KBA Programme Annual Report

2021

Foreword

This year has been a busy one as the KBA Programme starts to catch up on the activities that had to be halted during the covid pandemic. The exciting news is that the Bezos Earth Fund has given a grant through BirdLife International of $5 million to support the KBA Programme at the end of 2021. This will establish and support KBA national coordination groups in four countries in the Andes and three countries in the Congo Basin, and then identify their KBAs across multiple taxonomic groups and ecosystems. The project will also work to have sites recognised in national policy and legislation and guide where new protected or conserved areas are established. These funds will allow us to significantly scale up activities and at the same time re-develop the World Database of KBAs to facilitate better access to query the data as well as propose, review and confirm new KBAs more efficiently. Together with increased funding from CEPF, GEF and other donors to various projects we showcase here, this is demonstrating a growing recognition of the importance of KBAs in the donor community, particularly in ensuring that they put their funds in the right places.

The thirteen KBA Partners have continued to work together to support the national identification of KBAs in countries across the world, adding 138 sites in 2021 as well as cleaning up/removing delineation errors brought in from legacy sites that were migrated into the database from various sources. Many legacy sites were delineated in a time before GIS software was readily available and as a result were not as accurately delineated as desired. There are currently 16,356 KBAs recognised for the world for 13, 762 trigger species covering more than 20 million km^2 of globally important habitat. While birds still dominate (44% of trigger species), plants trigger species are increasing (25%) followed by amphibians (10%).

We have all been tracking the progress of the Global Biodiversity Framework and engaging with governments to encourage KBA-specific language in the final targets and indicators. As more governments are starting national KBA identification processes it becomes easier to work with them on this and we have had a growing number publicly pushing for specific KBA language in the framework. We look forward to COP15 in 2021 and the framework launched so that we can start implementing programmes that use KBAs to inform national spatial planning and ultimately mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and the conservation of these sites in law in each country.

We celebrated the first five years of the KBA Partnership in 2021 and partners committed to renewing their participation for a further five years. KBAs were showcased at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille as well as at other venues and we are seeing a growing recognition and use of KBAs by governments in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans.

This report provides a summary of some of the larger achievements made in 2021 by the KBA Partnership and their partners and we look forward to even more in 2022.

Naomi Kingston & Alberto Yanosky,

Co-Chairs KBA Committee

Contents

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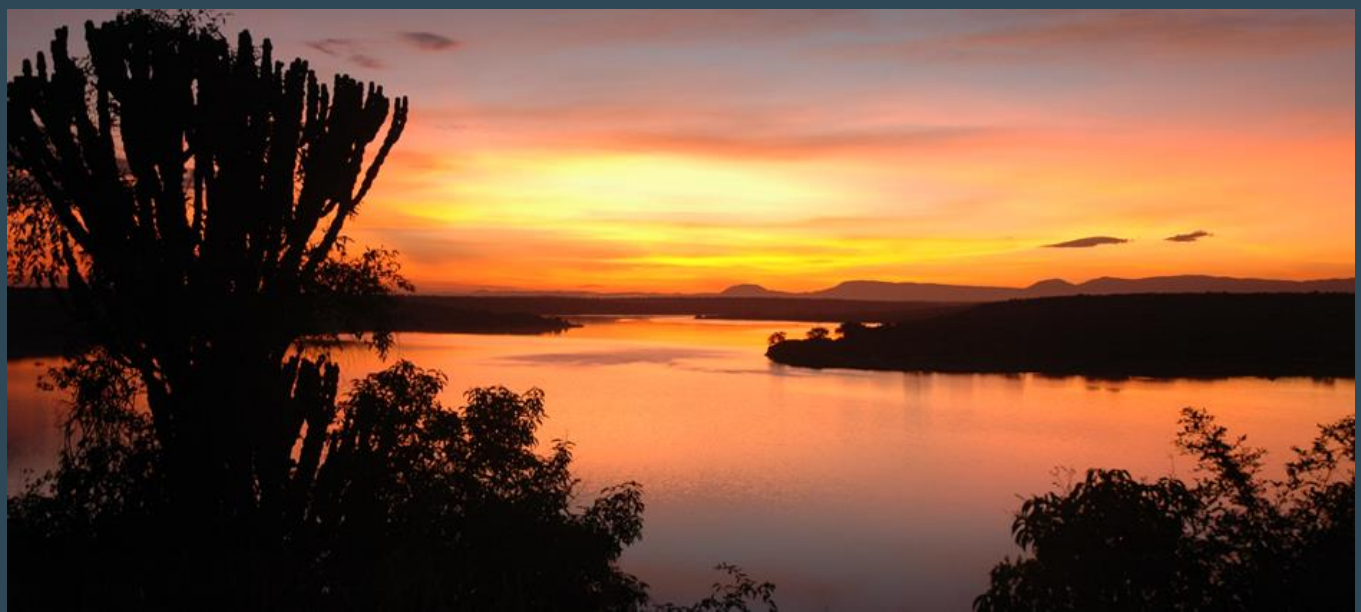
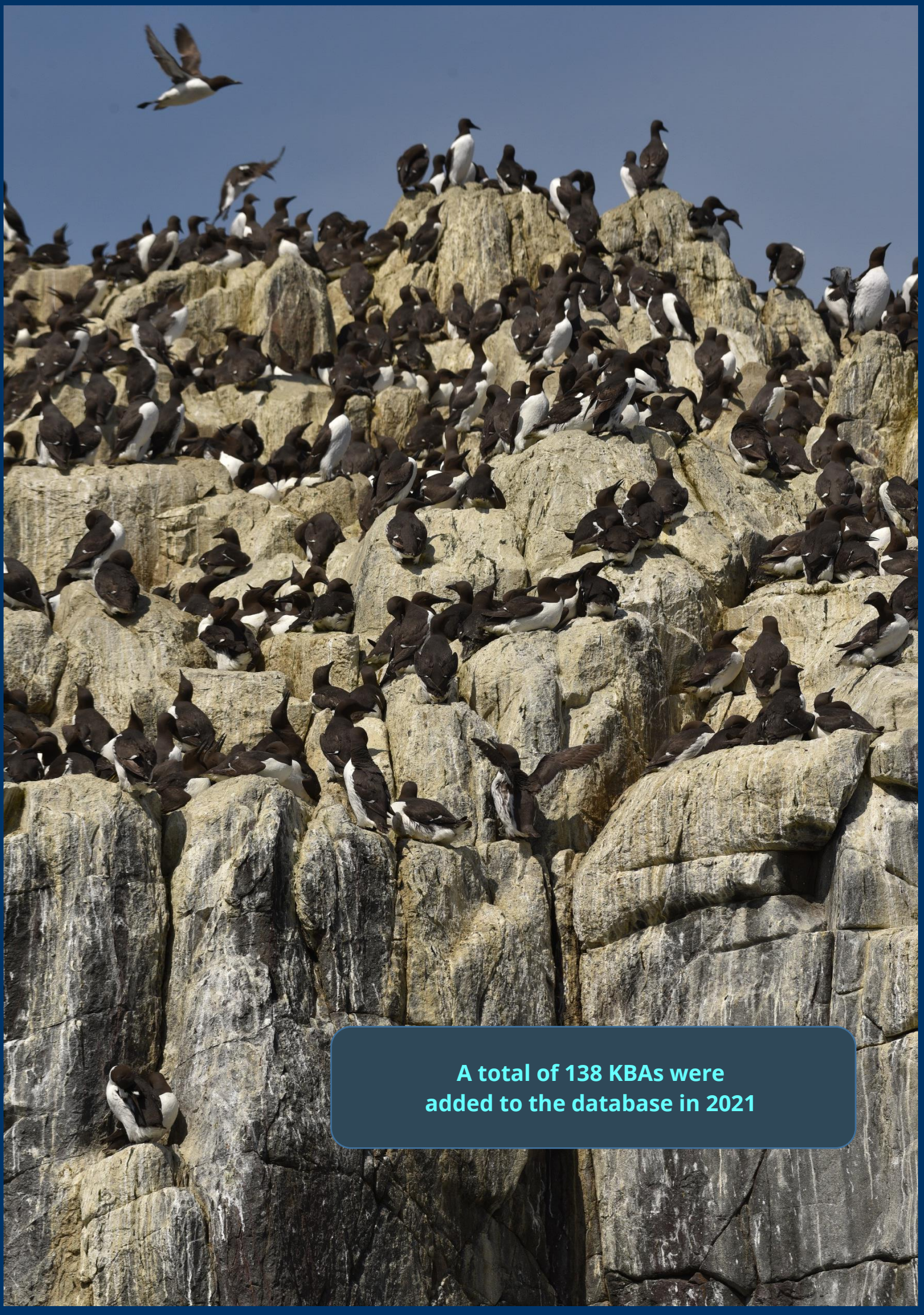


