

KBA

KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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Issue 13: April 2023

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GLOBAL:

Newsletter Questionnaire

We are pleased to share with you the 13th edition of the KBA Community Newsletter. We are in the process of redesigning the look and feel of this newsletter, and we would appreciate your feedback about what you have enjoyed and found useful in previous editions, and where we can improve and meet more of your needs. Please take the time to complete this very short (1 min) questionnaire to help us meet your needs. <https://bit.ly/444Esh9>

Agreement on a Global Biodiversity Framework at Cop15

After 3 years of negotiations and planning all countries that are signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed text for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in late December 2022. This framework has a set of four goals for 2050 and 23 targets that if fully implemented would go a long way to achieving those goals. While for many the text was weakened during COP15 in order to get all countries to agree to it, there are some significant agreements about financing, requiring the private sector to identify and minimise their negative impacts, as well as phasing out harmful subsidies which if implemented could have significant benefits for biodiversity.

KBAs were in the draft of Target 3 as bracketed text going into the negotiations at COP15 and were defended strongly by Kenya but sadly other countries argued that if KBAs were in the text then they wanted Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), Ramsar sites and other designations listed. Given there had been struggles to agree what should be specified in the text in the previous negotiations, the co-chairs of the GBF decided to drop any specific mention of any designation process, flagging that KBAs were in the GBF as Component and Complementary Indicators in the monitoring framework. So Target 3 text was adopted as follows: *Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, **especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity** and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities including over their traditional territories.*

The term ‘*areas of particular importance for biodiversity*’ was also used in Aichi Target 11 (which was why the Co-chairs wanted to fall back to just using this phrase) but it was shown that Aichi Target 11 failed to get protection in the best places for biodiversity which was why we had pushed strongly for specific mention of KBAs. It was clear many country delegates at COP15 were unaware of what KBAs were, and there is a need to raise awareness among the CBD focal points and their technical

people in Ministries in many countries. KBA Partners and KBA National Coordination Groups can play a big role in doing this at a national level.

The *Proportion of KBAs covered by protected areas and OECMs* is a Component indicator of Target 3 in the current version of the GBF monitoring framework. This monitoring framework was not finalised at COP15 and an Ad-hoc Technical committee is being formed to finalise it by COP16. We will be pushing hard to raise KBAs in target 3 to be mentioned in the headline indicator with this group (which currently is just coverage by protected areas and OECMs – but not specifying of what), as well as promoting a complementary indicator of *Proportion of KBAs in favourable condition* which we plan to measure when the KBA monitoring programme is implemented in the World Database of KBAs later this year.

The next steps following the agreement of the GBF is that all countries need to revise their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to bring them in line with the new targets. This is to be completed by COP16 in 2024 and it provides a good opportunity to work to identify targets/results in the NBSAPs that are pertinent to KBAs: for example, a result that '*KBAs will be comprehensively identified across the country by 2025*' or '*A programme to monitor KBAs will be implemented by 2030*' would be the types of results that could be inserted. Here again KBA Partners and BirdLife Partners should be looking for opportunities to engage/support the revision of NBSAPs so that these results and others are inserted. Doing this will make it easier to access funding for KBAs in the next 10 years.

New Training Materials For Learning How to Propose KBAs Online

Two training webinars were held in February-March 2023 to guide KBA proposers through the process of making KBA proposals online into the [World Database of KBAs](#). If you were not able to attend these webinars they are now available on the [KBA Community You Tube](#) site where all webinars that might be of general interest are posted. The [first webinar](#) introduces the user to the online proposal process, how to set up an account and login and then gives an overview of the system. The [second webinar](#) then goes into a lot more detail about how to complete a proposal and submit it for review by the KBA Regional Focal Point. In particular these webinars give guidance on the type of information that needs to be in the fields, particularly the free-text fields, such as the *Site description*, *Rationale for KBA status*, *Delineation rationale*, and *Manageability of the site*. The advantages of proposing KBAs online is that the review process should be achieved more quickly and much of the data required is automatically provided if the species is assessed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. We encourage you to view these two webinars even if you understand the proposal process as you are likely to learn something from them.

