



Community: News and Updates



Issue 6: September 2020

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If you wish receive further information on the below items, please email
chair.kba.community@keybiodiversityareas.org

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GLOBAL NEWS



Improving KBA communication between the community of practice

The KBA Community has set up a Facebook group on which to post all KBA related news and updates. It will also act as a site to allow all members in the KBA Community to post their news about their work with KBAs. All members of the Google Group have received an invitation to join this group. The group will be moderated to ensure only KBA relevant information is posted, and under specific categories.



KBA Community Facebook Group



KBA Community Google Group

New KBA website and database

The KBA website and World Database of KBAs have been completely revised. The new site now enables a user to obtain much more information about KBAs, how KBAs are being used by governments, businesses, and donors, and how to go about identifying and proposing new KBAs. The data in the World Database of KBAs is also much more accessible and can be queried in various ways. For example, you can select a geographical region or country and obtain summary data about the KBAs there in a dashboard format. You can also select sites that are triggered by particular taxonomic groups, criteria or ecosystem type and each site has a fact sheet with a description of the site and the species that trigger KBA status for the site. Please visit www.keybiodiversityareas.org to explore both the website and database. More updates are planned for 2021 that will allow even greater flexibility and the ability to propose sites as KBAs online.

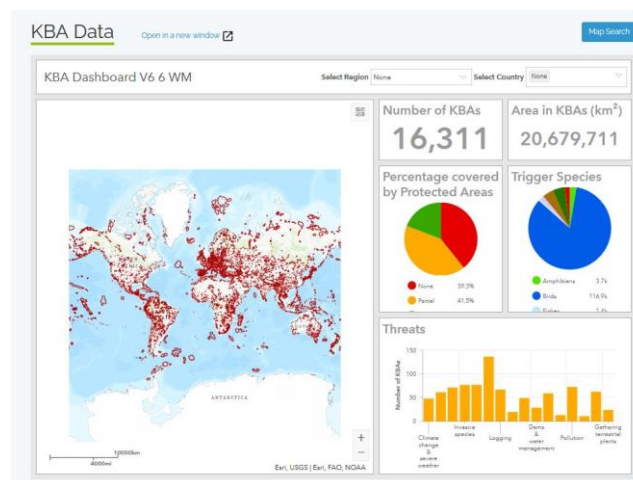


Figure 1. Dashboard of the new World Database of KBAs including data on KBAs in various regions of the world.

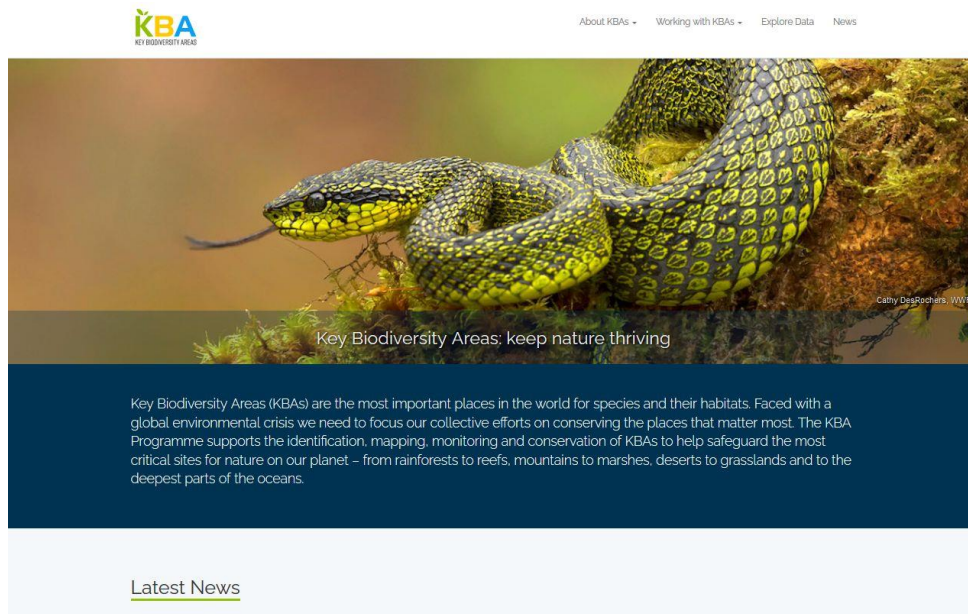


Figure 2. The new KBA website

Source: [Andrew Plumptre, KBA Secretariat]

