

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## Issue #15

**KBA**  
KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS



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KBA PARTNERS:



# HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS ISSUE

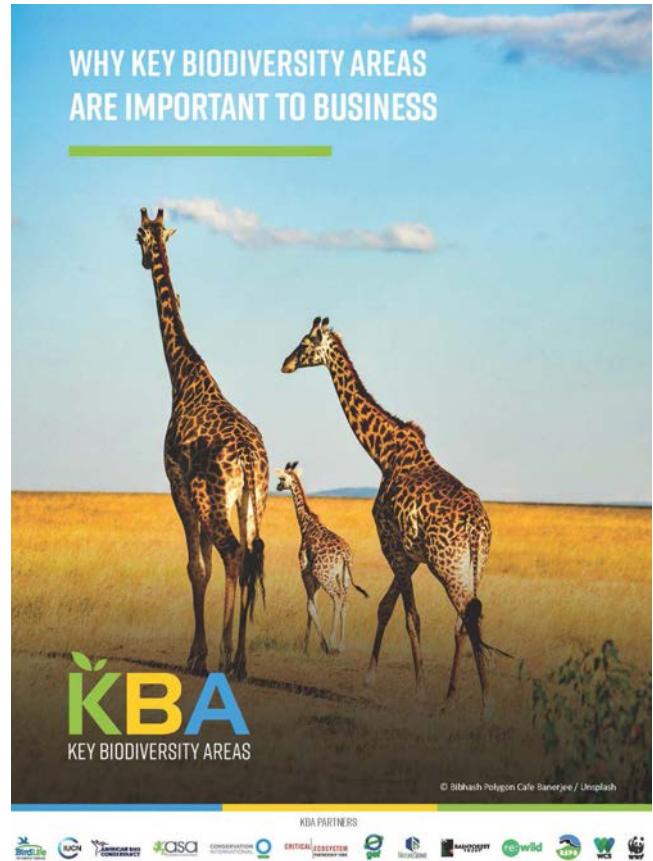
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# GLOBAL

## KBAs: a powerful tool for nature-positive actions in the private sector

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are globally significant sites for biodiversity, and data on these areas can provide much-needed information and insights to help companies understand their nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks, and opportunities. New research from S&P Global Sustainable finds that 85% of the world’s largest companies have a significant dependency on nature across their direct operations, and 46% of these companies have at least one asset located in a KBA that could be exposed to future reputational and regulatory risks<sup>1</sup>. KBAs can help businesses identify and address risks, focus efforts where they will have the greatest impact, and guide nature-positive actions.

Assessing a company’s footprint on KBAs can be an essential part of emerging disclosure requirements, and companies can use the KBA data to identify interactions between operations/supply chains and KBAs, ensuring all operations in or near these sites are designed and managed in ways that support the critical biodiversity values for which the KBA was identified.



The **Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT)** is the leading biodiversity data provider for the private sector, licensing commercial access to the three main databases that inform global conservation and business and lender decisions: the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (WDKBA), the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, and the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). IBAT provides access to biodiversity reports that offer fast, easy, and web-based methods of querying these global datasets to gain site-specific insights on biodiversity risk and opportunities.

Learn more about how Key Biodiversity Areas can help businesses in the KBA Secretariat’s recent publication [Why are Key Biodiversity Areas important to business?](#)

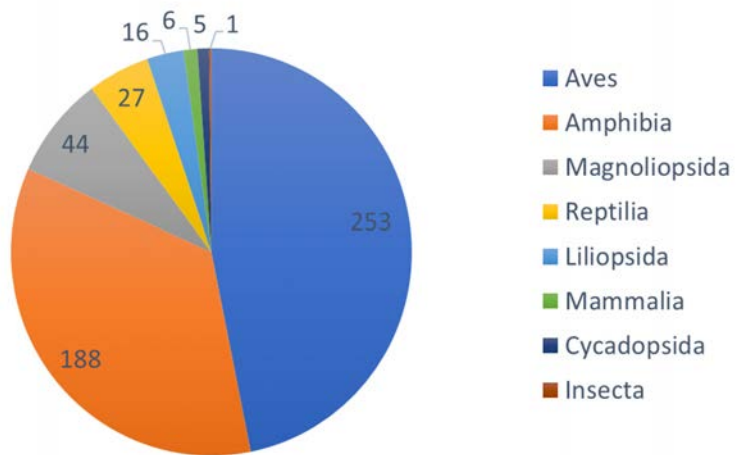
<sup>1</sup> [S&P Global Sustainable1](#)