KBA Programme

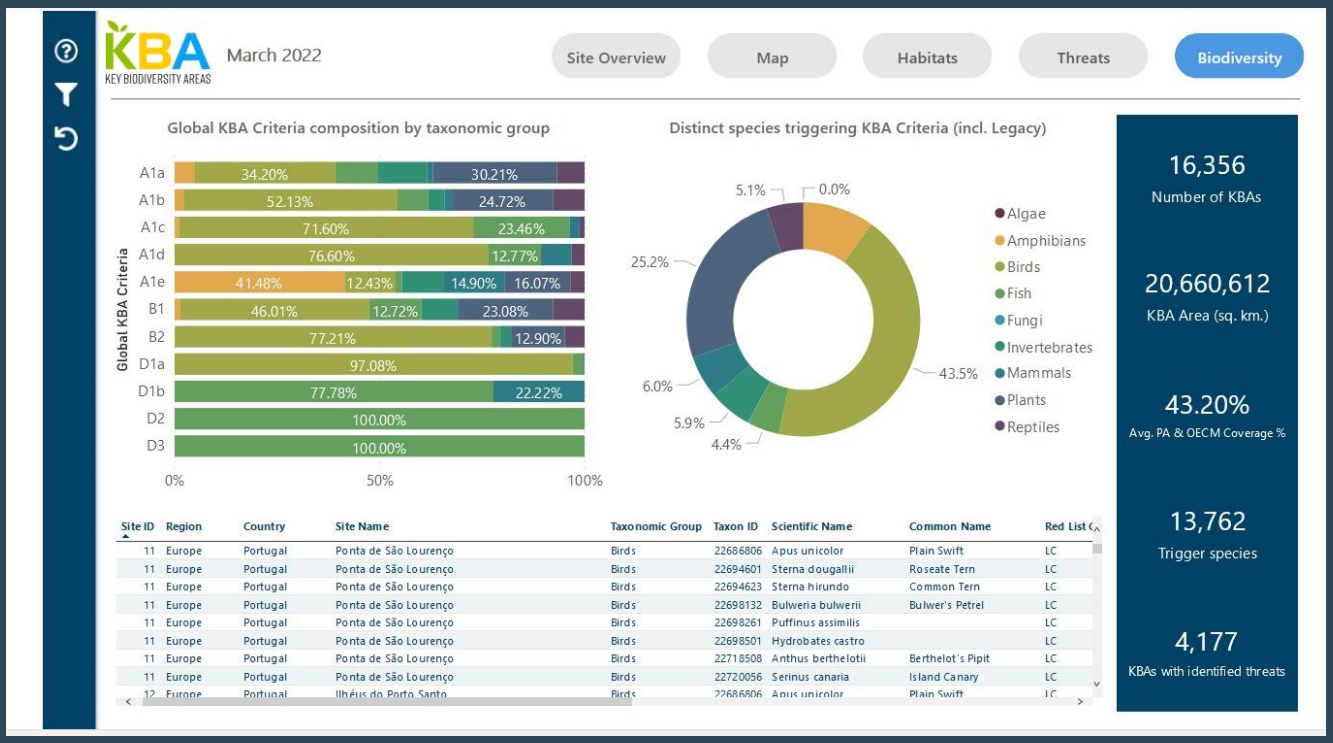
The Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Programme is an ambitious attempt to identify, map, monitor and conserve the critical sites for global biodiversity across the planet. Led by 13 international conservation organisations, the KBA Partnership, this programme aims to support each nation of the world to identify KBAs within their country. This is providing a blueprint of sites for conservation that contain globally important populations of species or globally significant areas of ecosystems, and sites of outstanding ecological integrity or irreplaceability. Knowing, with precision, the location of those places that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity is critical information for a wide range of end users across society, from national decision makers to private companies, as well as for use by international conventions and, ultimately, to direct conservation actions to halt further losses and address existing and emerging threats.

A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA Standard) published by IUCN in 2016 establishes a consultative, science-based process for the identification of globally important sites for biodiversity worldwide. Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet one or more of 11 criteria in five categories: threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and, irreplaceability. The KBA criteria have quantitative thresholds and can be applied to species and ecosystems in terrestrial, inland water and marine environments.

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. A seven-year strategic plan was developed in 2018 which guides the KBA Programme and provides indicators to measure progress. This report summarises some of the key achievements made towards the implementation of the KBA Programme and strategy in 2021.

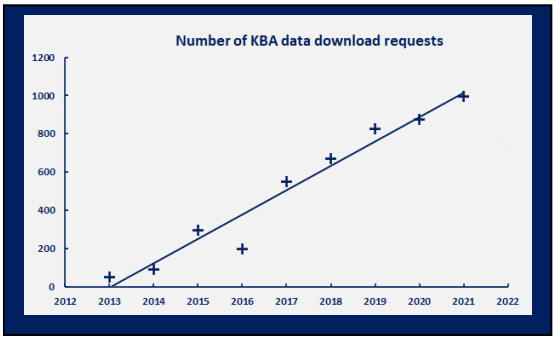


A total of 138 KBAs were added to the database in 2021

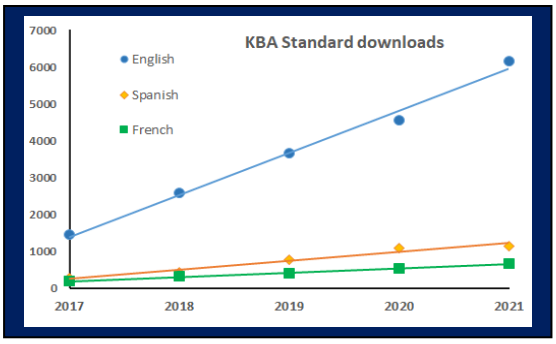


New tools to support KBA identification

World Database of KBAs



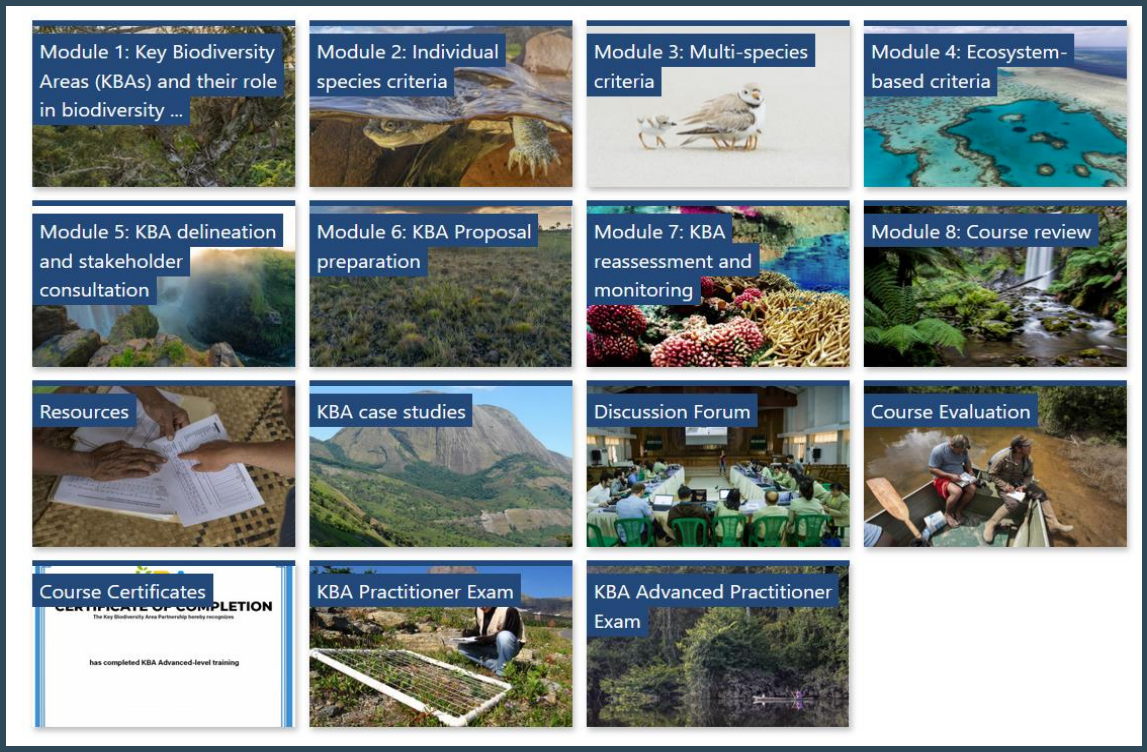
In 2021 we worked on making more of the data on KBAs available through the KBA website by further developing the World Database of KBAs and redesigning the online dashboard that enables users to query the data held in the database. Users can now identify KBAs for their country, obtain statistics on the proportion of species triggering KBA status, as well as the protected area coverage of KBAs (an important SDG and CBD indicator).



