



KBA PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT 2026

Celebrating 10 years of identifying,
monitoring, and conserving KBAs



FOREWORD

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the KBA Standard being published and the KBA Partnership being established. This report highlights some of the achievements made to date as well as looks forward to the next ten years. We now have forty-six countries that have established KBA National Coordination Groups, about a quarter of all countries. Many of these are forging ahead with updating their KBA networks by applying as many of the KBA criteria as they can and to as many taxonomic groups and ecosystems for which they have data. This work is leading to a near doubling of the number of KBAs on average, indicating that other countries are likely missing half their sites.

In 2025, we relaunched the KBA website with an exciting and dynamic look, providing better access to information for the various audiences that use the KBA data. Governments now have access to various policy documents that show why they should be identifying, monitoring, and conserving their KBAs; conservation practitioners have better access to the KBA database information; and donors can find out how prioritising KBAs can lead to better impacts for conservation. The private sector has access to KBA data through the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT), which packages data in industry-relevant ways with protected area and IUCN Red List of Threatened Species data. We also launched a specific training course with the UN Nature for Life Hub, which is aimed at government employees and CBD focal points to better understand how they can use KBAs to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

More international conventions are recognising the value of KBAs as an indicator for tracking progress in conserving important sites for biodiversity. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance has adopted two indicators that use KBA data, and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) has also adopted four KBA indicators for the strategic plan. These complement the four indicators for the UN Sustainable Development Goals 14 & 15 and the various headline and complementary indicators in the KMGBF. This is because KBAs are identified using quantitative criteria, the percentage of the global population or global extent of an ecosystem at a site, and are therefore comparable between countries, unlike many prioritisation approaches for species.

It is encouraging to see many new marine KBAs being identified also, particularly in Canada, Ecuador, Gabon, Madagascar, Mozambique, Philippines, as well as many seabird sites in the Caribbean and Antarctica. About 30% of all KBAs have a marine component, as many are coastal areas or islands. More KBAs are starting to be identified for seabirds in the high seas, also with an initial focus on marine mammals and birds in the Antarctic Ocean but plans to expand across taxa and to other areas.

After 10 years, KBAs are increasingly being seen as the most important sites for biodiversity conservation, and we only see this increasing as we look forward to the next ten years of the KBA Programme.



**Naomi Kingston & Paul Matiku,
Co-Chairs, KBA Committee**

CONTENTS

Foreword	2
KBA Programme	4
Looking back over the first ten years of the KBA Programme	6
KBAs incorporated in more Multilateral Environment Agreements	9
Growth in KBA National Coordination Groups.	10
Mapping marine KBAs in Madagascar.	11
Identifying KBAs for Marine Birds and Mammals in Antarctic Seas	13
Progress on updating KBAs in the Caribbean	15
Identifying freshwater KBAs on Lake Tanganyika.	16
Mapping the most important places for trees.	17
Scoping of marine KBAs in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor.	20
Scoping KBAs across Europe	21
New Website making KBA information more accessible	23
World Database of KBAs	24
KBAs used by the Private Sector to minimise impacts on biodiversity	27
KBA Programme priorities for 2026/2027	28
KBA programme financial summary 2025	29
Donors supporting KBA identification and conservation	30
Science and Research	31
KBA Secretariat and KBA Community 2025	32

Suggested citation: KBA Partnership (2026) *KBA Programme Annual Report 2026: Celebrating 10 years of identifying, monitoring and conserving KBAs.*

Photo Credits: Front cover: Eastern Chimpanzee © Barry Stewart; p. 4: European Bison © Mikhail Ezdakov; p. 5: © Lure of Adventure/Pexels; p. 6: Key Biodiversity Areas Steering Committee meeting 2026 © Andrew Snyder; p. 8 Landscape Forest Amazon Oxbow lake, Ecuador © Barend van Gemerden; p. 11: 1) © GEF6-MPAs Madagascar, 2) © Gilles ADT; p. 12: Whale Shark © Namthuan Wildlife; p. 14: King Penguin © Juleseth; p. 15: Road Salt Pond – Anguilla © Farah Mukhida, Anguilla National Trust; p. 16: 1) Lake Tanganyika © Brian Harries, 2) © Worldtraveller; p. 17: 1) *Psoralea peratica* © Charles Stirton, 2) *Magnolia polyhypsophylla* © Salvamontes; P. 18: 1) *Taxus floridana* © Moses J. Michelsohn, 2) *Juniperus bermudiana* © Daniel Ward, 3) *Abies beshanzuensis* © Li Ming, 4) *Abies nebrodensis* © Little Mud Fish; p. 19: © Anupa Uthsara/Unsplash; p. 25: © Sylke Rohrlach; p. 26: © Slavena Peneva/Unsplash; back cover: © Andy Plumptre.

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 that form the [KBA Partnership](#), this programme aims to support each nation of the world to update its KBA networks and to support the identification of KBAs on the High Seas. This provides a blueprint of sites for conservation that contain globally important populations of species or globally significant areas of ecosystems, and sites of outstanding ecological integrity or irreplaceability. Knowing, with precision, the location of those places that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity is critical for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and other multilateral environmental agreements as well as for national planning and conservation. The use of these data is enabling conservation actions to be directed to halt and reverse biodiversity declines and to address existing and emerging threats.

KBAs are being used to support the implementation of the KMGBF goals and targets by guiding spatial planning for biodiversity (Target 1), prioritising sites for restoration (Target 2), guiding 30 x 30 expansion of protected and conserved areas (Target 3), guiding identification of Other area-based Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs) (Target 3), supporting targeted species conservation (Target 4), helping mainstream biodiversity conservation by mapping globally significant sites for conservation (Target 14), supporting the private sector to assess, report and minimise impacts on biodiversity (Target 15) and using biodiversity data to guide conservation policy (Target 21). Goal A of the KMGBF to reverse biodiversity loss and halt extinctions can only be achieved if we know where the globally

significant populations of species and areas of ecosystems occur and then work to conserve them. KBA criteria identify these sites of global importance.

This year we celebrate the first 10 years of the KBA programme and look back on the achievements to date as well as what was achieved in 2025. We are seeing increasing recognition of the importance of the KBA programme and data in the World Database of KBAs, and engagement by countries around the world to update their KBA networks. In 2025, the KBA Partnership worked with more countries to increase the number that have established KBA National Coordination Groups and are working to update their KBA networks, and by mid-2026 we have 46 countries with these groups and about 20 others in the process of establishing them.

Funding for countries to update their KBA networks is becoming more available with generous support from the Bezos Earth Fund and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund in particular. We know of at least 34 funding agencies and governments that are financing the updating of KBA networks, but we are almost certainly missing quite a few. However, this preliminary assessment shows the increasing use by the donor community of KBAs and their value in helping target conservation finance to some of the most important places for biodiversity conservation. As we look forward to the next 10 years, we are urging all countries to work to update their KBA networks as part of their planning for 30 x 30 and national spatial planning under the KMGBF. Knowing where these globally important sites occur is the first step to developing national conservation plans and actions that are truly comprehensive.





**118 KBAS WERE MODIFIED
OR ADDED TO THE WDKBA
DURING THE YEAR**

LOOKING BACK OVER THE FIRST TEN YEARS OF THE KBA PROGRAMME



1. Origins and Strategic Evolution

The concept of having a global approach to identifying areas of importance for biodiversity was first proposed in 2004 at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, at which the term Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) was established. There then followed a long period of raising the profile of KBAs, testing of potential criteria, and engaging the worldwide conservation community in the setting of the criteria. The publishing of the [*Global Standard for the Identification of KBAs*](#) in 2016 and the establishment of the KBA Partnership at the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii in the same year led to the start of the KBA Programme. Initially, the KBA Partnership was formed by 11 Institutions, and over the next few years it grew to 13 partners with the addition of Rainforest Trust and American Bird Conservancy. In early 2018, the KBA Secretariat was established, situated within BirdLife International in Cambridge, with the aim of supporting KBA Partners in implementing a strategic plan finalised in late 2018.

2. Global Infrastructure & Baseline Datasets

An initial focus of the KBA Programme was to put the structures in place to enable KBAs to be identified, reassessed and monitored, and to make the information available to the world at large. The World Database of KBAs (WDKBA) was built and initially incorporated data from the Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, Alliance

for Zero Extinction sites, and Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund hotspots programmes. These programmes then helped update the sites to assess whether these sites met the criteria in the IUCN global standard for KBAs (Global Standard), or whether the data were not available and needed updating. The WDKBA therefore contains sites that are recognised as global KBAs (that meet the criteria in the Global Standard), some sites recognised as regional KBAs, and some that are yet to be determined.

As a result, all except three countries (Monaco, San Marino and Tuvalu) have one or more KBAs in the WDKBA, but these KBA networks are incompletely identified, most having been identified only for birds.

3. National Governance and Capacity Building

A website was built in 2018 to help raise awareness about KBAs, and over time this was more closely linked to the WDKBA, so that summary data on KBAs could be shown through a dashboard and simple queries made, such as providing the summary statistics at country level for particular groups of species. Initially, knowledge of KBAs in most countries was limited, and a focus of the KBA Partnership was to work to raise awareness of what they are and how they could be used by governments, the conservation, private sector and donor communities.

The aim of the KBA Programme has always been to have countries identify their own KBAs, using their own scientific experts, government representatives and members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples groups. KBAs need to be feasibly manageable, and it is only people on the ground who can assess whether this is the case and make it happen. The KBA Programme early on encouraged the formation of KBA National Coordination Groups (KBA NCGs) to drive the process of updating KBA networks in countries as well as supporting their long-term monitoring and conservation. These now number 46 groups, and the number has been growing steadily by about six to seven countries every year since 2019 (figure 1).