New Regional Focal Point for Europe, North Africa, and Middle East

Meet our new Regional Focal Point for Europe, North Africa and Middle East, Catherine Numa. Catherine is the coordinator of the Mediterranean Species Programme at IUCN Med, where she has been working on projects in the field of biodiversity conservation for 10 years. She holds a PhD in “Biodiversity and Conservation” at University of Alicante, and has worked with various taxonomic groups (primates, bats, small mammals, dung beetles), mainly focused on the study of factors that influence biodiversity patterns at spatial and temporal scales. At the IUCN, she coordinates two initiatives, the “Mediterranean Biodiversity Assessment” which seeks to assess the extinction risk of key taxonomic groups in the Mediterranean, and the “Development of strategic conservation plans for threatened species”. As part of these initiatives, she was involved in the identification of freshwater KBA for the Mediterranean region.



Figure 3. Catherine Numa, the new Regional Focal Point for Europe, North Africa, and Middle East

<https://www.iucn.org/regions/mediterranean/our-work/mediterranean-species-programme>

Source: [Catherine Numa, IUCN Mediterranean Species Programme]

KBA Community Representative Nomination

The KBA Community is a platform created to grant a voice and proper recognition to, and foster engagement with, individuals and organisations that actively support the development and implementation of the KBA Programme at the national and local level through providing data, and/or conducting or participating in the process of identification of KBAs. This includes but is not restricted to National (or subnational) KBA Coordination Groups and external Proposers. KBA Community members will have a voice in governance of the KBA Programme through the inclusion of KBA Community representatives on the KBA Committee.

There are four KBA Community regions with one representative from each region; 1. Americas; 2. Africa; 3. Europe and Central Asia; 4. Asia and the Pacific. The Regional Representatives of the KBA Community shall:

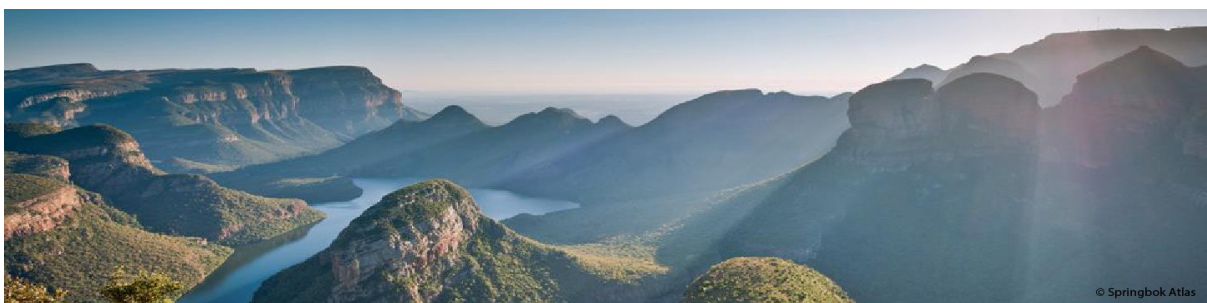
- Represent the voice of the KBA Community in the KBA governance bodies
- Provide feedback from the KBA Community to the KBA Committee
- Participate in the KBA Committee meeting (2 per year/ in person or virtually)

The Chair of the KBA Community will be selected by the KBA Committee from among these four representatives. The KBA Community Representatives will be elected by the KBA Committee every two years (with a staggered election process to ensure continuity) from nominations invited from the KBA Community. The Chair of the KBA Community will have a voting position on the KBA Committee, the 3 other regional representatives will have a non-voting position as observers. Existing regional representatives are permitted to be nominated and re-elected for a second term.

