

KBA PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT

2020

Foreword

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) will be critical in guiding where protected and conserved areas are placed over the next decade. We must make sure that we focus conservation action on globally important sites and the World Database of KBAs (WDKBA) is the largest database to hold information on these sites.

The Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) Programme has continued to advance in 2020, despite the Covid-19 pandemic and its disruption on conservation action. This year we have seen a complete revision of the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (WDKBA) and the development of a dedicated website for the KBA Programme. These both provide access to the tools and information necessary to identify and propose KBAs as well as access to the data about these globally important sites for species and ecosystems.

The thirteen KBA Partners have continued to work together to support the national identification of KBAs in countries across the world. There are currently 16,343 KBAs recognised for the world, adding or updating 538 KBAs in 2020 in the WDKBA. While still dominated by the Important Bird Area data, the number of sites where other taxonomic groups are being assessed is growing rapidly as are the number of countries interested in making national assessments of their KBAs.

This year Mozambique completed a comprehensive assessment of their KBAs at a national scale. This is the first national identification of KBAs using the KBA Standard by an established KBA National Coordination Group and led to the confirmation of 29 proposed sites (25 terrestrial, and 4 marine sites) conserving 180 KBA trigger species of which 57% were plants. This is an amazing achievement for Mozambique and we have also been impressed at how quickly the government has integrated the KBAs in its national territorial plan for the country. We encourage other nations to follow Mozambique's lead and identify their KBAs across multiple taxonomic groups.

There has also been a growing engagement of business with KBAs. The Banks and Biodiversity Coalition launched a programme to promote a no-go policy in 8 key areas, one of which includes KBAs. Many banks consult the KBA Secretariat regularly about proposed developments in or near KBAs, and are making use of the KBA data through the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) to minimise their negative impacts on biodiversity. We hope all financial institutions will start to use the information in IBAT and help us improve the scope and application of the KBA information for safeguarding global biodiversity.

We both took over as Co-chairs of the KBA Committee in 2020 and are committed to seeing the identification and conservation of these globally important sites continue to expand, thanks to the support and commitment of the global partners for biodiversity conservation. We are grateful to all the people who have contributed to identifying, proposing, reviewing and validating KBAs this year and look forward to another productive year by the KBA Partnership.

Naomi Kingston & Alberto Yanosky,

Co-Chairs KBA Committee



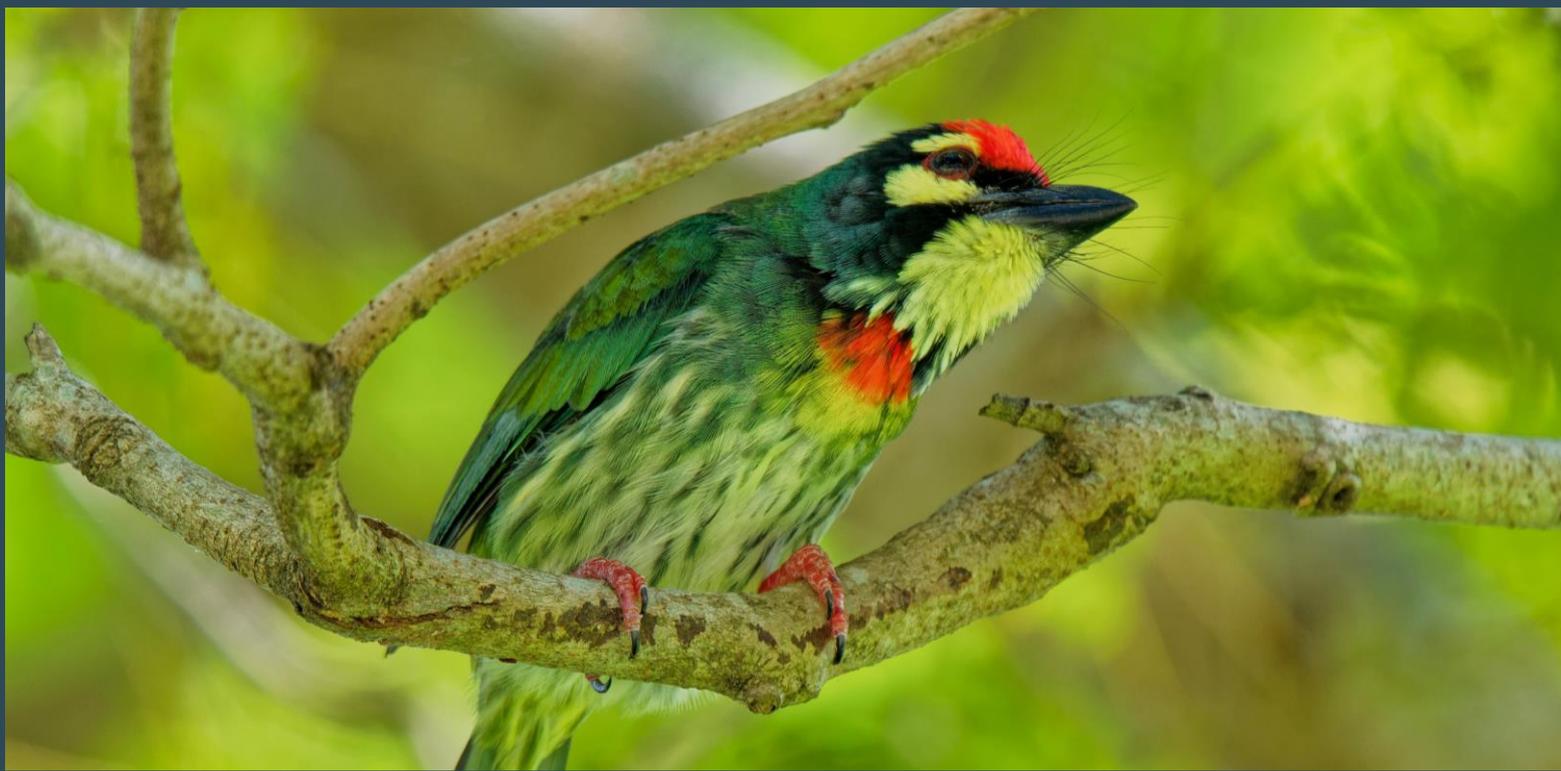
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KBA Programme

