

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## Issue 18

**KBA**  
KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS



*Sameer Kote*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

KBA PARTNERS:



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# GLOBAL



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## Marine Megafauna Conservation Toolkit: how to identify important sites for marine megafauna and pathways to site conservation



We are pleased to showcase the [Marine Megafauna Conservation Toolkit](https://vimeo.com/913356134), an open-access online toolkit which facilitates the identification of important sites for marine megafauna, including step-by-step guidance for the application of tracking data for site identification, in addition to outlining pathways to advocate for marine megafauna conservation.

 <https://vimeo.com/913356134>

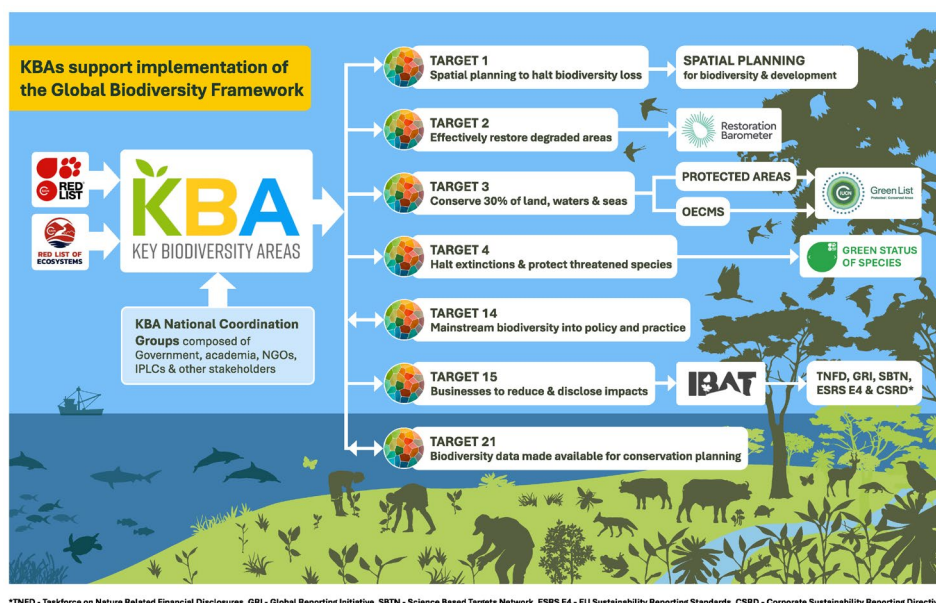
The toolkit was built because identifying important sites for marine megafauna and knowing how to leverage important site information to achieve a conservation outcome is complex, but identifying important sites is a key step for prioritising efforts and delivering conservation action.

### What the toolkit offers

We want to see marine megafauna populations in good conservation status. A primary goal of the toolkit is to facilitate the application of methods to identify important sites (including from tracking data) that meet [Key Biodiversity Area](#) (KBA) criteria. KBAs are sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity, identified against a standardised set of criteria, enabling comparison of sites around the world. Underpinned by 13 of the world's leading conservation organizations, KBAs are increasingly recognised as a key data layer in decision-making.

**By contributing to the KBA site network, the information you provide can be used by decision-makers in the future to help scale initiatives enabling marine megafauna conservation.**

*While examples in the toolkit are biased to seabirds, the methods used in the toolkit have applicability to other marine megafauna, and even terrestrial taxa which are studied with animal tracking devices.*



\*TNFD - Taskforce on Nature Related Financial Disclosures, GRI - Global Reporting Initiative, SBTN - Science Based Targets Network, ESRS E4 - EU Sustainability Reporting Standards, CSRD - Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive

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## The toolkit components

Through three main components, the toolkit helps users:

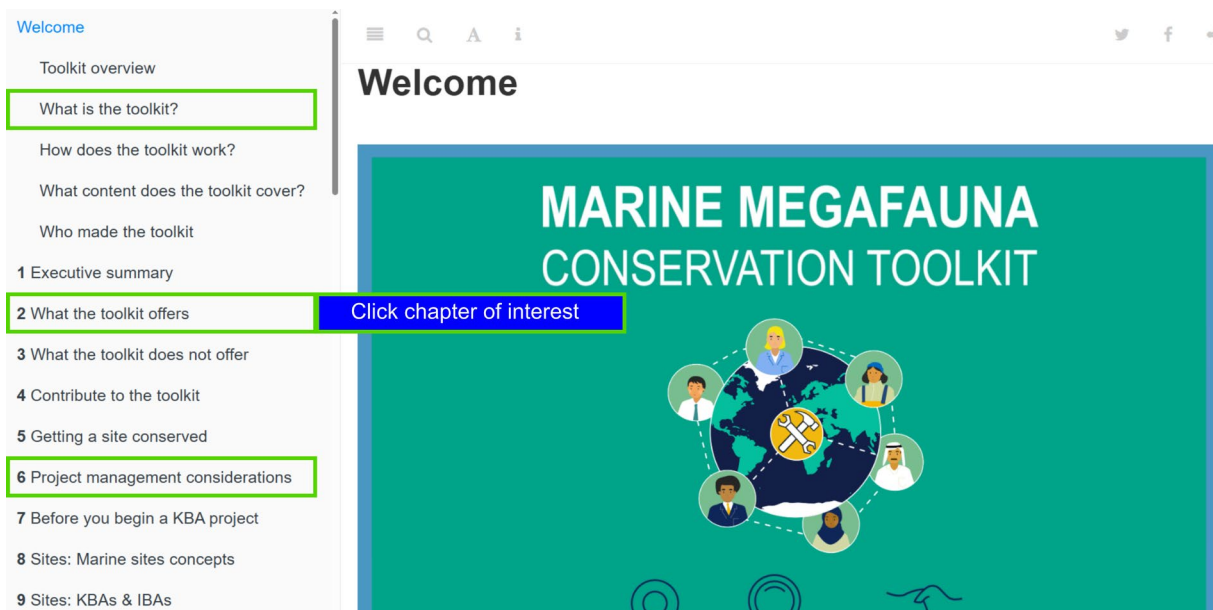
1. identify critical sites for species, including supporting users to turn complex animal tracking data into outputs useful for decision-makers (**“where to act”**)
2. identify effective conservation interventions through case studies curated by the global Conservation Evidence Team (**“what works”**)
3. understand which mechanisms can support decision-makers to act, by guiding users through the policy and advocacy opportunities for site-based conservation (**“why to listen”**)

Whether focused on an individual site or networks of sites from national, regional, to global levels, the toolkit serves to bridge a knowledge gap and help scale solutions for the conservation of marine megafauna.

## Who is the toolkit for?

Conservation practitioners, project managers, technical experts, policy & advocacy leads, the toolkit was built for you! Although most chapters are biased to technical experts, the toolkit was built for everyone wanting to support marine megafauna conservation, and can support understanding of key terms, project design, application of complex methods, and pathways for site-based advocacy.

*Interactive online chapters enable users to click and choose sections relevant to them.*



## Conservation outcomes from the toolkit

The Toolkit is the result of years of analytical developments, collaborative science, and conservation action. Guidance outlined in the toolkit has contributed to conservation outcomes around the world, for example:

1. [Identifying important sites to delineate the first high seas MPA from tracking data.](#)
2. [Using important site information to evaluate the effectiveness of an MPA.](#)
3. [Assessing opportunities to improve conservation measures for critically endangered species.](#)

More broadly, contributions to the KBA site network enable, for example:

4. [Governments to report against targets outlined in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) and UN Sustainable Development Goals.
5. [Major donors will fund new Protected Areas and other effective area-based conservation measures \(OECMs\) meeting KBA criteria \(supporting governments achieve global targets\)](#)

## Collaboration

The toolkit builds on the work of many, and we want to continue the collaborative journey with all those working to conserve marine megafauna. Please, explore the toolkit, tell us what works, suggest improvements, contribute. We can only achieve global targets such as protecting 30% of the sea and its biodiversity by 2030 if we do it together.