With the support of funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation to BirdLife International, work started on a redesign of the World Database of KBAs that will enable proposals to be submitted directly through an online portal on the KBA website. This involved building several internal calculation tools to apply the KBA criteria and building a framework that enables data to be brought into the database from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Use of KBA data continues to increase at a steady rate as does the download of the KBA Standard and KBA Guidelines. Workshops were held in 2021 to improve the guidance on the application of Criterion C (sites of ecological integrity) and for Criterion E (irreplaceable sites). These pulled together lessons from efforts to apply these two criteria to real world sites. An updated set of KBA Guidelines are being developed and will be published in 2022 based on the outputs of these workshops.

KBA online training course modules



Online Training course in application of KBA criteria

An online training course on the Identification and delineation of Key Biodiversity Areas was developed to help support wider training of individuals interested in applying the KBA criteria. The course consists of eight modules that combine a mixture of factual information and practical exercises to help trainees apply the criteria and learn some of the common errors made when applying the KBA criteria and delineating sites. The course captures information about the trainees progress and a final exam is used to test their understanding of the course materials and its application. It was launched in January 2022 and is hosted on the conservationtraining.org website where the IUCN Red List online training course is also found.

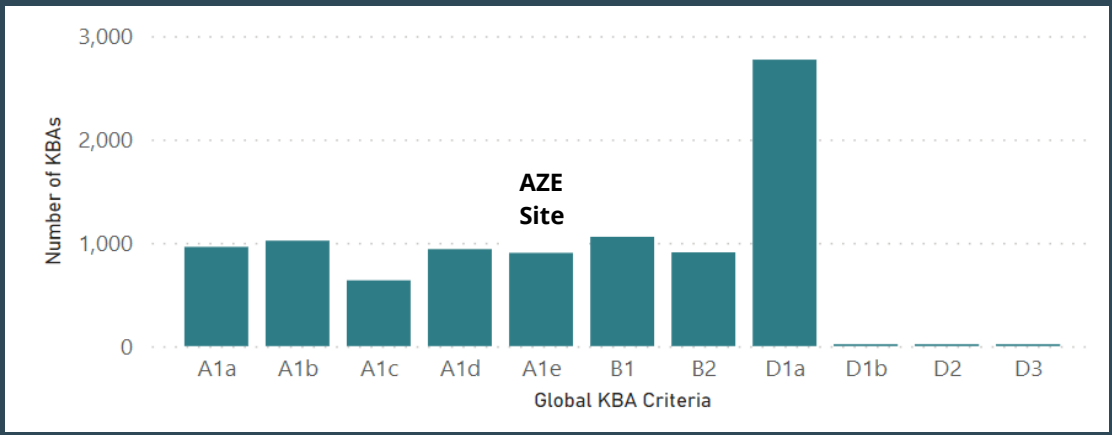
While primarily designed to allow individual users to learn about Key Biodiversity Areas on their own, the materials can be used to support group training. For example, a virtual training course for the ASEAN region used the materials in 2021, to pilot test the course and obtain feedback which was used to improve the content. The course can also be used to get participants of a group training up to a similar level of expertise before the in-person group course commences so that much of the basic material can be covered relatively quickly.

An advanced practitioners course has also been designed which when completed will help the KBA programme to accredit trainees with an advanced level of expertise to the point that they are considered competent to train others. Anyone wanting to run their own training course will be asked to take this advance course and ensure they obtain a minimum pass from the exam at the end.

We are grateful to CEPF, Re:wild and ASEAN for supporting the development of this tool and to Penny Langhammer and Andrew Snyder of Re:wild, Charlotte Boyd, Chair of the SAC, and Zoltan Waliczky of BirdLife International for writing and organising the information in the online platform.

The improved database now allows users to identify which criteria are most triggered for the world, a region or a country

Number of KBAs triggered by different KBA criteria

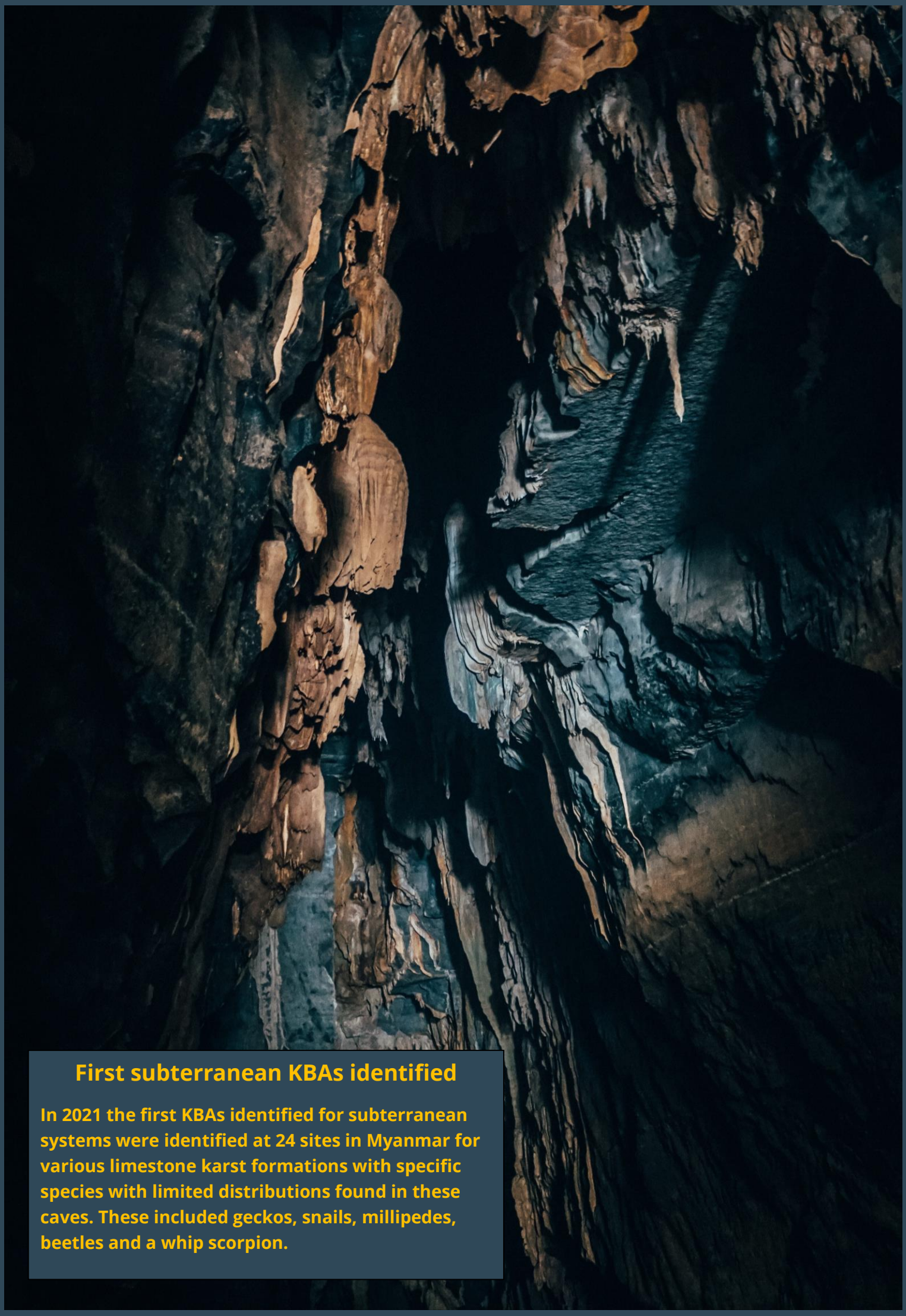


A1: threatened species;

B1: Geographically restricted species;

B2: Co-occuring restricted range species;