Three videos to guide the KBA Proposal Process through the World Database of KBAs

Over February and March, the KBA Secretariat hosted a three-part webinar series on using the online proposal portal of the WDKBA. The sessions are between 40 to 62

minutes long and provide a detailed description on setting expectations before starting the KBA proposal process (*Getting Started with Proposing KBAs*), a step-by-step guide in proposing a KBA through the WDKBA Proposal Portal (*Proposing KBAs in the World Database of KBAs*), and illustrating how to use the comments tool within the World Database of KBA Proposal Portal and references to documents and videos that will help proposers avoid common proposal pitfalls (*KBA Review Process*).

To view the videos, click on the links below:

Session 1: Getting Started with Proposing KBAs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpFrLp2BDOU>

Session 2: Proposing KBAs in the World Database of KBAs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ejyF8zNAVw>

Session 3: KBA Review Process Online

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrOkZ5vOchK>

New KBA Guidelines in French and Spanish

The [KBA Guidelines](#) version 1.2 have been translated into [French](#) and [Spanish](#) and are now available at the IUCN library portal. We are grateful to the Bezos Earth Fund for enabling these translations to be made.

HIGH SEAS:

Supporting Management of Coastal Seas Through Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas For Seabirds

By: Jonathan Handley, Emma Harte, Sorrel Pompert Robertson ^{1,2}

1: BirdLife International

2: Falklands Conservation

The Falklands' inshore waters have been internationally recognised – in a [new study published in Diversity and Distributions](#) – for their globally important seabird populations. Sites for nine seabird species breeding on the Falklands were confirmed as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), following a two-year project. Recognition of sites as KBAs further reaffirms the international importance of these waters for biodiversity, and the data provides a critical resource for stakeholders involved in marine spatial planning. The project was led by Falklands Conservation (BirdLife Partner), supported by the BirdLife International Marine Programme, RSPB, and the Falkland Islands Government (FIG).

For the Falkland Islands, the KBA work has been critical to support decision-making about the proposed network of Marine Management Areas and proposals for

industrial-scale open-pen salmon farming, which have since been rejected by the current FIG Executive Council. Additionally, the process has highlighted where research and monitoring for certain species could be developed to improve data gaps.

The important marine areas identified represent those used by the birds for a number of behaviours, depending on the species. Critically, however, the approaches detailed in the study which were used to identify the important areas, could be used to identify sites for other upper-trophic level central place foragers (typically seabirds and seals) across different regions where assessment for KBAs has not yet been undertaken. Briefly, the sites were identified following a rigorous exercise of collating distribution and abundance data for 27 species of seabirds using Falkland waters. By focussing the analysis on the distribution of birds during the breeding period and the inshore waters of the Islands, areas for nine species met qualifying criteria, leading to the delineation of two global KBAs.

Accessible tools to identify sites following the approaches outlined in the paper are being developed in a new collaborative project. See details of the [Marine Toolkit Project](#).

To learn more about the two new global KBAs, please see: [Falkland Islands Inshore, Beauchêne Marine](#).

The work was funded by Darwin Plus (DPLUS115). Falklands Conservation would like to thank all other partners, supporters and stakeholders in the project including, data holders and Paulo Catry and Sally Poncet.

Further information: <https://falklandsconservation.com/seabird-kba/>

Contact: Jonathan Handley jonathan.handley@birdlife.org, Emma Harte MCO@conservation.org.fk