## Acknowledgements

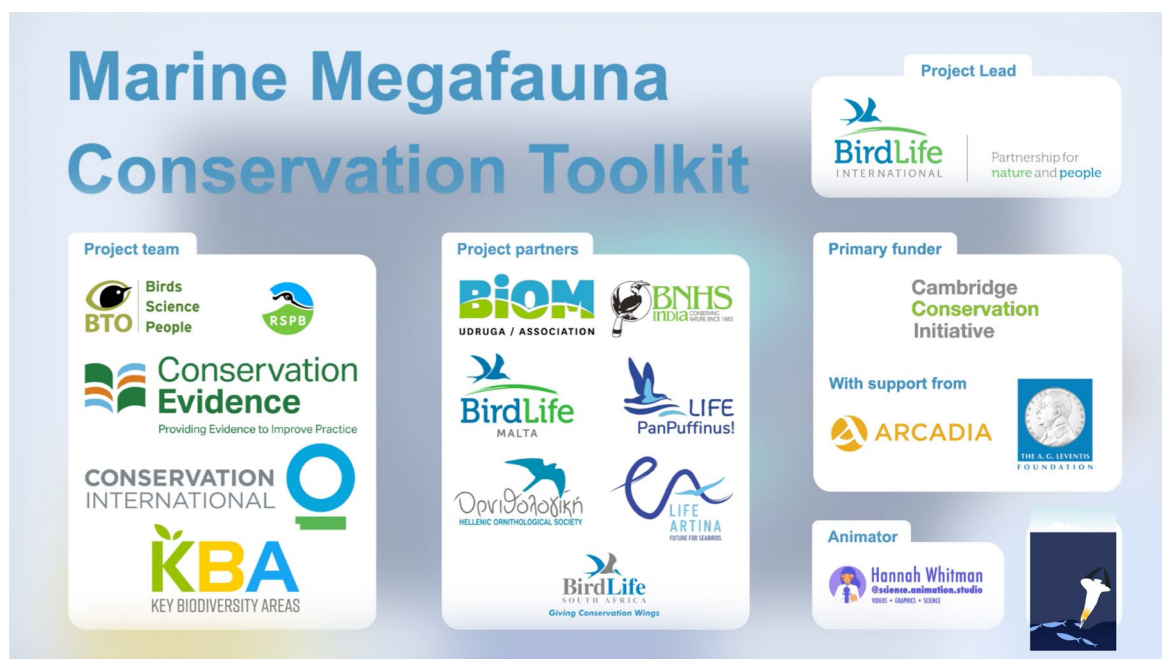
The online toolkit was produced by the [BirdLife International Marine Programme](#), with support from: [British Trust for Ornithology](#), [Royal Society for the Protection of Birds](#), [Cambridge University Conservation Evidence](#), [Key Biodiversity Area Secretariat](#), [Conservation International](#). The toolkit builds upon key publications: [Marine IBA Toolkit \(BirdLife International \(2010\)\)](#), [Lascelles et al. \(2016\)](#), and [Beal et al. \(2021\)](#). Key organisations who supported the development of the online toolkit include: [Association BIOM \(Croatia\)](#), [BirdLife Malta \(Malta\)](#), [Hellenic Ornithological Society \(Greece\)](#), [BirdLife South Africa \(South Africa\)](#), [Bombay Natural History Society \(India\)](#). Previous supporting organisations include: [Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds \(SPEA\)](#), [SEO/BirdLife \(Spain\)](#), [Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux \(LPO, France\)](#).

The development of the online toolkit was made possible by [Cambridge Conservation Initiative Collaborative Fund](#), with key support from: Arcadia- a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, A.G. Leventis Foundation. Additional support to project partners was provided by projects: Life Artina, Life Pan Puffinus.

Animations by [Hannah Whitman \(Science Animation Studio\)](#) and infographic by [Sarah Markes](#)

## Learn more. Join us. Connect

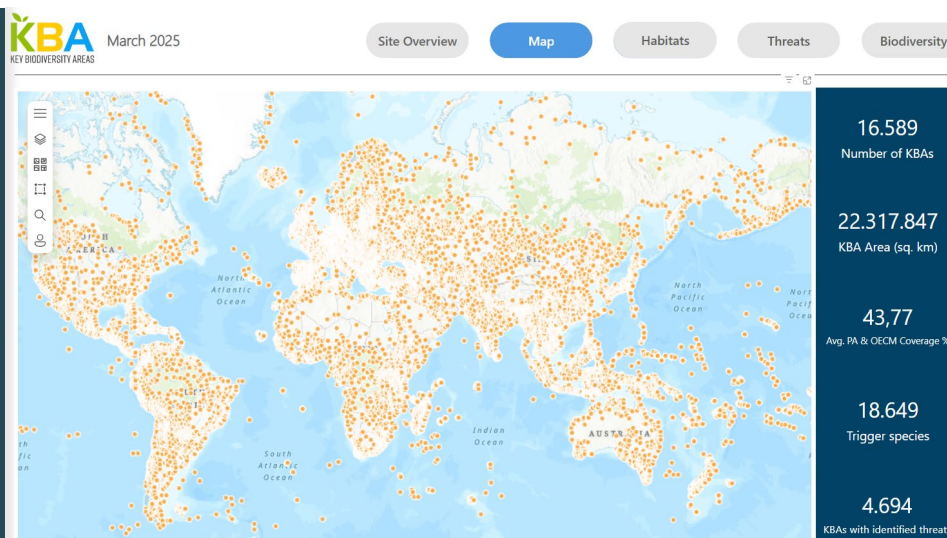
Learn more [here](#). Join us. Contact [jonathan.handley@birdlife.org](mailto:jonathan.handley@birdlife.org) or the [BirdLife International Marine Programme](#) to get involved.





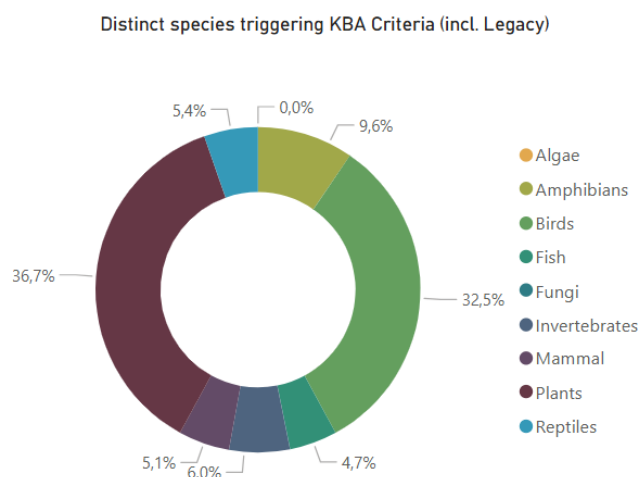
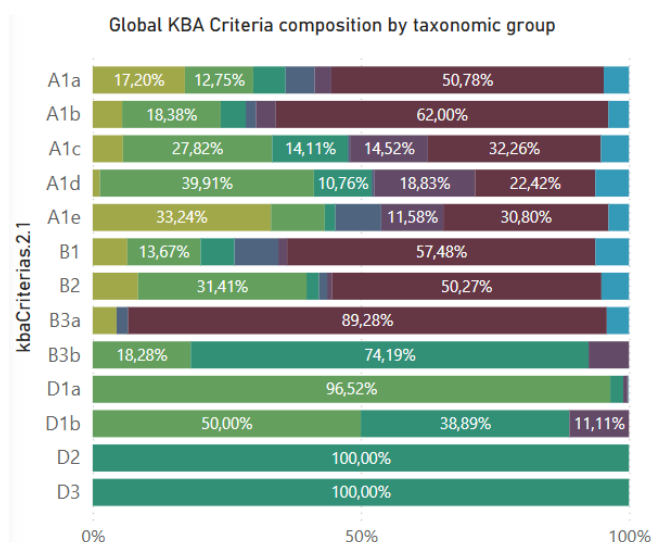
## Key Updates and New Discoveries in the March 2025 KBA Releases

The latest update of the KBA dashboard, available on the KBA website, has just been released. The update includes many reassessments and boundary improvements to existing sites, together with some new KBAs. As of March 2025, the number of sites documented increased significantly: **we went from 16,510 to 16,589 KBAs.**



A total of 63 sites were updated, including 13 new sites that were added, and 13 previously existing KBAs that were reassessed. Seven sites were superseded having been replaced by some of the assessed or reassessed sites, and 12 legacy sites were delisted as KBAs. The boundaries of a further 22 sites were improved either to align them with protected areas, habitats, or other topography as appropriate and in consultation with the original proposers.

In terms of biodiversity, from the 18,649 trigger species, plants are the most numerous group with 6,838 species that trigger KBA status – representing 36.7% of the total of trigger species. They are followed by birds, with 6,060 species triggering KBA status, and amphibians with 1,784 trigger species.



### New data available

With the aim of ensuring conservation focuses on the most critical sites, statistics on sensitive sites are now available on the KBA dashboard. However, locations of these sites remain hidden to protect trigger species found at these sites, that face potential threats like poaching and other human related activities. For more information, contact Olivia Crowe at [olivia.crowe@birdlife.org](mailto:olivia.crowe@birdlife.org).