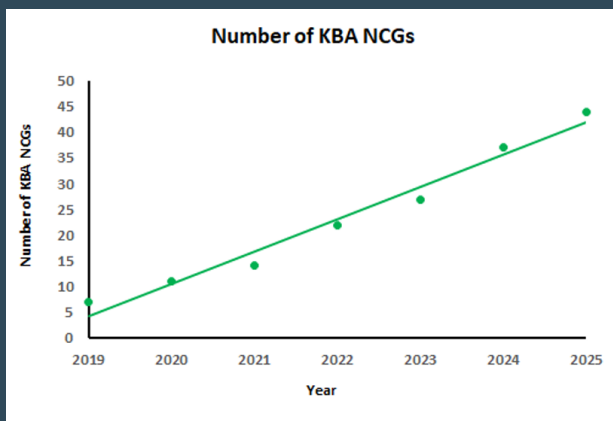


Figure 1

4. The Critical Value of Comprehensive Reassessments

These KBA NCGs have sought the funds needed to update their KBA networks and then gone on to apply all the KBA criteria across as many taxonomic groups for which they have data, as well as ecosystems and sites of ecological integrity or irreplaceability. A recent analysis of the average changes to the KBA network following a more comprehensive application of the KBA criteria showed that:

There was a doubling of sites where more than 50% of the area of the site was a new KBA.

And a 164% increase in total area of KBAs per country on average.

Effectively, this means that in countries that have not updated their KBA networks, **they are missing half of their KBAs**.

5. Global Policy and Regulatory Integration

Another focus in the first ten years was to make the KBA data available for use in various international frameworks.

Early on, the 'average coverage of KBAs by protected and conserved (OECMs) areas' was established as an indicator for the Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15, disaggregated by terrestrial, freshwater, marine and mountain regions of the world. Through the development of the KMGBF, KBAs were advocated as a suitable indicator to promote the conservation of the right places under the 30 x 30 target 3 and for spatial planning under target 1. KBAs were eventually identified as a suitable disaggregation of the headline indicator of 'protected and conserved area coverage' of each country as a whole, to measure how well they were targeting areas of importance for biodiversity under Target 3.

KBAs have subsequently been included as indicators by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Migratory Species (see [next](#) in this report).

KBAs have also been incorporated in various private sector frameworks, initially with the International Finance Corporation Performance Standard 6 (IFC PS6) recognising KBAs as likely critical habitat and AZE sites as no-go areas. This standard was subsequently adopted by the Equator Principles Financing Institutions (currently numbering 126).

KBAs were also incorporated in the European Union Taxonomy, a tool to help investors, companies, issuers and project promoters navigate the transition to a low-carbon, resilient and resource-efficient economy. This led to their recognition as

biodiversity-sensitive areas in the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) E4 on Biodiversity and ecosystems, and their incorporation in the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), which is the EU regulation requiring companies to report on their sustainability requirements and to report on their ESRS implementation. Effectively, it means that all large and medium-sized businesses in Europe must report their direct impacts and impacts through supply chains on KBAs.

KBAs have also been incorporated in other business reporting frameworks such as the Science Based Targets for Nature (SBTN), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the Task Force for Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD). Each of these encourages companies to measure their impacts on KBAs.

6. Pathway to 2030

As a result of these efforts, **KBAs are becoming increasingly recognised around the world** by governments, the private sector and the philanthropic communities, and their use in guiding conservation is growing. Forty percent of the first 97 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) submitted to the CBD since the KMGBF was agreed now mention KBAs, with 26% having specific targets, actions or indicators using KBAs. **As we move towards 2030, we are encouraging all countries to update their KBA networks** and incorporate KBA conservation in their national spatial planning (KMGBF Target 1), site restoration (Target 2), 30 x 30 planning and OECM identification (Target 3), mainstreaming of biodiversity (Target 14), and the reporting of business impacts (Target 15). The very act of updating KBA networks uses the latest biodiversity data and helps countries achieve Target 21.



KBAs INCORPORATED IN MORE MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENTS



Protected and Conserved Area coverage of KBAs is an indicator for the UN Sustainable Development Goals 14 & 15, disaggregated by terrestrial, freshwater, marine, and mountain regions of the world. Coverage of KBAs is also a disaggregation of the headline indicator for Target 3 in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity

Framework (KMGBF), and several other complementary indicators using KBAs exist for Targets 1, 2, and 3 of the KMGBF. The KBA Policy Working Group worked in 2025 with countries to also develop several indicators using KBAs for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

RAMSAR CONVENTION

Two indicators were developed around KBAs to track the conservation of wetlands of global importance. These are:

Indicator 1.4.2: Total area and % of total area coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for wetland species and ecosystems by protected areas and OECMs

Indicator 3.1.2: Percentage (%) of Key Biodiversity Areas qualifying as a Wetland of International Importance that have been designated

The World Database of KBAs will be providing the calculations of these indicators for each country and Ramsar site in the world.

CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Four indicators were developed around KBAs to track areas of importance for migrating species as follows:

Indicator 2.1.2: Percentage of CMS-listed species occurring in a country for which at least one KBA has been recognised.

Indicator 2.1.3: Percentage of KBAs triggered by CMS-listed species that have been monitored in the previous ten years.

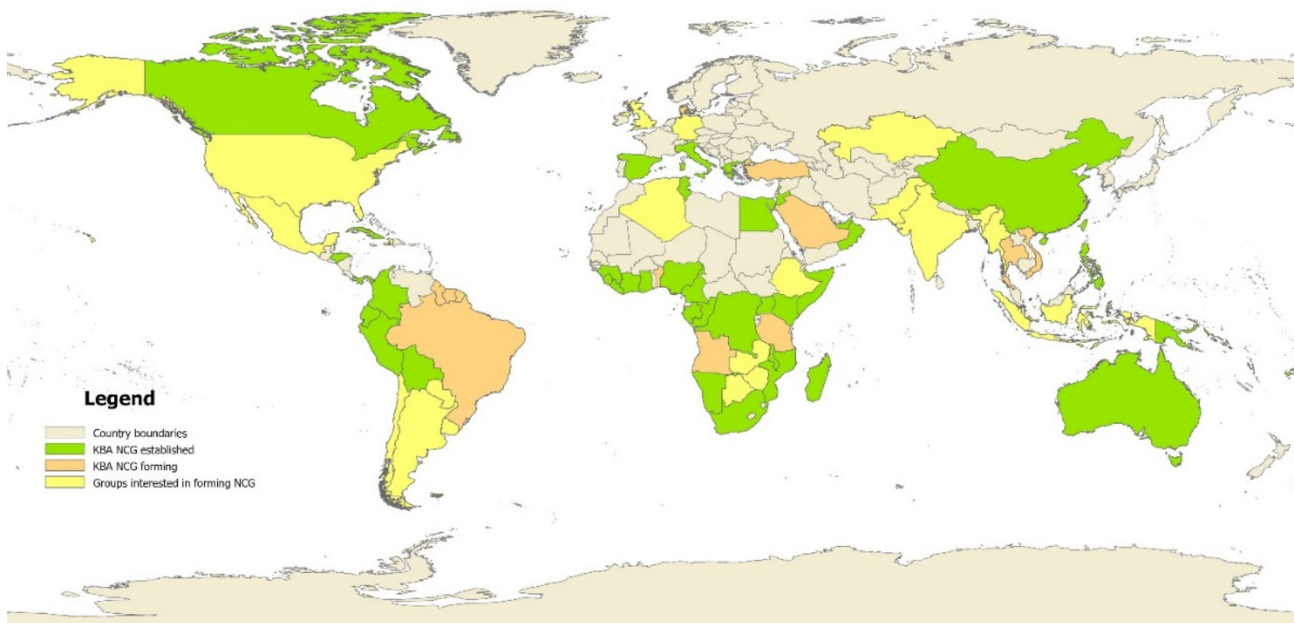
Indicator 2.2.1: Mean percentage area (and total extent) of KBAs for CMS-listed species covered by protected areas and OECMs.

Indicator 2.2.2: Percentage of monitored KBAs for CMS-listed species in favourable condition.

The increasing use of KBAs as indicators in such multilateral environmental agreements indicates the usefulness and value of KBAs by countries. This is in part due to the quantitative nature of the KBA criteria, which makes them comparable between countries, unlike many other approaches to identifying sites of importance for certain species groups¹. It is also because KBAs can be applied to any multicellular species group or ecosystem.

¹ Plumptre, A.J. et al. (2024) Targeting site conservation to increase the effectiveness of new global biodiversity targets, One Earth, 7, 11-17. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2023.12.007>

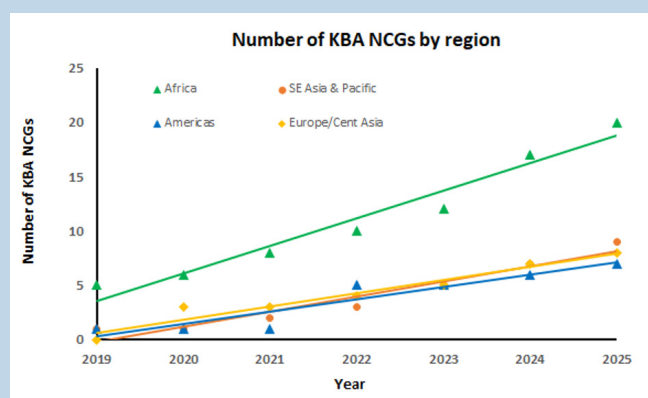
GROWTH IN KBA NATIONAL COORDINATION GROUPS



In 2025, a further seven countries established KBA National Coordination Groups (KBA NCGs), resulting in 44 such groups that had been formed by the end of the year. These included Honduras, Italy, Oman, Namibia, Palau, Senegal, and Zanzibar. An additional 10 countries are starting to establish KBA NCGs at the moment (see map). The role of KBA NCGs is to oversee the updating of KBA networks through the application of most, if not all, of the criteria to as many taxonomic groups and ecosystems for which data exist. KBA identification is not a one-off process but requires regular updating over time as new data on species become available and also as species and ecosystem threat status changes over time. KBAs require monitoring and should be re-assessed

every 8-12 years, forming part of the longer-term role of these groups. Through establishing KBA NCGs in countries, we have found greater support for conservation of KBAs in-country and their incorporation in national policies and legislation, national spatial planning processes, and use by various sectors. In 2025, we were also able to directly support the Cameroon and Kenya NCGs with funding from the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) to support updates of their KBA Networks. IBAT uses the funds it obtains from businesses that subscribe to IBAT to support the ongoing improvement of the World Database of KBAs, including updating the KBA data.