The KBA Community members are hereby invited to nominate regional representatives. Please complete the nominations form attached and send it to chair.kba.community@keybiodiversityareas.org by 20 October 2020.

Source: [[Daniel Marnewick](#), KBA Community Chair/BirdLife South Africa]

AFRICA



South Africa

South Africa's large number of sites qualifying as global Key Biodiversity Areas highlights their incredible biodiversity wealth and the country is now a recognised world leader in KBA's. In 2019/20, South Africa became the first mega diverse country to practically test the KBA global standard across a full range of species groups and ecosystems. The global standard and its practical application will be vital at a time when the world, through the international Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), is deliberating a new plan for nature – the Global Biodiversity Framework 2020-2030. South Africa is the first to complete a comprehensive national KBA assessment for all ecosystems and

across multiple groups of species (i.e. for mammals, birds, plants, fish, amphibians, invertebrates, butterfly, dragonfly, and reptiles). Preliminary results from this assessment have identified more than 540 KBAs in South Africa. The WWF Nedbank Green Trust and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) funded the national KBA process to identify South Africa's KBA network. In a [media release](#), Daniel Marnewick, KBA Community Chair and Africa Representative, discussed that the KBA network will now complement the existing national spatial biodiversity prioritisation and help motivate for and direct international financial investments and conservation efforts into landscape conservation. Daniel was also interviewed live by a local news channel to discuss the importance of KBAs for South Africa and its biodiversity. [Here is a link to the interview](#). Daniel and his colleagues at BirdLife South Africa are also working with a number of other African countries to assist them identify threatened species and ecosystems, which they can then use to identify their KBAs.

Source: [[Daniel Marnewick](#), KBA Community Chair/BirdLife South Africa]

East Atlantic Flyway Initiative (EAFI)– southern Africa

Each year many millions of shorebirds and landbirds migrate from their northern breeding grounds in Eurasia to wintering areas in western and southern Africa. Many of these birds travel thousands of kilometres along the flyway and rely on a series of high quality coastal and inland sites as stop over points to feed and rest. The East Atlantic Flyway (EAF) is the network of stepping stone sites used each year by these migrating birds. Many of these coastal and inland terrestrial, stop over sites are also important for humans, providing resources, livelihoods and economic development. Unfortunately, due to numerous threats, many of the bird populations in this flyway have declined.

The main threats faced by the EAF are urbanization and development, degradation and reduction of key habitat (such as wetlands), as well as agricultural expansion, impacts of energy production, overexploitation of resources (through activities such as hunting, trapping, fishing), the introduction of alien species, over-extraction or scarcity of water sources, pollution, climate change and negative impacts from recreational and tourism activities.

The BirdLife partnership has established the East Atlantic Flyway Initiative (EAFI) to facilitate the monitoring of birds and sites, identify conservation priorities and increase capacity for conservation along the East Atlantic Flyway. As birds do not recognize international boundaries, conservation measures along the entire flyway are important to secure a network of sites necessary for the protection of these migratory birds. Collaboration with country partners and organizations working along the Flyway is key to the implementation of successful conservation initiatives to address the key threats facing biodiversity and landscapes. BirdLife South Africa's EAFI Project Manager, funded by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), will assist in the southern African region, focusing on Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The key objectives of the project are to partner with, and support countries, in understanding and reporting their biodiversity, by strengthening technical capacity, through training of country officials to enable them to: 1) improve the knowledge of key threats for species along the flyway, as well as the conservation interventions required to reduce these threats; 2) improve the conservation and management of important sites and habitats for migratory birds (through the identification and delineation of Key Biodiversity Areas, KBAs); 3) safeguard these sites by expanding on the network of protected and conserved areas (through assessing and recognizing of 'Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures' or OECMs); 4) influence policy on a national, regional and global level and

better protect migratory species within their own country; 5) fundraise for priority projects along the East Atlantic Flyway, and lastly, 6) promote the work of the Flyway and demonstrate the value of coordinating actions across the Flyway.