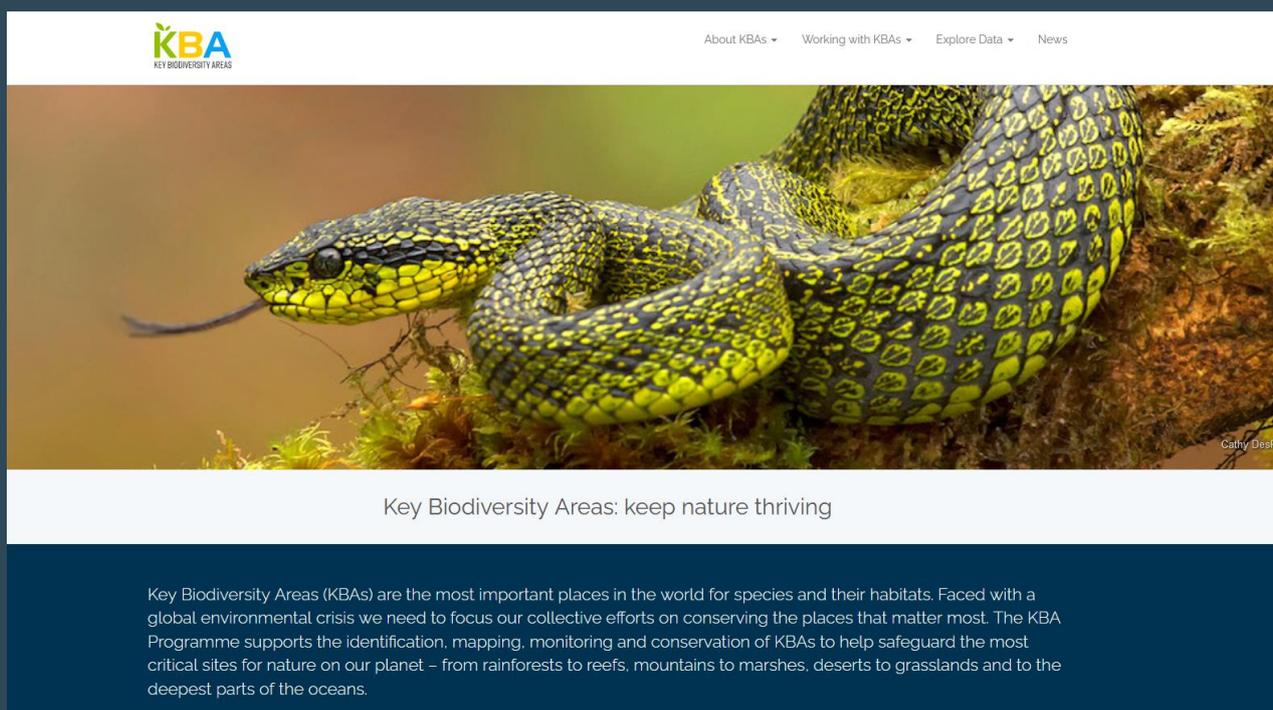
The Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Programme is an ambitious attempt to identify, map, monitor and conserve the critical sites for global biodiversity across the planet. Led by 13 international conservation organisations, the KBA Partnership, this programme aims to support each nation of the world to identify KBAs within their country. This is providing a blueprint of sites for conservation that contain globally important populations of species or extent of ecosystems, and sites of high 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. These thresholds ensure that only those sites with significant populations of a species or extent of an ecosystem are identified as global KBAs.

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 2020.



**Trigger elements for 538 KBAs
confirmed in 2020**



Key Biodiversity Areas: keep nature thriving

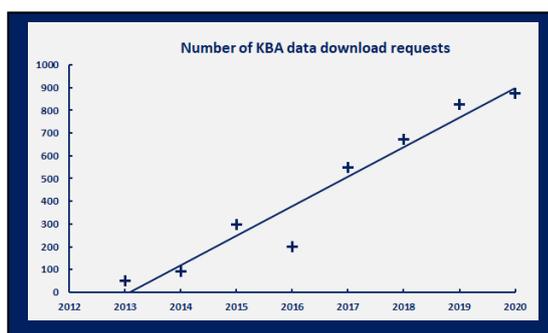
Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are the most important places in the world for species and their habitats. Faced with a global environmental crisis we need to focus our collective efforts on conserving the places that matter most. The KBA Programme supports the identification, mapping, monitoring and conservation of KBAs to help safeguard the most critical sites for nature on our planet – from rainforests to reefs, mountains to marshes, deserts to grasslands and to the deepest parts of the oceans.

New tools to support KBA identification

This year we launched a dedicated [KBA website](#). This site provides information about what KBAs are, how they can be useful for governments, donors and the private sector, information about the KBA Partnership and Programme, and specific tools to help identify and propose KBAs for publishing in the World Database of KBAs. Launched in September 2020, visitor traffic to date exceeds 113,000 visitors.

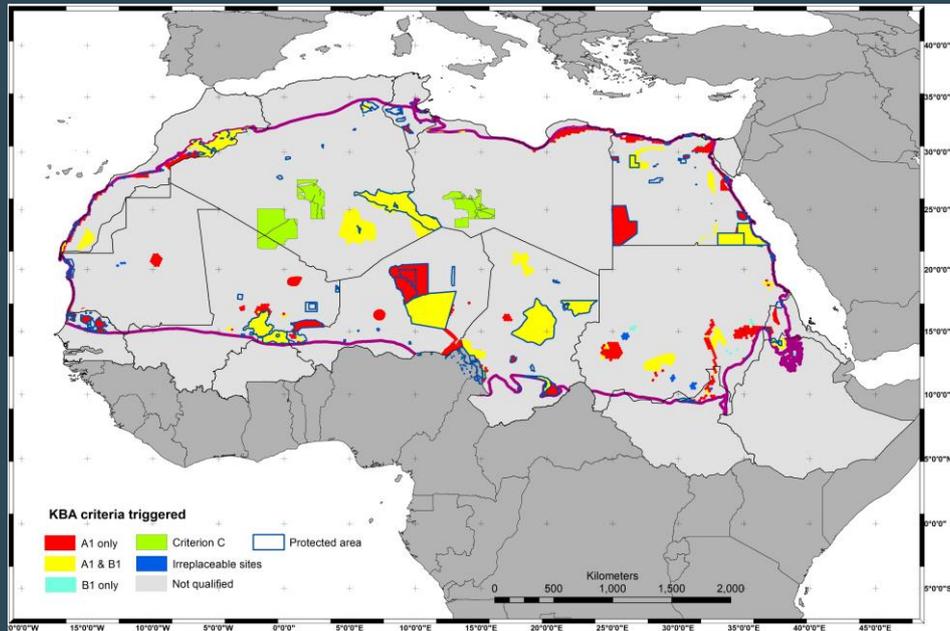


The World Database of KBAs has also received a major overhaul this year. A dashboard was developed to make KBA data more readily accessible including available information about each site and its trigger elements, provided on redesigned fact sheets. Downloads of KBA data continue to increase year on year showing the increasing value of the information to users. With the new website and database now online and with a stronger profile it is expected that data use will continue to increase over the coming years.



[Other tools](#) have been developed to help users apply the KBA criteria. These include a standard proposal form which ensures a proposer captures all the required and recommended information and calculates the criteria met. Standard lists of restricted-range species (necessary to apply criterion B2) were developed in 2020. A standard list of recommended taxonomic groups has also been developed to apply the Co-occurring Geographically Restricted Species criterion (B2) and the Geographically Restricted Assemblages criterion (B3).