The trends in the number of NCGs continue to be dominated by countries in Africa, while the other regions continue to increase at a similar rate. Europe is the continent most behind the others, with most of the growth in the figure here from countries in the Middle East and Central Asia. Twelve countries have completed updates of their national KBA networks, and a further seven are working on updates, while other countries with KBA NCGs are seeking funds to do so.



MAPPING MARINE KBAs IN MADAGASCAR

Supported by the Global Environment Facility, the KBA NCG in Madagascar has been identifying new marine protected areas, led by WWF through the GEF6-MPA project (GEF ID 9546). Seven marine and coastal KBAs have been officially confirmed in Madagascar to date, covering 3,213,426 hectares:

- [Tendro Atsimon'ny Nosy](#),
- [Tandavandrina Nosy Be – Baie de Tsimipaika Bay](#)
- [Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex](#)
- [Antongil Bay](#)
- [Nosy Boraha-Sainte-Marie Island](#)
- [La Loza Bay Wetlands](#)
- [Bombetoka-Belemboka](#)

The momentum continues, with five additional sites representing more than 1,500,000 hectares still under evaluation.

Distributed along the Malagasy coastline, these sites encompass a mosaic of essential marine and coastal ecosystems — coral reefs, mangroves, breeding grounds for marine mammals including cetaceans, and refuges for sea turtles. The KBA label provided the scientific foundation upon which the GEF6-MPA project was able to identify and prioritise sites for support in the creation

of Marine Protected Areas. To date, three MPAs have already been granted temporary protected area status: the AMTP Sorkay (Nosy Boraha – Sainte-Marie), the AMP Tandavandrina Nosy-Be, and the AMP Atimo Vata'e. The Antongil Bay MPA completes this network, which is currently being established.

On the ground, three KBA sites have also been officially commemorated through the installation of commemorative steles such as Tendro Atsimon'ny Nosy, Tandavandrina Nosy Be Baie de Tsimipaika and Nosy Boraha Ile Sainte-Marie— a powerful gesture that visibly anchors the long-term commitment of local communities and the State.



Madagascar's KBA NCG is now seeking funding to also update its terrestrial KBA network.

THROUGH THE GEF6-MPA
PROJECT, SEVEN MARINE AND
COASTAL KBAs HAVE BEEN
CONFIRMED IN MADAGASCAR

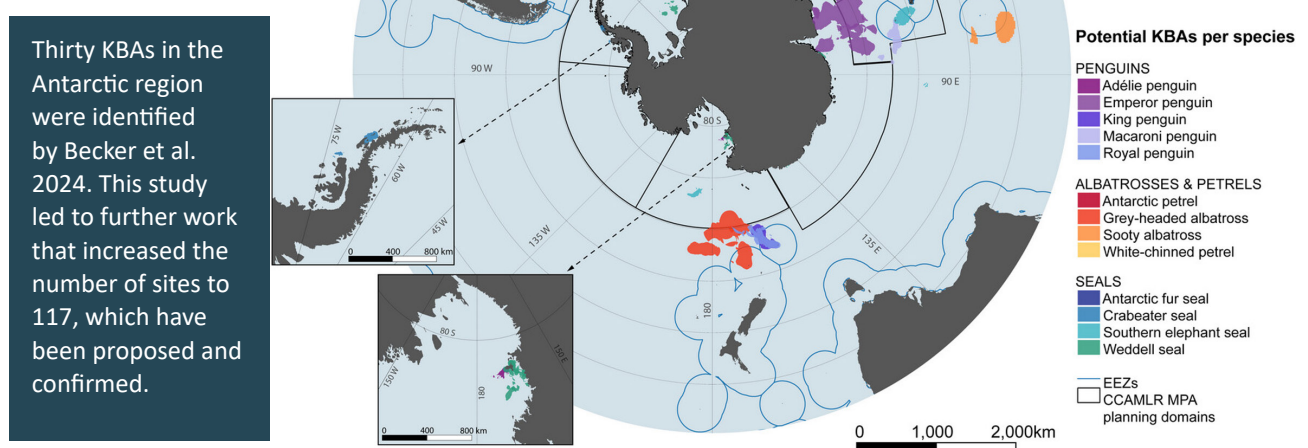


IDENTIFYING KBAs FOR MARINE BIRDS AND MAMMALS IN ANTARCTIC SEAS

The highly productive waters around Antarctica and in the Southern Ocean host abundant seabird and marine mammal populations, but this region and the species that inhabit it are also highly threatened by a myriad of pressures. This includes climate change, industrial fishing, pollution, disease, and expanding tourism operations. In order to protect these marine species and the species they depend upon, the location of areas in the marine environment that specific populations depend on for survival must be identified and subsequently incorporated into conservation and fisheries management. However, collecting data on highly mobile species in these remote locations is very challenging. This has limited the amount of information available to inform important management decisions. Satellite tracking of tagged animals is therefore an extremely valuable tool for understanding the at-sea distributions of large marine species in this region.

Several recent large-scale studies^{1,2} have assessed satellite tracking data for 37 species (33 seabirds, 4 pinnipeds), totalling more than 2000 individual animals being tracked. Such data give us unprecedented evidence as to where some of the most significant sites for biodiversity are for these species in the waters of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. By analysing data following established protocols, we located areas of particular conservation importance and identified high-use areas which could be assessed for KBA status.

We identified 117 sites which qualified as KBAs. These sites represent critical locations for the survival and breeding success of seabirds and marine mammals relying on these waters. These sites are being proposed as KBAs in the World database of KBAs at the moment.



References:

1. Becker, S. L., Boyd, C., Handley, J. M., et al. (2024). Scaling up ocean conservation through recognition of key biodiversity areas in the Southern Ocean from multispecies tracking data. *Conservation Biology*, e14345. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14345>
2. Handley J, Rouyer M-M, Pearmain EJ, et al. (2021) Marine Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas for Penguins in Antarctica, Targets for Conservation Action. *Front. Mar. Sci.* 7:602972. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2020.602972

117 KBAs CONFIRMED FOR MARINE BIRDS AND MAMMALS IN THE ANTARCTIC SEAS



PROGRESS ON UPDATING KBAs IN THE CARIBBEAN

In Anguilla, the RSPB has supported a revision of the Territory's mainland Key Biodiversity Areas by the Anguilla National Trust. Anguilla's mainland wetland network is a combination of Crown and privately owned wetlands. East End Pond Conservation Area is Anguilla's only protected wetland, managed by the Anguilla National Trust, and they monitor wetland habitat and species using these sites, with bird counts conducted monthly at all sites and comprehensive habitat assessments undertaken every five years. Management plans for East End Pond Conservation Area and Road Salt Pond have been developed, with the Anguilla National Trust leading on implementation and monitoring. Despite the mixed ownership and limited formal management documents, Anguilla's wetlands act as a single management unit, with birds regularly moving between wetlands depending on water levels and food availability.

Wetlands that were previously designated as individual KBAs no longer meet the criteria independently. However, the wetland bird monitoring data collected over the past 20 years demonstrated that, collectively, Anguilla's wetlands qualify as a KBA due to their importance for the globally vulnerable lesser yellowlegs. A revised KBA proposal was submitted to the regional KBA Secretariat and is currently under review.

Through a University of Liverpool-led [project](#) led by Rhiannon Austin, proposals for additional KBAs for the Turks and Caicos Islands were submitted based on seabird surveys and tracking data. In addition, fieldwork undertaken through the RSPB-led [East Caicos Wilderness Project](#) identified a globally important population of reddish egret, leading to the submission of this site as a new KBA, which is also currently under review. The survey findings were published by Simon Busuttill: <https://jco.birdscaribbean.org/index.php/jco/article/view/1491>.

RSPB has also been supporting a Caribbean Seabird Census, including data analysis and mapping. Initial analysis of the results identified six sites that qualify as Global KBAs under criterion A1: sites holding more than 0.5% of a globally threatened species. Five of these sites are already recognised as global KBAs; in addition, ten sites qualify as KBAs under Criterion D1a: the site is known to hold 1% of a global population on a regular basis and during a key life stage. An additional 38 sites qualify as regional IBAs under criterion B3a for holding more than 1% of a biogeographical population; 18 of these are currently not recognised as IBAs or KBAs. A manuscript detailing these results will be submitted in the next few months.