For more information about the East Atlantic Flyway Initiative, contact [Bronwyn Maree](#), the East Atlantic Flyway Initiative Project Manager.



Figure 4. The route and focus area of the East Atlantic Flyway Initiative.

Source: [[Bronwyn Maree](#), BirdLife South Africa]

AMERICAS



Argentina

Atlantic Forest KBA: First examples of defining sites in Argentina

In partnership with the BirdLife International network and together with Guyra Paraguay and Save Brasil, Aves Argentinas created the Atlantic Forest Project, which aims to contribute to the

conservation of the Paranaian forest in Argentina through the creation, implementation and strengthening of protected natural areas, monitoring of threatened species and accompanying restoration and sustainable development initiatives involving key local territories and communities.

With different denominations, the Austro-Brazilian missionary, Paranaense or currently called Bosque Atlántico jungle (Atlantic Forest) is in Misiones in Argentina, the heart of the southern block of this wide ecoregion complex. The Paranaense jungle, in Argentina, coincides almost in a traced way, with the political boundaries of the province of Misiones. With an area of 29,000 km², it is the provincial state of greatest biological diversity in relation to its surface area. It is an ecoregion with numerous endemics. Argentina currently has approximately 1,000 species of wild birds and 130 of those species can only be observed in the province of Misiones and in the northeast of the province of Corrientes.

As a general objective Aves Argentinas aims to contribute in a significant and tangible way to the sustainable development of the Atlantic Forest. The Atlantic Forest Project is supported by the Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation. One of the milestones to be met within this initiative is the production of quality information to contribute to better conservation decisions. Aves Argentinas are supporting the global KBA initiative by assisting with the identification of Argentina's KBAs, and the Atlantic Forest has been a pilot site. Based on the criteria and thresholds defined and established by the KBA Standards, and with the information contained in scientific and technical publications, digital databases, plus the invaluable collaboration of academics, scientists, experts and stakeholders, 119 species (42 plants, 48 fish, 4 amphibians, 2 reptiles, 15 birds and 8 mammals) were selected that served as indicators of sites that met the requirements of a KBA.

The initial Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) defined for Argentina in 2005 were used as a starting point and the limits for these areas were corrected according to the original descriptions of each IBA, international boundaries and the boundaries of protected natural areas and exclusions of already deeply transformed areas. In some cases, IBAs that were small, nearby, shared indicator species and had continuity of environments with similar predominant uses, were unified into a single KBA. Then geo-referenceable locations were mapped with records of selected species of plants, fish, amphibians and a reptile because they are taxa of zero or little mobility and whose presence can respond to habitat conditions at a very local level, even being able to present disjunct populations. For fish, because the factors representing dispersion barriers within basins with numerous jumps were unknown, it was also chosen when it took into account only known localities, when the species was recorded only in 1, 2 or 3 localities, making any reliable estimate of its range impossible. Based on these points, the boundaries of the IBAs were modified to cover these locations where possible, taking into account subbasins for fish and habitat available to the rest. Areas that were not included near an IBA also emerged, so new sites were created using the boundaries based on the criteria mentioned above. For subbasins, level 9 of the hydroBASINS project was used, for habitats the original remaining vegetation was taken into account based on a raster data for native forest GIS in 2015 and the images available in Google Earth Pro.

In cases where the locations with records were fully transformed were not incorporated. Instead, large sectors, including complete KBAs, were maintained, consisting of a mosaic of different land uses and including patches of native vegetation, in which the permanence and/or use of them were verified by the site's indicator species. These boundary modifications also included nearby public and private protected natural areas, on the one hand, because they are remnant habitat that will be retained in the long term and on the other to potentially strengthen them by nominating them as potential KBA's.