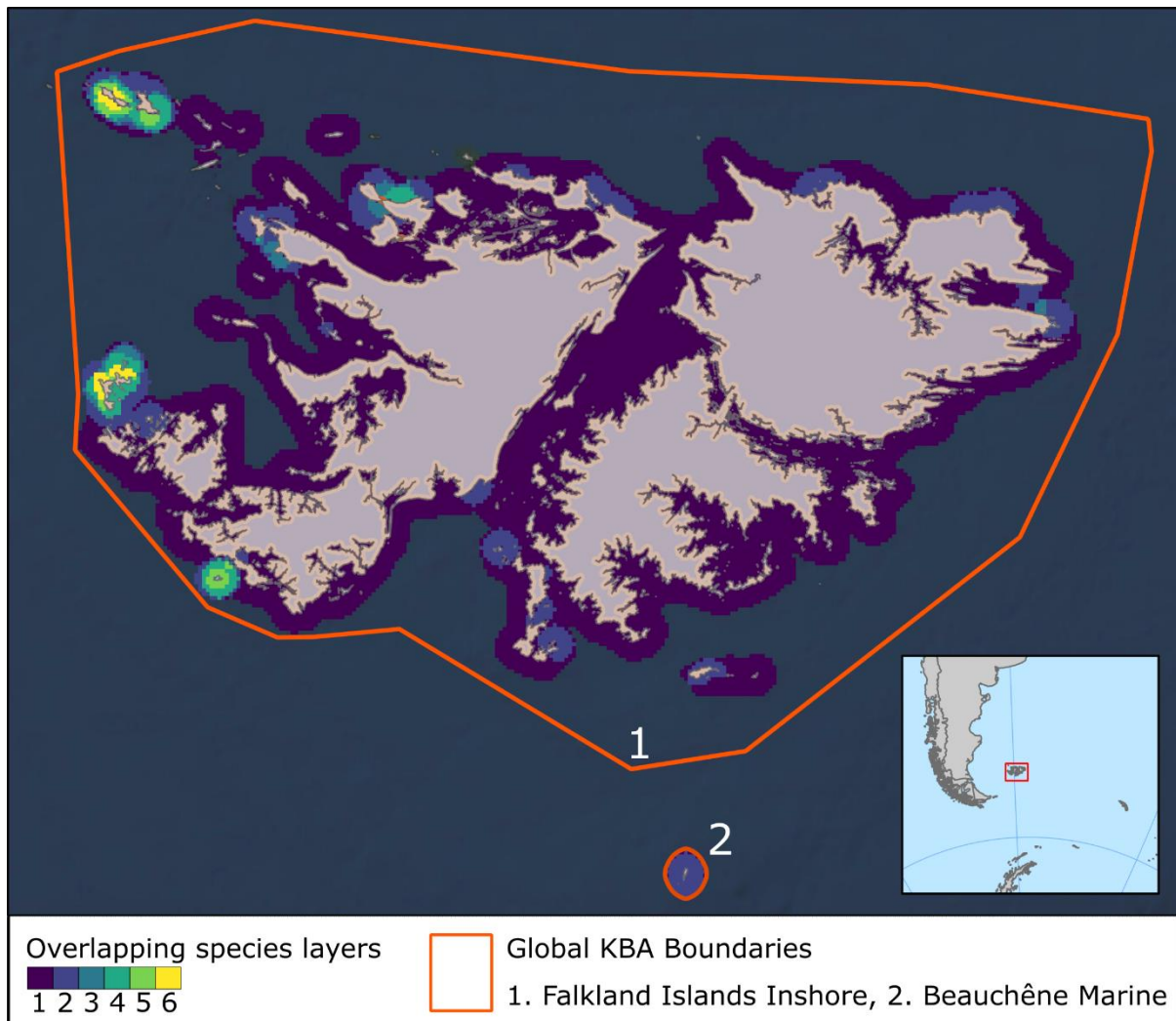


Image: Overlap of globally important species layers for 9 different species which met global KBA criteria, and which contributed to the identification of two global KBAs, in the inshore environment of the Falkland Islands. Species include: Black-browed Albatross, Slender-billed Prion, Southern Giant Petrel, Gentoo Penguin, Southern-Rockhopper Penguin, Brown Skua, Dolphin Gull, Falklands Steamer Duck and Sooty Shearwater. Note: the data contributed to the update of the existing Falkland Islands Inshore KBA, which also hosts non-seabird trigger species. Hence the seabird data does not match with the entire KBA boundary.