# OCEANIA



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## KBAs are pivotal to protect Fiji's unparalleled natural heritage



KBA Training © NatureFiji-MareqetiViti

In March of 2025, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti, Fiji's only national conservation organisation working to ensure the sustainable management of Fiji's unique natural heritage, along with BirdLife International conducted a two-day Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) training, bringing together representatives from Fiji's KBA National Coordination Group (NCG) and KBA Global Partners.

KBAs are sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity and the KBA identification process requires a highly inclusive, consultative, and bottom-up, approach focused at the national level when proposing sites. Consequently, the training focused on enhancing the knowledge and skills of participants in assessing, proposing, and validating KBAs consistent with the KBA global standards and applying KBA criteria in their assessments.

Participants attended from different organizations such as the Ministries of Agriculture and Waterways, Forestry, Environment and Climate Change, and iTaukei Affairs, Culture, Heritage and Arts as well as Conservation International, International Union for Conservation of Nature, World Wildlife Fund, BirdLife International, Wildlife Conservation Society, The University of the South Pacific, and Fiji National University.

The training was made possible through the European Union funded Pacific BioScapes Program which is managed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. The Pacific BioScapes Programme aims to identify and strengthen the management of KBAs in the Pacific region, including terrestrial, freshwater, subterranean and marine ecosystems. This training was a big step toward protecting Fiji's biodiversity and the habitats in which they thrive.



# SOUTH AMERICA





## Argentina confirms seven Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in Misiones

**Author:** Damián Lozano, Aves Argentinas



*Pipile jacutinga* © Damián Lozano



*Amazona vinacea* © Damián Lozano

Argentina takes a significant step in conserving its biodiversity by confirming seven Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in the province of Misiones. These areas, which are home to endangered and restricted-range species, are critical to preserving the biodiversity of the Atlantic Forest, one of the richest natural ecosystems on the planet. These KBAs have been re-evaluated to include new species, such as triggers for taxonomic groups such as amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and fish, which had not been previously considered at these sites. This expanded focus makes these sites increasingly representative of the biodiversity of Misiones and Argentina as a whole. The designation of these KBAs underscores the urgency of implementing effective management and monitoring measures, ensuring the long-term viability of these ecosystems and their globally unique biodiversity.

Misiones, one of the most biodiverse regions in Argentina, has been the focus of attention following the confirmation of its first seven Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). These areas have been selected based on scientific criteria established in the KBA Global Standard, as these sites support globally significant populations of species that are under an IUCN threat category (Criterion A1) or are individual species with restricted distribution (Criterion B1). The identification of these KBAs results from years of scientific research, with the participation of conservation biology experts, ecologists, and environmental organizations.

**Campo Viera and Campo Grande (ID 200997):** The Campo Viera area is covered by primary forests known as “Mixed Laurel-Guatambu Forest,” and is crisscrossed by springs and streams that drain into the Uruguay River basin. The Vinaceous-breasted Amazon (*Amazona vinacea*) categorized as Endangered (EN) according to the IUCN Red List, which triggers KBA criterion A1a, inhabits the area. Research has reported between 4 and 20 individuals in the area at different times. In the most recent censuses from 2022, its presence was confirmed again at the site. Habitat loss and illegal capture are significant threats to this species, highlighting the urgency of implementing effective conservation strategies in the region.





Corpus © Aves Argentinas

**Corpus (ID 201161):** This site is characterized by its rolling landscapes, with remnants of mixed laurel and Guatambú forests composed of discontinuous fragments. Notable for the presence of the fish *Gymnogeophagus jaryi*, this species is categorized as endangered (EN) and triggers criterion A1a. It has been recorded in the Ñacanguazú stream, with recent ichthyological studies confirming its presence and distribution in the area.

**Garupá and Campo San Juan Basin (ID 200978):** The site is located in the ecotone of the Campos y Malezales and Selva Paranaense ecoregions, and is therefore

physiographically described as a vegetation mosaic. The Garupá Stream basin is composed of lowland areas located between hills. It is used for livestock farming, in some areas heavily grazed, and in one area contains pine plantations for timber and resin production. This KBA is home to the snake *Apostolepis quirogai*, which meets criteria A1a and B1 for KBA designation. Additionally, this site is home to the rodent *Akodon philipmyersi*, which, although data deficient, is unique to the region and may meet the criteria in the future once its conservation status is updated. There are two Guaraní Indigenous communities within this site. One of these is Urunday Ti, founded in 2006. Located 2 km east of Profundidad town, this community has 67 inhabitants (2019). The NGO Nuevo Horizonte is working with this community to strengthen their craft skills and market them.

**Montecarlo (ID 201220):** This KBA is located on the western slope of the Sierra de Misiones. The dominant biomes are the “Laurel and Guatambú Forests” and the “Serranía Forests,” including the “Serranía Araucaria Forest” (*Araucaria angustifolia*) in the extreme northeast. There are large watercourses such as Las Antas, Tarumá, and Paranai Guazú streams that offer a diversity of aquatic habitats. This site is relevant for the presence of the feline *Leopardus guttulus*, which triggers KBA criterion A1b. Individuals have been recorded in various private reserves and experimental stations in the area, confirming the importance of the area for the conservation of this endangered species. Habitat fragmentation and poaching pose serious threats to the viability of this feline population, necessitating the implementation of biological corridors and conservation strategies.

**Oberá (ID 201407):** This site locates in the fields and scrublands of southern Misiones, with forests along the edges of streams and rivers. It contains the entire sub-basins of the Guerrero, Margarita, Alipio, and 11 Vueltas streams, as well as a large part of the Portera. All of them flow into the Uruguay River and contain habitats for restricted-range fish species. It also encompasses part of the sub-basin of the Grande stream, a tributary of the Encantado stream, which flows into the Paraná River. It is notable for the presence of the *Australoheros ykeregua*, a species considered vulnerable (VU) by the IUCN Red List and with restricted distribution, with approximately 100 individuals mature specimens recorded in 2019. This species meets KBA criterion A1b. Its habitat in the area is critical for the species’ survival, making its monitoring and protection essential. The alteration of water bodies due to human activities, such as pollution and channel diversion, represents a significant threat to this fish population.

**Yabotí Biosphere Reserve (ID 19609):** The Yabotí Biosphere Reserve encompasses one of the two large blocks of Paraná Rainforest remaining in Misiones (the other block comprises the Iguazú-Uruguáí complex). It is bordered, to the east, by the Pepirí Guazú River (border with Brazil); to the south, by the Uruguay River; to the west, mainly by sections of the Soberbio and Paraíso streams and the agricultural

colonies of El Soberbio; and to the north, by the southern limit of the San Pedro colonization zone. It is home to four bird species, key for conservation: *Piprites pileata* (B1), *Celeus galeatus* (A1b, B1), *Pipile jacutinga* (A1a, A1c), and *Biatas nigropectus* (A1b), reaffirming its role as an essential refuge for biodiversity. Ornithological research has indicated that forest fragmentation is a critical threat to these species, making it vital to promote ecological restoration initiatives and prevent deforestation.



**Tabay and Ñacanguazú Basin (ID 200998):** This KBA is strategically located, serving as a corridor between the core of protected areas of the KBA Salto Encantado Provincial Park in the Cuña Pirú Valley and the surrounding area with the coastal forests of the Paraná River. In addition to containing the headwaters of streams with geographically restricted fish species, this KBA maintains approximately 50% forest cover, which is relatively abundant at this latitude in the province. This site qualifies as a Key Biodiversity Area because it supports a significant population of the vulnerable (VU) fish *Psalidodon troya* (A1b), whose habitat in the region has been identified in multiple studies since 1987. Maintaining water quality is key to preventing the decline of this species.

Confirming these areas represents a crucial step for biodiversity conservation in Argentina and reinforces the importance of implementing protective measures for these species and their habitats. With the recognition of these KBAs, it is hoped that conservation initiatives will be strengthened, environmental education will be promoted, and concrete actions will be generated to guarantee the preservation of these unique ecosystems in Misiones. Furthermore, the participation of local communities and government agencies will be essential to ensure the success of conservation plans and the long-term sustainability of these territories.



\*Sites can be searched using their identification number (ID) on the KBA website: <https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/kba-data>.