Scoping of potential KBAs across the Sahara



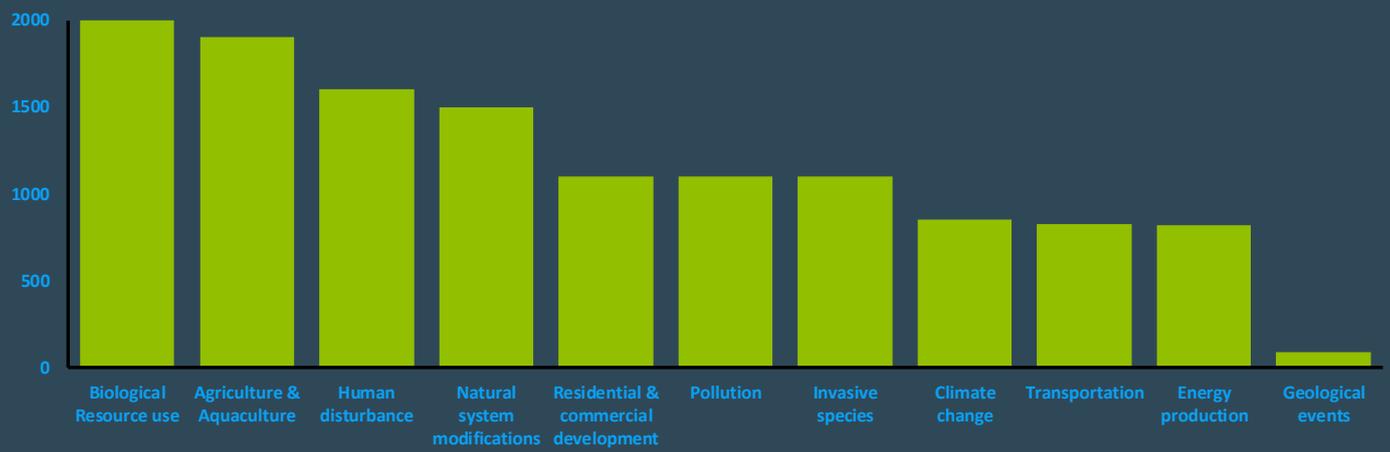
KBA Scoping Tool

The KBA Secretariat has also developed a KBA Scoping Tool (KST) with support from the Daniel K. Thorne Foundation, Cambridge Conservation Initiative, Sahara Conservation Fund and KBA Partners. The aim of this tool is to provide KBA Proposers with a tool that can help them identify potential species that might trigger KBA status at a site. When a KBA proposal process begins in a country, particularly if KBAs are being assessed across a region or the country as a whole, it can be difficult to pull together all the data on species' global and site distributions to then apply the KBA Criteria. This is particularly difficult in countries with high biodiversity richness where there are many species that require assessing for their potential to be a KBA trigger.

The KST is a database that holds data on the amount of each species' range that occurs within a spatial grid of 6 km² area hexagon cells across the world. These grid cells occur within a set of nested grids at larger scale and can be used to rapidly calculate the proportion of a species range within a site. Extent of Suitable Habitat (ESH) or Area of Habitat (AOH) models have also been generated for most species based on their habitat associations and elevation ranges as recorded on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The KST currently holds data on all species assessed on the IUCN Red List with polygon range data (about 80,000 species). As such the tool can assess potential KBAs using range and ESH assessment parameters for KBA criteria A1, B1, B2, and B3. A measure of irreplaceability (Baisero et al. in press) is also incorporated in the KST. The tool can be used to scope 1. a set of grid cells of a specific size across a region or 2. specific polygons of variable size and area.

In 2020 the Sahara Conservation Fund requested the KBA Secretariat to make a scoping of the Sahara-Sahel region to inform their strategic planning. The results of this assessment identified 113 species that could potentially be KBA trigger species using a grid cell size of 486 km² across the whole region, identifying 656 cells as potential areas to investigate for KBA status. Applying the tool to existing KBAs and protected area boundaries identified 782 species as potential triggers, indicating there are likely many more than had been originally proposed for these sites, even in a relatively species poor environment. To confirm these sites as KBAs the trigger species need to be shown to be present at a site with sufficient Reproductive Units.

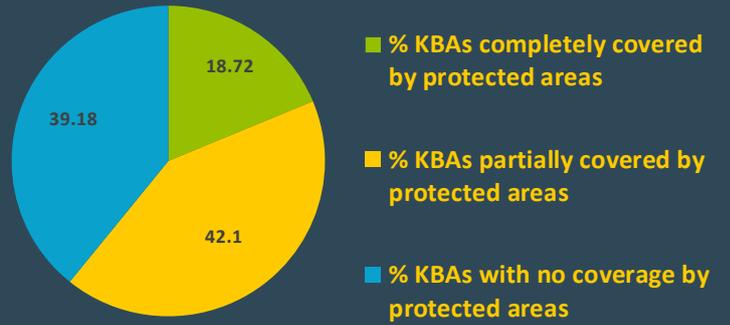
Number of KBAs threatened by different types of threat classes (IUCN classification)



**IN 2020 THE KBA PARTNERSHIP
ESTABLISHED A WORKING GROUP TO
RAISE AWARENESS OF THREATENED KBAS**



Percentage of KBAs covered by Protected Areas



**PROTECTED AREA COVERAGE OF KBAS HAS
FALLEN IN RECENT YEARS INDICATING THAT
THE GOVERNMENTS AND THE CONSERVATION
COMMUNITY ARE FAILING TO PROTECT
THESE GLOBALLY IMPORTANT SITES**

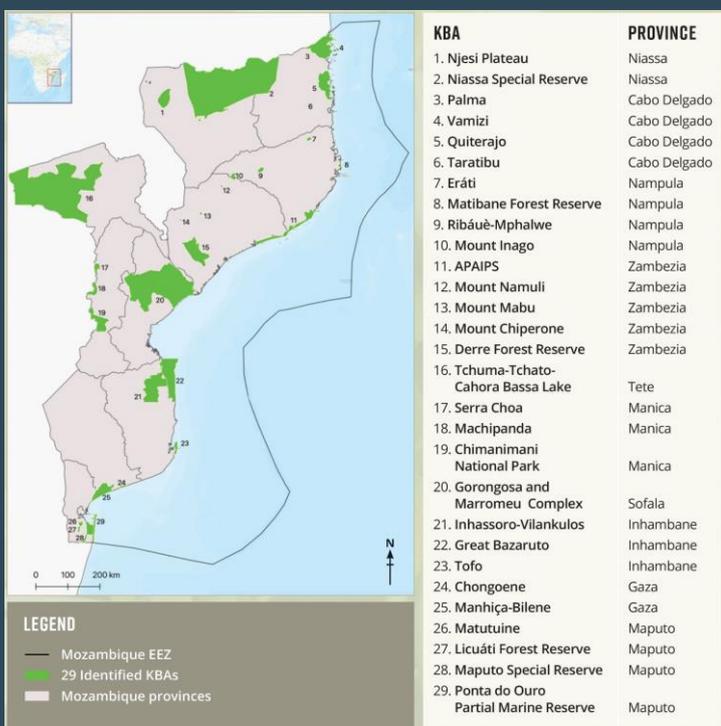
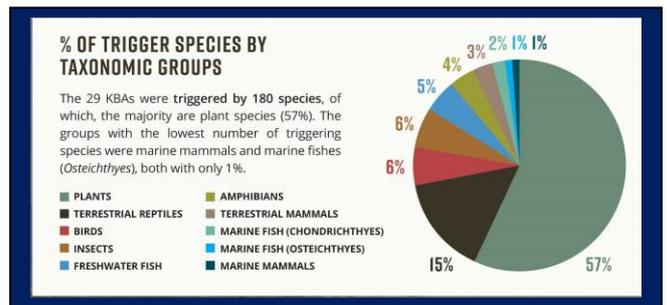
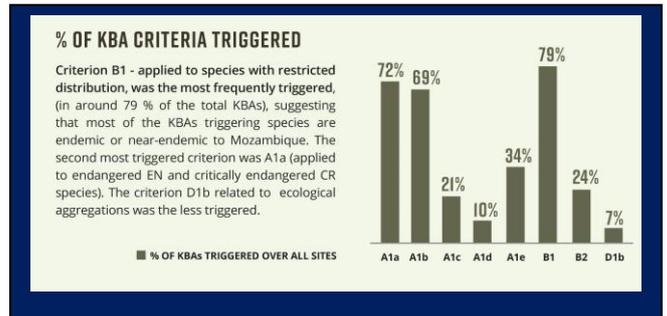