In the end, 20 KBAs were defined in the province of Misiones with a total area of 1,187,921 hectares, of which 506,150 hectares are under some category of protected natural area.

As supplementary information, some threats to the indicator species present in the KBAs that are generally caused by introduced exotic species, changes in watercourses and pollution regimes, deforestation and selective logging, wildlife run-out, hunting and poaching, natural processes that are significant in endangered population situations and ultimately fires. There are territorial systems that favor, from the legal context, the protection and sustainable use of natural resources in the KBAs, these are the Green Corridor of the province of Missions and National Law of Native Forests.

The nomination of new KBAs were sent out for evaluation in July 2020. Aves Argentinas are currently preparing a technical document, which will serve as a consultation document for decision makers of public bodies, NGOs, landowners or scientists who can contribute to the conservation of KBA.

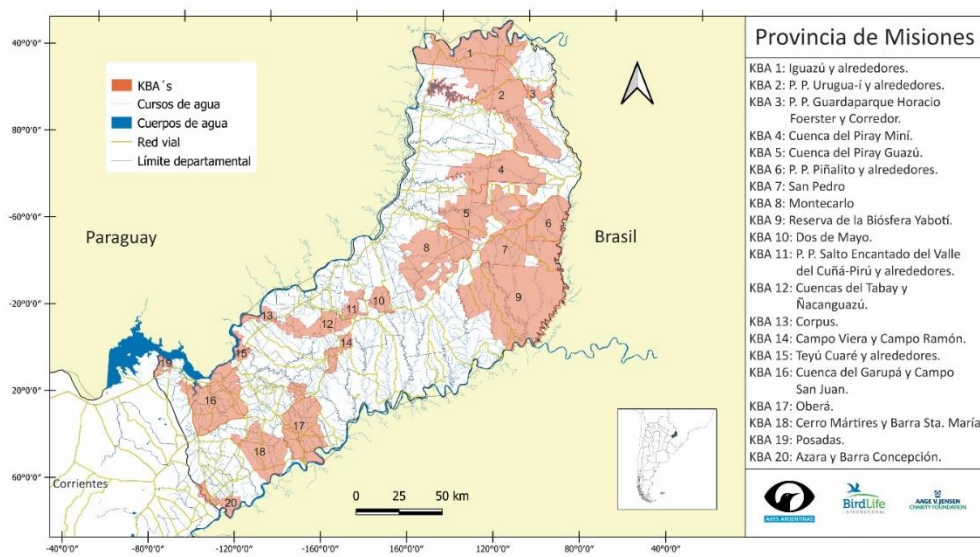


Figure 5. Map of the proposed KBAs for the province of Misiones. Preparation: Damián Lozano.



Figure 6. Carpenter cinnamon face(*Celeus galeatus*), species Globally Vulnerable and KBA indicator.
Photo: Martjan Lammertink.