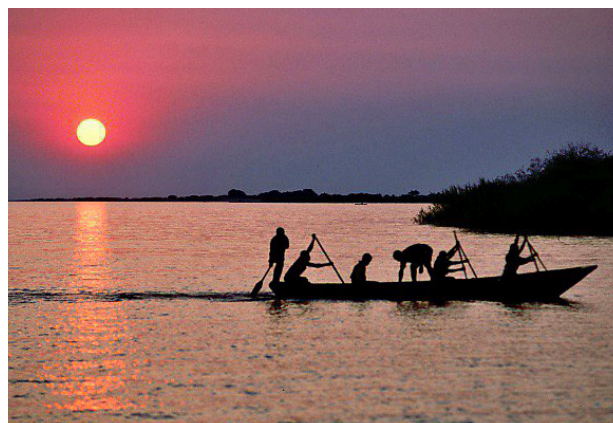
IDENTIFYING FRESHWATER KBAs ON LAKE TANGANYIKA

The Lake Tanganyika basin—**one of the world’s most evolutionarily important freshwater ecosystems**—has taken a major step forward for global biodiversity conservation with the confirmation of the first four Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for the lake. These sites, developed through nearly a decade of collaborative scientific work, represent a landmark moment for safeguarding the hundreds of unique and highly threatened species that make Lake Tanganyika an irreplaceable biodiversity hotspot.

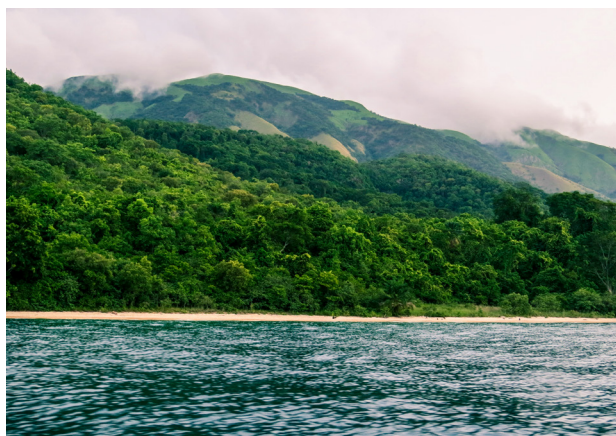
The four KBAs—[Mutambala–Nembe River Bay](#) & [Shore Northeast of Katanga/Mt Kabobo](#) in DR Congo, and [Cameron Bay](#) & [Mpulungu](#) in Zambia—span sites of exceptional ecological value. Together, they capture critical spawning grounds, restricted range cichlids, pelagic breeding areas, and other ecological processes essential to maintaining the lake’s extraordinary fish diversity. The recognition of these sites resulted from a multi-year process involving the Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA), the Lake Tanganyika Science Advisory Group (LT SAG), national experts from all four riparian countries of the lake, and extensive species-level reassessments under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Field confirmations of species presence, updated range maps, and newly documented reproductive units were central to meeting global KBA Standard requirements. A particularly important highlight is that one of the sites qualifies as an Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) site, triggered by the

entire known global population of *Xenotilapia burtoni* occurring almost wholly within the proposed Mutambala–Nembe River Bay KBA (aka “Burton’s Bay”). This makes the site internationally significant for preventing the extinction of a range restricted-species.

The recognition of these KBAs has been made possible through generous support and technical leadership from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), which initiated early delineation work and stakeholder consultations beginning in 2017. Subsequent refinement of the sites—through workshops in Entebbe, Dar es Salaam, Kigoma, and Morogoro—has been shepherded jointly by TNC, IUCN, LT SAG and the Lake Tanganyika Authority, culminating in the current set of confirmed sites.



While these four sites represent a major milestone, they also highlight the **critical need for further biodiversity data collection across the lake**. Many candidate KBAs, including sites in Tanzania and Burundi, could not yet be confirmed due to insufficient evidence of species’ continued presence or minimum reproductive unit thresholds—key requirements under the KBA Standard. Improved and coordinated surveys, including fish breeding assessments, habitat mapping, and long-term monitoring, will be essential for unlocking a fuller network of confirmed KBAs across Lake Tanganyika.



MAPPING THE MOST IMPORTANT PLACES FOR TREES

Trees are essential for life on Earth. They act as our planet's lungs, provide vital refuge for countless species, are key to livelihoods for people worldwide, and are pivotal as we fight rising temperatures, soil erosion, and habitat loss—some of the more visible effects of climate change. To ensure they thrive, the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE), a vital initiative of biodiversity conservation organisations working to prevent extinctions, is dedicated to safeguarding the Earth's most irreplaceable trees.

According to the [Global Tree Assessment](#), an initiative led by the Botanic Garden Conservation International (BGCI) and the IUCN Species Survival Commission Global Tree Specialist

Group, which has now comprehensively assessed the world's tree species, 3,841 tree species are identified as potential qualifiers for Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites, one of the KBA sub-criteria. These are sites where pretty much the whole population of a Critically Endangered or Endangered species occurs at one site. Because these Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR) trees exist nowhere else, the sites they inhabit are considered globally irreplaceable.

From the peaks of the Mediterranean to the rainforests of the Pacific, AZE tree species span the world and are present in many countries across continents:



1. **Africa:** The Algerian Fir (*Abies numidica*) is one of the qualifying species for the Djebel Babor et Tababort KBA in Algeria. In Malawi, the Mulanje Cedar (*Widdringtonia whytei*) qualified the Mount Mulanje Forest Reserve as a KBA. In Uganda, several cycad species like the Muhure (*Encephalartos whitelockii*) have qualified sites like the Queen Elizabeth National Park and Lake George KBA, and Mpanga Falls KBA. Several sites in South Africa have also qualified as KBAs for the presence of AZE species like the Pondo Coconut (*Jubaeopsis caffra*) or the Piketberg Fountain-tree (*Psoralea peratica*).



2. **South America:** Colombia is a global leader in tree diversity, particularly for the genus *Magnolia*, with 40 species—80% of which are endemic to the country. There, the Yariques Mountain Range qualified as a KBA for the presence of the newly described Molinillo (*Magnolia resupinatifolia*) and *Magnolia betuliensis*, and the species Palosanto (*Spirotheca mahechae*). Other magnolia species, Almenegra de Ventanas (*Magnolia polyhypsophylla*), qualified Alto de Ventanas as a KBA.



3. Central & North America: Mexico also boasts a rich diversity of trees, with species like *Aiouea elegans* and *Ageratina chimalapana* found at the Chimalapas KBA, and the Majagua (*Hampea montebellensis*) that qualified the Lagos de Montebello as a KBA. In the USA, the Florida Yew (*Taxus floridana*) is the qualifying species for the Apalachicola River and Forests KBA.



4. Caribbean: In Bermuda, the Southern Red Cedar (*Juniperus bermudiana*) qualified the Paget Marsh Nature Reserve as a KBA. Other countries in the Caribbean Region have also qualified AZE tree species like the Sabina (*Juniperus Saxicola*) found at the Turquino – Bayamesa KBA in Cuba, and the *Ardisia byrsonimae* present at the Peckham Woods KBA in Jamaica.



5. Asia & Australasia: China's Baishan Fir (*Abies beshanzuensis*) has qualified the Fengyang Shan - Baishanzu Nature Reserve as a KBA. Australia's prehistoric Wollemi Pine (*Wollemia nobilis*) qualifies the Greater Blue Mountains for KBA status. In Papua New Guinea, Rossel Island is a high-priority site qualified by species such as *Rosselia bracteata* and *Calophyllum acutiputamen*.



6. Europe: The Sicilian Fir (*Abies nebrodensis*) is the sole qualifying species for the Madonie KBA in Italy. There are other potential AZE species such as *Marcetella moquiniana*, *Sorbus arranensis*, and *Rhamnus lojaconoi*, that could be incorporated into the KBA network.

Beyond their biological uniqueness, AZE tree species are fundamental to global conservation policy. Their data are used by governments, NGOs, and the financial sector through tools like the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) to minimise biodiversity loss and prioritise funding where it will have the biggest impact. Local conservation efforts also show their cultural and ecological value. For example, in Colombia, the organisation SalvaMontes focuses on protecting *Magnolia polyhypsophylla*, a species with only 70

known adult individuals remaining. To reverse the tide, SalvaMontes has an ongoing propagation and population reinforcement project.

Protecting these trees requires community engagement, the support of conservationists, researchers, and authorities alike. KBAs for AZE tree species were highlighted on World Tree Day to remind us of the importance of trees and the responsibility we have to protect the irreplaceable sites they depend on.

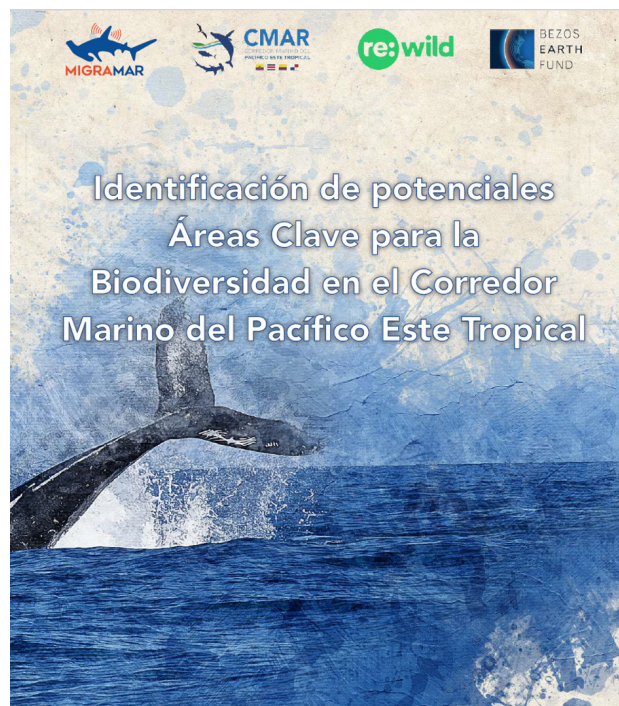
**44 COUNTRIES HAD ESTABLISHED
KBA NATIONAL COORDINATION
GROUPS BY THE END OF 2025**



SCOPING OF MARINE KBAs IN THE EASTERN TROPICAL PACIFIC MARINE CORRIDOR

The Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR) is an intergovernmental initiative between Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and Ecuador for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. This region is characterised by high biological richness and ecological connectivity, as well as high productivity, which has enabled it to provide important ecosystem services to coastal communities. In 2025, Migramar, supported by Re:wild and the Bezos Earth Fund, conducted a scoping exercise of potential marine KBAs in this region, focusing on existing protected areas to assess which might qualify as KBAs. Using range data from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, they assessed which sites might qualify using KBA criteria A1 (threatened species), B1 (individually geographically restricted species), and B2 (co-occurring geographically restricted species).