## Mapping the World’s Biodiversity: Key Updates and New Discoveries in the September 2023 KBA Release



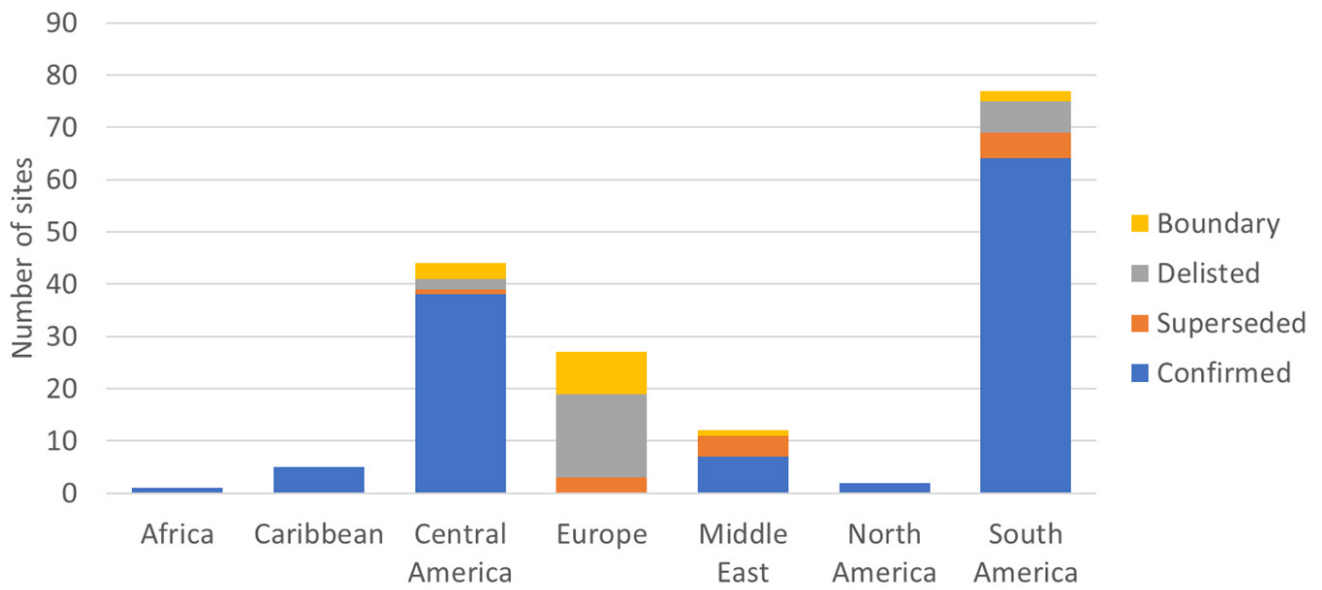
The latest update of the [World Database of KBAs](#) has just been released. The release includes many reassessments and boundary improvements to existing sites, together with some new KBAs. A total of 224 sites were updated, including 26 new sites that were added, and 91 previously existing KBAs that were reassessed. Thirteen sites were superseded having been replaced by some of the assessed or reassessed sites, and 24 legacy sites were delisted as KBAs because they no longer meet IBA criteria and were delisted as IBAs. The boundaries of a further 70 sites were improved either to align them with protected areas, habitats, or other topography as appropriate and in consultation with the original proposers. These updates resulted in a total of 16,333 KBAs confirmed in September 2023, and include 5,342 Global KBAs, 4,145 Regional KBAs, and 6,846 KBAs whose Global or Regional status is yet to be determined.

During this update, a total of 536 trigger species were assessed or reassessed. Most of the updates were from Re:wild’s AZE amphibian assessments in the Tropical Andes, and included 188 amphibian species at 99 sites, 82 of which are the sole KBAs for one or more of these amphibian species. Other species prevalent in this update were birds (253 species at 50 sites) magnolias (14 species at 15 sites) and reptiles (27 species at 10 sites). Mammal species were assessed at newly identified KBAs in the UAE including Arabian Oryx, Arabian Mountain Gazelle, and Dugong.



Number of species assessed or reassessed in sites.

Explore the KBA data further. Visit the KBA website <https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/kba-data> where you can view the dashboard and access the site-level factsheets from the map search.



Number of sites updated in September 2023 in each region (Africa = Ghana; Caribbean = Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago; Central America = Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, El Salvador; Europe = Denmark, France, Latvia, Turkey, Middle East = United Arab Emirates, Yemen; North America = Canada; South America = Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela)

## KBAs support businesses to identify their impacts and dependencies for nature through new TNFD Framework



The publication of the [Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures \(TNFD\) final Recommendations](#) back in September marked a key milestone in the ability of companies, investors, and lenders to report on nature-related risks and opportunities.

The TNFD's Recommendations aim to establish better informed decision making by private sector organisations by positioning nature risk alongside financial, operational and climate risk.

However, in order to assess these risks, companies need to be able to understand how their operational footprints and value chains interact with areas of high importance for biodiversity.