## Black-breasted Puffleg: building capacity and promoting community participation is key to the conservation of endangered species

**Author:** Aves y Conservación

The Black-breasted Puffleg (*Eriocnemis nigrivestis*) is endemic to the Tropical Andes of Ecuador and is critically endangered. With a global population estimated at less than 1,000 individuals, this species has suffered the loss and degradation of its original habitat and currently the remaining montane forests are under heavy pressure in the three Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) where it lives: Mindo and the western foothills of Pichincha Volcano, Intag-Toisán and Cotacachi Cayapas National Park. Given this reality, the project “Involving communities in the conservation of the Black-breasted Puffleg in Ecuador”, led by Aves y Conservación/BirdLife in Ecuador and funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), seeks to protect this species through the generation of knowledge, recovery of degraded habitats, community strengthening, outreach and environmental education.



© David Weaver

Increasing knowledge about this rare species allows us to make informed decisions when implementing actions for its conservation. Through this project we have been able to intervene in the Kinti Toisán reserve, recently established by the organization. Two local assistants were trained to carry out monthly censuses of flowers used by hummingbirds to know the flowering peaks. In addition, we set up 16 monitoring cameras to understand the interactions between plants and hummingbirds. So far, we recorded 10 species of hummingbirds. This information allows us to identify priority plant species for the hummingbird community and thus consider their propagation in restoration processes.



© Shirley Farinango/ Aves y Conservación

In the KBA of Mindo and western foothills of the Pichincha volcano, a group of women: Raíces Nativas, played a crucial role in the propagation of native plants for the recovery of the Black-breasted puffleg's habitat. So far over 8000 native plants of more than 30 different species have been planted in the parish of Nono (Pichincha province) and in Kinti Toisán (Imbabura province). In addition, censuses of the species were carried out for the first time in 18 localities of Pichincha and Imbabura with the support of Fundación Jocotoco. A total of 16 individuals between males and females were counted. The information collected has made it possible to guide restoration activities.

In parallel, the project has also strengthened the work of park rangers in Cotacachi Cayapas National Park, training them in bird monitoring techniques, native plant propagation, application of the environmental education manual “Celebrate the Birds of Ecuador” and in the use of technological tools such as ArcGIS. This training complements their knowledge and strengthens the implementation of their monitoring and environmental education activities as part of the Management Plan of this important protected area.

Our environmental education component is based on sharing information, and raising awareness, fostering respect for nature and the importance of protected areas. In March, more than 40 children participated in the “Friends of the Birds” vacation program in Cuellaje. In addition, we trained 10 of the 14 ecological clubs of the Intag Toisán Municipal

Conservation and Sustainable Use Area in the use of the environmental education manual. At the Abelardo Morán Muñoz Educational Unit in the community of Piñán (within the Cotacachi Cayapas National Park), we worked with 63 students on activities aimed at learning more about birds, their role in the ecosystem and reducing threats, especially fire prevention.

In August, we received the visit of delegates from the German Embassy, KfW, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador, and RIT Ecuador, represented by Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA), at the ‘Raíces Nativas’ nursery in the community of Alambi. The Raices Nativas women presented an illustrated guide of 25 native plants developed in a participatory manner. This visit reaffirms the commitment of the donors, not only to provide essential resources, but also to ensure that the activities are carried out with the utmost environmental and social responsibility.

The project “Involving communities in the conservation of the Black-breasted Puffleg in Ecuador” is an example of how collaboration between communities, non-governmental organizations and international donors can have a significant impact on the conservation of endangered species and the recovery of ecosystems and their functions. With the support of programs such as CEPF and the active participation of local communities, progress has been made in protecting the habitat of the Black-breasted Puffleg and in creating a culture of conservation that promises to endure over time, ensuring a more secure future for this species and for the biodiversity of the Ecuadorian Andes.



© Shirley Farinango/ Aves y Conservación



## Guardians of Important Areas for the Conservation of Birds and Biodiversity in Casanare, Colombia

**Author:** Yanira Cifuentes-Sarmiento<sup>1</sup> & Carlos Ruiz-Guerra<sup>2</sup>

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Pied Plover (*Hoploxypterus cayanus*), species monitored by the LCG of the Casanare IBA/KBAs.

In 2012, the Calidris Association, BirdLife in Colombia, initiated the implementation of the Important Bird and Biodiversity Conservation Areas (IBAs) program in the department of Casanare, in the Llanos region, also known as the Orinoquia. With the designation of the first five IBAs in Casanare in 2015, we began building a new narrative about the Colombian Llanos, since for the rest of the country, cattle and oil were the only outstanding elements of this region.

It was necessary to travel the flooded savannah of Casanare for more than three years and witness the great biological and cultural diversity of this portion of the Llanos. During these surveys, several cattle ranches opened their doors for the first time to a handful of biologists interested in evaluating the avifauna present in their properties. Based on trust and mutual respect, we have built a strong relationship with more than 20 cattle ranching families in Casanare, to the point that in 2024 we already have identified nine IBAs in that department covering about 92,000 hectares (<https://calidris.org.co/maps/>)

The IBA program in Casanare corresponds to the conservation not only of the biodiversity of the flooded savannah but also to treasure a legacy of more than one hundred years in which traditional cattle ranching has become an opportunity for the future of several species of birds, mammals, reptiles; as well as of llanero culture.

In 2022, these sites were assessed against Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) criteria and were designated as KBAs, a recognition highlighting their global importance for biodiversity. The KBA designation serves as a critical tool in conservation efforts, identifying areas that are essential for the survival of species, ecosystems, and ecological processes. By designating these sites, the KBA framework helps prioritize conservation actions, ensuring that these areas receive the attention and protection they need to preserve biodiversity. This recognition also facilitates international collaboration, provides a standardized approach for identifying priority conservation sites, and reinforces the global commitment to protecting nature's most vital areas.

That is why from the IBA/KBA Program in Casanare we have emphasized the recognition of the flooded savannah as a strategic ecosystem, and implement actions that benefit both biodiversity and livestock families who live there. One such action consists of restoring one of the most emblematic elements of the Llanos landscape, the moriche palm (*Mauritia flexuosa*) also known as the palm of life; it is a feeding ground for several species of parrots, macaws, woodpeckers, among others. Once the palm dies, it becomes a nesting site for several parrot species and for a Vulnerable species in Colombia: the Orinoco Goose (*Oressochen jubatus*).

As for the fauna, the llanero also depends on the moriche palms because the group of moriche palms, known as “morichales”, are water reservoirs in the dry season in the Llanos. The restoration of the moriche palm started in 2015 in the IBA/KBA Reservas de la vereda Altagracia, with the support of several of the families that live there. Water is precisely one of the resources that abounds in the rainy season in the flooded savannah, which limits access to several corners of the savannah and, therefore, isolates them from the rest of the country for weeks and even months. But in the dry season, water becomes scarce and although the isolation of the plains lands ceases, the precious liquid limits some productive activities. For this reason, the IBA/KBA Program contributed to the implementation of photo pumping and water harvesting systems to facilitate adequate access to water for livestock and people during the dry season, so that pressure on natural water sources such as lagoons could also be reduced. The isolation of the farms caused by the rain that affects the limited availability of roads is a factor that also affects the food security of several families in the IBA/KBA Casanare, so the program facilitated the construction of poultry sheds with all the necessary elements so that they could be sheltered from predators present in the savannah and thus not generate conflicts with the fauna. In addition, in order to reduce the pressure on the riparian forests of the flooded savannah to extract wood for the construction and maintenance of fences for livestock, the IBA/KBA program provided resources to use plastic wood. This also contributed to the welfare of the livestock through the proper design of corrals with the farmers. These advances have also contributed to the consolidation of nature tourism promoted by different institutions in Casanare, which represents an economic alternative for IBA/KBA ranchers.



Genry Parada, Victor Salazar and Eduar Parada from IBA/KBA Reservas de la vereda Altagracia, learning to use binoculars in a training session with Carlos Ruiz from Asociación Calidris.

The IBAs of Casanare have the Orinoco Goose (*Oressochen jubatus*) as a trigger species since they are the most important sites for its reproduction in all of Colombia. Periodic censuses of this species indicate that between 30% of the hemispheric population of this species lives and depends on the savannas conserved by the Casanare IBA/KBAs.





In 2024, we have provided spaces for the exchange of experiences of both people living in the IBA/KBAs of Casanare and representatives of institutions interested in the conservation of biodiversity in the Llanos. The construction of another narrative for the Llanos through the podcast “New narratives of the flooded savannah, between the earth and the sky, a deep look at a plain land” (<https://www.spreaker.com/podcast/entre-la-tierra-y-el-cielo--5741615>), has made it possible to reach different audiences both in the country and abroad. Additionally, the Local Conservation Groups-LCGs of several IBA/KBAs in Casanare are recognized in this department as leaders and examples for many “llaneros” and institutions interested in involving them in various initiatives and projects related to felines, carbon credits and restoration, among others.