They assessed 89 protected areas and 11 priority sites that were unprotected at the time. They found that a total of 38 sites in the CMAR have the potential to be recognised as KBAs. The results corroborate the biological significance of some MPAs previously designated as KBAs and highlight new areas of potential global importance for coastal and oceanic species. The results of this study also represent a step forward in identifying sites of biodiversity importance in international waters. A total of four priority sites (the Thermal Dome; the region between Ecuador, Costa Rica and Colombia; the western Galápagos; and the equatorial front) were identified as potential KBAs, addressing the growing need to improve our understanding of sites important for biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdictions. Whilst transboundary management entails inherent challenges, this information is key to guiding the implementation of management areas in international waters and strengthening international cooperation for the management of marine resources.



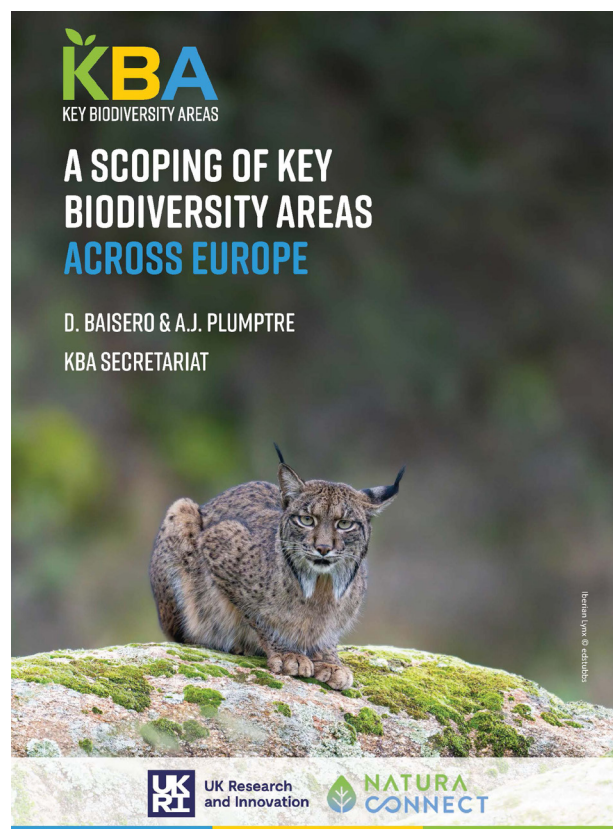
This scientific backing behind KBA identification informed the expansion of six coastal marine protected areas (RM El Pelado, RM Bajo Cope, RV Isla Corazón y Fragata, REMACAM, ANR Playas Villamil, and RV Manglares El Morro), adding approximately 200,000 hectares of mangroves, nursery habitats, and coastal ecosystems that underpin fisheries productivity and coastal resilience. These expansions used regional biodiversity data to directly inform national protection decisions and close critical conservation gaps along the coast.

Building on this work, several areas preliminarily identified through the KBA process are now being considered as candidates for new marine protected areas or expansion of existing ones in coastal zones.

SCOPING KBAs ACROSS EUROPE

All countries in Europe have some KBAs, mostly based on the Important Bird and Biodiversity (IBA) networks, which are incorporated in the World Database of KBAs as legacy sites. As a result, many KBAs in Europe have only been identified for bird species, which form 56.6% of all species that qualify as KBAs there. Additional sites have been identified in Mediterranean countries through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) ecosystem profile for that region but using legacy criteria. There is a need to update the KBA networks in all European countries, particularly given their recognition and use in the CSRD and EU Taxonomy, and the need to expand protected and conserved areas in sites of importance for biodiversity to achieve 30% by 2030 in the KMGBF.

In 2025/26, the KBA Secretariat conducted a scoping of KBAs across Europe with United Kingdom Research and Innovation funding (UKRI) as part of a Horizon Europe project called [NaturaConnect](#). The scoping aimed to first identify which existing KBAs might qualify for additional species, secondly identify which existing protected areas might qualify as KBAs, as well as identify areas outside the existing protected area network that might also qualify. The NaturaConnect project is focused on developing methodologies and publishing recommendations for the expansion of the EU's protected area network in a coherent and resilient manner, accounting for the diverse ways in which the EU's societal and bioclimatic realities might develop. Using a complementarity-based systematic conservation planning approach paired with potential future development scenarios, the project has identified the network of areas needed to achieve 30% protection of terrestrial Europe, while maximising biodiversity protection and minimising the risks deriving from potential future socioeconomic and bioclimatic changes. Our scoping therefore also focused on the priority areas for protected area expansion identified in the NaturaConnect prioritisation. The NaturaConnect project is focused on developing a regional strategy for conservation



in Europe, and the KBA scoping assesses what proportion of the results have global as well as regional significance.

The findings show these key results:

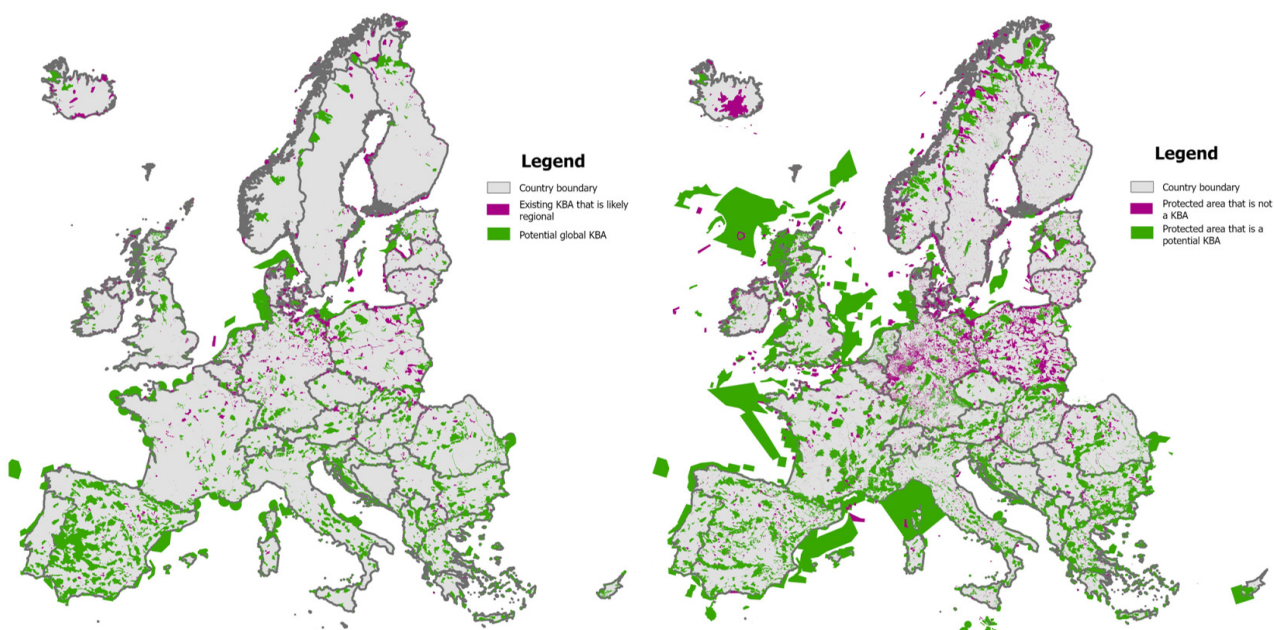
1. Only 21.9% of the existing KBA network has been assessed to meet the criteria in the Global KBA Standard, but our scoping analysis indicates that 74.5% could meet these criteria if comprehensively assessed.
2. We predicted that an additional 12,468 protected areas (7.5% of all European protected areas) could potentially be global KBAs, making a total of 16,450 (9.9%) including existing protected areas that are already KBAs. Many protected areas are small in Europe, and larger sites are more likely to qualify as KBAs because they are more likely to hold larger populations of species. Analysing the surface area of protected areas rather than numbers shows that the

additional 12,468 protected areas that are potential KBAs could cover 79.4% of the area of the existing European protected area network. Of this, the surface area of 71.6% of terrestrial and 87.6% of coastal and marine protected areas could potentially qualify as KBAs.

3. Currently, only 186 species qualify existing global KBAs as assessed against the KBA Global Standard, of which 142 are birds. This could increase to 4,052 species if all KBAs were comprehensively assessed. Identifying KBAs in the existing protected area network could add 1,979 species that might qualify these protected areas as KBAs.
4. Of the priority areas for protected area expansion identified by the NaturaConnect systematic conservation planning analysis, as much as 46.4% would potentially qualify as KBAs, mostly in southern Europe. These would add 63 KBA qualifying species beyond those that might qualify existing KBAs or protected areas if fully assessed. We also show that, on average, as much as 42% of the European plan identified by NaturaConnect also has global significance for conservation.

In conclusion, our results show that the largest protected areas that are not currently recognized as KBAs across Europe likely qualify as global KBAs because they hold globally significant populations of species. Together with existing KBAs, they conserve many of the potential species that might qualify sites as KBAs in Europe, although there are some important areas outside of both the existing protected area and KBA networks that might also meet KBA status. However, the scoping is based on species assessed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, and this is not comprehensive for species across Europe. Many plants and invertebrates are not assessed on the Red List, and it is likely that more species may be found and additional sites identified if additional data on unassessed species are included.