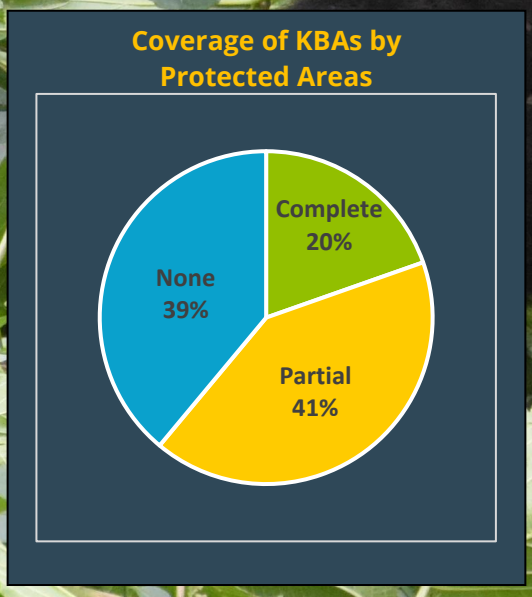
D1:Aggregations of species

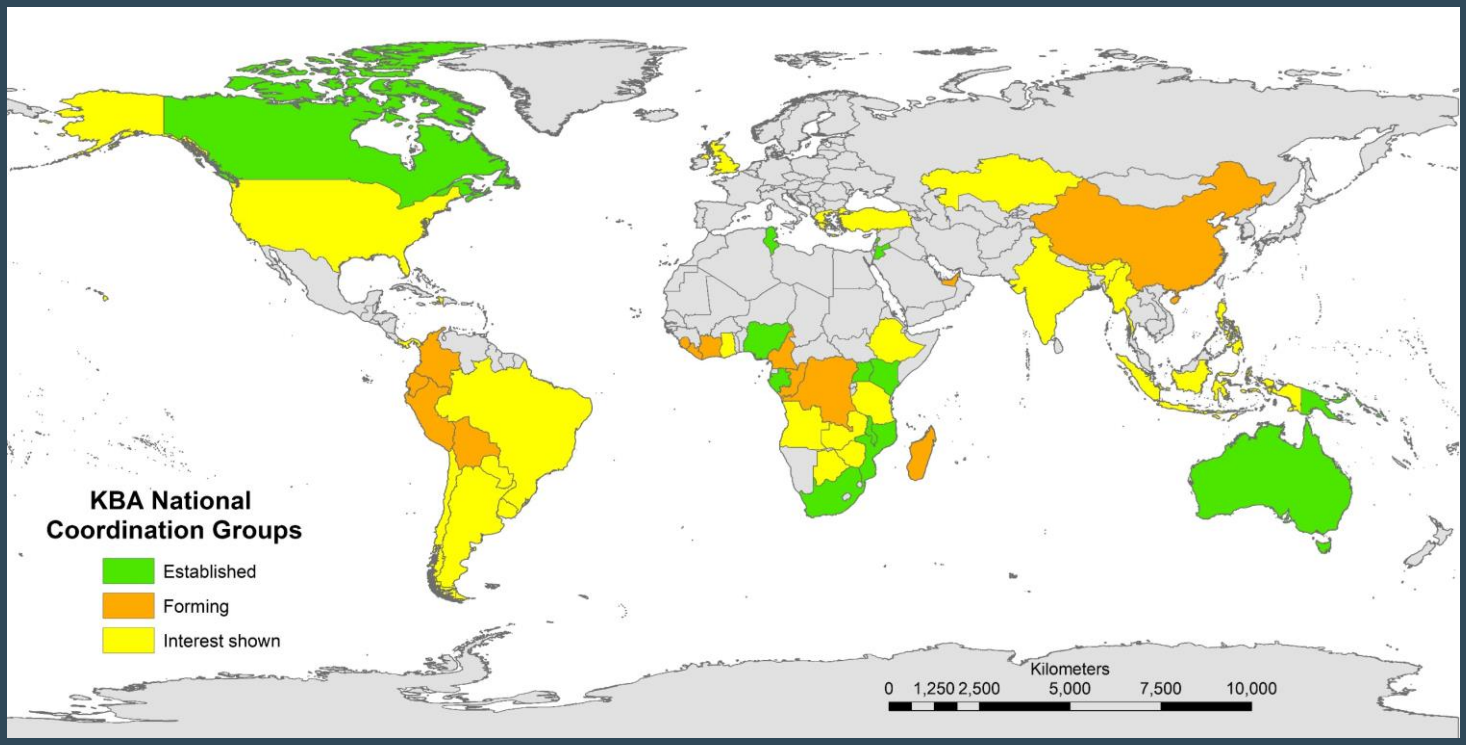


First subterranean KBAs identified

In 2021 the first KBAs identified for subterranean systems were identified at 24 sites in Myanmar for various limestone karst formations with specific species with limited distributions found in these caves. These included geckos, snails, millipedes, beetles and a whip scorpion.

Protected area coverage of KBAs is an indicator for the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity. On average 43.2% of each KBA is covered by protected areas





Growing numbers of KBA National Coordination Groups

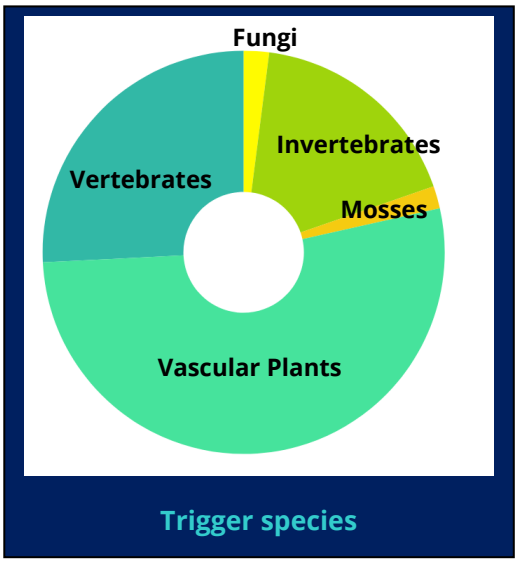
Wherever countries are interested in making comprehensive assessments of their KBAs it is recommended that they establish a KBA National Coordination Group (KBA NCG). A KBA NCG helps support the coordination of KBA work in country and ensures that the process is nationally driven and owned. KBA National Coordination Groups (KBA NCGs) had been established in fourteen countries by the end of 2021 with 13 additional countries in the process of establishing KBA NCGs. There is also more general interest from many more countries with regular requests to help provide information about how to start a national KBA identification process coming into the KBA Secretariat. A key requirement is the need for funding to catalyse these groups and start the process of KBA identification which is delaying the actions of some groups but an increasing number of donors are becoming willing to support these processes.

KBAs are also being proposed by individuals and a total of 230 KBAs were reviewed of which 138 were confirmed as global KBAs in 2021. Many additional sites were cleaned up where there were overlapping boundaries, duplicate sites and sites that had not been delineated accurately when first proposed (legacy sites). More than 800 sites are under proposal development which the KBA Regional Focal Points are supporting and reviewing. With the new training course it is hoped that submitted proposals will pass through the review process more rapidly.

Training in application of the KBA criteria was also provided to 13 events covering 19 countries and 295 participants in 2021. In addition, shorter exposure events about KBAs, to raise awareness of the KBA programme, were provided in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Ethiopia and also at the APBON meeting for researchers linked to Geobon across Asia.