On the other hand, in 2024 we continued the program “Women as Agents of Change”, a space for strengthening women who conserve biodiversity and promote their territory. This year, with the Orinoquia group, we worked on topics such as collective construction, the importance of women’s empowerment and the recognition of the inner girl. Likewise, with them we continued the discussion on topics such as leadership, the creation and implementation of micro-enterprises and native bees honey production, as spaces to teach and learn from other women.



Harvesting and monitoring of stingless bee hives (*Melipona favosa*) allows for the exchange of knowledge, promotes leadership and empowerment of women in the Women as Agents of Change group.

Similarly, this year, we conducted several theoretical and practical workshops to strengthen the Local Conservation Groups-LCGs on issues of monitoring and monitoring of species of trigger birds for the IBA/KBA Casanare, with the delivery of binoculars and field guides, we hope that the guardians of the birds of the IBA/KBAs implement the protocols for evaluation and monitoring. With the families of these LCGs, the monitoring of the resident waders of the IBA/KBAs has been carried out since 2024, as several of these species have been scarcely studied. Such is the case of Pantanal Snipe (*Gallinago paraguaiiae*), Pied Plover (*Hoploxypterus cayanus*) and double-striped thick-knee (*Hesperoburhinus bistratus*). They also monitor the populations of Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Calidris subruficollis*), a migratory shorebird that is globally vulnerable to extinction and depends on the savannas of Casanare.

Thanks to the support of Bobolink Foundation, USFS and UFWS, in the Colombian Llanos, the birds have a group of ranching families committed to the future of their habitats, the flooded savannas of the IBA/KBA Casanare.



# NORTH AMERICA





## Biodiversity in Focus: Canada's KBA Program Expands with New Sites and Strategies

**Author:** Ciara Raudsepp-Hearne, Director Key Biodiversity Areas Wildlife Conservation Society Canada



During the first trimester of 2025, the Key Biodiversity Areas initiative in Canada has been working non-stop on identifying, delineating and reviewing KBAs, as well as promoting them as a powerful and effective tool for conservation. Here are some of the latest updates about KBAs in Canada.

KBA Canada Coalition 2025 © KBA Canada

### The Canadian KBA Coalition strengthens

The Canadian NCG hosted representatives from 24 different organizations, governments, and communities in Ottawa this past February to discuss the future of Canada's Key Biodiversity Areas. This broad group, loosely termed the Canadian KBA Coalition, reaffirmed their commitment to the program, discussed how to bring greater awareness to these important areas and the species that call them home, and explored ways to strengthen KBAs as a tool for stewardship and supporting conservation work by Indigenous communities and rights holders. A draft national KBA strategy is in development as one of the outputs of this meeting and will be released soon.

### Number of sites goes up

A set of 252 mostly new KBAs have been published on the Canadian website, representing both global and national KBAs. Another 568 draft KBAs are undergoing intensive multi-stage review within Canada, first with scientific experts and knowledge holders, and then with stakeholders and rights holders. Visit [kbacanada.org](https://kbacanada.org) to explore and discover more about these sites.

### New Op-ed: KBAs to maximize Canada's biodiversity protection

Ciara Raudsepp-Hearne, KBA Director at WCS Canada, published a piece in Canadian Geographic discussing strategies for expanding Canada's protected areas network to effectively preserve biodiversity. Ciara highlights the importance of considering approaches like KBAs, ecological connectivity, ecosystem services and human relationships with nature, and climate resiliency. Read the full article: <https://canadiangeographic.ca/articles/safeguarding-the-future-of-canadas-environment/>



# AFRICA

**KBA**  
KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS



## From Knowledge to Action: Empowering Senegalese Conservationists to Identify Globally Important Places for Biodiversity

**Authors:** Simmy Bezeng<sup>a</sup>, Paul Insua-Cao<sup>a</sup>, Therese Ndiaye<sup>b</sup>, Ramatoulaye Diallo<sup>b</sup>, Paul Marie Ndiaye<sup>b</sup>, Marc Tsekpuia<sup>c</sup>, Wenceslas Gatarabirwa<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

<sup>b</sup>Nature-Communautés-Développement (NCD)

<sup>c</sup>BirdLife International West Africa Sub Regional Office (WASRO)

Images by Nick Williams



The strategic location of Senegal - north of the Equator and spanning diverse climatic zones from Sahelian to Guinean, makes it a truly remarkable place for biodiversity globally. From the Saloum Delta's sprawling mangroves to the Ferlo's arid savannas, six distinct eco-geographical zones and four primary ecosystem types support an extraordinary array of flora and fauna. This rich natural heritage, however, faces escalating threats from human activities and climate change, including prolonged droughts and habitat degradation. For example, the recent development and pollution pressures on the Grande Niaye de Pikine et Dépendances Urban Nature Reserve (Technopole) and the multifunctional port of Ndayane exemplify these challenges, jeopardising numerous land, migratory, and seabirds, along with other vital biodiversity.

In a crucial step to bolster national conservation efforts, the Senegalese BirdLife partner Nature-Communautés-Développement (NCD) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) with generous financial support from the UK Government's Darwin Initiative, convened Senegal's first-ever Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) training workshop in Dakar, Senegal from February 18th to 21st, 2025. This workshop, a key component of the project "Strengthening a Leading NGO for Conservation and Development in Senegal," addressed the urgent need to equip Senegalese conservationists and post graduate students with the tools to identify and safeguard these critical sites and the biodiversity elements therein using the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) approach.

The training of conservationists on the KBA standard and the establishment of supporting structures like the KBA National Coordination Group (NCG) aims to contribute to the current KBA Partnership programme of work in addition to developing a national action plan to domesticate the KBA concept in Senegal and more regionally. As a result, during the four-day training led by Simmy Bezeng (RSPB) and co-facilitated by Marc Tsekpuia (BirdLife WASRO), participants were exposed to the different KBA concepts, covering the core principles of



the KBA standard, identification process, the application of criteria and thresholds for single and multiple species and ecosystems, delineation, stakeholder consultation, data management, and the integration of KBAs into conservation planning and policy frameworks. Additionally, the workshop provided a vital space for participants to share their experiences and insights on the challenges facing Senegal's biodiversity, particularly the plight of rare and endemic species and threatened ecosystem types. This training initiative represents a significant stride towards strengthening conservation capacity and ensuring the long-term protection of Senegal's invaluable natural heritage.

The training workshop generated several key outcomes, laying the groundwork for a more robust and coordinated approach to biodiversity conservation in Senegal.

First, the training workshop brought together over 40 passionate conservationists and postgraduate students from various institutions across Senegal and other countries in the region, creating a dynamic platform for knowledge sharing and collaborative actions. Participants represented a broad spectrum of 17 conservation organisations, hailing from national parks agencies, research institutions, universities, local and international NGOs, including:

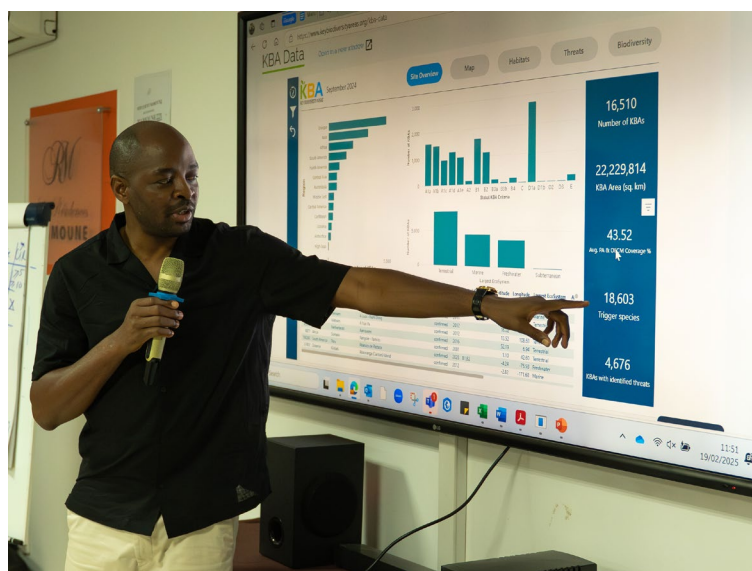
1. Direction des Parcs Nationaux (DPN)
2. Direction des Aires Marines Communautaires Protégées (DAMCP)
3. Direction des Eaux et Forêts, Chasses et de la Conservation des Sols (DEFCCS)
4. Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (UCAD)
5. l'Université Gaston Berger de Saint Louis (UGB)
6. Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE)
7. l'Institut des Sciences de l'Environnement (ISE)
8. BirdLife International- West African Sub-Regional Office
9. Wetlands International Afrique Occidentale Côte et Golfe de Guinée (WIACO)
10. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
11. Nature-Communautés-Développement (NCD) / BirdLife in Senegal
12. Nature Mauritanie / BirdLife in Mauritania
13. GREPOM/BirdLife Morocco
14. A Organização para Defesa e Desenvolvimento das Zonas Húmidas (ODZH), Guinée Bissau



15. Guinée Écologie / BirdLife in Guinée
16. Wetlands International Afrique, RAMPAO
17. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Second, participants recognised the urgent need to adapt the generic terms of reference for the creation of the KBA National Coordination Group (NCG) to the specific context of Senegal. This adaptation is crucial to suit the national biodiversity context and to ensure the effective functioning of the NCG, which should play a pivotal role in driving KBA funding, research, identification, and safeguards. Furthermore, the participants emphasised the importance of securing a ministerial order to formally establish the NCG in Senegal; providing it with the necessary authority and legitimacy especially linked to reporting on CBD Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity KBA related targets.