Mozambique achieves 17% coverage of land with KBAs

In 2020 Mozambique completed a two-year process to make one of the most comprehensive assessments of KBAs across a country, identifying KBAs for multiple taxonomic groups. Mozambique achieved this by establishing a KBA National Coordination Group, with the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development (MITADER), through the National Directorate of Environment (DINAB) as president of the management committee and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) chairing a Secretariat. With financial support from USAID, through its SPEED plus project, an initial training was held in 2019 to scientific experts for different taxonomic groups by the Head of the KBA Secretariat. Following this training, these experts worked together in different taxonomic groups to make an assessment of species that meet the Criteria in the KBA Standard to qualify as KBA trigger species. Groups regularly met to share findings and harmonise overlaps in taxonomic groups to better identify boundaries for sites that would satisfy all groups.

The work engaged more than 100 national, regional and international experts in different taxonomic groups and identified 29 sites which were reviewed, confirmed and published as KBAs in the World Database of KBAs at the end of 2020. These 29 sites include 4 marine sites and cover 139,947 km², 17% of Mozambique's land and 1% of its Marine EEZ. An additional 15 sites have been identified as prospective KBAs but require additional information from the site. Follow-up survey work is planned to assess these sites.

The 29 sites have been incorporated in Mozambique's Territorial Land use plan and will be used to guide protected area expansion in the country.



KBA MOUNT INAGO

KBA ID: 49163

ADMIN REGION: Nampula
KBA AREA: 326.08 km²
COORDINATES: -15.07 S, 37.39 E
CURRENT PROTECTION CATEGORY: N/A
PRE-EXISTING DESIGNATION: KBA (old criteria), AZE

KBA CRITERIA TRIGGERED: A1a, A1e, B1, B2

SITE DESCRIPTION
 Mount Inago is in Malema District, in the western section of Nampula Province, Northern Mozambique. Malema District is bordered by Zambezia Province to the south and Niassa Province to the north (Bayliss et al., 2010). The geology of Mt Inago, which is mainly granite-porphyrite, is very similar to the Namuli massif, due to their close proximity. According to Timberlake et al. (2009), granite-porphyrite encroached the migmatites of the Nampula and Namarro series around 1,100 – 850 million years ago. The Inago massif elevation ranges from 300–1,870 m, with the main peak reaching 1,804 m altitude. Rainfall in the Malema District shows an average of 1,300 mm per annum. The major vegetation surrounding the mountain is the miombo woodland, particularly up to 1,000 m. From 1,000 to 1,650 m of altitude, the vegetation is mainly forest, with stream valleys covered by riverine forest. Beyond 1,500 m elevation, grasslands and rocky shrublands are also found.

TRIGGER SPECIES

- Rhampholeon bruceorum** CR (MOZ. ENDEMIC)
- Nataliaambilia inago** (MOZAMBIQUE ENDEMIC)
- Lygodactylus inago** (MOZAMBIQUE ENDEMIC)
- Nothophryne inagoensis** EN (MOZAMBIQUE ENDEMIC)
- Cymothoe baylissi**
- Alaena lamborni**
- Neococcyzus bioculata**

MAIN THREATS

Deforestation for small scale agriculture, ongoing slash and burn shifting agriculture in the forest with no regulation, logging, unsustainable hunting

KBA safeguarding by business and finance

KBAs are becoming integrated in company safeguarding strategies and procedures. The International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Performance Standard 6 recognised KBAs as 'likely critical habitat'. Critical habitat values for IFC include Critically Endangered and Endangered species, endemic and restricted range species, globally significant congregations of species, highly threatened and unique ecosystems and key evolutionary processes. These values overlap very closely with the KBA criteria. The 118 financial institutions that have signed up to the Equator Principles also are advised to follow IFC's performance standard 6.

In 2020 Société Générale developed its own safeguarding policy and requires a third party assessment of any concessions that are within or near KBAs, that a mitigation strategy to achieve no-net-loss is put in place, and there is adequate consultation of the local people in the vicinity of the potential concession.

In 2020 the KBA Secretariat worked with the Equator Principles to publish a Guidance note on data sharing that states: *Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are sites of global importance for the persistence of biodiversity and are recognized as likely Critical Habitats by IFC Performance Standard 6 as well as the Equator Principles. ... As not all taxa have been assessed for KBAs, EPFI clients are also encouraged to apply the KBA criteria (see <http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org>) to sites where they have collected biodiversity data to assess whether the site would meet KBA status. If an EPFI client is assessing whether to operate within an existing KBA, it is even more important that both the KBA monitoring assessment tool is applied and that any biodiversity element (species or ecosystem) that triggers KBA status at a site is monitored before, during and after the operations of the EPFI client to ensure there is no decline in biodiversity.*

In 2020 a new coalition was established, [Banks and Biodiversity](#), to hold banks accountable for their biodiversity impacts. They have established eight criteria to identify where banks should not fund business development of which criterion 3 states covers *Habitats with endemic or endangered species, including Key Biodiversity Areas*. They are urging for a 'No Go' policy for sites that meet these criteria.

Access to information about KBAs is available to businesses and financial institutions through the [Integrated Biodiversity Information Tool](#) (IBAT) to commercial entities. IBAT provides company-relevant summaries of biodiversity and conservation data by combining the data found within the IUCN Red List of Threatened species, the World Database of KBAs and Protected Planet. Funding generated through the subscriptions supports the collection of data, updating and maintenance of these three databases.