Our results highlight the real need to update national KBA networks across Europe and for countries to do this as part of the planning for 30 x 30 under the European Green Deal and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. More details can be found in the [final report](#).



A scoping of existing KBAs (left) and protected areas (right) indicating those that potentially meet global KBA status in green and those that are regional in purple.

NEW WEBSITE MAKING KBA INFORMATION MORE ACCESSIBLE

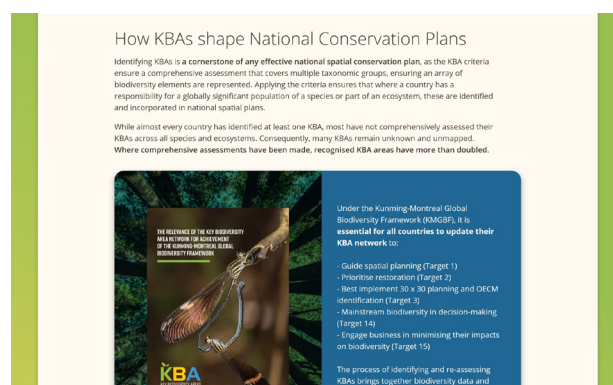
In 2025, a [new website](#) was developed to make information about the KBA Programme more accessible to a variety of audiences. We have government institutions, conservation practitioners, the general public, scientists, philanthropists, local communities, and indigenous peoples all using the site. Our initial website was developed on a platform that was not easily editable, which meant that updating information took time and we couldn't respond quickly to changes we wanted to make. As a result, other aspects of the KBA Programme were developed independently from the website because it was too complex to integrate them.



In 2025, Sophia Lucero, the KBA Communications Officer, spent time thinking about the audiences we wanted to engage and how best to provide the information we had to them. By developing a wireframe concept of the website and consulting widely in the KBA community, we finalised the concept and engaged Octophin to help us develop the website on a platform that allows us to edit and modify all information and pages. A great example of this is the many more news items that are now posted on the home page of the website.

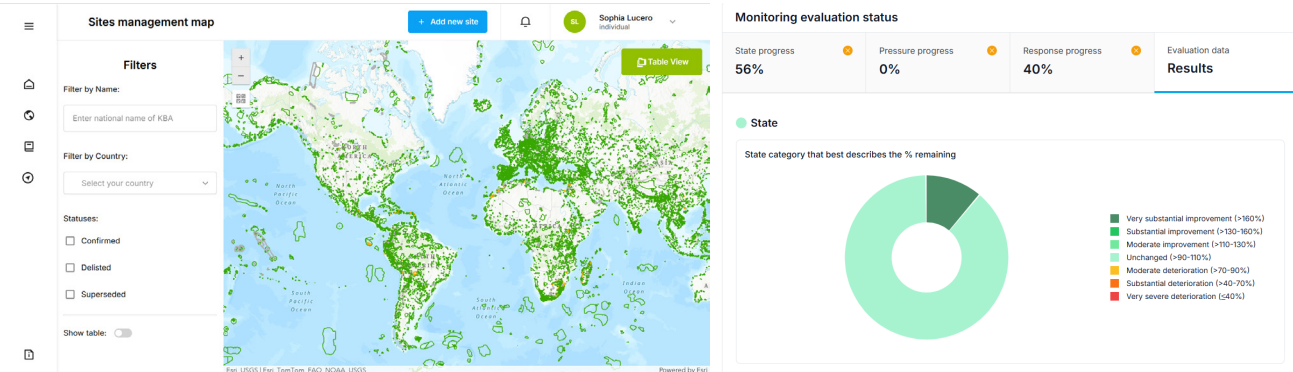
A specific page for [government representatives](#) has been developed, which links to all relevant policy documents that show how KBAs are being

used to guide conservation, and a training course aimed at CBD focal points and other government agency staff (about 1-2 hours) that provides a certificate in understanding of 'Using KBAs to improve the implementation of the KMGBF'. This UN supported course, developed in 2025, helps explain how updating KBA networks in a country can help them better develop their national spatial plans for conservation (Target 1), target restoration of ecosystems to the most important sites (Target 2), plan for 30x30 and help in the identification of OECMs (Target 3), mainstream biodiversity (Target 14), and engage the private sector (target 15). In 2026, we will be developing Country Profiles to summarise all the KBA data for a country as well as provide the indicators needed for the SDGs, KMGBF, CMS and Ramsar conventions/frameworks. Government representatives will be able to find all the relevant KBA indicators needed for their country on these country profiles.



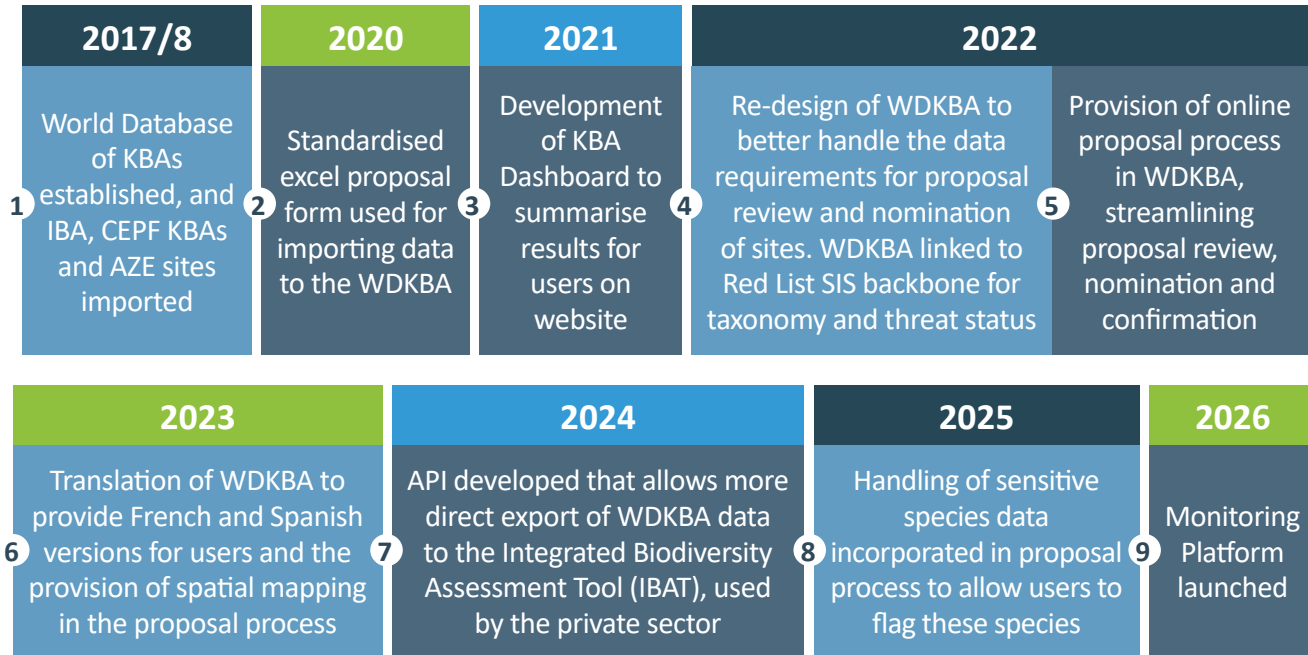
The website also provides access to the KBA data in the World Database of KBAs through a dashboard that can quickly summarise information, or provides direct access to the database through a login procedure that enables access to all sites in your country, the ability to propose new sites, in collaboration with your KBA NCG if it has been established, and to re-assess sites and provide monitoring data for them.

WORLD DATABASE OF KBAs



The new monitoring tool is now available on the WDKBA.

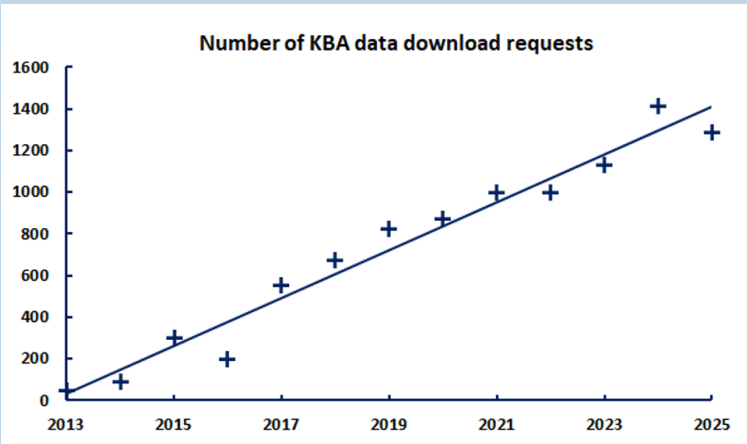
The World Database of KBAs™ (WDKBA) was built after the KBA Partnership was established. Over the years, it has been continuously developed and refined to respond to the needs of the KBA user community. Some key milestones include:



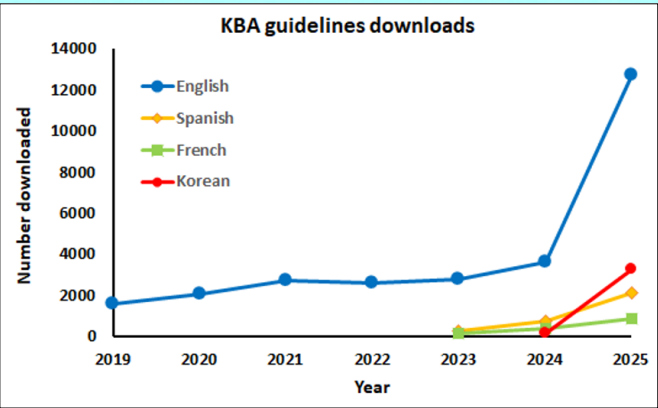
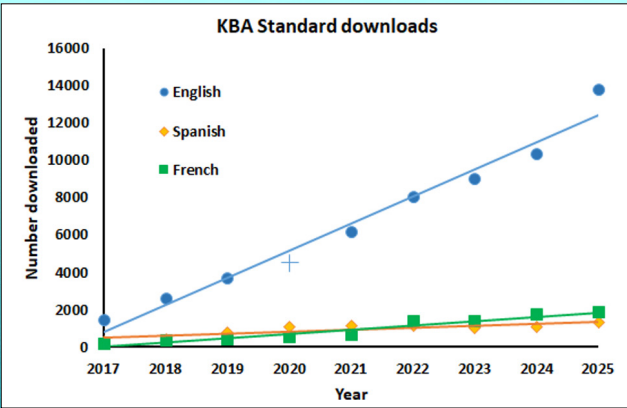
During 2025, 118 KBAs were modified or added to the World Database of KBAs. This is a lot fewer than in 2024 but doesn't reflect the efforts going into KBA identification. There are more than 3,000 sites in draft status, being developed as proposals, and 210 sites undergoing review at the moment.