Canada identifies more than 450 KBAs to date

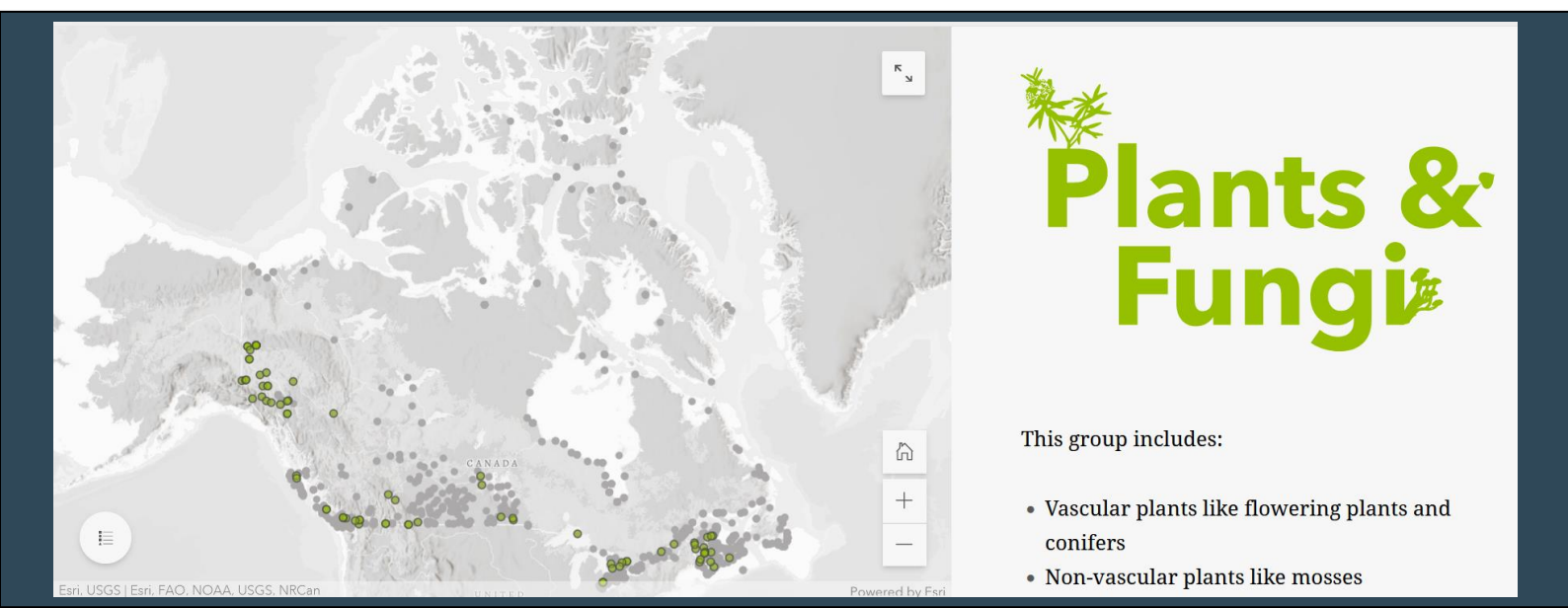
The Canadian KBA coalition is undertaking a massive assessment of KBAs across all the territories of Canada assessing multiple taxonomic groups of species, as well as ecosystems. There are 14 formal members in the KBA Coalition, five of which serve on the KBA Steering Committee, with a much larger community of experts and organizations participating in KBA work or interested in the results. Representatives of the federal government and an intergovernmental committee tasked with protected area planning actively participate in steering committee meetings to ensure the coordination of related national efforts. Over the past two years, regional coordinators have been hired to work in all provinces and territories, tasked with bringing together experts in specific regions to identify KBAs.



A broad network of potential KBA users has been built through regular webinars to explain the KBA Standard, reaching out to the academic community to develop partnerships on technical aspects of the work, and working with the global KBA Partnership to ensure global relevance and acceptance of the work in Canada. An interim website to showcase the work on identifying KBAs in Canada helps communicate about KBAs and why their identification and conservation is needed, with a fully operational KBA registry and website to be launched in October of this year. Built into the website is an interactive map that shows locations of KBAs in Canada (both accepted KBAs and those in progress) and an embedded Story Map provides a deeper exploration into a few important KBAs in Canada (see example image below).

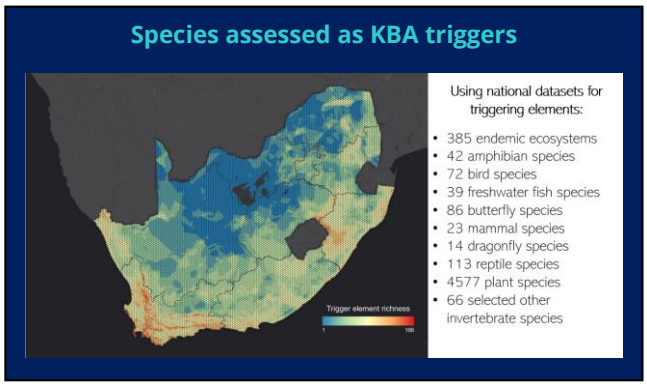
Canada is the first country to develop its own National KBA criteria. The KBA Standard (p.5) envisaged the development of regional and national criteria where countries felt the need to create them. Given Canada's great size and important regional populations of species (such as Caribou populations) the KBA National Coordination Group felt it was important to identify both global and national KBAs. To date more than 450 new KBAs (about half of which are global and half national) have been identified for the country and there is ongoing work to formally propose and nominate these sites and incorporate them into the World Database of KBAs. These will be added to existing KBAs already identified for birds that have been re-assessed and are being reviewed for the World Database of KBAs.

Canada's Story Map about their KBAs linked from their website



South Africa completing a national KBA assessment

South Africa is in the process of completing a major assessment of its KBAs across thousands of species (in multiple taxonomic groups) and hundreds of ecosystem types. This country contains three global biodiversity hotspots: the Cape Floristic Region, Succulent Karoo and the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany hotspots, each exceeding 1000 endemic plant species. As such is it incredibly diverse and holds many species and ecosystem that will likely trigger KBA status.

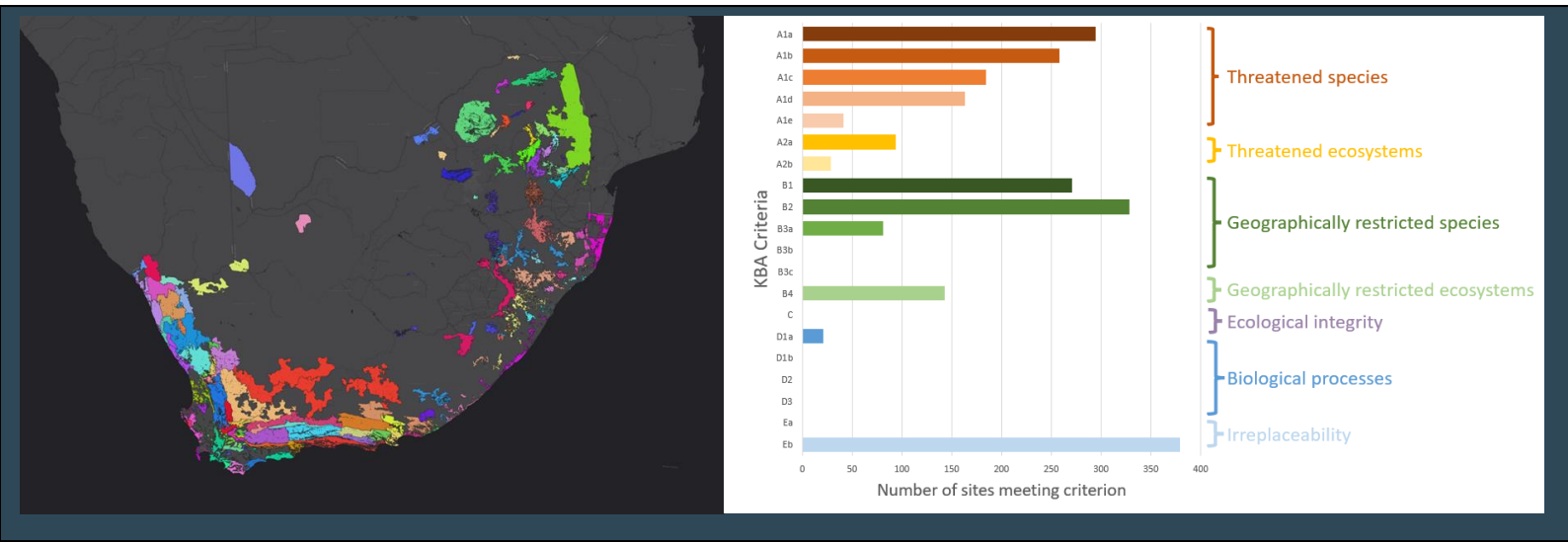


With so many potential triggers to consider, the South African team focused on species and ecosystems that were globally threatened or geographically restricted. South Africa has high quality distribution data for thousands of species, and long history of Red List assessments, this allowed the team to apply all the KBA criteria for eight taxonomic groups. A scoping phase using 100km^2 hexagons across the whole country was used to identify potential KBA locations, followed by an 18-month effort to delineate the KBAs which was completed in May 2022.

South Africa already has a comprehensive set of conservation plans (based on a process of Systematic Conservation Planning) covering all nine provinces. These plans set persistence targets for each species and ecosystem and then use purpose-built software to identify the most efficient network of sites to achieve all the targets, whilst minimising “costs” or conflicts with competing land-uses. Preliminary comparisons between the conservation plans and the emerging KBA network show substantial overlap; but also suggest that the KBA network can help inform future plans, especially by identifying sites for the persistence of geographically restricted species.