Image: Kidney Island, in the north-east of the Falkland Islands, hosts a globally significant population of breeding Sooty Shearwaters. Given shearwaters are known to rely on marine areas surrounding colonies for rafting, a 5km buffer was delineated around Kidney Island in accordance with species of similar known ecology, to delineate the marine KBA for this species. The site is estimated to host approximately 3.2% of the global population of this globally 'Near Threatened' species and triggers KBA Criteria D1a (Demographic aggregations). Photo by: Caroline Weir

EUROPE:

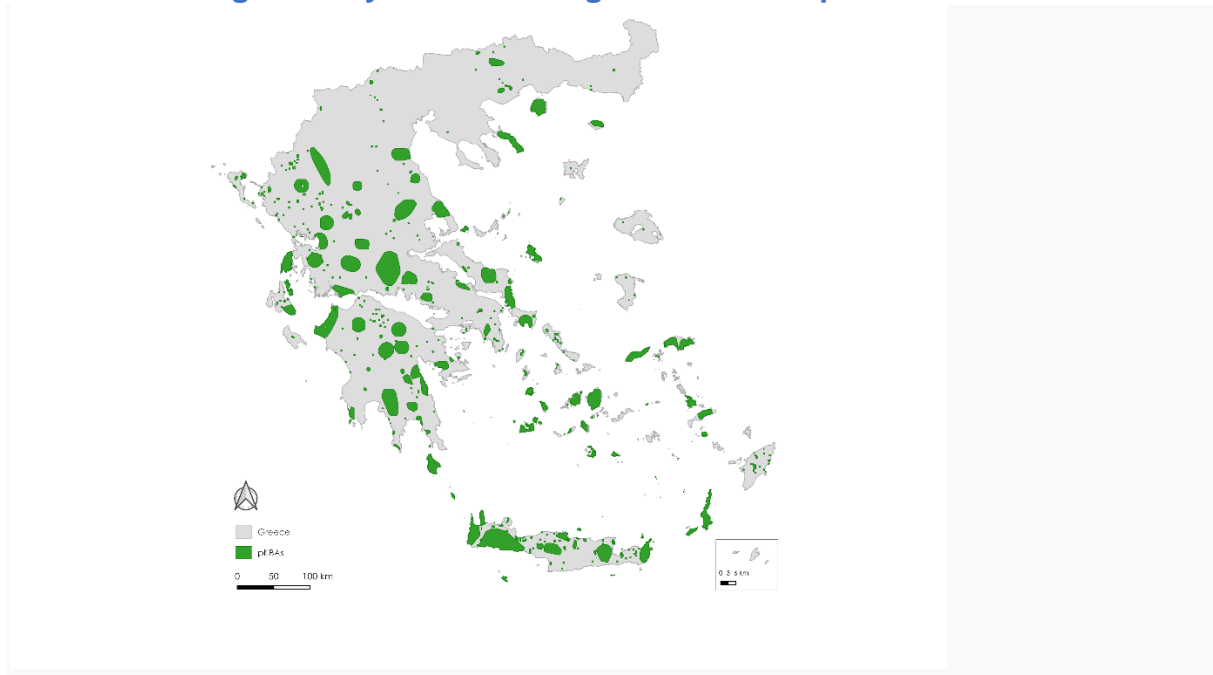
EU and UK Government Funds KBA Scoping Projects In Europe

Two projects have recently been funded that aim to scope KBAs across Europe. The first, [NaturaConnect](#), is a Horizon Project funded by the European Union which will design and develop a blueprint for coherent Trans-European Nature Network (TEN-N) of conserved areas that protect at least 30% of land in the European Union using systematic conservation planning methods. Part of this project is co-funded by the UK Research and Innovation funds (UKRI) which the UK government uses to match components of projects that have been approved by Horizon but will be undertaken in the UK following Brexit. The UKRI funded component of the project will support the KBA Secretariat to make a scoping of KBAs across Europe using the [KBA Scoping Tool](#).

The second project '[Guiding expansion of protection under the EU Biodiversity Strategy: Threatened species and novel methods for Key Biodiversity Area identification](#) (GaP)' will be scoping KBAs in more detail at national level and

establishing KBA National Coordination Groups in five countries: Greece, Denmark, Germany, Italy and Spain, helping refine the European scoping.