Sensitive species are species that may be hunted or found in the wildlife trade and are at risk of over-collecting. The process for handling

sensitive species was agreed, and the capability for designating a species as sensitive is now possible as proposals are being made. If a site has multiple qualifying species or ecosystems and one is sensitive, the site will continue to be shown, but the sensitive species will not be visible except by the KBA NCG in a country. If the only qualifying element(s) for a site is/are sensitive, then the site will not be visible in the maps on the website or in the WDKBA except to the KBA NCG registered users.



Use of KBA data continued to increase at a steady rate, with 1,285 downloads of the spatial dataset in 2025. Downloads of the [KBA Standard](#) continued to increase steadily, while downloads of the [KBA Guidelines](#) in English, French, and Spanish increased significantly, indicating greater interest in proposing sites.



**40% OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY
STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS
NOW MENTION KBAs**



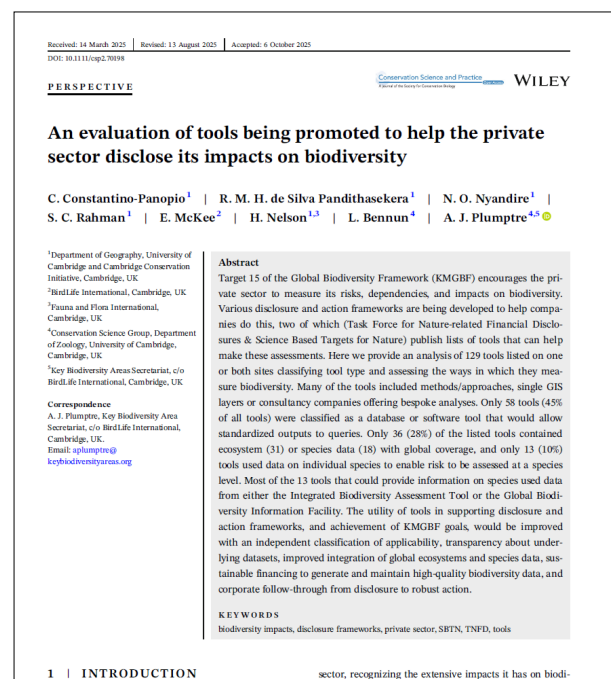
KBAs USED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO MINIMISE IMPACTS ON BIODIVERSITY

KBAs are made available to the private sector through the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT). This tool provides commercial access to data from the World Database of KBAs, the World Database of Protected and Conserved Areas, and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, helping companies assess their risks, dependencies, and impacts on biodiversity. By the end of 2025, more than 170 private sector organisations were subscribing to the IBAT platform with over 37,000 registered users in total. More than 900,000 sites have been screened by IBAT. The IBAT Alliance, which licences private sector access to the world's most authoritative biodiversity data sets, including KBAs, generates revenue to support the maintenance and updating of the datasets, achieving continued growth in 2025 that helped support the management and updating of the three databases.

Following the adoption of the KMGBF in December 2022, several frameworks to support companies to measure and report their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity (Target 15) were developed over the following years. In 2025, IBAT created reporting options that provide the data required for companies to report to the disclosure frameworks such as the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR), and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). More than 6000 Disclosure Reports have been run to date.

[A study](#), also published in 2025, assessed 129 tools advertised on TNFD and SBTN's websites that claim to be able to help companies measure their progress on Target 15 and their impacts on biodiversity. However, the scientific paper showed that few of these could measure

any impacts at a species scale, most focusing on land cover or ecosystem-scale impacts. Only 13 of the 129 tools had data available on individual species, and seven of these relied on IBAT for the data, indicating how important the IBAT data are for companies to be able to meet their disclosure requirements.



KBAs are named explicitly in the European Union's definition of 'biodiversity-sensitive areas', and are recognised as sensitive locations of biodiversity importance under TNFD and GRI.

Companies that plan to assess their impacts need to use KBA data through IBAT to be able to report against these frameworks. Robust biodiversity data is essential for investors and businesses to understand and manage their nature-related risks and dependencies, and through IBAT, KBAs continue to be used by businesses to guide their decision-making.

KBA PROGRAMME PRIORITIES FOR 2026/2027

We supported KBA assessments in Cameroon and Kenya in 2025 with IBAT funds and had hoped to be able to do this again in 2026. Unfortunately, there is less pressure for businesses to measure and report their impacts on biodiversity given the current economic situation with the war in Iran. As a result, the growth in IBAT subscriptions has plateaued, which means there are unlikely to be additional funds available this year. We hope companies will see that tracking their risks, dependencies, and impacts on biodiversity is a necessary way forward, and they will engage more fully in 2027. We are grateful to Bezos Earth Fund, who has committed to funding KBA network updates in Brazil, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana, and also the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, which has committed to funding KBA network updates in Thailand, Vietnam and Southern China, which we look forward to supporting as they get going in 2026 and 2027.

Two KBA NCGs have already been established in 2026 (Panama and Namibia), and we expect the countries listed above to follow suit, making at least eight countries form KBA NCGs in 2026. In 2027, the World Protected and Conserved Areas Congress (WPCAC) will be held in Panama, at which the Ministry of Environment plans to announce its updated KBAs, and we plan to do several events there to raise the profile of the KBA assessments taking place around the world.

The KBA Monitoring Platform will be released in 2026, following its development in 2025 and early 2026. This platform will allow monitoring data at a site level to be entered by users who know the site, and it will track the status of the biodiversity elements that qualify the site as a KBA, the pressures or threats to those elements and the site as a whole, as well as the conservation actions being implemented to conserve the site. The platform therefore will allow monitoring of actions, indirect changes in threats and direct changes to the elements we want to conserve at the site. We will be rolling out training materials around this monitoring platform to help users provide the data for their sites. Separately, we will be establishing a remote sensing monitoring dashboard that will provide summary data and trends in indicators that are measured regularly by remote sensing and that potentially threaten KBAs. This dashboard will allow us to monitor the same variables at all sites around the world, which we will use in conjunction with the site data to provide summary monitoring results for sites and countries.

September 2026 will be the 10th anniversary of the KBA Partnership, and we will be renewing the KBA Partnership Agreement for another 5 years. We are making the Partnership more accessible for smaller institutions and will be revising the agreement to make it easier for institutions to join, as many cannot commit to working in 20 countries and providing, on average, \$200,000 per year, which was in the original agreement. Instead, KBA Partnership contributions will be scaled by the size of the institution. If anyone is interested in becoming a KBA Partner please contact the Head of the KBA Secretariat, [Andy Plumptre](#), to find out more details. The new agreement will be signed at COP17 in Yerevan, Armenia, as countries come together to assess progress on implementation of the KMGBF.

Funding from Bezos Earth Fund has also been received to make the [KBA Scoping Tool](#) (see page 16 in the [2025 Annual Report](#)) available online so that any user can access it and scope one or more sites through the World Database of KBAs. Guidance on using the KBA Scoping Tool outputs has been developed and is available on request from the KBA Secretariat. In the meantime, scopings can be requested for specific potentially manageable polygon sites as a shapefile or geopackage by contacting [Daniele Baisero](#). In 2025, more than 250,000 sites were scoped for various people by this scoping tool, and it was used to provide a scoping of all European KBAs and protected areas as part of the NaturaConnect Project (see page [21](#)).