Third, there was a shared commitment to domesticate and integrate the KBA concept into national and regional conservation strategies. This integration will ensure that KBAs are recognised and prioritised in national policy and decision-making, land-use planning, and development initiatives.



The Dakar KBA training workshop marked a significant milestone in Senegal's conservation journey. By equipping conservationists and postgraduate students with the knowledge and tools to identify and protect critical sites for biodiversity, the workshop has laid the foundation for a more sustainable future for Senegal's rich natural heritage. The dedication and collaborative spirit displayed by the participants, coupled with the continued support of the Darwin Initiative, RSPB, and NCD, will undoubtedly contribute to the long-term conservation of Senegal's invaluable biodiversity.

Despite these key successes, the workshop was not without major challenges linked to both limited technical and financial resources, unconsolidated biodiversity data, and limited biodiversity mainstreaming efforts to support the urgent economic development. To address these challenges participants recognised three immediate actions.

First, the necessity of establishing a robust process within the KBA NCG to consolidate national biodiversity databases. This process will facilitate the sharing and analysis of data on various taxa and ecosystem types, providing a comprehensive understanding of Senegal's biodiversity assets, the various challenges and what it takes to conserve it. Furthermore, the development of a standardised protocol for biodiversity assessment and monitoring will enhance data quality and consistency, enabling more effective communication and informed decision-making processes.

Second, recognising the substantial financial cost implications of rolling out a national KBA programme of work, the workshop participants stressed the importance of exploring diverse funding options for national-level assessments and reassessments of both new and existing KBAs. This will involve establishing a consortium of NGOs, including national KBA partners active in Senegal, engaging with government agencies, international donors, and private sector partners to secure the necessary financial resources. An immediate action is to engage with the Dutch embassy in Dakar, Senegal who have supported earlier efforts of Senegal to report to the CBD through the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

Finally, the workshop underscored the critical need to mainstream KBAs into various governmental and private sector policies. This integration will ensure that KBAs are considered in sectoral planning, environmental impact assessments, and corporate sustainability initiatives, fostering a future where conservation and development go hand-in-hand.

With only five years left for CBD signatories, including Senegal to meet the UN 30x30 target, which aims to conserve at least 30% of terrestrial, inland water, coastal, and marine areas by 2030, the identification of KBAs ensures that conservation efforts are targeted, effective, and aligned with global biodiversity goals. This recent training initiative is a powerful catalyst, igniting national interest and laying the groundwork for effective conservation actions. However, to truly capitalise on this momentum and ensure Senegal plays its pivotal role in realising the 30x30 vision, we must urgently scale up these efforts. This requires significant and sustained resourcing, fostering collaboration, and empowering conservationists to champion the protection of these irreplaceable natural treasures. As such, Senegal plays a major in achieving the UN 30x30 target by ensuring that protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) are established in the right places.



## Mozambique KBA National Coordination Group Meets to Discuss 2024 Progress on Key Biodiversity Areas and Species/Ecosystem Red Listing

**Author:** Acácio Chechene, Hermenegildo Matimele, Iolanda Marcolino, Eleutério Duarte and Ivan Nerantzoulis



Mozambique's KBA National Coordination Group members © Acácio Chechene, WCS

The Mozambican National Coordination Group (NCG) for Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)—also supporting Red Listing of Species and Ecosystems—held its first annual ordinary meeting on March 19, 2025, in Maputo City to present and review the progress made in 2024 and plan the activities for 2025. A total of 21 members took part in the meeting, 15 of whom attended in person and 6 virtually via the Teams platform, including representatives from government, NGOs, private sector, academia and independent members.

The meeting was chaired by Isac Jalilo, representative of the National Director for the Environment, Guilhermina Amurane (Chair of the NCG), who has led the group since it was formally established in 2019 to coordinate, nationally, any process related to the Key Biodiversity Areas and the Red List of species and ecosystems.

In the context of the annual review, a progress report was presented on the inventory of primary biological data on species and socio-economic data collected in three potential KBAs in the central region of Mozambique, namely: Coutada 5 – Govuro, Tambara-Doa and Mount Muambe. This data is inventoried as part of the regional SBAPP (Spatial Biodiversity Assessment, Prioritization and Planning) project, which aims to assess the conservation status of species and ecosystems by applying the IUCN Red List criteria and categories. These assessments may serve as the basis for identifying new KBAs and carrying out spatial planning for biodiversity.

Also, during this meeting, the group discussed the need to elect new focal points of the NCG steering committee concerning the areas of KBAs, red lists, and data management. The group debated and discussed all topics presented, and as next step the NGC will meet again to update the ToR and define new focal points.

# MIDDLE EAST



**KBA**  
KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS



## The Natural Heritage of Türkiye: Key Biodiversity Areas

**Author:** Doğa Derneği- BirdLife in Türkiye



Köyceğiz Lake KBA © Alper Orus

- The first KBA inventory of Türkiye was published in 2006, identifying 305 key sites covering approximately 25% of the country's land.
- A new update, scheduled for completion by 2026, expanded the focus to nine key taxonomic groups.
- The updated KBA inventory will be maintained through a digital infrastructure, integrating citizen science contributions via a mobile application.
- The initiative will empower experts and local people to advocate for ecosystems and provide decision-makers with up-to-date biodiversity data.

Türkiye's rich biodiversity is a product of its unique geographical location, bridging Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. The country has historically served as a refuge for species during climatic shifts, particularly during the last Ice Age. As the climate warmed, forests and wetlands expanded, creating habitats for a wide variety of species. However, in recent decades, habitat destruction, climate change, and pollution have placed immense pressure on these fragile ecosystems.

To combat these threats, the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) concept was introduced as a scientific framework to identify and protect areas essential for the survival of globally threatened or restricted-range species. In 2006, Doğa Derneği published the first comprehensive inventory of Türkiye's KBAs, identifying 305 key sites covering approximately 25% of the country's land. This effort marked a milestone in conservation, bringing together public institutions, scientists, and nature enthusiasts to safeguard Türkiye's natural heritage.

In 2016, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) formally recognized KBAs as a global standard for conservation. Since then, the scientific understanding of biodiversity conservation has evolved, and technological advancements have improved data collection and monitoring methods. Recognizing the need for updated information, Doğa Derneği has embarked on an ambitious effort to reassess Türkiye's KBAs.

This update, scheduled for completion by 2026, expanded its focus to include nine key taxonomic groups: birds, mammals, plants, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, dragonflies, freshwater fish, and mollusks. A dedicated team of 14 species experts, along with additional academics and volunteers, is working to ensure that the new KBA inventory reflects the most accurate and up-to-date biodiversity data available. At this stage, most of the species data has been compiled. A workshop was held with GIS experts to initiate the mapping study and establish the methodology. Once the data is finalized and the database is created, the mapping process will begin.

One of the most innovative aspects of this update is its integration of citizen science. Unlike the 2006 study, which relied primarily on expert surveys, the new KBA inventory will be maintained through a digital

infrastructure, enabling real-time updates. This special mobile application will allow nature enthusiasts, researchers, and the general public to contribute valuable data on species observations, habitat conditions, and conservation threats. These submissions will be reviewed by an academic evaluation committee before being integrated into the national KBA database.

This participatory approach will provide conservationists with a continuous stream of data, ensuring that KBAs remain relevant and up to date. Additionally, by involving the public in biodiversity monitoring, the initiative aims to foster a stronger connection between communities and nature, empowering individuals to become advocates for conservation.

