



Key Biodiversity Areas: Community

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Invitation to join the KBA Community:

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) are 'sites that contribute to the global persistence of biodiversity', including vital habitat for plant and animal species in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. The **Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (IUCN 2016)** sets out globally standardised criteria for the identification of KBAs worldwide.

In September 2016, for the first time ever, eleven of the world's leading nature conservation organisations launched an ambitious new partnership. The **KBA Partnership** will enhance global conservation efforts by mapping internationally important sites and ensuring that scarce resources are directed to the most important places for nature. The impact of this vital conservation work will be enhanced by promoting targeted investment in conservation action at priority sites. The partnership will work with governments, national and international agencies, organisations and individuals to implement the global KBA programme in a transparent and inclusive way.

The **KBA Community** is a body 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 participating in the identification and monitoring of KBAs.

Members of the KBA Community benefit by:

- Having a voice in the governance of the KBA Programme, through the voting seat held by the KBA Community Chairperson on the KBA Committee (the main decision making body of the KBA Programme);
- Having the opportunity to shape KBA training materials and benefit from them;
- Taking part in training seminars on various aspects of the KBA Programme;
- Having access to key KBA documentation, news, notifications and other information;
- Taking part in formal discussion forums with other members to share in lessons learnt from the practical implementation of the KBA Standard, and KBA delineation and monitoring.

The KBA Partnership



Members of the KBA Community contribute to at least one of:

- Fostering the gathering of data to support identification, delineation, documentation, and update of KBAs;
- Supporting the expansion of taxonomic, ecological, and geographic coverage of KBAs.

In addition, members of the KBA Community have the responsibility for:

- Increasing the legitimacy of the KBA Programme;
- Fostering links between the KBA Programme and relevant local structures and initiatives (e.g. National Coordination Groups);
- Supporting and facilitating capacity building for national and local stakeholders;
- Sharing a commitment to the integrity of the KBA Programme;
- Contributing to the KBA vision by working collaboratively and proactively, according to capacity;
- Acting in accordance with “A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas”, procedures and processes for the identification of KBAs as defined by the KBA Committee, and branding guidelines.”

Membership is open to individuals and institutions, from non-governmental organisations or governmental agencies, and regardless of legal status. Members should preferably be working with KBAs locally or nationally. There is no membership fee.

Communication between the members and the KBA Committee will be facilitated through the KBA Community Regional Representatives and the KBA Community Chairperson. The KBA Community has been organised into four regions, for which there are four regional representatives. The details of the Regional Representatives are listed at the end of this letter.

Membership will be managed through Google Groups. If you would like to join the KBA Community click on [Join](#) or email daniel.marnewick@birdlife.org.za.

We look forward to working together to identify the most important sites for biodiversity.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Marnewick
KBA Community Chair

Regional Representatives:

Africa (and chair) – Daniel Marnewick, daniel.marnewick@birdlife.org.za

Americas – Alberto Yanosky, yanosky@guyra.org.py

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

Asia-Pacific – Sheila Vergara, sgvergara@aseanbiodiversity.org