

# News and Updates



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## Contents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| KBA Partnership celebrates its first five years .....                                | 2 |
| Key Biodiversity Areas at IUCNs World Conservation Congress .....                    | 2 |
| Launch of the CEMEX book on Key Biodiversity Areas .....                             | 3 |
| Kalakpa Club, a local site support group.....  | 3 |
| The role of KBA expert workshops in Canada.....                                      | 4 |
| Introducing the KBA concept and processes in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) .....    | 4 |
| Lessons Learned from a review of Key Biodiversity National Coordination Groups ..... | 5 |

## Global Updates



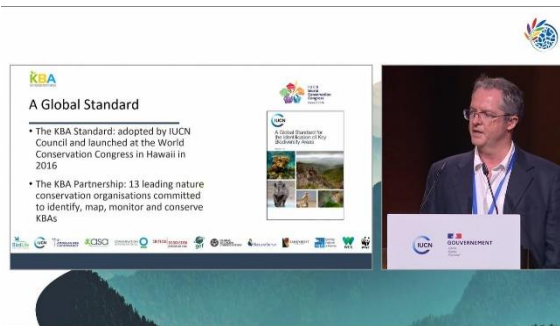
### KBA Partnership celebrates its first five years



On September 1st the CEOs of the KBA Partnership came together to celebrate the first five years of the partnership and to pledge their support for the continuation of the partnership for a further five years. A webinar event was held discussing the importance of Key Biodiversity Areas for the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework which is currently being discussed by nations and will be finalised at the COP15 in China. Specifically discussed was the key role of KBAs in guiding where the 30% target should be focused. This

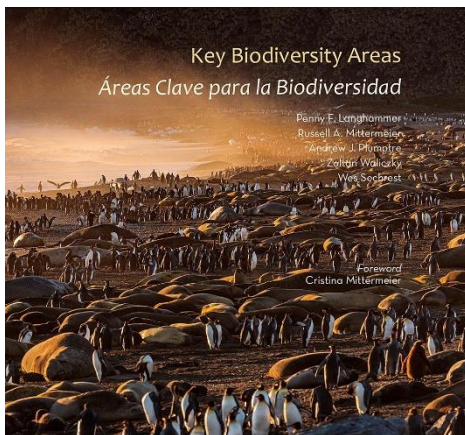
would ensure that globally important sites for biodiversity would be focussed on, leading to the reduction and mitigation of species and ecosystem extinction rates. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) confirmed at the event that KBAs would continue to guide where it invests funding in new areas for protection or OECMs.

### Key Biodiversity Areas at IUCN's World Conservation Congress



In an opening plenary session on IUCN's knowledge products, KBAs were showcased together with other products such as the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas. Sessions showing how to access data from the KBA website as well as the forthcoming online training materials for the identification of KBAs were used to

practically help conservation practitioners better understand where to access help. A [specific session on 'KBAs in a post2020 world'](#) was held in the plenary hall and showcased how KBAs are being identified and used across the world with case studies from Australia, Canada, Mozambique, and South Africa as well as presentations from the International Finance Corporation and IBAT on how they use KBA data. It was clear at the congress there is a lot of interest in the use of KBAs but at the same time many people still need to be made aware of what they are and that we need to better communicate this to governments and donors.



## Launch of the CEMEX book on Key Biodiversity Areas

CEMEX has just published a glossy 'coffee table' book on Key Biodiversity Areas. The book was launched at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille by rewild who had worked closely with CEMEX to develop the book. The book showcases the beauty and importance of KBAs and summarised what they are and how they are being used by governments, conservation practitioners and donors around the world. A [PDF version](#) of the book was made available on the KBA Website in the near future so lookout for this.

## Africa



### Kalakpa Club, a local site support group

The Kalakpa Resource Reserve is an IUCN Category IV protected area and KBA in Ghana with about 200 species of birds and six species of primates including the IUCN Red List white-thighed Colobus. Though the Reserve is considered to be of ecological interest, it has received little support which has resulted in widespread degradation and loss of wildlife.

Communities living in and around the Kalakpa Reserve are poor and often resort to unsustainable practices to support their livelihoods. These practices include poaching, charcoal burning and illegal logging, and

continue to degrade the reserve. The Kalakpa Reserve also suffers significantly from bushfires. These are caused by people setting fire to wild beehives when using traditional methods to harvest honey and by slash-and-burn subsistence farming practices. Though there are some operational staff who manage the Kalakpa Reserve, they are few and largely under-resourced so they struggle to effectively manage the 320 km<sup>2</sup> reserve area.

After the Kalakpa Club understood this situation, it centred most of its activities around developing sustainable alternative livelihoods for local communities. For example, the club started a beekeeping training programme to promote modern beekeeping methods and instituted a coffee training programme to introduce a perennial crop in order to reduce the annual slash and burn practices. The Club has also collaborated closely with forestry staff to support tree planting around the reserve.

The Kalakpa Club has undertaken an impressive amount of impactful work considering the limited support and funding it has received for its programmes, but it could do so much more. It is the hope of the Club that international conservation organizations will recognize and support the important work of such grassroots organizations.



## Americas

### [The role of KBA expert workshops in Canada](#)

In Canada, KBA expert workshops are one of the most exciting and dynamic steps in the KBA process; drawing together a veritable who's-who of species and site experts from around a common regional and/or taxonomic theme to help KBA technical leads jump-start the process of KBA identification and delineation. In 2019 and early 2020, we held these workshops in person, but we have since held dozens of smaller virtual workshops to get crucial inputs from experts on specific sites or across taxonomic groups. According to David Fraser, a Canadian COSEWIC expert, naturalist, and frequent KBA Canada advisor, the workshops are a cost- and time-efficient way to make sure that the best and most up-to-date expert knowledge is included in the KBA identification process. For a “Deep dive” into why the KBA expert workshops are so important and why experts think they're so special, visit this new feature on the KBA Canada website. For more information [please click here](#)

## Middle East

### [Introducing the KBA concept and processes in the United Arab Emirates \(UAE\)](#)

From 20 to 22 September 2021, a virtual KBA training workshop for the UAE took place, the first step towards initiating the identification of KBAs in the country and establishing a UAE National Coordination Group (NCG).

The workshop was a collaborative effort of IUCN regional offices. Thomas Starnes, IUCN KBA Programme Officer, Catherine Numa, KBA Regional Focal Point for Europe, North Africa and the Middle East at the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med), and Natalia Boulad, Programme Manager – Protected Areas and Biodiversity at the IUCN Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN ROWA), were instrumental in facilitating the event.

Organised by the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA), the workshop drew the participation of representatives of key government departments, conservation NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders in the country.

The main objectives included:

1. Introducing the concept of KBAs
2. Providing an overview of the existing spatial planning tools and biodiversity data
3. Describing the process of setting up an NCG
4. Outlining the next steps towards initiating KBA identification and assessment in the UAE



## Upcoming Workshops & Webinars

### LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE REVIEW OF KBA NATIONAL COORDINATION GROUPS

*Natalia Cisneros made a study of the structure and functioning of KBA National Coordination Groups as part of her MSc in Conservation Leadership at Cambridge University. She will present some of the key findings and lessons learned from the study and suggest tools that can be used to monitor their effectiveness.*



### Lessons Learned from a review of Key Biodiversity National Coordination Groups

Join the next KBA Community Webinar on 3 February at 14.00 GMT, with guest speaker Natalia Cisneros, sharing results from her survey on the lessons learned from a review of KBA National Coordination Groups and how best to structure them and monitor their progress.

Link to [join here](https://bit.ly/3r3CB4I) :