We host and maintain the three key global biodiversity datasets



IUCN Red List of Threatened Species



World Database on Protected Areas

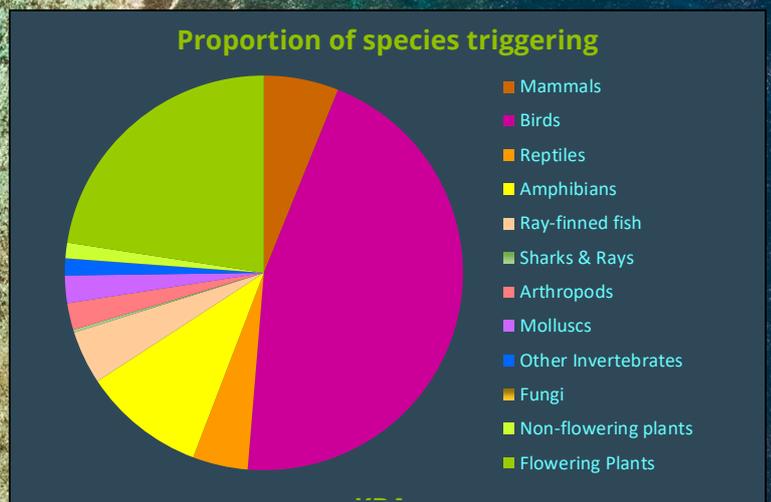


World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas

**KBAS CAN BE IDENTIFIED FOR ALL SPECIES,
ECOSYSTEMS, ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY AND
IRREPLACEABILITY.**

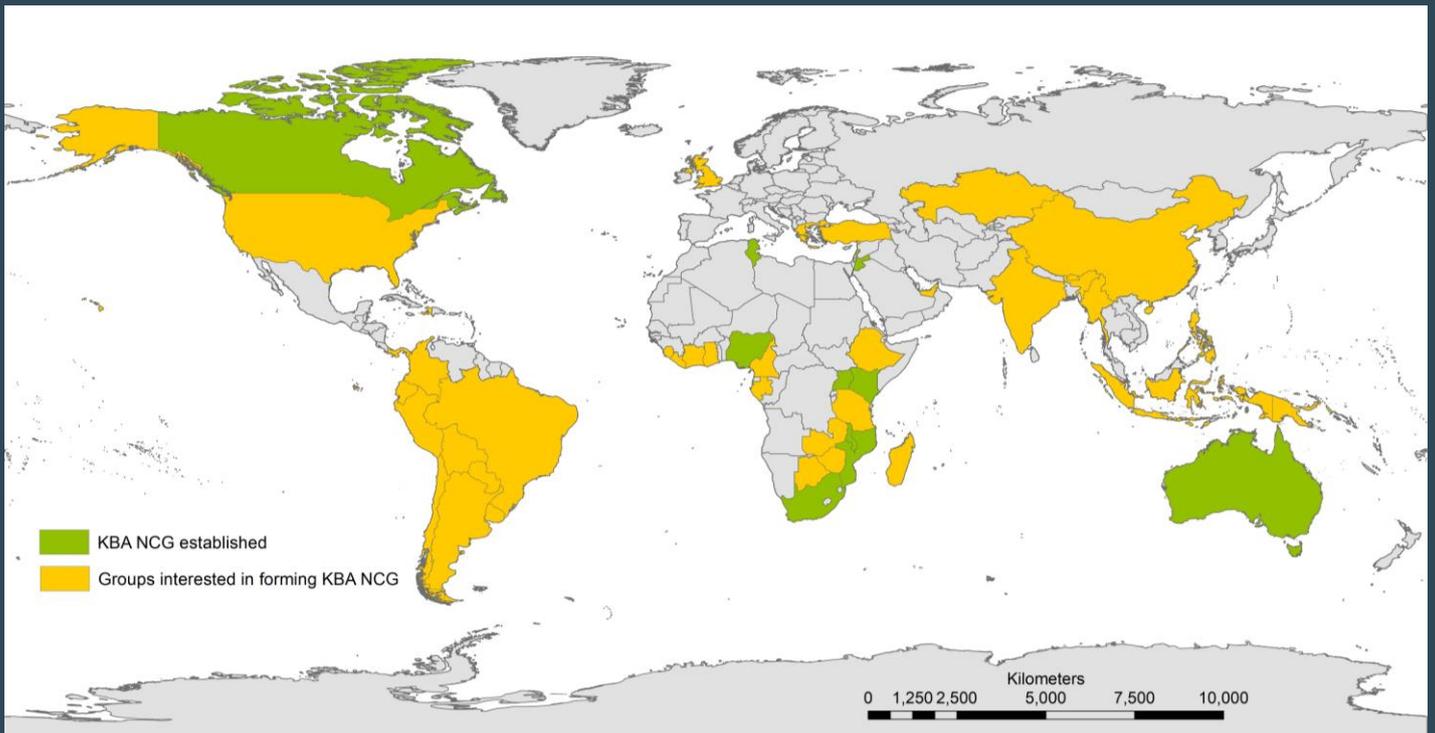
**BUILDING ON THE IMPORTANT BIRD AND
BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME, BIRDS CURRENTLY
DOMINATE THE SPECIES THAT TRIGGER KNOWN
KBAS.**

**COUNTRIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO IDENTIFY
THEIR KBAS ACROSS MULTIPLE TAXONOMIC
GROUPS AND ECOSYSTEMS**





THE NEAR COMPLETION OF REDLISTING
OF REPTILES IN 2020 LED TO MANY
KBAS IDENTIFIED FOR THIS GROUP,
PARTICULARLY IN THE ANDES