With the delineation phase now completed, a final expert review by the taxon leads and contributors is underway, and the preparatory steps to build a complete database of South Africa’s 290 KBAs have begun.

KBA work is led by the South African National Biodiversity Institute and BirdLife South Africa, with support from the WWF Nedbank Green Trust; relying on the data and expertise of dozens of dedicated professional and citizen scientists.



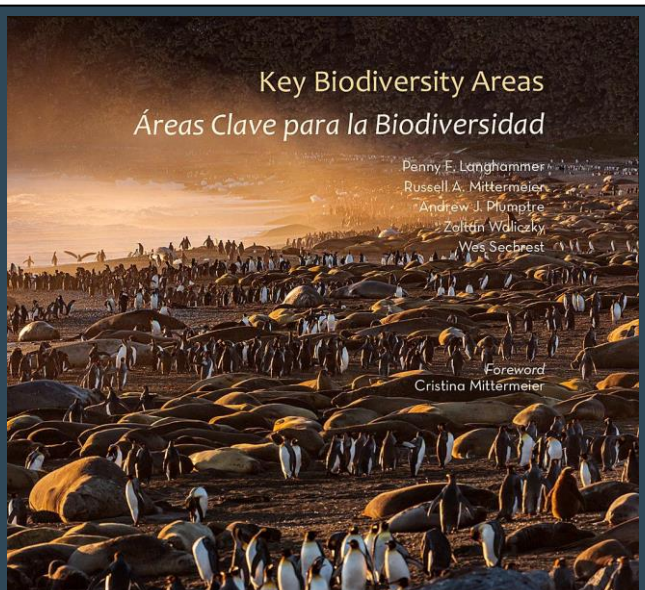
KBAs were identified in the South Atlantic for aggregations of Sei whales and seabirds in 2021

KBAs and the Global Biodiversity Framework

KBA Partners continued to work with government colleagues during 2021 to promote KBA-related text in the Convention on Biological Diversity's Global Biodiversity Framework. KBAs provide the best tool to identify and monitor '*areas of importance for biodiversity*' because of the standardized and quantitative approach which ensures comparability between countries. There is a growing momentum around conserving 30% of the earth by 2030 under this framework. However, this 30% needs to be put in the right place to maximise the species and ecosystems conserved. The KBA standard is the only global system for identification of sites critical for the global persistence of biodiversity that uses a science-based approach covering all taxa and all ecosystems. The standard provides specific criteria and methods that can be applied globally and in all biomes. KBA coverage by protected areas is one of the indicators for Sustainable development goals 14 and 15 as well as the CBD and will likely be a key indicator over the next 10 years.

A virtual meeting of KBA Partner CEOs was held in September 2021 to celebrate the completion of the first five years of the KBA Partnership and its renewal for the next five years. This meeting focused on the perspectives of the CEOs on how KBAs can contribute to the Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD and attracted many attendees. It was held just prior to the IUCN World Conservation Congress at which several events to showcase the work of the KBA Programme were held. A specific session on KBAs and the 30 by 30 agenda was held and demonstrated how different countries around the world are using KBAs to expand their protected area network already. It also highlighted how an increasing number of companies are using KBAs to manage risk and minimise their negative impacts on biodiversity. Cemex also supported the production of a coffee table book about KBAs which was launched at the World Conservation Congress. Authored by many of the KBA partners it provides an excellent introduction to what KBAs are and how they are being used around the world.

A blog was also published on the IUCN Crossroads website to highlight why KBAs should be a critical component of the Global Biodiversity Framework, helping to ensure that conservation occurs in the right place. It showed how a focus on a percentage target between 2010-2020 di lead to increased protection but not necessarily in the best places. If a percentage target is to be adopted, as looks likely, then it is important to also have guidance to governments on making sure the creation of new protected and conserved areas occurs where there are KBAs.



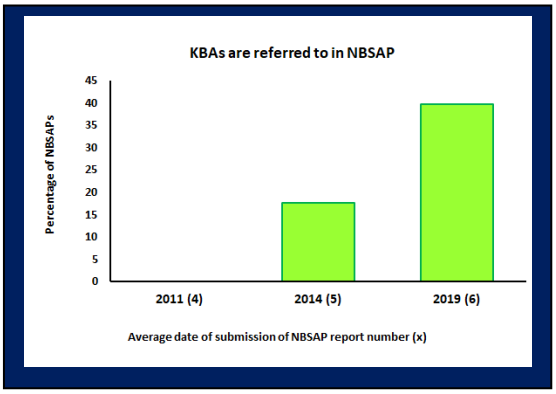
KBA Partnership celebrates 5 years

"The Global Environment Facility will continue to support conservation of areas of importance for biodiversity as defined by the KBA Criteria in GEF8" *Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO GEF at CEOs webinare to celebrate 5 years of KBA Partnership*

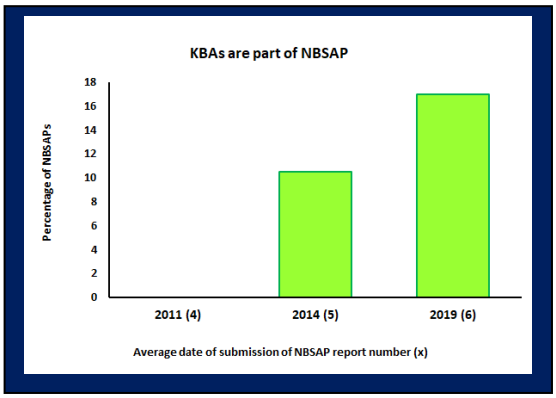
Increasing use of KBAs by Governments

All countries that have signed up to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) produce National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and reports every 5 years about their progress in meeting the goals and objectives in the NBSAPs. The KBA Secretariat made a review of the most recent NBSAP for each of 189 countries, together with their most recent NBSAP report. Each NBSAP/report was searched for reference to Key Biodiversity Areas, or KBAs and what evidence there was if any for spatial planning of some sort. NBSAPs/Reports were reviewed to assess whether they contained maps of protected areas, maps of other sites considered of biodiversity importance, or spatial distribution maps at a national scale of biodiversity patterns.

Results showed that currently 30% of countries recognised KBAs in their NBSAP or NBSAP report in some way. The most common mention of KBAs was in reference to the protected area coverage of KBAs which was usually obtained from the UN Biolabs website. Specific targets for KBAs were established in NBSAPs for 14% of countries, usually further identification or focused conservation of KBAs.



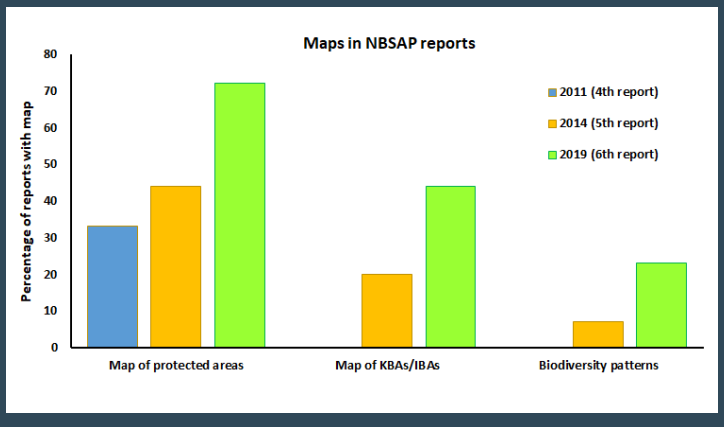
KBA recognition and incorporation in NBSAPs or NBSAP reports was increasing with more recent NBSAP reports both for recognition of site as well as incorporation of KBAs in their planning. This indicates that countries are increasingly engaging more with KBAs, particularly since the publication of the KBA Global Standard in 2016.



Remarkably few NBSAPs had any evidence of spatial mapping, with 68% of countries with no maps of even their protected areas in their NBSAPs. There was evidence that spatial mapping was increasing between the reports from 2011 to the most recent ones but the majority of reports only mapped protected sites with only 18% of countries making specific spatial plans for biodiversity conservation at a national scale. As sites that contain globally significant populations of species, extents of ecosystems or sites of outstanding ecological integrity, KBAs should be an integral part of spatially explicit planning for biodiversity conservation.