This is where data on **Key Biodiversity Areas** (KBAs) – globally significant sites for biodiversity – can provide much needed information and insights.

The TNFD Framework recommends several disclosures that organisations should make about their impacts and

dependencies on nature and **recognises KBAs as a key dataset** to support organisations to report and act on evolving nature-related risks and opportunities.

The TNFD's LEAP Approach outlines how businesses can prepare for disclosure. Within this, proximity to KBAs is highlighted as a way to prioritise locations, while the Locate component of the LEAP approach recommends areas of **biodiversity importance** to include KBAs (that include IPAs, AZEs, IBAs)<sup>1</sup>, and the KBA database as a key resource to support the Locate phase.

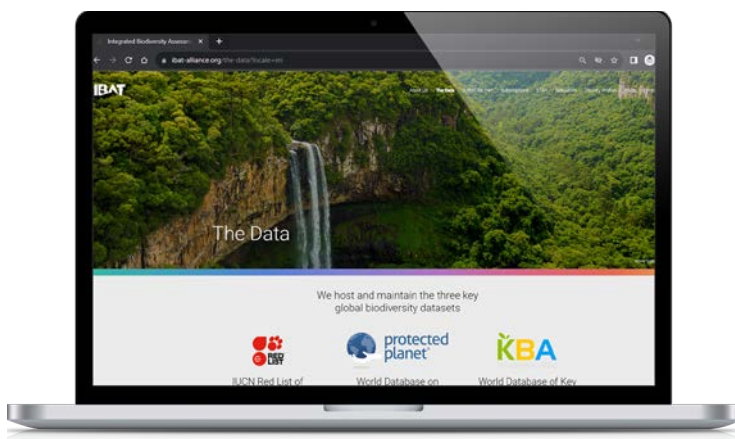
KBAs are widely recognised by multiple nature-related regulations, standards, and frameworks that are driving corporate action, beyond the TNFD. For example, KBAs are recognised as a type of 'biodiversity sensitive area' where companies need to disclose their nearby operations of value chains under the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) and Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR). In addition, KBAs are referenced as a type of 'Delineated Areas of Importance for Biodiversity' in Steps 1 and 2 of the Science Based Targets for Nature (SBTN), and a type of 'international recognised area' under the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Topic Standard 304 on Biodiversity which treats Protected Areas and KBAs in parallel, with companies required to report the name and distance of the KBA near their operational sites.

The flow of present and future capital depends on nature's inputs to business therefore the rapid acceleration of nature loss over recent decades poses a significant and growing risk to businesses and financial institutions. Operating or sourcing from within or near a KBA can result in several risks:

<sup>1</sup> [https://tnfd.global/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Guidance\\_on\\_the\\_identification\\_and\\_assessment\\_of\\_nature-related\\_issues\\_The\\_TNFD\\_LEAP\\_approach\\_V1.1\\_October2023.pdf?v=1698403116](https://tnfd.global/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Guidance_on_the_identification_and_assessment_of_nature-related_issues_The_TNFD_LEAP_approach_V1.1_October2023.pdf?v=1698403116)

- **Reputational risk:** Such risks can become highly material, with an increasing number of cases of corporate operations in or near KBAs being revoked as a result of local or global opposition.
- **Transition risk:** KBAs are often prioritised for the establishment of new protected areas therefore operating in a KBA may subject a company to increasing restrictions on their operations in the future.
- **Systemic risk:** Contributing to KBA degradation can lead to ecosystem collapse.

Ultimately, the TNFD's Recommendations are a step in the right direction in helping to shift capital flows to nature-positive outcomes and the achievement of the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. KBAs support this goal.



KBA data can be accessed through the [Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool](#) (IBAT), a leading biodiversity data provider for the private sector, which licences commercial access to three main databases that inform global conservation and business and lender decisions: the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (WDKBA), the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA).

IBAT provides access to biodiversity reports that offer fast, easy and web-based methods of querying these global datasets to gain site-specific insights on biodiversity risk and opportunities. IBAT reports

include a Proximity Analysis, IFC & World Bank PS6/ESS6 Report on Critical Habitat, Freshwater Report, Multi-site Analysis and Species Threat Abatement and Restoration Metric Report. Examples of all the reports and an extract of GIS data can be downloaded [here](#) or requested on demand. Further information and tool demonstrations can be requested by emailing [ibat@ibat-alliance.org](mailto:ibat@ibat-alliance.org).

Other IBAT collaborations providing the KBA dataset for asset level and due diligence assessments include RepRisk Geospatial Analytics, Nature Alpha, RS Metrics, S&P Global and WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter.

