

Community: News and Updates

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GLOBAL

The Key Biodiversity Area Partnership (KBA) submitted a joint submission of comments on the Convention on Biological Diversity ZeroDraft document which suggests goals and targets for the next decade of conservation (2020-2030). The draft Target 2 concerns the coverage of active conservation (protected areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)). The KBA Partnership proposed the inclusion of language on KBAs in the target as follows: *Conserve, restore, and document the value of all key biodiversity areas and other sites of particular importance for biodiversity through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, by 2030 covering at least [30%] of land and sea area.*

It was also suggested that guidance on the ecosystems target (1) and invasive species target (3) could also reference targeting KBAs in particular. Target 1 and target 13 have language supporting spatial planning and the KBA Partnership proposed that spatial planning, which would include assessments of KBAs across multiple taxonomic groups, should be a component of the next NBSAPs including incorporation of spatial plans across government sectors.

The KBA Partnership has also submitted a motion to the IUCN World Conservation Congress entitled: *Strengthening national spatial planning to ensure the global persistence of biodiversity.* The motions calls upon governments to:

- Develop or update spatial plans incorporating sites of importance for the global persistence of biodiversity across multiple taxa and ecosystems (KBAs), along with the connectivity required to ensure biodiversity persistence, and use these to inform plans to expand networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;
- Incorporate these plans into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and integrate them through cross-sectoral planning across government institutions, using them to guide national land- and sea- use planning, while avoiding or otherwise minimising negative impacts on biodiversity.

AFRICA

The KBA Partnership seeks to build national capacity in KBA identification by developing comprehensive training materials on the KBA Standard. A key component of this project is testing and refinement of training materials in two biodiversity hotspots through regional train-the-trainer's workshops. This project is being funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and led by Global Wildlife Conservation. The first workshop, focused on the Eastern Afromontane hotspot, was held in Nairobi, **KENYA** from 27-30 January 2020. Kenya has played a significant role in the development of the KBA concept, the identification and monitoring of KBAs across taxonomic groups and ecological realms, and the promotion and conservation of these important sites nationally, regionally and globally. It was therefore fitting that the first workshop be hosted there.



Photo 1: Andy Plumptre introducing the KBA Red List workshop.

In addition to testing the training materials developed to date, and conducting an in-depth training of individuals that can train others in the region, the workshop also helped to deliver one of the objectives of the Biodiversity Assessment for Spatial Prioritization in Africa ([BASPA](#)) project, which aims to build capacity in Red Listing of species and ecosystems and KBA identification in three African countries including Kenya.



Photo 2: Daniel Marnewick presenting an overview of KBA identification process and delineation.

The workshop brought together members of the KBA Secretariat, KBA Technical Working Group, KBA Standards and Appeals Committee, and KBA partners working to develop the training materials; the KBA Regional Focal Points for Africa; technical members of the KBA National Coordination Group in Kenya; and the coordinators of three other National Coordination Groups in Africa. Training modules were

delivered to the NCG participants over the three days to ensure that they gained a better understanding on how to apply the KBA criteria and delineation guidelines. The workshop was a great success and it generated an abundance of incredibly useful feedback on the structure and content of the training workshop and materials. The detailed feedback will be used to improve the materials in advance of the second training-of-trainers workshop to be held in Quito, Ecuador in April 2020.



Photo 3: Catherine Saver presenting on Freshwater KBAs



Photo 4: Members of the KBA Secretariat, KBA Technical Working Group, KBA Standards and Appeals Committee, and KBA partners, KBA Regional Focal Points for Africa, technical members of the KBA National Coordination Group in Kenya and the coordinators of three other National Coordination Groups in Africa at the KBA training for trainers' workshop.

AMERICAS

The process of KBA identification in Latin American and the Caribbean continues to grow with KBA proposals received from the Tropical Andes (Ecuador), Honduras, Argentina and the Falklands/Malvinas.

In the Tropical Andes Hotspot, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is currently funding a project led by IUCN, '[to assess the risk of extinction of plants and updating Key Biodiversity Areas in the Tropical Andes](#)', with a total of 135 sites that are being proposed for **COLOMBIA**, **ECUADOR**, **PERU** and **BOLIVIA**. In January 2020, the first batch of KBA proposals were received for Ecuador. These included 43 sites, 17 of which have never been assessed previously and 26 which are confirmed KBAs that will be updated. These sites are being proposed/updated thanks to a total of 232 records for 90 plant and 58 reptile species. Many of these are threatened (106 species) and all are geographically restricted, therefore, this assessment is focused on A1, B1 and B2 criteria; this will be the first time that B1 and B2 criteria are being systematically applied in the region. All these records have been proposed based on locality data, which is considered by the proposers as the most accurate data available for these species in the region. During this process, we will be able to test the interpretation of the guidelines regarding the use of locality data to assess population thresholds at sites. Another important challenge of this proposal process has been the existence of some overlapping issues in the existing KBAs, particularly due to some recent changes and updates on the protected areas delimitation based on the original KBA delineation in 2005. Currently, there are ongoing discussions to clarify the interpretation of the guidelines and solve these issues.

