

## Treatment of sensitive Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) data

The [Key Biodiversity Area \(KBA\) Partnership](#) aims to make openly available as much as possible of the scientific and research data and information held in the [World Database of KBAs \(WDKBA\)](#), whilst recognising that there are sometimes valid reasons for adding levels of restriction. There may be rare cases where the publication of information on the distribution of particular species in the WDKBA could put them at risk. These are mostly species with very restricted distributions that face risks from humans of capture, targeted killing, or significant targeted disturbance. Publication of information on the localities of species impacted by the pet trade, targeted hunting, horticultural trade, or disturbance of nests or roosts for example could potentially jeopardise their conservation. Information on some geographically restricted and/or highly threatened ecosystems in KBA assessments may also be sensitive. There are also rare cases where the publication of information on KBAs could compromise the value of sacred natural sites (i.e. areas of land or water have special spiritual significance to peoples and communities) if it encourages increased visitation.

Therefore, care is taken to ensure that sensitive data, defined for the purpose of KBA data management as sensitive biodiversity elements, sites that only support sensitive biodiversity elements and sacred sites that have been declared by proposers as sensitive, are appropriately managed. Information on species that are sensitive is captured in the WDKBA in two ways. Firstly, any species that is recognised as sensitive globally, as defined by the IUCN Red List, is flagged as sensitive within the WDKBA. Other species that [KBA Proposers](#) believe may be sensitive at site level are also assigned a 'sensitive' tag by the Proposer during an assessment or reassessment.

Currently, all sensitive data are withheld from all views in the WDKBA other than from the data management team at BirdLife International, as well as the [KBA Secretariat](#) and the [Regional Focal Points \(RFPs\)](#) whose visibility of these records is essential for managing KBA processes. These details are made available upon request to the KBA Secretariat to individual proposers so that they may reassess their assessments. Specific details that potentially jeopardise sensitive sites and species are also withheld from public views on other platforms that display KBA data, such as the [KBA website](#) and the [Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool \(IBAT\)](#), and they are withheld from spatial and tabular datasets provided upon request. Specifically, sensitive data are:

- Largely excluded from the details published on the KBA website (KBA dashboard filters and tabular information, the KBA site search the map search and KBA Factsheets) with the exception of the KBA dashboard totals presented and summary infographics that do not reveal specific sensitive details.
- Excluded from non-commercial KBA data requests submitted for a variety of purposes such as for research, communications, advocacy, conservation planning and others.
- Excluded from the datasets supplied to the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT).

While concealing data in all cases is the most precautionary approach, limiting such information, especially at the site level, can actually be detrimental to the conservation of a site and its biodiversity elements: if the location and existence of a sensitive site is not known then it may be more vulnerable to human pressures. Into the future, added functionality in IBAT for use in analyses underpinning proximity reports (which could inform user that their area of interest X is within X km of a sensitive site and is therefore of importance from a conservation perspective), will help remedy this issue. While indicating that a sensitive site is nearby, no details will be available to IBAT users about the site, its exact location and/ or extent or its sensitive trigger species.