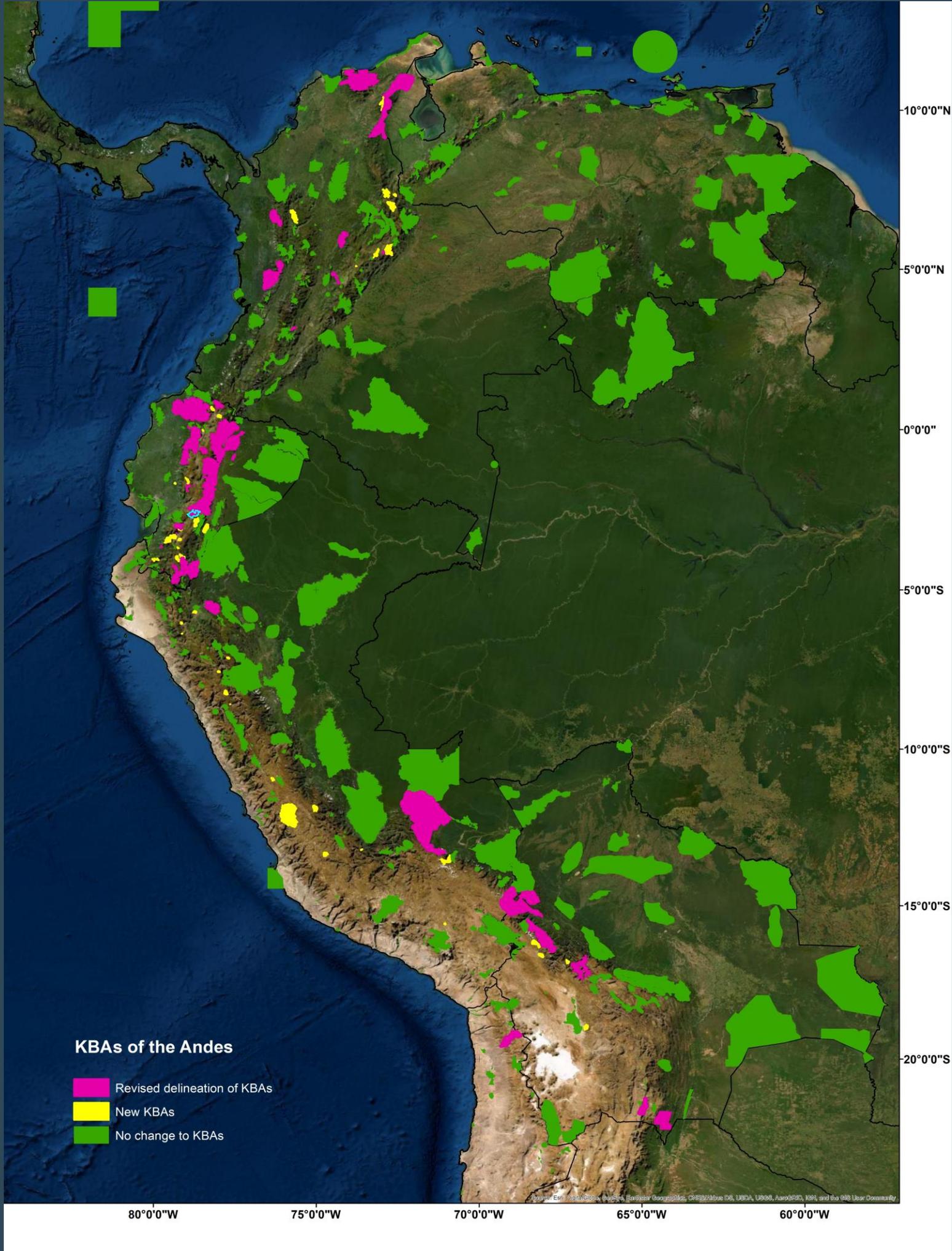


KBA identification increasing around the world

Training materials were developed as a set of 13 powerpoint modules and 40 practical exercises. These were used to support national and regional training in Nairobi, Kenya and virtually for various KBA Partner and KBA Secretariat members around the world in 2020 to test and finalise them. Subsequently the materials were used to train members of the Nigerian National Coordination Group in November 2020. A total of 70 people were trained in 2020 using these materials. The PowerPoints and exercises are now available in four languages (English, French, Spanish and Portuguese) and will be used to expand the KBA Partners ability to support training around the world.

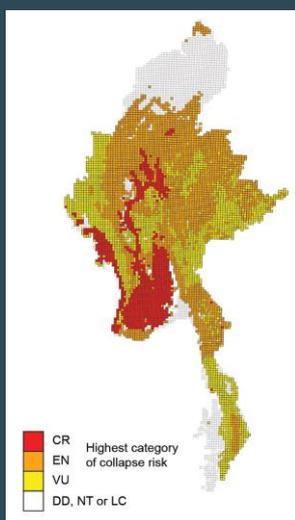
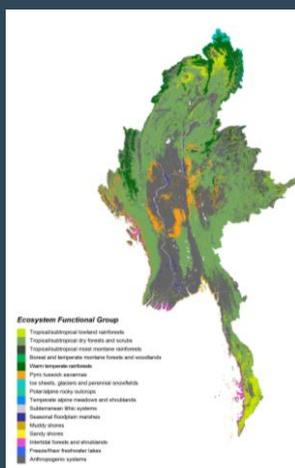
KBA National Coordination Groups (KBA NCGs) have been established in eleven countries by the end of 2020 with interest in establishing groups in many more. A key requirement is the need for funding to catalyse these groups and start the process of KBA identification which is delaying the establishment of many, but in late 2020 CEPF agreed they would help fund KBA NCGs where they occur in their focal hotspot regions. KBAs are also being proposed by individuals and a total of 538 sites were added or revised in 2020, many of these from the Andes region.

KBA Partners worked with government colleagues during 2020 to promote KBA-related text in the Convention on Biological Diversity's post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. KBAs provide a useful tool to identify '*sites of importance for biodiversity*' using a standardized approach. KBA coverage by protected areas is one of the indicators for Sustainable development goals 14 and 15 as well as Aichi Target 11 and will likely be a key indicator over the next 10 years. There is a growing momentum around conserving 30% of the earth by 2030 in this framework. This 30% needs to be put in the right place however, and KBAs provide a useful tool to ensure that important sites for biodiversity are conserved.



New and revised KBAs identified during a CEPF-funded process for the Andes region of South America.

Myanmar Ecosystems



Mapping ecosystems in Myanmar and Mozambique to identify KBAs

KBAs are not only identified for species but also for ecosystems and sites with high ecological integrity. Work by KBA partners in 2020 has been advancing the application of the criteria relevant to ecosystems and sites of ecological integrity.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) along with its partners in both Mozambique and Myanmar have over the past few years been working on mapping ecosystems and undertaking IUCN Red List of Ecosystems Assessments. This work will be important in the future to inform KBA delineation for important rare and threatened ecosystems. The efforts in Myanmar can be found at <https://www.myanmar-ecosystems.org/> and within Murray et al. (2020, *Biol Cons*). Current plans to further this work to inform KBAs are currently on hold because of the insecurity in the country. The first phase of the Mozambique assessment was completed in early 2021. WCS and our partners including the Mozambique government and South African National Biodiversity Institute are embarking on a second more comprehensive phase with Mozambique and across the region to build a more globally relevant assessment that will then be used to inform KBA assessments.