## Collaboration and knowledge sharing in Conservation



Adrián Azpiroz, new Chair of the KBA Community

Adrián Azpiroz, KBA Community Representative for the Americas has now taken the lead of the KBA Community. Adrián is a Biologist specialized in ecology and conservation (Faculty of Sciences, University of the Republic, Montevideo; University of Missouri, St. Louis, USA). His research work has focused primarily on grassland birds, with an emphasis on threatened species. His wide experience and trajectory will be of extraordinary benefit to the KBA Community.

On Adrián's new appointment, Daniel Marnewick, KBA Community Representative for Africa and former Chair mentioned: *"Having had the honour of chairing the KBA Community for the past seven years, I am pleased to hand the reins over to Adrián Azpiroz. Adrian has been the KBA Community Regional Representative for the Americas for almost three years and he brings a wealth of experience and passion to benefit the KBA Community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy Plumtre from the Secretariat, the KBA Partners, KBA Committee and all my KBA Community colleagues for your support and commitment to grow the KBA Community of practice. I look forward to continuing to grow the KBA network in Africa in my capacity as Community Regional Africa Representative. I wish Adrián all the best as the Community Chair."*

As the new Chair of the KBA Community, Adrián Azpiroz recently met with Stewart McPherson, the Project Leader of Darwin200, an ambitious conservation initiative. During their meeting, Adrián presented Stewart with a variety of wildlife and conservation materials, including the "Birds of Punta del Este" pocket guide, which features an 1833 quote from Darwin, and Aldo Chiappe's beautifully illustrated biodiversity posters showcasing the Pampas biome and Maldonado department's wildlife. Stewart was particularly impressed with the CEMEX Key Biodiversity Areas book and expressed his enthusiasm for the KBA strategy and its relevance to 21st-century conservation.

One of the main goals of the DARWIN200 conservation initiative is to train exceptional students from 200 countries and states around the world, with the aim of nurturing the next generation of environmental leaders. Stewart expressed his gratitude, stating that their materials could not be in better hands.

This meeting highlights the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing in the field of conservation. By exchanging valuable resources and expertise, individuals and organizations can work together to address the pressing environmental challenges of our time.



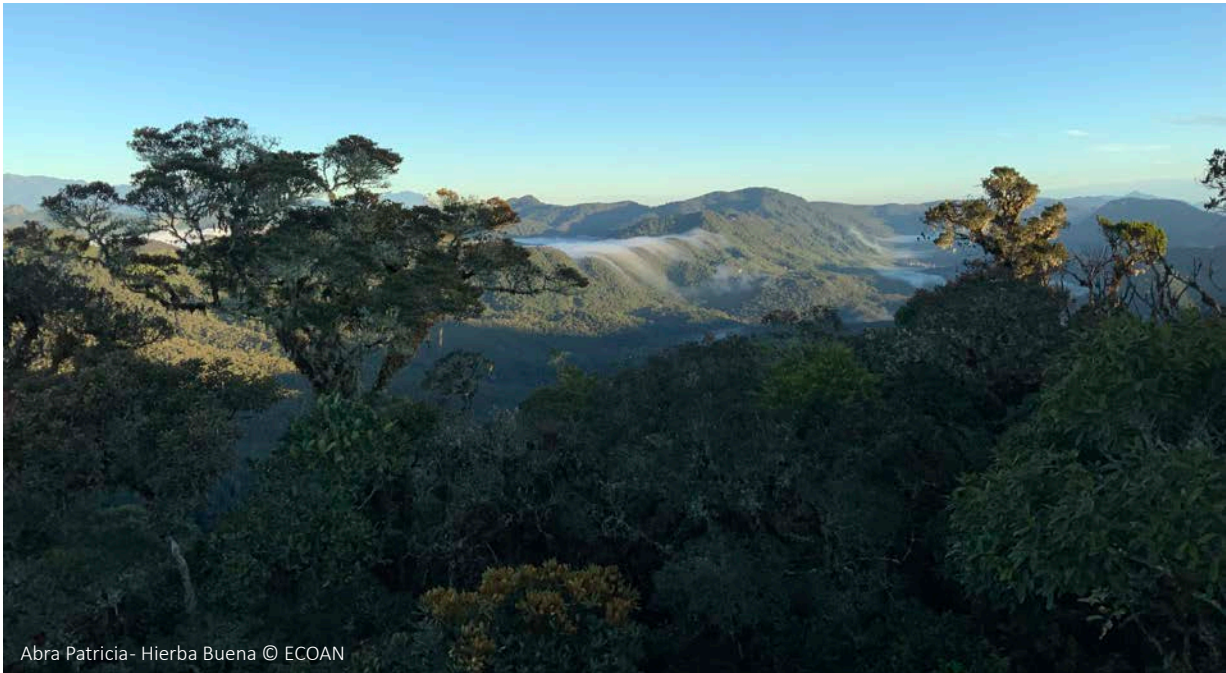
From left to right: Adrián Azpiroz, new Chair of the KBA Community; Stewart McPherson, Project Leader of Darwin200

The encounter between Adrián Azpiroz and Stewart McPherson serves as a reminder of the critical role that dedicated individuals and initiatives play in safeguarding our planet's biodiversity for future generations. It also underscores the significance of strategic conservation approaches, such as the Key Biodiversity Areas strategy, in guiding our efforts to protect the natural world.