Following this finding, the KBA Partnership successfully proposed a motion at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2021 to promote national scale spatial planning. This motion was fully endorsed by governments and by 99% of IUCN non-governmental partners. It is now a formal resolution WCC 2020 081 that "calls on governments to develop or update spatially explicit conservation plans to incorporate sites and areas 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 OECMs" … and then "to work to incorporate these plans within their NBSAPs, ….mainstreaming them…and using them to avoid or mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity".

Evidence of spatial planning increasing in NBSAPs



KBA Programme priorities for 2022

The CBD COP15 to finalise and launch the new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is planned to be held in 2022. Delayed by the covid pandemic, negotiations have been slower than planned but there have been meetings held in 2021 and early 2022 to move the process forward. This framework will guide the actions of most governments over the next 10 years directly with goals being established for the next 30 years. KBA partners together with government of nations using KBAs already will continue to push for specific language in the GBF about the need to identify and conserve KBAs as well as use the *coverage of KBAs by protected and conserved areas* as a headline indicator with a second indicator of *Proportion of KBAs in favourable condition*.

The KBA Technical working group will finalise a monitoring protocol for KBAs that will be used to measure the condition of KBAs, combining measures from ground assessments of trigger elements at sites where data can be collected regularly, together with measures derived from remote sensing by satellites. The KBA monitoring programme will be built into the World Database of KBAs and be used to assess the proportion of KBAs in favourable condition, globally, regionally and nationally.

Funding from the Bezos Earth Fund at the end of 2021 will enable the KBA programme to significantly scale up in 2022. Specifically this grant will support the establishment of KBA national Coordination Groups and the identification of KBAs across many taxonomic groups and ecosystems in four countries in the Andes (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru) and three in the Congo Basin (Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Republic of Congo). Franklinia foundation is also supporting the identification of KBAs for trees in Gabon. Bezos Earth Funds will also enable the World Database of KBAs to be completely updated and made more accessible to users to query data as well as make it easier for users to develop and submit KBA proposals with an online review process that will make KBA proposal confirmation more rapid.

Technical support to other countries, which are also starting a process for the identification of KBAs, will be provided in several countries in 2022: Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu (with CEPF funding through BirdLife International); China (funding from SEE Foundation through IUCN); Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Ghana and Nigeria (CEPF funding through RSPB); United Arab Emirates (UAE government funds with IUCN technical support); Madagascar (GEF funding to government with WWF technical support); and scoping of KBAs across Europe (EU horizon funds to BirdLife International). Continued KBA identification will take place in Canada, South Africa, Mozambique and Australia and the KBA Secretariat will work with KBA Partners to start additional processes in other countries.

Bezos Earth Fund grant of $5 million will allow the KBA Programme to scale up support to countries to identify their KBAs in the Andes and Congo Basin

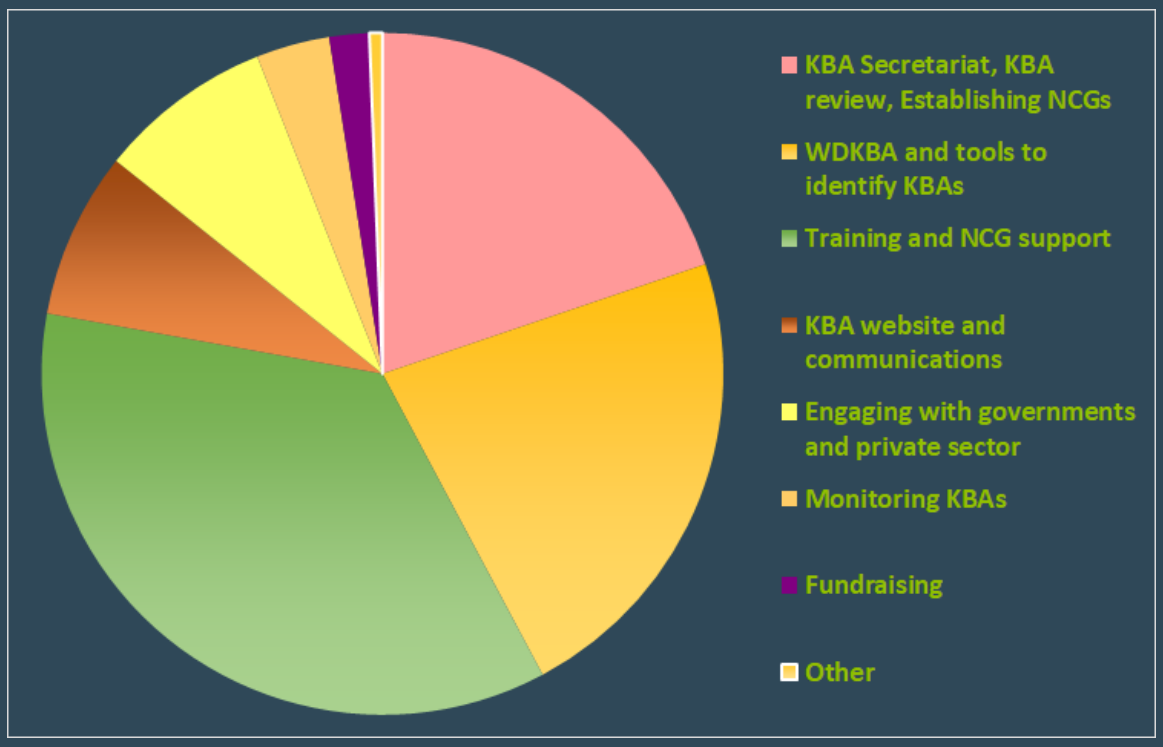
KBA programme financial summary 2021

In 2021 the KBA Partners who are signatories to the KBA Partnership (excluding GEF) supported the KBA Programme with more than **4.2 million dollars** in both direct financing and in-kind contributions. The pie chart below shows the split between some of the main objectives in the KBA Strategic Plan: support to the functioning of the KBA Secretariat including review and validation of KBAs; support to the database and tools such as revision of the KBA guidelines and development of training materials; Training and supporting National Coordination Groups; Communicating about KBAs to various stakeholders; engaging governments and private sector about the importance of KBAs; monitoring and acting to protect threatened KBAs; and finally fundraising for the KBA programme. KBA Partner support to the conservation management of KBAs where they work around the world is not included here, but would increase the total significantly.

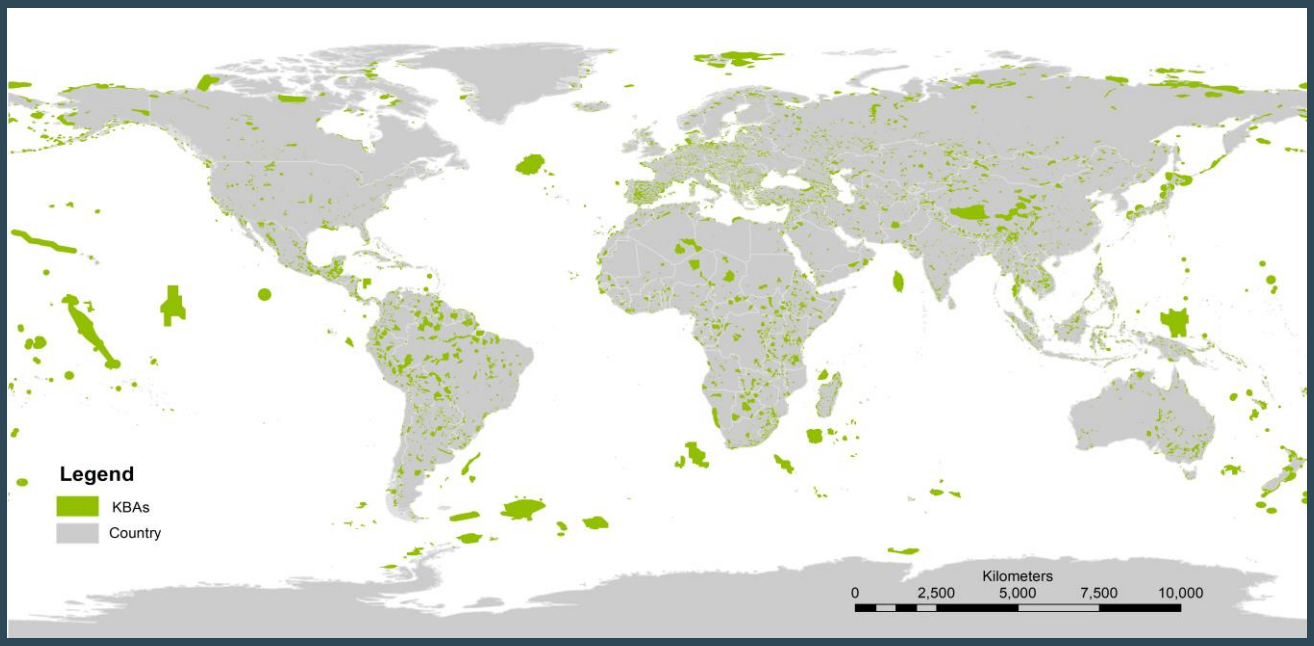
The KBA programme has developed a three-year budget that estimates the costs needed to fully revise the World Database of KBAs, website, establish the structures for KBA proposal and review and to support countries to make comprehensive assessments of KBAs. This averages $1 million per year for the core costs of the KBA Secretariat, review and validation of KBAs, supporting KBA NCGs, training in applying KBA criteria and supporting KBA proposal development, further development of the WDKBA, and supporting establishment of a KBA monitoring system.