Greece Leading the Way In Conserving KBAs in Europe



Greece has become the first European country to recognise Key Biodiversity Areas in its laws and policies. Key Biodiversity Areas are recognised as sites of global importance for biodiversity by the Law 5037/2023 and the existing Natura 2000 Committee of Greece will form the KBA National Coordination Group for the country. The Natura 2000 committee is the main scientific advisory body for coordinating, monitoring and assessing the policies and the actions taken for the protection of Greece’s biodiversity. The Natural Environment & Climate Change Agency of Greece (N.E.C.C.A.), headed by Associate Professor Kostas Triantis, will be responsible for the collection and management of KBA data for the country.

"Greece is leading the way in highlighting Key Biodiversity Areas as a key tool for expanding the network of protected areas", reported the Secretary General of Natural Environment and Water in the Ministry of Environment and Energy (YPEN), Petros Varelidis.

This follows several years of work led by Dr. Konstantina Spiliopoulou for her PhD thesis, who has been scoping Greece for potential KBAs (see map above). This work will be provided to the Natura 2000 committee to be considered for formal proposals of KBA sites in the coming years.

The Law 5037/2023 will guide the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy in Greece following article 174 under Targets for Nature Conservation: By 2030, at least 30% of the land area and sea of the country are covered by protected areas. Protected areas should fully cover Key Biodiversity Areas.

AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC:

Global Biodiversity Framework - COP15 – Australia’s Participation

Saving the world’s nature, together

By: Amanda Lilleyman

Representativeness of biodiversity

[Australia’s State of Environment report 2021 Biodiversity chapter](#) stated that even though overall land and marine area protected in Australia exceeded area targets, it did not meet the target to be ecologically representative.

So, that begs the question, does Australia’s National Reserve System reflect the scale, distribution, and ranges of the most important places for biodiversity? This is something to consider when Australia aims to meet the 30x30 area quota under target 3 of the GBF.

“We will fail to halt extinctions if protected areas and OECMs are placed in locations that are politically easier to designate or that are nationally but not globally important.”
- Andy Plumptre, KBA Secretariat

Overview of current national plans and strategies that contribute to achieving the goals of the GBF

- **Australia’s Strategy for Nature 2019 – 2030** This strategy represents a human values-based approach to the protection of nature. This is an important step, but we also need to be strategic about land and ecosystem designation in the national reserve system that will contribute to 30x30.
- **Nature Positive Plan** Recognising the flaws in the Australian legal system that is supposed to protect species and habitat is a good first step, as is creating regional plans. *“Conservation planning documents will identify and prioritise the threats, actions and important habitat for threatened species and ecological communities” ... “These are areas of high environmental sensitivity, including with World Heritage or National Heritage values, Ramsar wetlands, critical habitat for threatened species and, by agreement, other areas of high conservation significance”* (from page 19 of the plan). The NPP uses the term ‘Areas of High Environmental Value’. The problem with using terminology like this is that there is room for reinterpretation and the plan states that development in these areas will be “largely prohibited”. Additionally, these terms, whether high or moderate, are focused on a development perspective, rather than a biodiversity or nature perspective.
- **Threatened Species Action Plan 2022 – 2032** At least 65% of the “priority places” identified for targeted actions under this plan are KBAs. These places will receive support through condition and threat assessment, and identification of action and indicators among other key actions outlined in the plan.
- **Australia’s Strategy for the National Reserve System 2009 – 2030** The strategy operates as a plan to document and grow the areas of land for the long-term protection of ecosystems. The strategy includes four types of protected areas: public reserves, Indigenous Protected Areas, private protected

areas, and shared management reserves. Importantly, the strategy states the just area designation is not the solution to the biodiversity crisis, it also requires effective management. This strategy was written before the KBA program was established in Australia. Given the urgency of the biodiversity crisis in the last decade, there is value in reviewing this strategy.



Image: Koala in a tree Credit- Amanda Lilleyman

How can KBAs be used to achieve the GBF targets and goals?