## SOUTH AMERICA

### Exploring the Enchanting Ecosystems of KBA Abra Patricia Hierba Buena



Abra Patricia - Hierba Buena © ECOAN

Nestled in the heart of Peru, within the province of Bongará in the Amazonas department, lies a natural wonderland waiting to be discovered. The [Key Biodiversity Area](#) (KBA) Abra Patricia Hierba Buena, with an impressive expanse of 663 km<sup>2</sup>, is a paradise for nature enthusiasts and adventurers alike.

Abra Patricia Hierba Buena is like a natural treasure chest, containing a mosaic of habitats. It contains mostly wet montane and high montane forests, which are very rich in biodiversity.

The climate at Abra Patricia is temperate and rainy, with an abundance of humidity throughout the year. The temperature fluctuates between 25 °C and 29 °C, and there is an annual rainfall ranging from 1200 mm to 3000 mm, which paints this landscape in vibrant greens and blues.



Peruvian Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey  
*Lagothrix flavicauda* © Rich Hoyer

KBA Abra Patricia Hierba Buena is surrounded by a Protected Forest and several other KBAs. This ensures a pristine and protected environment, and high connectivity for the species of flora and fauna that call this place home, some of which are under the threat of extinction like the Critically Endangered (CR) orchid [Phragmipedium kovachii](#) and the Peruvian Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey ([Lagothrix flavicauda](#)), the Endangered (EN) Andean Night Monkey ([Aotus miconax](#)), and 5 species of restricted-range birds, among which is the [Xenaglossus loweryi](#) (VU), known as “ Long-whiskered Owllet “, a representative bird of the area that was believed to be extinct until 2002.

Furthermore, this KBA is home to two endemic species of arthropods: the *opilion Callcosma abrapatricia* and the moth *Opharus omissioides*.

Thanks to the Bezos KBA Project, Birdlife International and ECOAN have worked on the evaluation and expansion of KBA Abra Patricia. This has opened the door for the implementation of future conservation actions focused on the preservation of biodiversity, threatened and endemic species in Peru.



## KBA Alto de Ventanas, an ecological treasure in Colombia



In the heart of the Central Andes, in a scarcely explored corner of the Lower Cauca Valley in Colombia, lies the Regional Integrated Management District Alto de Ventanas, a natural jewel that houses an unparalleled wealth of biodiversity. However, this fragile ecological paradise faces significant challenges that endanger its survival. Therefore, in the framework of the Bezos KBA Project, Sebastián Vieira of Corporación Salvamontes and Cristina López of the University of Antioquia proposed expanding the Alto de Ventanas Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), which will now coincide with the limits of the protected area.

This KBA is located between altitudes ranging from 1,200 to 2,400 meters above sea level and has more than 4,000 mm of annual precipitation. This district has become a vital refuge for a surprising diversity of fauna and flora. Its cloud forests, where fog persists like a protective mantle, are home to unique species that are adapted to exceptional climatic conditions.

In addition to the environmental conditions, what makes Alto de Ventanas even more special is its character as a biogeographic meeting point, where elements of the fauna and flora of different regions merge. Despite being located in the Central Andes, the influence of the Western Andes and the presence of elements from the Central and Western mountain ranges, as well as species previously known only in Central America, give it an exceptional uniqueness.



*Magnolia polyhypsophylla* © Apipa

These particular environmental and biogeographic conditions make the region a refuge for endemic species, many of which are threatened. Among them, we find two species of Critically Endangered (CR) plants: the *Dracula lemurella* orchid and the Ventanas Almanegra magnolia (*Magnolia polyhypsophylla*). Also, we find the Almanegra de Guatapé magnolia (*Magnolia guatapensis*), catalogued as an Endangered species (EN). The presence of these magnolias is a testament to the unique diversity of this place. Additionally, this KBA is home to a notable variety of tree ferns, making it the most diverse region of these ferns in Colombia. Likewise, Alto Ventanas concentrates more than 10% of the orchid species of the *Lepanthes* genus reported in Colombia.

However, this natural wonder is not just a haven for biodiversity. Its strategic location and the generous amount of precipitation it receives have made Alto de Ventanas a crucial water source for the region. Additionally, its rugged and pristine landscapes attract nature lovers and adventurers eager to explore this hidden corner of the Central Andes.