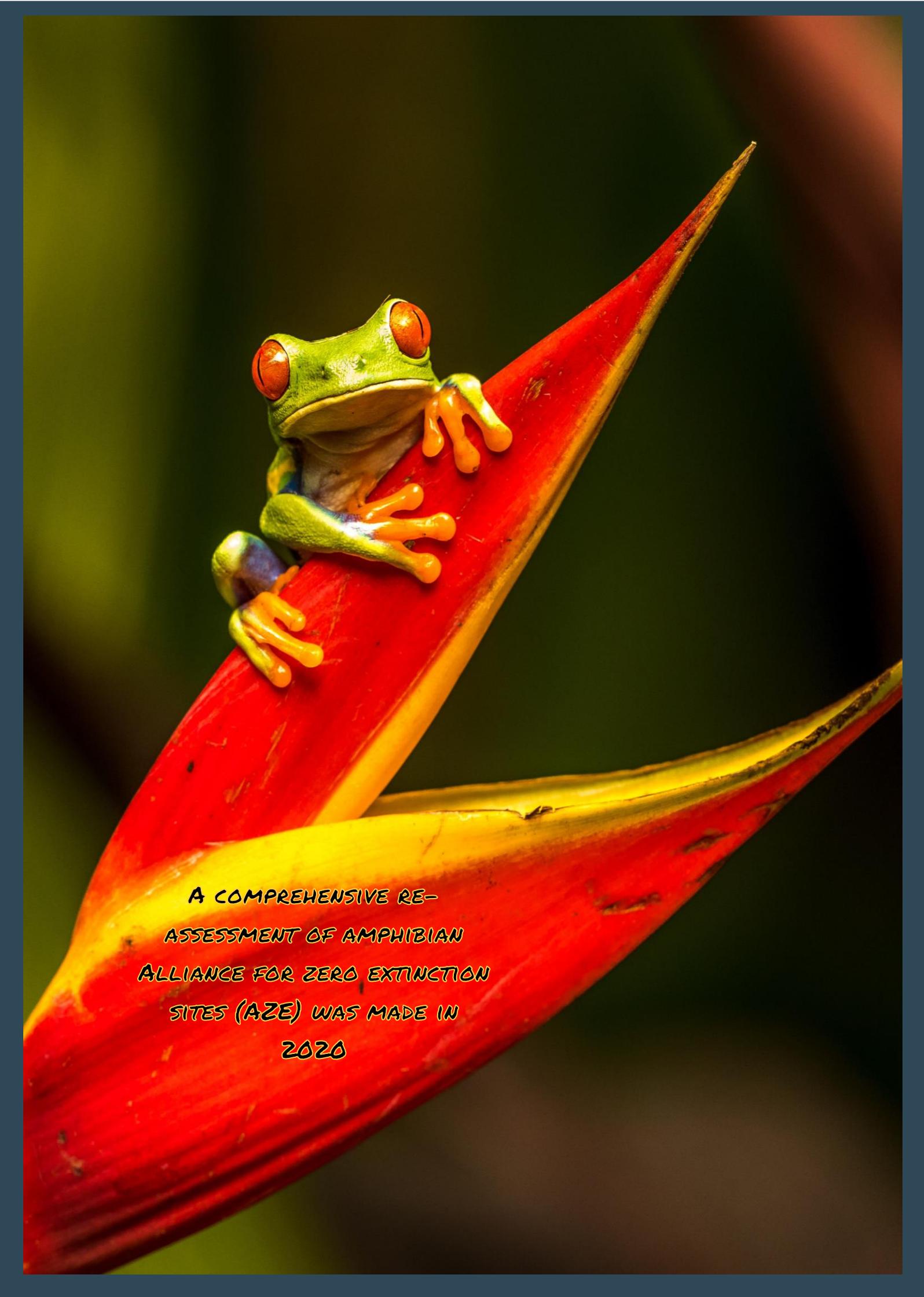
Comprehensive national assessments of KBAs

As well as Mozambique, comprehensive national assessments of KBAs across multiple taxonomic groups are ongoing in Canada, South Africa, and Uganda.

Canada has a major programme involving WCS, Birds Canada, NatureServe, IUCN and WWF Canada, supported by government to identify KBAs across this vast country. The approach developed involves extensive consultation with scientific experts, conservation practitioners and indigenous groups across each of Canada's territories. Progress in identifying KBAs can be tracked on their [dedicated website](#).

South Africa, a country that has developed one of the most detailed systematic conservation plans, has also been working to identify KBAs with the support of BirdLife South Africa, South Africa Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and WWF. Having compiled much of the biodiversity data for the country, SANBI is able to use these data to identify KBAs. Their results are identifying areas that had previously been missed by the systematic conservation plan, notably sites important for non-threatened but geographically restricted species.

In Uganda, KBAs have been identified across multiple taxonomic groups but there has been a need to better delineate some of the new sites before formally proposing them ([Plumptre et al. 2018](#)). WCS has recently been supporting on-the-ground assessments of sites to derive manageable boundaries and engaging local communities in the protection of the species that trigger KBA status (mostly plant species).

A vibrant green tree frog with bright red eyes and orange feet is perched on a large, pointed red flower petal. The frog is facing left, and its body is slightly angled towards the viewer. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow, suggesting a natural habitat. The overall scene is brightly lit, highlighting the frog's colors and the texture of the flower petal.

A COMPREHENSIVE RE-
ASSESSMENT OF AMPHIBIAN
ALLIANCE FOR ZERO EXTINCTION
SITES (AZE) WAS MADE IN
2020

KBA Programme priorities for 2021

During 2020 and continuing into 2021 most of the world's governments are developing a new and ambitious agenda for biodiversity conservation called the post2020 global biodiversity framework. Lessons learned from the 2010-2020 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) strategy showed that while the expansion of protection for biodiversity was relatively successful in terms of the coverage of the world, it was not best placed to achieve a halt to biodiversity loss. KBAs could better focus conservation action such that protected and conserved areas would better contribute to conserving globally important sites and contribute to halting ecosystem loss and extinction. The KBA Partnership is working to encourage specific language relevant to KBA identification and conservation in the final documentation that comes from the CBD process and will continue to do so in 2021.

The KBA Partners will continue to support the establishment of new KBA National Coordination Groups in 2021 and support their identification of KBAs through training in application of the KBA criteria, proposal of KBAs and working with donors to help support the identification process. The comprehensive assessments of KBAs in South Africa and Canada will be near completion by the end of 2021 and will lead to many more identified KBAs. We want to encourage donors to support the increasing number of countries with an interest in forming KBA national coordination groups as that is what constrains their growth at the moment.

An online training course to help make the training materials more widely accessible is being developed and will be completed by the end of 2021. This course will be open to anyone to take and provides the basic understanding of what KBAs are and how to apply the KBA criteria. It is hoped this will greatly increase the number of people with the skills to identify KBAs globally.

By the end of 2021 the KBA proposal process will be aided by the development of an online proposal process that will be accessed from the KBA website (www.keybiodiversityareas.org). This portal will help proposers link to the KBA Scoping Tool to identify potential trigger species for a site, help check thresholds for the proposer to confirm that criteria are met, and guide the proposer through the required and recommended documentation for the WDKBA.