The updated KBA inventory will serve as a critical tool for identifying new areas in need of protection and addressing emerging threats to biodiversity. By combining scientific expertise with community-driven conservation efforts, Doğa Derneği is working to safeguard Türkiye's natural heritage for future generations. As environmental pressures continue to mount, initiatives like the KBA update will play an essential role in ensuring that Türkiye's most precious ecosystems remain intact.

For more information on this vital conservation effort, visit [kbaturkiye.org](http://kbaturkiye.org) or contact Doğa Derneği at [doga@dogadernegi.org](mailto:doga@dogadernegi.org).





## UAE's Key Biodiversity Areas: A Crucial Step Towards Conservation



In a significant advancement for environmental conservation, the United Arab Emirates has identified nine Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) across the nation. This important initiative, detailed in the report “Key Biodiversity Areas of the United Arab Emirates,” is a collaborative undertaking between the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAEE) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The report highlights the UAE’s dedication to protecting its distinctive biodiversity and contributing to global conservation efforts, aligning with the nation’s broader sustainability agenda.

The UAE’s commitment to environmental conservation has strengthened considerably over the past four decades. The establishment of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment marked a pivotal moment in addressing climate change and promoting environmental protection. This collaboration with IUCN, a globally recognised leader in environmental conservation, underscores the importance of international partnerships in tackling complex biodiversity challenges.

The nine identified KBAs in the UAE encompass a diverse array of ecosystems, each playing a key role in supporting a range of globally threatened and range-restricted species. These areas include:

- **Arabian Oryx Conservation Area at Um al Zumoul:** Renowned for its successful conservation of the Arabian oryx, a symbol of the UAE’s conservation achievements. It hosts approximately 835 individuals, representing one of the largest free-roaming populations worldwide (global population: 2,700–3,070).
- **Marawah Marine Area:** This area is a key habitat for the dugong, supporting at least 1% of its global population, which highlights its significance for marine mammal conservation.
- **Al Yasat Marine Area:** A significant breeding site for the Socotra Cormorant, supporting up to 13.32% of the global population, demonstrating its importance for avian biodiversity.
- **Al Marmoom Desert Conservation Reserve:** The largest unfenced nature reserve in the UAE. It is essential for the conservation of the Arabian sand gazelle (38.46% global population) and the Arabian mountain gazelle (21% global population).
- **Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve:** Provides essential habitat for the Arabian sand gazelle (9.13% global population) and the Arabian mountain gazelle (12.2% global population).

- **Wadi Al-Helo:** Recognised for its unique geological features and its importance as a habitat for Margarita's Leaf-toed Gecko (*Asaccus margaritae*), a range-restricted species endemic to the region.
- **Khor Fakan and Shark Island:** Important sites for marine and coastal biodiversity. A critical habitat for the critically endangered Emirati Leaf-toed Gecko (*Asaccus caudivolvulus*), which is endemic to the UAE.
- **Wadi Al-Baih:** Supports a diverse range of flora and fauna adapted to mountainous environments. It is home to over 10% of the global population of the Ruus al Jibal Fan-footed Gecko (*Ptyodactylus ruusaljibalicus*).
- **Siniyah and Khor Al Beidah islands:** Critical breeding sites for the Socotra Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*), supporting 15.22% of the global population.

Of these nine sites, five benefit from full protection, encompassing an average of 98 percent of the KBA area coverage by Protected Areas in the UAE. Furthermore, one site receives partial protection under existing conservation frameworks. With three sites currently presenting opportunities to expand conservation initiatives, continued efforts to establish formal protections will significantly improve biodiversity outcomes. Ongoing monitoring and conservation efforts will further ensure the long-term thriving of species at these key sites.

MOCCA's collaboration with IUCN exemplifies a strong commitment to addressing environmental challenges through science-based conservation. This project, in which the IUCN Regional Office for West Asia played a central role, underscores the importance of international cooperation in achieving shared conservation goals. As the UAE continues to strengthen its environmental policies and practices, these KBAs will serve as critical sites for implementing sustainable development goals and safeguarding the nation's rich biodiversity for future generations. For more information, access the full report [here](#).





# EUROPE



## Protecting Italy's biodiversity: Meet the new KBA National Coordination Group



Italy's new KBA National Coordination Group © Michela Gabrieli

Italy closes the first trimester of the year with a significant milestone in favour of the conservation of the country's biodiversity: the formation of its first KBA National Coordination Group (NCG). The Italian KBA NCG, officially established on March 24th, 2025, will focus its work in promoting the identification and protection of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) across Italy. The group comprises 15 experts from universities and research centres, along with four non-governmental organizations (NGOs) actively engaged in biodiversity conservation. Additionally, efforts are underway to involve government institutions to strengthen institutional support and ensure more effective management of ecologically valuable areas.

The Italian KBA NCG brings together multidisciplinary expertise, ranging from taxonomy of mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects, fishes, and plants to the study of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine systems. The experts' key areas of specialization include habitat classification, KBA scoping, conservation planning, environmental impact assessments, and the application of IUCN Red List criteria. With this broad range of knowledge, the group aims to support conservation strategies in Italy and contribute to global efforts for biodiversity protection.

Italy is home to an extraordinary array of ecosystems and species, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth. Protecting these areas isn't just about preserving nature; it's about safeguarding the future of humanity itself. Healthy ecosystems provide clean air, water, food security, and resilience against climate change.



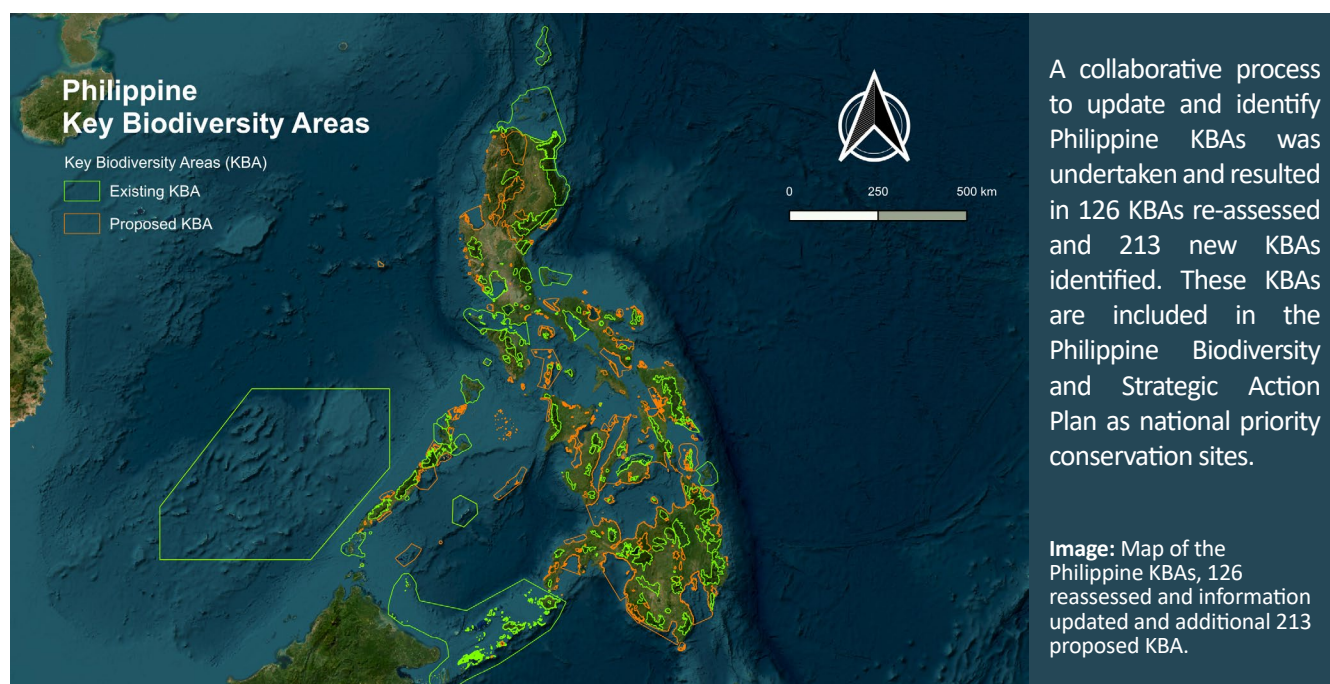
# ASIA



**KBA**  
KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS



## 30 x 30 Targets: Updating the Key Biodiversity Areas of the Philippines



The Philippines have just concluded the 3rd National Key Biodiversity Areas Workshop held last March 24-26, 2025 in Manila. It is the latest of a series of national and regional workshops and meetings, that started in March 2024, to reassess the country's key biodiversity areas (KBAs) that were initially identified in 2006 and 2009, respectively, for the terrestrial and marine sites, and apply the Global KBA Standard for the identification of KBAs. So far, 126 KBAs have been reassessed and information updated on the trigger species, threats, and management strategies in place. Additionally, 213 new KBAs have also been identified. Uploading all these updates and submitting the proposal for inclusion in the World Database of KBAs is targeted to start by May 2025.