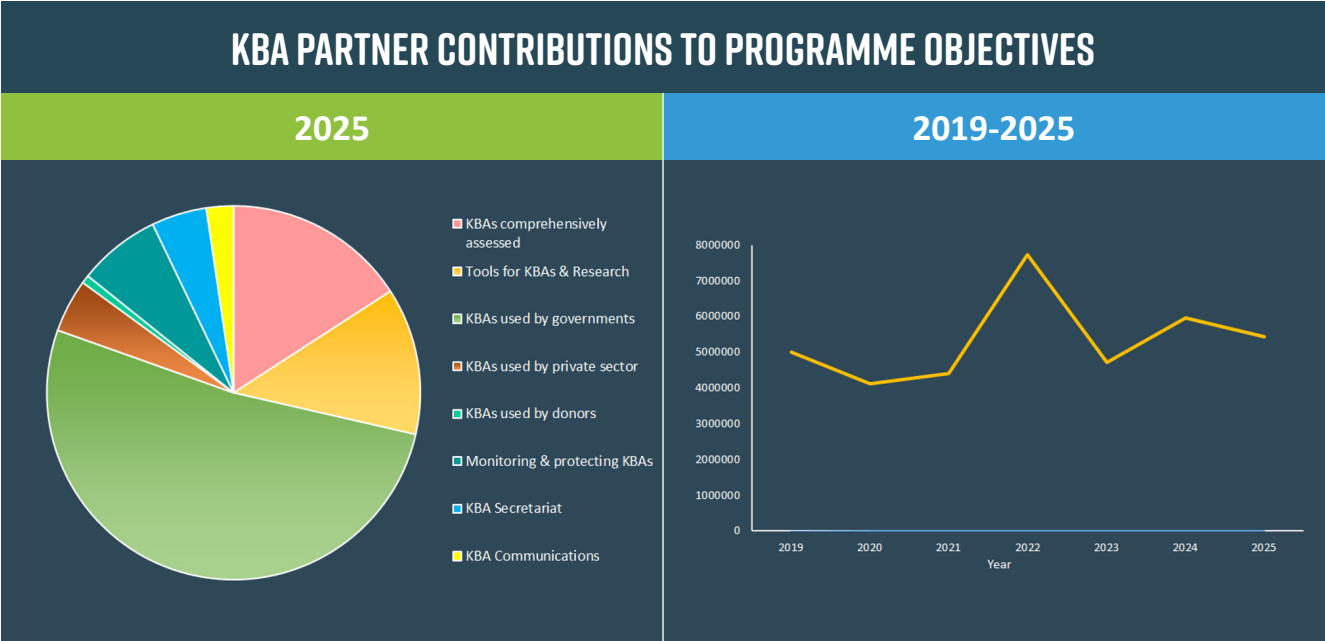
KBA PROGRAMME FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2025

In 2025, the KBA Partners invested **USD \$5.40 million** in both direct financing and in-kind contributions for the KBA Programme. The pie chart below shows the relative investment in each of the main objectives in the new KBA Strategic Plan: 1. KBAs comprehensively assessed (support to KBA NCGs primarily); 2. Tools for KBAs and research (maintenance and development of world database of KBAs and scoping tool); 3. KBAs used by governments (policy work and support to the conservation of KBAs in countries); 4. KBAs used by private sector (support to work with Disclosure frameworks and performance standards); 5. KBAs used by donors (Working with donors to raise the profile of KBAs); 6. Monitoring and acting to protect threatened KBAs (development of monitoring platform in WDKBA and collection and submission of monitoring data); 7. KBA Secretariat support (funding of KBA Secretariat staff); and 8. KBA Communications and awareness raising. KBA Partner support to the long-term conservation and management of

KBAs around the world is not included, and would increase the total significantly, but the conservation of unprotected KBAs is included.

A large component of the 2025 budget was used to support policy work with national governments, including supporting the updating of NBSAPs to include KBA-relevant targets, actions, and indicators; the support of actions in international conventions which led to the new indicators using KBAs in the CMS and the Ramsar Convention; and support to the conservation of newly identified KBAs in various countries.

We welcome additional organisations which are interested in joining the KBA Partnership 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).



DONORS SUPPORTING KBA IDENTIFICATION AND CONSERVATION

Over the first ten years of the KBA Programme, **at least 62 Institutions have supported the costs of updating KBA networks around the world.** These include governments, multilateral donors, foundations, and private individuals. We are exceedingly grateful to everyone who has contributed to this work and list those that we know of here. We may well be missing some donors and request that others who have supported KBA work who are not listed contact us so that we can update our list:

Agence Française de Développement (AFD)	Government of Malawi
Audemars-Watkins Foundation	Government of Mozambique
Bezos Earth Fund	Government of Namibia
Biodiversa (EU)	Government of Oman
British Colombia Parks Foundation	Government of Palau
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)	Government of Panama
Darwin Initiative - UK Government	Government of Peru
EU Biodiversa	Government of Philippines
EU DG INTPA	Government of Republic of Congo
EU Horizon Grant	Government of South Africa
Fondation Hans Wilsdorf	Government of Spain
Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM)	Government of Uganda
Foundation for the Philippine Environment	Government of United Arab Emirates
Franklinia Foundation	Government of Vanuatu
Fundacion Biodiversidad	Hempel Foundation
Garfield Weston Foundation	Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT)
Global Environment Facility	JRS Foundation
Governemnt of Colombia	KfW
Government of Bolivia	Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST)
Government of Cameroon	Missouri Botanical Gardens
Government of Canada	Philippines Forest Foundation
Government of Chile	Rainforest Trust
Government of China	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Government of Democratic Republic of Congo	SEE Foundation
Government of Ecuador	South Africa National Biodiversity Institute
Government of Fiji	UK Research Initiative
Government of Gabon	USAID
Government of Honduras	Walton Foundation
Government of Japan	Weston Family Foundation
Government of Kenya	World Bank
Government of Madagascar	World Wildlife Fund Nedbank Green Trust

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 in reports. The list of publications here provides examples of some of those published in 2025.

Constantino-Panopio, C., de Silva Pandithasekera, R. M. H., Nyandire, N.O., Rahman, S., McKee, E., Nelson, H., Bennun, L. & Plumptre, A.J. (2025) An evaluation of tools being promoted to help the private sector disclose its impacts on biodiversity. *Conservation Science and Practice*, 7, e70198. <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.70198>

Mickleburgh S, & Waldien DL. (2025) Bats and Key Biodiversity Areas. *Oryx*. 2025:1-1. [doi:10.1017/S0030605325102548](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0030605325102548)

Plumptre, A.J., Waliczky, Z., Baisero, D., Crowe, O., Kivono, J., Tobar, C., Toscano, M.G., Boulad, N., Costa, H., Davila, C., Dirou, S., Duarte, E., Fierro, K., Castellanos-Castro, C., Haddad, H., Holness, S., Maisels, F., Marnewick, D., Mbende, M., Al Mheiri, M.A., Moundzoho, D., Nampindo, S., Nangendo, G., Ngama, S., Numa, C., Peñaranda, D., Rijal, S., Sánchez-Nivicela, M., Skowno, A., Starnes, T., Texier, N., von Staden, L., Bowser, A., Brooks, T., Bunting, G., Butchart, S.H.M., Cox, N., Elliot, W., Gilbert, J., Langhammer, P., Langrand, O., Neugarten, R., Rao, M., Rodriguez, J.P., Ray, J., della Togna, G., Upgren, A. & Woodley, S. (2025) Changes in Key Biodiversity Area networks following national comprehensive assessments. *Conservation Biology*, 2026;40:e70151. <http://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.70151>

Plumptre, A.J., Langhammer, P.F., Butchart, S. H. M. and Brooks, T. M. (2025) Key biodiversity areas: Globally significant sites for biodiversity. *Reference Module Earth Systems Environmental Sciences* 2025, 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-443-14082-2.00099-5>

KBA SECRETARIAT AND KBA COMMUNITY 2025



Andrew Plumptre is Head of the KBA Secretariat, has worked in Africa for more than 30 years, and has 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.



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



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



Konstantina Spiliopoulou is the community representative for Europe and Central Asia. She is based in Greece and leads the GaP project to scope KBAs across Europe.



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



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



Samridhi Rijal is the KBA Training Officer and is responsible for supporting countries to run training courses on the application of the KBA criteria. Originally from Nepal, she has worked in Canada and is now based in the UK.



Serge Angali is the Regional Focal Point for Africa. He is a Wildlife ecologist, enthusiastic about biodiversity data management, GIS, and applying data science to advance conservation efforts, with a background in Protected Area Management.



Cecilia Tobar Suárez is the Regional focal point for South and Central America and the Caribbean region. She has been working closely with the country coordinators to identify KBAs in the Andes.



Marcelo Tognelli is the Regional Focal Point for North America. He is the International Conservation Project Officer for American Bird Conservancy and works to conserve wild birds and their habitats in the region, supporting ABC's KBA work.



Catherine Numa is the Regional Focal Point for the Mediterranean, North Africa, and Middle East, and working for IUCN's office in Spain, she has been working to help establish the KBA NCG in Spain.



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

Technical Working Group



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



Andrew Snyder, Co-Chair of the Technical Working Group and KBA Manager for Re:wild. He is a herpetologist by training and supports National Coordination Groups, NGOs, and governments in comprehensively identifying and updating their KBAs.

Standards and Appeals Committee



John Lamoreux co-chairs the KBA Standards and Appeals Committee. He works for the US National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



Charlotte Boyd co-chairs the KBA Standards and Appeals Committee. She is a marine spatial ecologist, currently working as the Regional Conservation Programme Manager for BirdLife South Africa.

KBA Committee Members in 2025

Chair KBA Committee: Naomi Kingston and Paul Matiku

Chairs Technical Working Group: Olivia Crowe & Andrew Snyder

Chair Standards and Appeals Committee: John Lamoreux & Charlotte Boyd

American Bird Conservancy: Mike Parr & Amy Upgren

Amphibian Survival Alliance: Gina Della Togna & Penny Langhammer

BirdLife International: Stu Butchart, Olivia Crowe & Zoltan Waliczky

Conservation International: Kathleen Flower

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund: Olivier Langrand & Jack Tordoff

Global Environment Facility: Jurgis Sapijanskas

IUCN: Tom Brooks & Thom Starnes

NatureServe: Anne Bowser

Rainforest Trust: James Lewis and Erin McCreless

Re:wild: Wes Sechrest, Penny Langhammer & Matt Foster

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: Jo Gilbert & Simmy Bezeng

Wildlife Conservation Society: Justina Ray & Rachel Neugarten

World Wide Fund for Nature: Wendy Elliot

WCPA (Stephen Woodley & Madhu Rao) and **SSC** (Jon Paul Rodriguez) both have observer status on the KBA Committee and support the Chair of the SAC.

KBA PARTNERS:



CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL



CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND



www.keybiodiversityareas.org



[@KeyBiodiversity](https://www.instagram.com/KeyBiodiversity)