The administration of this ecological treasure falls on the Regional Autonomous Corporation of the Center of Antioquia- Corantioquia, in collaboration with the Salvamontes Corporation, Magnolios Foundation and Alto de Ventanas Foundation. These organizations have been guardians of this unique and valuable ecosystem, working together to preserve its biodiversity and promote its importance.



*Dracula lemurella* © Luis Baquero

# NORTH AMERICA

## Photo Contest captures the beautiful diversity of life in Canada's KBAs

By: Peter Soroye, KBA Assessment and Outreach Coordinator at WCS Canada

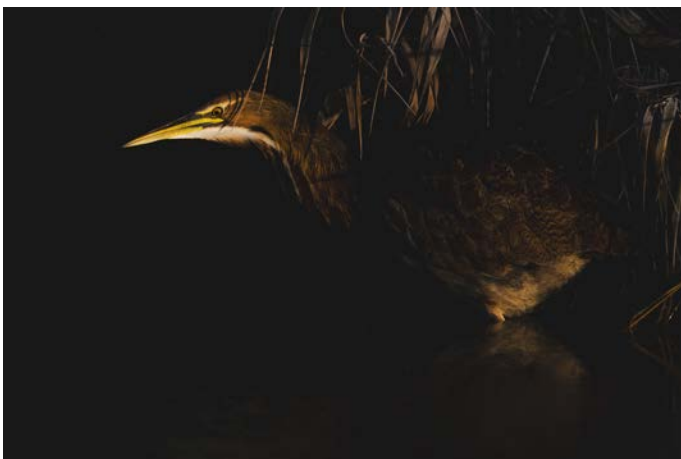


- KBA Canada's Photo Contest garnered over 115 photos of KBAs and KBA species across the country.
- Admire the winning 1st-place images from the Fauna, Flora and Fungi, Landscapes and Scenery, and People and Conservation categories.
- Visit the [KBA Canada website](#) for the rest of the winning images.

Across the months of September and October, KBA Canada invited photographers of all levels to submit their favorite photos of KBAs as part of the 2023 KBA Canada Photo Contest. This was a smashing success, collecting over 110 submissions from dozens of photographers. Submissions across the four contest categories – Fauna, Flora and Fungi, Landscapes and Scenery, and People and Conservation – truly showcased the incredible variety and beauty of KBAs across Canada. Judges at KBA Canada were left with the enormous task of trying to pick favorites, which we've collected here for your enjoyment. [Visit the KBA Canada website for the full list of winning images](#), including a healthy list of Honorable Mentions.

### Fauna: 1st place photo – Master of the Marsh by Kris Cu

The Fauna category displayed the marvelous diversity and behaviors of wildlife within KBAs. Kris Cu' delightfully composed photograph of an American Bittern stalking through a marsh captures a moment in life of a secretive vertebrate in the Fraser River Estuary KBA.



**From Kris:** "The American Bittern is the quintessential marsh bird: silent, secretive, and stealthy. Early one morning at my local wetland in the Fraser River Estuary KBA, I quietly observed and photographed this bird on the hunt. I admired its patience and focus as it navigated carefully along the reeds."

**Flora and Fungi: 1st place photo - Solar-powered Moss by John Reynolds**

More than any other category, the photos submitted to the Flora and Fungi were magical in their ability to transport viewers into the hidden worlds of traditionally over-looked species and places. John Reynold’s photo exemplified this, capturing the mesmerizing miniature world that exists within moss on a fence in the ŁÉXƏTƏM Candidate KBA.

**From John:** *“This Common Pincushion moss was growing on a split rail fence at ŁÉXƏTƏM / Colony Farm Regional Park. The twinkling drops of water on their capsules caught my eye, and I took the photograph using natural light.”*



**Landscapes and Scenery: 1st place photo – Cypress Hills overlook by Katelyn Luff**

Photos in the Landscapes and Scenery category captured the breathtaking landscapes, habitats, and scenic views within KBAs, perhaps capturing the character of each site better than any other category. Katelyn Luff’s winning photo of the gorgeous vista in Cypress Hills Candidate KBA invites onlookers into the scene, inspiring viewers to step into a world of soft pastel skies and verdant hills patched with wildflowers and pockets of forest.



**From Katelyn:** *“View from the Conglomerate Cliffs in Cypress Hills Provincial Park, SK (proposed KBA).”*

### People and Conservation: 1st place photo – A close look at the Cardinal Divide by Amy Tucker

If a picture is worth 1000 words, submissions in the People and Conservation category were essays describing the efforts, initiatives and people dedicated to conserving (and enjoying!) KBAs in Canada. Amy Tucker’s photo of naturalist Patsy Cotterill examining a moss during a bioblitz in the Cardinal Divide (which overlaps with the Whitehorse Wildlands Candidate KBA and McLeod River Candidate KBA) does an excellent job of telling the story of the volunteers and experts whose expertise and passion form the backbone of the KBA program.