Given how exceptionally rich Philippine biodiversity is, analysis of the potential triggers that number up to several thousand species for both terrestrial and marine flora and fauna, has not been an easy task. Using results from the KBA Secretariat's scoping tool helps facilitate the process of identifying trigger species per KBA by having their presence validated by the experts. KBA criteria applied in identifying KBAs in the Philippines are criteria A1 (Threatened species), B1,2&3 (Geographically restricted biodiversity), and D1&2 (Biological processes/Demographic aggregations and Ecological refugia). The KBA criteria based on ecosystems have not yet been used pending the proposed conduct of ecosystem mapping and Red Listing of Ecosystems for the country.

With the Philippines also currently developing its submission of National Targets to the Convention on Biological Diversity in relation to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), the updating and reassessment of Philippine KBAs have provided an opportunity to integrate efforts into these commitments. The KBAs form a vital component of the Philippine National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and are national priority conservation sites that will contribute to the country's commitments to fulfilling the KMGBF 30x30 target. Approximately 26 % of the country's terrestrial area and 20% of the marine area are covered by the updated and proposed KBAs.





### 3rd National Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Workshop

Day 1 (March 24, 2025) | Parañaque



Participants of the 3rd National KBA Workshop held on March 24-26, 2025 in Manila, Philippines.

The Philippine KBA updating and identification process was undertaken separately by two working groups for the terrestrial and marine areas. Working closely with the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (BMB-DENR), the Marine Protected Areas Support Network-Marine Environment and Resources Foundation, Inc. (MSN-MERF) together with its consortium members (Conservation International-Philippines, Rare, Oceana-Philippines, and WWF-Philippines) under the Partnerships for the Philippine 30 x 30 Marine Targets being supported by the Bloomberg Ocean Fund and the Joint Thirty by Thirty Fund Initiative, focused on the updating and identification of marine KBAs. For the terrestrial KBAs, the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP) partnered with the Haribon Foundation, the Institute of Biology Alumni Association, and the Biodiversity Research Laboratory of the University of the Philippines-Diliman. Other partners that have supported this initiative include Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE), Forest Foundation Philippines (FFP), WWF-Indonesia, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), and Pacific Environment. The collaboration of multiple institutions and organizations, as well as the cooperation of multiple sectors including the government, civil society, and the academe, have been crucial in the success of this undertaking.

In addition to the KBA updating and reassessment work, the BMB-DENR with support from the WCS and other partners, is in the process of establishing the Philippines' KBA National Coordination Group (NCG). Once formalized, the KBA NCG's main responsibility is to facilitate and support the conservation, management, and protection of KBAs as well as facilitate the updating and re-evaluation of sites as needed. The NCG will also promote the use of KBA information for conservation policy and decision-making in the country. Another important task of the NCG will be the development and adaptation of the National KBA Criteria to ensure that all sites that do not qualify as global KBAs but are important sites at the national scale, contributing significantly to the persistence of biodiversity in terrestrial, inland waters, coastal and marine environments in the Philippines recognized and safeguarded.

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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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**Latin America and Caribbean** - Cecilia Tobar-Suárez: [CTobar@keybiodiversityareas.org](mailto:CTobar@keybiodiversityareas.org)

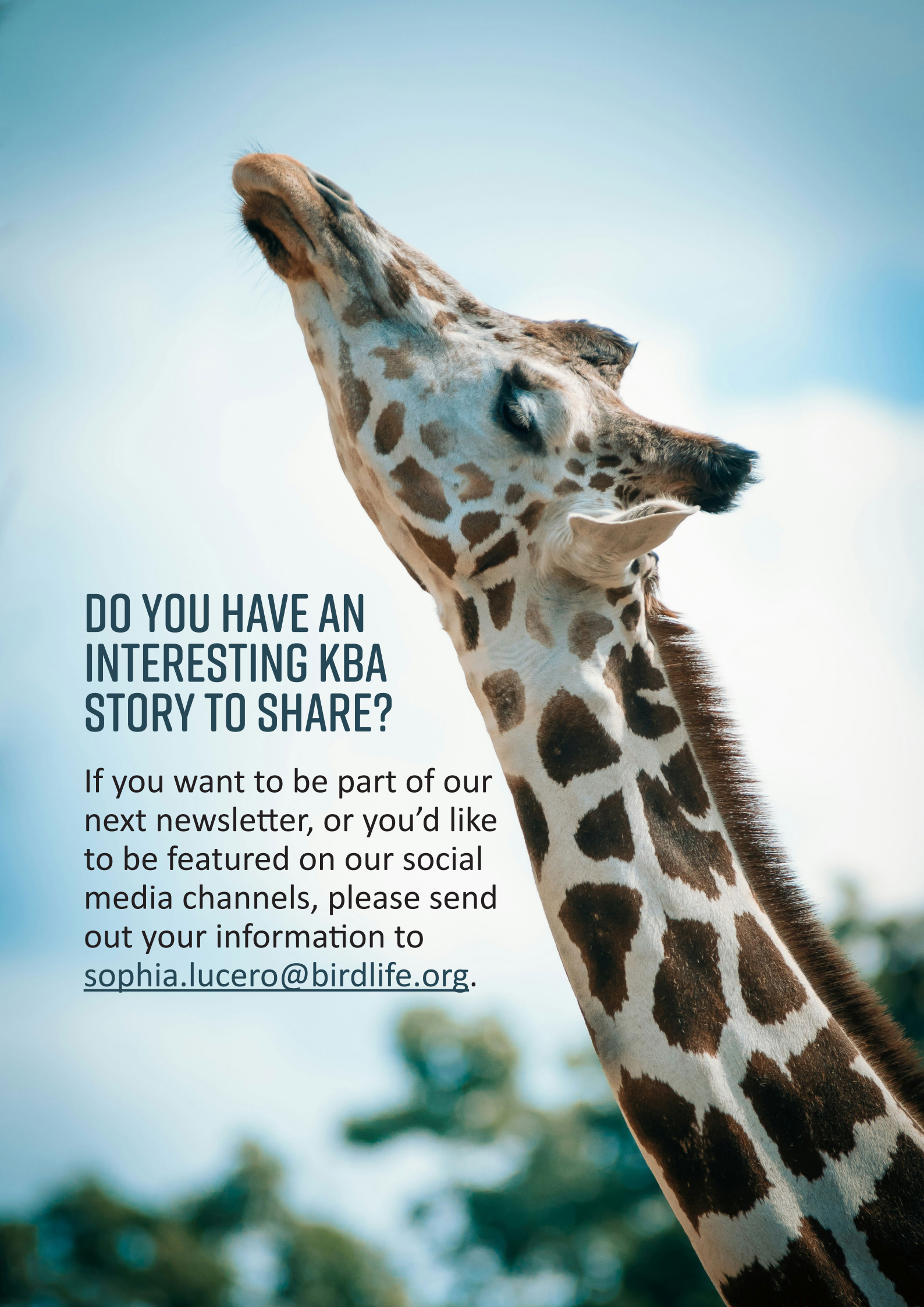
**North America** - Marcelo Tognelli: [mtognelli@abcbirds.org](mailto:mtognelli@abcbirds.org)

**Europe, North Africa and the Middle East** - Catherine Numa: [Catherine.numa@iucn.org](mailto:Catherine.numa@iucn.org)

For other regions, please contact the head of the KBA Secretariat, Andy Plumtre: [aplumtre@keybiodiversityareas.org](mailto:aplumtre@keybiodiversityareas.org)

Layout and design - Sophia Lucero: [sophia.lucero@birdlife.org](mailto:sophia.lucero@birdlife.org)



A low-angle shot of a giraffe's head and neck, looking upwards towards a clear blue sky. The giraffe has a white coat with large, irregular brown spots. Its long neck is extended, and its head is tilted back. The background shows a blurred green landscape with trees.

## DO YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING KBA STORY TO SHARE?

If you want to be part of our next newsletter, or you'd like to be featured on our social media channels, please send out your information to [sophia.lucero@birdlife.org](mailto:sophia.lucero@birdlife.org).



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