We welcome additional partners who are interested in supporting the KBA Programme and contributing to identifying, mapping, monitoring and conserving these sites of global importance for biodiversity. Please contact the Head of the KBA Secretariat for more information if interested in becoming a partner (aplumptre@keybiodiversityareas.org).

KBA Partner contributions to the seven strategic objectives of the KBA Programme



Confirmed KBAs across the world



Science and Research

Research relevant to the KBA Programme is published by many of the KBA Partner scientists in both the peer-reviewed literature as well as reports. The list of publications here is some of those published in 2021 but is unlikely to be comprehensive.

Baisero, D., Schuster, R. & Plumptre, A. 2021. Redefining and Mapping Global Irreplaceability. *Conservation Biology*. 36:e13806

Beal, M., et al. 2021. track2KBA: An R package for identifying important sites for biodiversity from tracking data. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* 12, 2372–2378.

Brooks, T.M., & Zhang, X., 2021. Applied biodiversity science in China in the global context. *National Science Review* 8, nwab059.

Buchanan, G.M., Field, R.H., Bradbury, R.B., Luraschi, B. and Vickery, J.A., 2021. The impact of tree loss on carbon management in West Africa. *Carbon Management*, 12, pp.623-633

Harvey, M.S., Ralph, G.M., Polidoro, B.A., Maxwell, S.M., Carpenter, K.E., 2021. Identifying key biodiversity areas as marine conservation priorities in the greater Caribbean. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 30, 4039–4059.

IUCN, 2021. *Conflict and conservation, Nature in a Globalised World* Report No.1. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. -

IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, Wildlife Conservation Society, National Geographic, UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 2021. Conserving at Least 30% of the Planet by 2030: What Should Count. Available here.

Langhammer, P. F., Mittermeier, R. A., Plumptre, A. J., Waliczky, Z. and Sechrest, W., eds. *Key Biodiversity Areas*. Washington, D.C.: CEMEX.

Luther, D., et al. 2021. Conservation actions benefit some of the most threatened species: a 13-year assessment of the Alliance for Zero Extinction list of species. *Conservation Science & Practice.* 2021: e510.

Mair, L., et al. 2021. A metric for spatially explicit contributions to science-based species targets. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 5, 836–844.

Morley, J., Buchanan, G., Mitchard, E.T. and Keane, A., 2021. Potentially harmful World Bank projects are proximate to areas of biodiversity conservation importance. *Global Environmental Change*, 70,102364.

Nicholson, E., et al. 2021. Scientific foundations for an ecosystem goal, milestones and indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*.

Plumptre, A.J., et al.. 2021. Where Might We Find Ecologically Intact Communities? *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change* 4, 626635.

Starnes, T. and Darwall, W.R.T. (eds.) 2021. *Identification and validation of Western African freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Voskamp, A., Butchart, S. H. M., Baker, D., Wilsey, C. and Willis, S. G. (2021) Site-based conservation of terrestrial bird species in the Caribbean, Central and South America under climate change. *Frontiers in Ecology & Evolution*. 9, 625432 .

Woodley, S., Rao, M., MacKinnon, K., Sandwith, T., Dudley, N., 2021. Speaking a common language on what should count for protecting 30% by 2030? *PARKS* 9–14.

KBA Secretariat and KBA Community in 2021

Andrew Plumptre is Head of the KBA Secretariat, has worked in Africa for more than 30 years and helped Uganda make an assessment of its KBAs. He believes that KBAs will be key in guiding the next 10 years to identify where to conserve 30% of land, freshwater and seas.

Daniel Marnewick is chair of the KBA Community and also represents the KBA community in Africa. He works for IUCN on the Green list of sites and OECMs.

Adrián Azpiroz, is the Community representative for the Americas in 2021. Based in Uruguay at the Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas Clemente Estable he has worked on the biogeography and conservation of birds in the region.

Boriana Mihova is the community representative for Europe and Central Asia. She is based in Bulgaria and works as an independent consultant.

Professor Yongyut Trisurat, professor at Kasetsart University in Bangkok is the KBA Community Representative for Asia. He has been involved in many projects to improve spatial knowledge and planning for biodiversity in Thailand

Daniele Baisero, Data Analyst for the KBA Secretariat, has extensive experience with spatial biodiversity analyses at a global scale. He is currently developing innovative tools to assist in identifying KBAs for all biodiversity across the world. He believes in visionary approaches.

Tim Davenport, Regional Focal Point for East and Central Africa has been working in Africa for more than 27 years. He works on KBAs because he is convinced that the KBA model perfectly combines science and national interests, to enable conservation policy

Simmy Bezeng, Regional focal point for Western and southern Africa is from Cameroon but works for BirdLife South Africa. He has been engaging governments across Africa in undertaking national red list assessments and KBA identification.

David Diaz, Regional Focal Point for Latin America, enjoys the science and challenges of the criteria application, and how a participative bottom-up approach brings together people from so many different backgrounds, to establish KBAs, in the real world.

Marcelo Tognelli, is a co-regional focal point for Latin America. He is the International Conservation Project Officer for American Bird Conservancy, Latin America and works to conserve wild birds and their habitats in the region, supporting ABC's KBA work.

Catherine Numa, started as Regional Focal Point for the Mediterranean, North Africa, and Middle East in 2020, is keen to learn from committed conservationists from the region and to contribute to converting data into actions to guide conservation.

Mike Crosby, Regional Focal Point for South East Asia has been working with the BirdLife International Partnership on the identification, documentation and conservation of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (or IBAs) since the late 1990s.

Mark O'Brien, Regional Focal Point for Australasia and Pacific islands, enjoys working with experts across a range of taxa and believe that KBAs provide great opportunities for focussing conservation efforts and controlling developments here in the Pacific

Technical Working Group

Penny Langhammer, Co-Chair of the Technical Working Group and Executive Vice President of Science and Strategy at GWC, has been one of the key drivers in establishing the KBA criteria and Global Standard.

Olivia Crowe, Co-Chair of the Technical Working Group and Global Science Coordinator (IBAs & KBAs) for BirdLife International, leads the technical working group with Penny to provide guidance on the technical methods for applying the KBA criteria.

KBA Consultative Forum

Giulia Carbone, Co-chair of the KBA Consultative Forum, leads IUCN's Business and biodiversity programme and was influential in putting together the business guidelines for KBAs

Standards and Appeals Committee

Charlotte Boyd is chair of the Standards and Appeals Committee which is independent of the KBA Secretariat. This committee publishes the guidelines and resolves issues over interpretation of the KBA Standard.

KBA Committee Members in 2021:

Chair KBA Committee: Naomi Kingston and Alberto Yanosky
Chairs Technical Working Group: Penny Langhammer & Olivia Crowe
Chair Standards and Appeals Committee: Charlotte Boyd
American Bird Conservancy: Mike Parr & Amy Upgren
Amphibian Survival Alliance: Helen Merideth & Penny Langhammer
BirdLife International: Melanie Heath, Stu Butchart, Olivia Crowe & Zoltan Waliczky
BirdLife South Africa: Daniel Marnewick
Conservation International: Neil Cox and Daniel Juhn
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund: Olivier Langrand & Jack Tordoff
Global Environment Facility: Mark Zimsky
IUCN: Jane Smart, Giulia Carbone, Tom Brooks & Thom Starnes
NatureServe: Healy Hamilton
Rainforest Trust: James Lewis and James Deutsch
Re:Wild: Wes Sechrest, Penny Langhammer & Matt Foster
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: Dieter Hoffmann
Wildlife Conservation Society: Sue Lieberman & Hedley Grantham
World Wide Fund for Nature: Wendy Elliot & Marco Lambertini