve.org)

Mediterranean countries and eastern Europe - Catherine Numa (Catherine.numa@iucn.org)

KBA COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications working group co-chairs Lindsay Renick Mayer (lrenickmayer@globalwildlife.org) and Richard Lee (rlee@wwfint.org)

KBA SECRETARIAT:

For other regions (North America and Europe) please contact the head of the KBA Secretariat, Andy Plumptre (aplumptre@keybiodiversityareas.org).



[view this email in your browser](#)

Copyright © 2021 KBA Community, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the KBA Community and have signed up to receive KBA Community News.

[Want to change how you receive these emails?](#)

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Key Biodiversity Areas Community · Isdell House · 17 Hume Road, Dunkeld West · Johannesburg, Gauteng 2196 · South Africa