**From Amy:** *“In July 2023, conservation-minded volunteers and organizations banded together for a bioblitz in the Cardinal Divide area to collect as many species observations as possible. Patsy Cotterill, pictured has been returning to this area for decades and led a small group of keen young people to learn about the area.”*



# AFRICA

## The KBA process in the context of Gabon's political transition

By: Nicolas Texier and Steeve Ngama



Participants at a KBA workshop in Libreville on November 9, 2023 © Germain Moukoko

A project to identify Key Biodiversity Areas in Gabon, was launched in 2022, led by the Missouri Botanical Garden, under a larger project managed by BirdLife International and supported by the Bezos Earth Fund. In August 2023, the country's military forces took power during the presidential elections, which led to a change in Gabon's political system and government. As a result, several ministries underwent leadership changes, notably the Ministry of Water and Forests and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, under which the KBA National Coordination Group (NCG) operates. Despite these changes, several key persons within these ministries remained in their positions, including the Director General of Environment and Nature Protection, who acts as Chairman of the NCG, and the General Commissioner of CENAREST, who is Chairman of the NCG's Scientific Committee. The fact that these key figures remain involved in the KBA process means that we can now continue work to propose KBA sites with the same momentum as before the presidential election. After a period of about 2 months, during which the new authorities familiarized themselves with the various KBA-related projects and set up their working teams, we recently relaunched activities to identify and propose KBAs through 5 workshops. In addition, an NCG meeting is scheduled for the end of 2023. To date, 23 sites have been integrated into the WDKBA and will be officially proposed before the end of the year. In parallel, we are continuing to work on the identification of trigger elements and stakeholder consultation for an additional 16 sites.

## Refresher course on Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for Madagascar's National Coordination Group (NCG)



Participants at a KBA training in Andrainarivo © GEF6 MPA

As part of the GEF6 MPA (Marine Protected Areas) project, a program is underway in Madagascar to update and identify the country's marine and coastal Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

At the Hotel Panorama, Andrainarivo, from the 26th to the 28th of September 2023, the National Coordination Group (NCG) for marine and coastal KBAs received exclusive training from international KBA experts from the KBA Secretariat and Conservation International. This initiative was organized by the GEF6 MPA Project and aims at harmonizing knowledge of all participants on the global KBA standard as well as strengthening their capacities in applying criteria and thresholds.



KBA training in Andrainarivo © GEF6 MPA

Members of the National Coordination Group had a unique opportunity to acquire updated knowledge of the best identification practices, exchange experiences with these international experts, and contribute to the development of more effective conservation strategies at national level. Thirty participants attended this refresher course.

The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, through the GEF6 MPA Project, expressed its gratitude to the international and especially national partners for their ongoing support. He said: *"This refresher course is a decisive step in our commitment to protecting biodiversity. We are honored to collaborate with internationally renowned KBA experts and look forward to applying this knowledge to more effectively manage our Key Biodiversity Areas."*



## Fieldwork on priority sites to identify and map coastal and marine Key Biodiversity Areas in Mozambique

By: Acácio Chechene; Eleutério Duarte; Hermenegildo Matimele and Hugo Costa

### Exploration of undocumented system of pools and submerged caves - the “Blue Holes”



The Blue holes of Nacala/Mossuril © Erwan Sola- WCS-Mozambique

The Blue Holes are located in the Northeastern section of Nampula province and comprise an undocumented system of pools and caves submerged in a mixture of fresh and seawater. Fieldwork was conducted with the aim to i) map all the entrances and underground extensions of the cave system ii) identify existing species and possible new species to science that could potentially trigger a KBA. The findings show that this area comprises a system made of at least 20 pools, with some being interconnected by underwater caves. The pools (also referred to as “blue holes”) are located

from 200 m to 2,000 m from the coastline and surrounded by dense coastal forest. Some of the caves are completely submerged while others are at least partially dry. The results also show that 11 plant species are potential KBA trigger elements in the Nacala/Mossuril area. In this study, specimens of *Proscelotis aenia* were found, which has not been seen for more than 100 years, therefore representing an important record for the region of Nacala/Mossuril due to the rarity of this fossorial skink. The occurrence of several endemic and near endemic species leads to strong potential for this region to trigger a KBA. DNA analyses are being conducted that may lead to the discovery of new species to science.

