Treatment of sensitive data held in the WDKBA

Currently, sensitive data are withheld from public views in the World Database of KBAs (WDKBA). from public-facing platforms (KBA website, Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT)) and from any data provided on request.

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 its conservation. Once KBAs are identified for geographically restricted and/or highly threatened ecosystems, information on some of these 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.

Information on sensitive data is captured in the WDKBA in three ways –

- firstly, any species that are recognised as sensitive globally, as defined by the IUCN Red List, will be flagged as sensitive within the WDKBA (species attributes section) as identified through a field provided within the SIS backbone.
- other species that *KBA Proposers* believe may be sensitive at site level will be assigned a 'sensitive' tag by the Proposer during an assessment or reassessment, and through an option within the species assessment section (this option is not yet available in the WDKBA).
- KBA proposers may also assign a site as sensitive, such as a site that is sacred, or sensitive due to some other reason.

Currently, all sensitive data are withheld from all views in the WDKBA other than from the *KBA Secretariat* and the *Regional Focal Points (RFPs)* whose visibility of these records is essential for managing KBA processes and from those with *National Coordination Group (NCG)* access who need to know the sensitive species and sites that exist in their countries for reassessment. There are some sites that only support sensitive species, and in such cases these sites are withheld from publicity.

Currently, the approach whereby sensitive data are concealed in all cases is the most precautionary approach. Accordingly, sensitive species data (including sites that solely support sensitive species) are withheld from public views (*KBA website*, *Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT)* etc) and from data requests.