“The vision of the KBA Programme is a comprehensive network of sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity that is appropriately identified, correctly documented, effectively managed, sufficiently resourced and adequately safeguarded.” KBA Programme Annual Report 2021

- Incorporate KBAs into plans and strategies at all levels of government by making use of the existing KBA database of identified areas and use the principles of [systematic conservation planning](#) to direct the designation for areas of land, freshwater and marine waters into the national reserve system.
- Access and collate management plans and actions from state and federal governments to ensure species and ecosystems are protected within KBAs.
- Government plans and strategies could uptake the use of KBAs instead of ambiguous and development-centric terms e.g.: ‘Areas of High Environmental Value’.
- **Next steps**

The Global Biodiversity Framework requires a whole of society approach to reaching targets and goals. This is also a sentiment that BirdLife Australia holds, as the core of the work of protecting birds is done by invaluable volunteers – or citizen scientists. BirdLife Australia has recently launched their new [Bird Conservation Strategy](#), which has goals and targets that align with national and international aims. The KBA program is one such area that will contribute to the GBF and the main 30x30 goal to build on the conservation network. To do this, we need governments (national, state/territory, and local councils) to adequately resource strategies and plans, and also change structural processes that prohibit the protection of nature. We need organisations to work alongside one another towards a shared goal. And finally, we need the people that change the world – the volunteers – who contribute from the bottom-up to the conservation of species and ecosystems.



Image: Butterfly in a field of grass Credit- Amanda Lilleyman

NORTH AMERICA:

KBA Identification in Canada

The Canadian KBA Coalition has achieved a number of milestones in the past 6 months, including the launch of the Canadian national KBA registry last October, and a number of presentations to national and international audiences during COP 15, in Montreal. A set of new KBAs representing a number of taxonomic groups and geographies was recently submitted to the global KBA Secretariat. Meanwhile, additional resources have been secured to continue to learn from and improve outreach and involvement of Indigenous communities in KBA work.

On Monday, October 3rd (2023) guests from conservation organizations, government ministries, foundations and other committed partners gathered at the Canadian Museum of Nature to celebrate the launch of new Canadian Key Biodiversity Areas Registry, KBACanada.org. The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, spoke to those in attendance and shared his aspirations for biodiversity conservation in the context of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's COP 15, and highlighted KBAs as a critical piece for solving the puzzle of how to conserve biodiversity. Guests heard Naomi Kingston, Head of Operations, UNEP-WCMC; Chair of the Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership, speak about the Partnership and Canada's efforts, as well as David Cooper, Deputy Secretary, UN Convention on Biological Diversity, speaking to this critical time for biodiversity and the positive effect of the huge, collaborative efforts of the KBA program.

The highlight of the event was the unveiling and exploration of the new KBACanada.org website and registry. The registry contains important and publicly accessible data on Canadian KBAs that is easy to search and download. The powerful map tool provides a quick visual summary of sites that have met KBA Criteria, as well as candidate sites that are in progress or under review. Visitors can discover how they can be involved in Canada's KBA program as well as learn about the amphibians and reptiles, birds, fishes, fungi and lichens, invertebrates, mammals, non-vascular plants and vascular plants that can be found within each KBA. An exciting outcome of NatureServe Canada's role in the KBA Canada Coalition is that you can also link to the NatureServe Explorer tool from each KBA information page, create a biodiversity summary report of all species that have been observed within KBA boundaries, and download these species observations.



Image: Teams from the three KBA Canada Secretariat organisations (WCS Canada, Birds Canada and NatureServe Canada) as well as guests from the global KBA Partnership. Credit- Birds Canada.

KBA Canada was present at COP 15 in Montreal, with partners from WCS Canada, Birds Canada, NatureServe Canada, IUCN, BC Nature and others presenting at events in the Nature Positive Pavilion, the Canada Pavilion, and various off-campus events. COP 15 succeeded in raising awareness of the biodiversity crisis globally and in Canada, with a lot of press focused on what the Global Biodiversity Framework means for local and national organizations and

governments. A press release from WCS Canada listing new and in-progress Key Biodiversity Areas in every province and territory garnered a lot of attention, leading to over 50 news articles in local and regional newspapers, as well as at least 5 radio interviews with KBA experts. KBAs were seen by journalists as a tangible response to the global biodiversity crisis, and a great way to bring the somewhat remote UNCBD negotiations closer to home for many Canadians. A small selection of articles that appear over the past month illustrates how KBAs fit into various discussions around biodiversity conservation and land use decisions:

Radio-canada: [Comment le Canada protège-t-il son territoire et sa biodiversité?](#)
 Castanet News: [When it comes to biodiversity, how is Canada doing? - From The Hill](#)
 The Province: [B.C. Climate News: B.C. looks for ways to reach 30x30](#)
 SaskToday.ca: [COP15 agreement 'not bad for the beef business'](#)
 The Sarnia Observer: [Lambton County forest designated as a Key Biodiversity Area](#)

KBA Canada is committed to not only putting biodiversity on the map, but to doing this in a way that is meaningful to everyone. Learn about the [ongoing collaboration](#) between WCS Canada's KBA team and the Center for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER). In the past year, CIER has run two national KBA workshops for Indigenous participants and is currently organizing a set of regional workshops to hear from Indigenous communities about conservation issues in their own communities and whether KBAs might be relevant to their interests. Several new initiatives are adding additional resources and capacity to ensuring opportunities for Indigenous communities to participate in, or lead, KBA identification and delineation work, as well as monitoring and stewardship next steps. This includes BC Nature's leadership on engagement with Coastal First Nations in BC around monitoring and stewardship of KBAs, and a proposed new project involving Chiefs of Ontario on youth monitoring of biodiversity in KBAs in that province.

AFRICA:

The KBA Process in Gabon: Key Steps Since 2022 and Assessment Methods

Gabon initiated a KBA process in late 2021 in collaboration with Simmy Bezeng (regional KBA focal point for Southern and Western Africa) and the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG), and the organization of a first workshop on process and the KBA standards. This continued in 2022 as part of the project entitled "Key biodiversity areas – establishing the blueprint for 30x30" supported by the Bezos Earth Fund and managed in Gabon by MBG. Starting in April 2022, Gabon established a National KBA Coordination Group comprising two entities:

- (i) a steering committee headed by the Director General of the Environment and the Protection of Nature composed of 20 members including representatives of the country's scientific institutions, NGOs working in the conservation sector, two representatives of local communities, and other governmental representatives involved in environmental and research questions, which is seated at the National Land Allocation Committee. This representation guarantees that KBA sites will be taken into consideration in the future National Land Allocation Plan, which is now being established;

- (ii) a scientific committee headed by the General Commissioner of the National Center for Scientific and Technological Research (CENAREST) composed of all the country's taxonomic experts who can provide the information needed for the delimitation of KBAs. This committee comprises 25 experts working on Gabon's flora, avifauna, aquatic fauna, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insect.

Three training sessions on the KBA standards were held, in December 2021, April 2022, and September 2022, during which 70 persons (including both Gabonese and international experts) were trained in the KBA standard, both in person and by video-conference.

To date the Coordination Group has met twice, in April and September 2022; a third session is planned for late March 2023 to discuss progress on KBA analyses.

An initial workshop to identify the country's KBAs was held in November 2022 during which the taxonomic groups were formed. In all, seven groups were established: (i) flora, (ii) avifauna, (iii) mammals, (iv) reptiles and amphibians, (v) insects, (vi) marine aquatic fauna, and (vii) freshwater aquatic fauna. These taxonomic groups were organized into three larger groups (flora, terrestrial fauna, and aquatic fauna) linked to the methods utilized in order to facilitate their coordination. The activities of each of these three broad taxonomic groups are coordinated and centralized by a dedicated focal point.

During this workshop, the working methodologies were also developed for each taxonomic group. For example, for the flora group, KBA analyses are performed using a species occurrence database, which was compiled and verified over the last five years by the taxonomic experts, which comprises more than 200,000 occurrence data records for Gabon. As part of the project, an R script was recently developed to define plant species that are potential KBA triggers under criteria A1, B1, B2, and B3a. The script specifically makes it possible to use the most recent distributional data even though a majority of Gabonese species have not yet been assessed for the IUCN Red List and some species on the Red List have obsolete assessments because they do not include results from recent botanical inventory work.