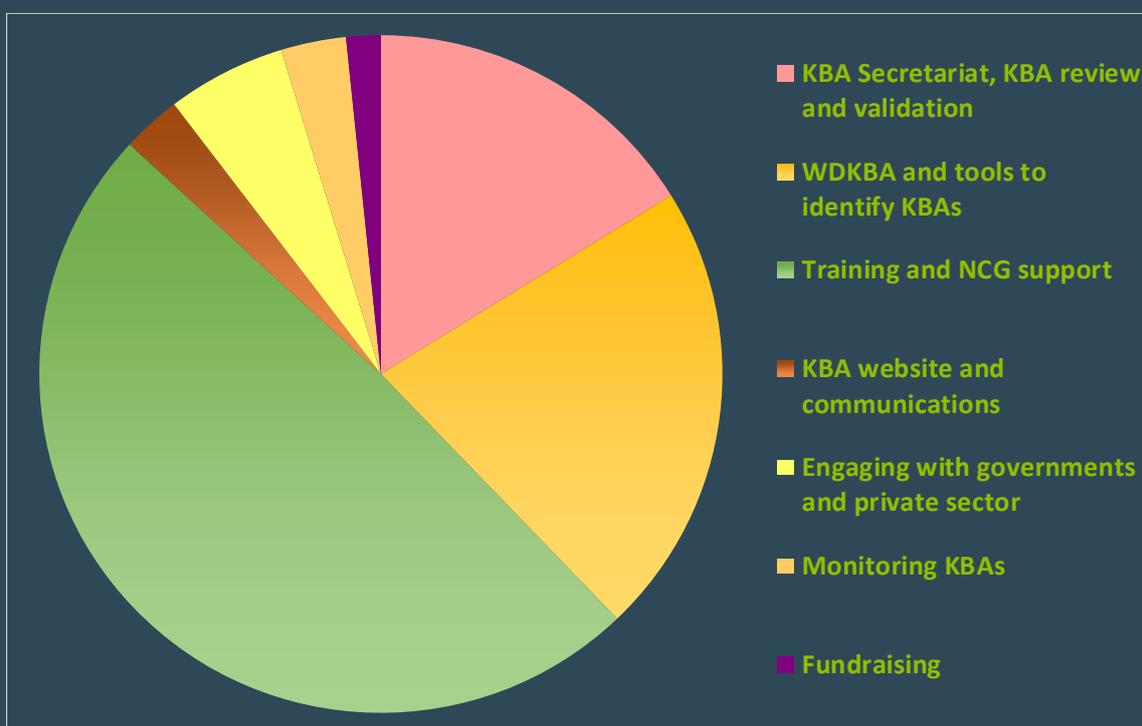
KBA programme financial summary 2020

In 2020 the KBA Partners who are signatories to the KBA Partnership (excluding GEF) supported the KBA Programme with more than **\$4.10 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.

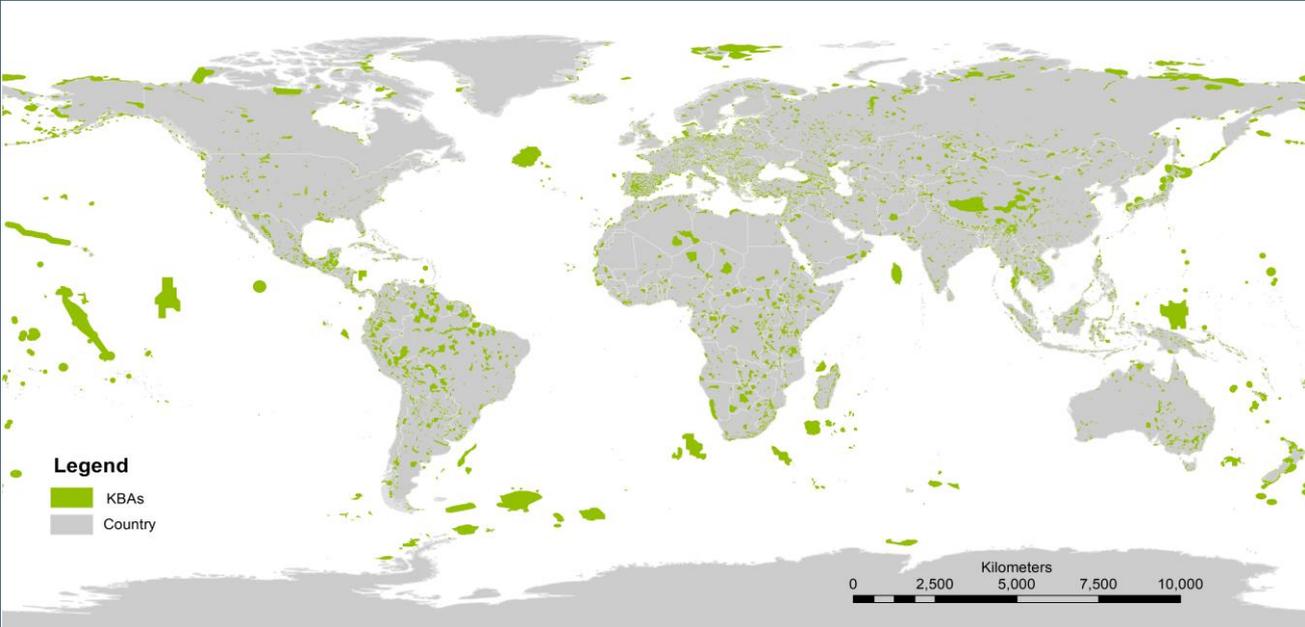
The KBA programme has developed a three-year budget that estimates the costs needed to fully revise the World Database of KBAs, website, establish the structures for KBA proposal and review and to support countries to make comprehensive assessments of KBAs. This averages \$1 million per year for the core costs of the KBA Secretariat, review and validation of KBAs and development of the WDKBA. Additional costs to make national assessments of KBAs in a country vary between \$200,000-750,000 (costs varying with costs of staff time and meetings). The costs of monitoring and conserving KBAs that are identified will also vary greatly, dependent on in-country costs and the level of threat to the sites.

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 (aplumtre@keybiodiversityareas.org).

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



Identified 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 2020 but is unlikely to be comprehensive.

- Belote et al. (2020). A Framework for Developing Connectivity Targets and Indicators to Guide Global Conservation Efforts. [BioScience](#).
- Beresford et al. (2020) Repeatable and standardised monitoring of threats to Key Biodiversity Areas in Africa using Google Earth Engine. [Ecological Indicators](#)
- BirdLife International (2020) [Birds and biodiversity targets: what do birds tell us about progress to the Aichi Targets, and requirements for the post-2020 biodiversity framework? A State of the World's Birds report](#). Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International
- Buchanan et al. (2020) Assessment of national-level progress towards elements of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. *Ecological Indicators*
- Geldmann et al. (2020) Essential indicators for measuring site-based conservation effectiveness in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. [Conservation Letters](#)
- Grantham et al. (2020). Spatial priorities for conserving the most intact biodiverse forests within Central Africa. [Environmental Research Letters](#)
- Handley et al. (2020). Evaluating the effectiveness of a large multi-use MPA in protecting key biodiversity areas for marine predators. [Diversity and Distributions](#).
- Hanson et al. (in press) Global conservation of species' niches. [Nature](#).
- Jones et al. (2020) Safeguarding Earth's marine species requires conserving more than 26% of the ocean. [One Earth](#).
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KBA Secretariat and KBA Community in 2020

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 was Regional Focal Point for southern and west Africa in 2020, working for BirdLife South Africa.



Alberto Yanosky, was Community representative for the Americas in 2020, and became Co-Chair of the KBA Partnership Committee in November 2020



Irina Kostadinova was Community Representative for Europe and Central Asia in 2020, working for the BirdLife Partner in Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds.



Sheila G. Vergara, was Community representative for Asia in 2020 is Director of Biodiversity Information Management, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, and engaged in KBA work to contribute to conservation decision and policy development in the ASEAN Region



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



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.



Miguel Fernandez, Regional Focal Point for Latin America. His work is focused on transforming and elevating the understanding among the public, media and decision makers of the importance of understanding the fundamental patterns of life's diversity.



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



Contact the KBA Secretariat at aplumptre@keybiodiversityareas.org

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



Olivier Langrand, was Co-chair of the KBA Consultative Forum in 2020, and is Executive Director of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. He has been supporting KBAs in most of the major hotspot regions of the world.



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 2019:

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

Conservation International: Neil Cox and Daniel Juhn

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund: Olivier Langrand & Jack Tordoff

Global Environment Facility: Mark Zimsky

International Union for the Conservation of Nature: Jane Smart, Giulia Carbone & Tom Brooks

NatureServe: Healy Hamilton

Rainforest Trust: Karl Didier & Mark Gruin

Re:Wild: Wes Sechrest & Penny Langhammer

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