In **HONDURAS**, there are ongoing discussions with [Green Island Challenge Guanaja](#), an initiative dedicated to the proactive protection of Guanaja's ecosystems. So far, seven sites have been identified as KBA candidates. Trigger species under consideration include the endemic Roatan Island Agouti ([Dasyprocta ruatanica](#), EN), the Yellow-naped Amazon ([Amazona auropalliata](#), EN), some marine turtles, two Critically Endangered Snakes (Three-banded Centipede Snake - [Tantilla tritaeniata](#) and [Enulius bifoveatus](#)). Information on some endemic plants and reptile species have not yet been assessed by the IUCN, but these are being considered as potential triggers for these sites. In **ARGENTINA**, the first complete draft KBA proposal has been received and it is currently under assessment with a total of 133 potential trigger species (mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and plants), for a single site at Iguazu National Park and surroundings. Many of these species have not yet been assessed by the IUCN, which implies a formal consultation with the IUCN Red List Authority is needed to confirm that the taxonomic treatment of these species is valid and can be utilized for KBA identification. The first draft for a new KBA in the **FALKLANDS/MALVINAS ISLANDS** has been received and is under evaluation, focused in areas of seasonal feeding aggregation of the Sei Whale ([Balaenoptera borealis](#), EN).

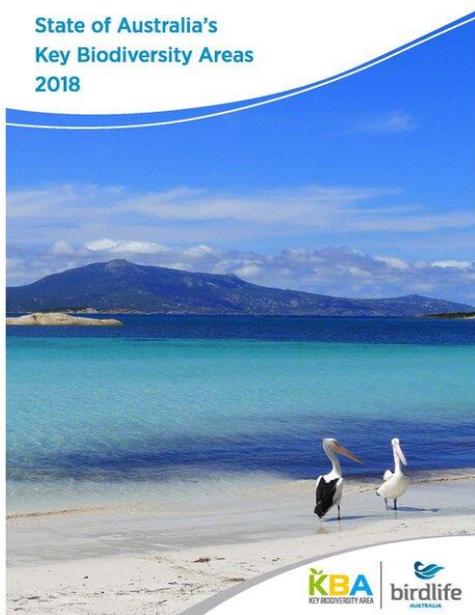
There are ongoing discussions in Colombia and Ecuador to potentially create National Coordination Groups (NCGs), after various local organizations (many of them national representatives of KBA partners) have expressed their interests in advancing the KBA identification

process within these countries. This process could be sped up with the upcoming KBA Training for Trainers workshop for the Tropical Andes in Quito, Ecuador (21-24 April) which is organized by Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC) with the support of BirdLife International and Jocotoco Foundation (a Rainforest Trust partner in Ecuador). The event will be attended by 15-20 international and Ecuadorian experts.

AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS

Over 300 KBAs have already been declared in **AUSTRALIA** mainly based on their importance for birds. To do this the KBA National Coordination Group for Australia used the best available science to identify KBAs and promote and support targeted volunteer action for these places and the species that depend on them. These places also support over two-thirds of all threatened species in the Country. Many KBA updates, extensions and new KBAs proposals are in the pipeline. Here is a taste of what may be to come, if they make it through the review process:

- Updates to the many Great Barrier Reef KBAs with new seabird data and an exciting addition of green turtles as a trigger species for Raine Island.
- Update and extension of Coastal Wet Tropics KBA to include stream-gobies and the mahogany glider.
- Extension of the Fitzgerald River KBA (WA) to include Endangered Carnaby’s black cockatoo nest habitat.
- As many as 20 (or more!) entirely new KBAs in Tasmania’s Cradle Coast to protect a



range of endemic or threatened species including crayfish, snails, orchids, insects, 30 species of birds, Eastern Barred Bandicoots, Eastern Quolls and Tassie Devils.

- A new KBA at Cape Le Grand (WA) for Endangered Australian Bittern wetlands.
- An extension of Low Rocks & Sterna Island (Kimberley) for seabirds.

The State of Australia’s Key Biodiversity Areas 2018 report is now [available](#). The report provides an overview of KBAs in 2018, a summary of results from 2018 Health-checks, reporting from our KBAs in Danger and a look into 2020 for the KBA program.

Photo 5: State of Australia’s Key Biodiversity Areas 2018 report

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 (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 David Diaz (ddiaz@keybiodiversityareas.org)

Miguel Fernandez (Miguel_Fernandez@natureserve.org)

Mediterranean countries and eastern Europe - Marcos Valderrabano (Marcos.VALDERRABANO@iucn.org)

KBA SECRETARIAT

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