Regarding the zoological groups, the distributional data used were those available on the IUCN Red List (area of distribution or appropriate habitat, depending on the taxon) or recently published layers on appropriate habitat zones (Lumbierres et al., 2022) for mammals and birds. The distributional data were then verified by the taxonomic experts and corrected based on more precise local knowledge. An R script was also developed to define the percent of the population of each faunal species in the KBA sites based on these distributional data. A project SIG specialist was hired in early 2023 to facilitate the analyses and the delimitation of KBA sites.

The eight current KBAs in Gabon will be re-evaluated as part of the current project, as well as nearly 30 new sites, which include 13 already established terrestrial protected areas and eight marine parks. It is estimated that at least 500 plant species could be KBA triggers as well as a minimum of 15 species of mammals and 6 of birds, plus 20

marine faunal species, 30 species of freshwater fish, 5 reptiles, 5 amphibians, and one insect species.



Image: Meeting of the Gabon KBA Coordination Group, held on 27 September 2022 at the Ministry for Water, Forests, Oceans and Environment in Libreville. Credit- Davy Ikabanga.



Image: First Gabon KBA analysis workshop, held on November 7–11, 2022 in Libreville, organized by CENAREST. Credit- Nicolas Texier.

New Project to Map and Assess Biodiversity Is Launched In Mozambique

On 16 November of 2022, the project ‘*Building biodiversity knowledge for action in Southern Africa: Spatial Biodiversity Assessment, Prioritization and Planning (SBAPP) in South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique and Malawi*’ was launched in Macaneta, Maputo city Mozambique. The project’s objective is to build and strengthen the biodiversity knowledge for each country and to promote collaboration on biodiversity science in the region. The SBAPP processes use a number of key datasets (e.g. maps of ecosystem types and ecological condition; species distribution maps and population-level information), combined with Red List standards from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This project will utilize these datasets as input data for identifying Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and spatial biodiversity priorities and configurations, which should be retained, protected and/or restored and it will also establish KBAs National Coordination Groups (NCGs) in Namibia (note: South Africa, Malawi and Mozambique already have KBA NCGs established). These outputs will allow countries to develop policies and make decisions on land use planning and biodiversity protection a requirement of the new Global Biodiversity Framework for post-2020. The planning and biodiversity protection will ensure representation of all species and ecosystem types, and prioritize key sites for the persistence of biodiversity (i.e. KBAs) while providing for their ecological requirements such as ensuring sufficiently large ecological functional areas are retained and maintaining connectivity through corridors. (Click [here](#) more information about the project)



Image: Participants of the SBAPP project launch, (Photo Credits: SANBI, 2022)

Mozambique Shares its Experience During the Cop 15 Parallel Session On: Why Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Should Be In The Global Biodiversity Framework

On 7 December, the KBAs Secretariat held a parallel session at the Nature Positive Pavilion at COP 15 with the theme: Why Key Biodiversity Areas should be in the global Biodiversity Framework. The event was attended by several academic institutions, NGOs, private sector, research institutions, and some countries such as Kenya, Canada and Mozambique. The latter was represented by Eng. Alexandre Bartolomeu, head of the Department of Environmental Management at the Ministry of Land and Environment, specifically in the National Directorate of Environment, which is the entity that chairs the KBAs National Coordination Group (NCG) in Mozambique. Eng. Bartolomeu shared Mozambique's experience in establishing the NCG and identifying KBAs, which was one of the first countries worldwide to conduct a comprehensive national assessment, applying the Global Standard 2016 to a whole range of biological groups and elements, culminating in the identification of 29 KBAs. The KBAs that have been identified and mapped are crucial to guide the preparation of development and land use plans (terrestrial and marine), from the local to the national level. Their inclusion as a decision-making support tool helps to mitigate the impact of development projects and to support the strategic expansion of the national Protected Areas network, strengthening the conservation policy framework. Other countries also shared their experience, showing how the KBAs contribute to the achievement of the 30x30 target, as some countries have used them to create new areas and/or extend existing ones.



Image: Eng. Bartolomeu shared Mozambique's experience in establishing the NCG and identifying KBAs. Credit: Andrew Plumtre, 2022

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Head of the KBA Secretariat – Andy Plumptre: 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:

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Asia- Mike Crosby: Mike.Crosby@birdlife.org

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