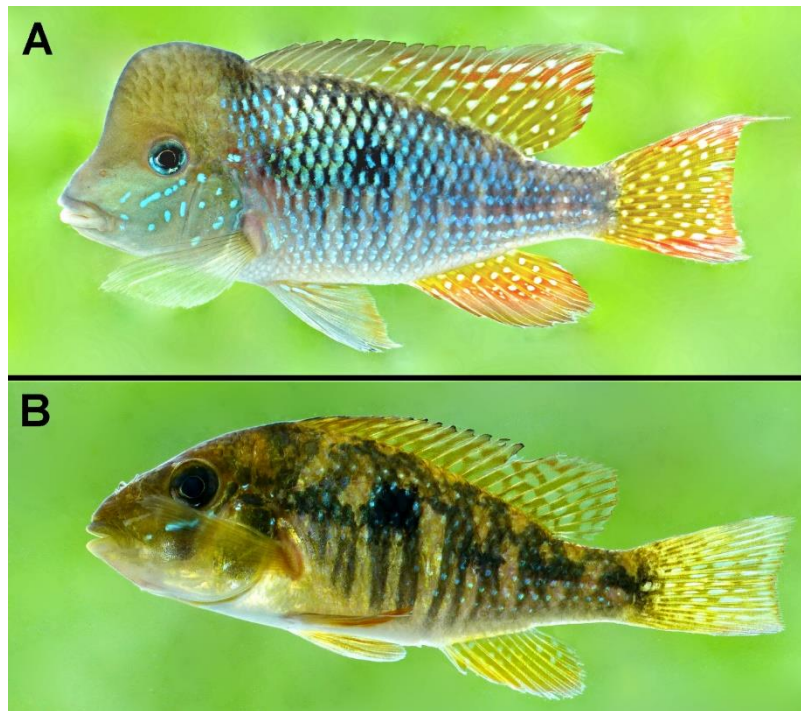


Figure 7. Chanchita (*Gymnogeophagus jaryi*), A: male, B: female. Species of restricted geographical distribution and endemic of the lower paran ecoregion, KBA indicator. Photo: Felipe Alonso.



Figure 8. Rock of Tey Cuar, on the Paran River. Part of a proposed KBA with many micro-endemic plant species. Photo: Guillermo Gil.



Figure 9. Arroyo Urugua-í with jungle of mountains, one of the best representative samples of the Atlantic Forest of Missions. Part of a KBA made up of several adjoining protected areas. Photo: Guillermo Gil.

Source: [María Gabriela Toscano, BirdLife International, Americas Regional Office]

ASIA-PACIFIC



Australia

Australia have been busy with some exciting work. The Tjaaltrjaak Rangers have won BirdLife Australia's Indigenous Grant for work in the Lake Warden KBA. With this grant, now in its eighth year, BirdLife Australia recognises the wonderful contribution Indigenous People continue to make to the knowledge and conservation of Australia's native birds. This year, the Grant again focused on supporting work in Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) — nature's hotspots in Australia. The Tjaaltrjaak Rangers will make use of their 2020 BirdLife Australia Indigenous Grant to conduct a workshop that will support their aim of identifying and monitoring waterbirds, including shorebirds, to support their aim of contributing to the management of wetlands in the Esperance area. The collaborative approach for Australia's Key Biodiversity Areas — illustrated by the recipients of the Indigenous Grant — shows the power of KBAs and birds to assist diverse groups to focus their conservation efforts on these hotspots under the leadership of Indigenous groups.



Figure 10. Tjaltjraak Rangers at Lake Warden

Dr Chris Surman, KBA Guardian of the Houtman Abrolhos KBA, started a campaign to raise funds to purchase more trackers to continue research on Lesser and Brown Noddies at the Houtman Abrolhos. The work will help inform the possible marine KBA for the Houtman Abrolhos. The fundraising page also has a short video that explains the mission and to enjoy for those of us that may never get there. [Watch the video here.](#)



Figure 11. Tracking the Noddies of Houtman Abrolhos KBA

Barron River Tributaries KBA is the only place where the Kuranda Treefrog is found. [Kuranda Envirocare](#) have taken on the role as KBA Guardians. This very active and successful group has been furiously planting trees along the creeks of the KBA to re-establish the riverine rainforest the frogs depend on for their survival. Birds such as the Southern Cassowary also benefit from this work.



Figure 12. Kuranda Treefrog in Barron River Tributaries KBA.

Source: [[Key Biodiversity Areas Australia Blog](#)]

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 – Alberto Yanosky (yanosky@guyra.org.py)

Europe & Central Asia – Irina Kostadinova (irina.kostadinova@bspb.org)

Asia-Pacific – Sheila Vergara (sgvergara@aseanbiodiversity.org)

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) - Daniel Marnewick

(chair.kba.community@keybiodiversityareas.org); (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 Plumtre (aplumtre@keybiodiversityareas.org).