### Flora survey in Pemba Bay, Northern Mozambique

Pemba Bay is in Cabo Delgado Province and was shortlisted as a potential KBA trigger in 2019 based on six flora species that did not have enough data to meet the thresholds. For that reason, this site was flagged as a priority for further ground-truthing. Fieldwork was conducted to confirm the presence of the species and obtain quantitative data for those shortlisted flora species. Researchers from the



Flora survey in Pemba Bay © Acácio Chechene- WCS-Mozambique

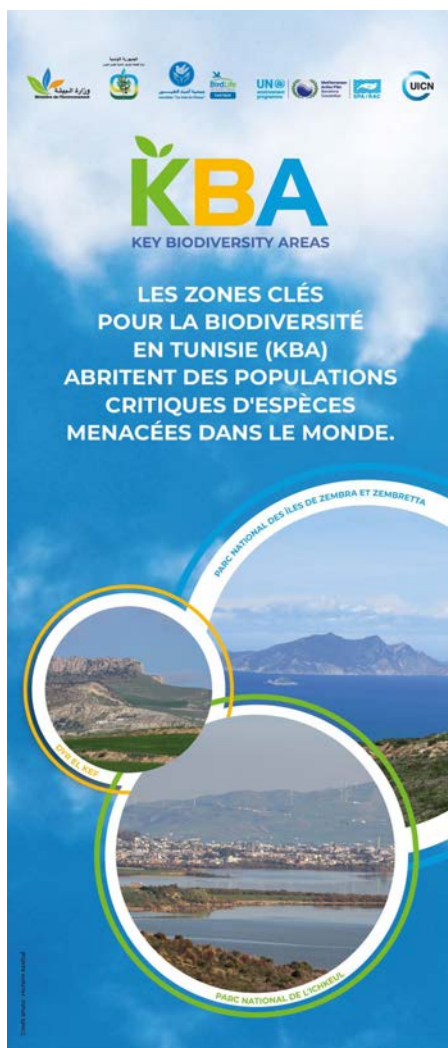
Cabo Delgado Local University (University of Lúrio) together with WCS scientists led the survey. The six potential KBA trigger species were identified over two expeditions carried out in January and May of 2023. In addition, a total of 12 endemic and threatened species were documented within the sampling area. These results, provide adequate data to re-assess the KBA status of the Pemba Bay.

## New Momentum for Tunisia’s National Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Program

By: Claudia Feltrup-Azafzaf, Association « Les Amis des Oiseaux » (AAO/BirdLife in Tunisia) & Catherine Numa, IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation



AAO-Bird Conservation Day ©SPARAClow



During the “Day for the Conservation of Birds in Tunisia” on September 19 in Tunis, stakeholders, including competent authorities, researchers, and civil society organizations, discussed the future of Tunisia’s KBA program. This event was organized by AAO/BirdLife in Tunisia in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, the Central Forestry Administration, SPA/RAC, IUCN, and WWF North Africa.

The discussion, supported by IUCN and AAO/BirdLife in Tunisia staff, resulted in the presentation of two complementary coordination models for the KBA program and a plan to revise the existing 65 KBAs. Many participants expressed keen interest in continuing their involvement in creating a National Coordination Group (NCG).

The event also covered various bird conservation topics, including the National Red List for birds, the legal framework for bird conservation in Tunisia, the bird conservation action plan of the Barcelona Convention, and the outcome of the International Waterbird Census 2023.

Aligned with its current Action Plan (2023-2024) and with financial support from IUCN, the National Committee of IUCN Members in Tunisia has mapped out the next steps of the process. They have engaged AAO/BirdLife in Tunisia to organize a meeting of organizations and individuals involved in the National Coordination Group. This effort includes training Tunisian stakeholders on the identification of KBAs, the revision of the existing 65 KBAs, and supporting the selection process for three first KBAs to be revised by the end of 2024.

# KBA COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

**Americas (and Chair)** – Adrián B. Azpiroz: [chair.kba.community@keybiodiversityareas.org](mailto:chair.kba.community@keybiodiversityareas.org) / [pampasbirds@gmail.com](mailto:pampasbirds@gmail.com)

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Richard Lee: [rlee@wwfint.org](mailto:rlee@wwfint.org)

## KBA SECRETARIAT:

**Head of the KBA Secretariat** – Andy Plumptre: [aplumptre@keybiodiversityareas.org](mailto:aplumptre@keybiodiversityareas.org)

## KBA REGIONAL FOCAL POINTS:

If you have queries about assessing Key Biodiversity Areas or want to nominate a KBA please contact the Regional Focal Points:

**Africa (Southern and Western Africa)** – Simmy Bezeng: [simmy.bezeng@birdlife.org.za](mailto:simmy.bezeng@birdlife.org.za);

(Francophone Africa) - Jeannot Kivono: [jkivono@keybiodiversityareas.org](mailto:jkivono@keybiodiversityareas.org);

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