



Introduction to Key Biodiversity Areas

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Head KBA Secretariat**

22nd January 2021



KBAs are defined as:

“sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity”



Areas of importance for biodiversity

The CBD recognized the need to conserve

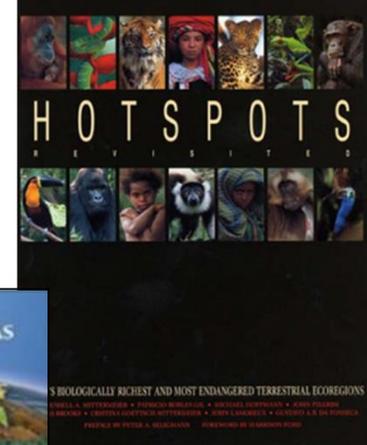
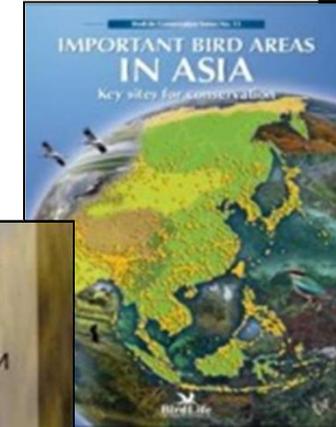
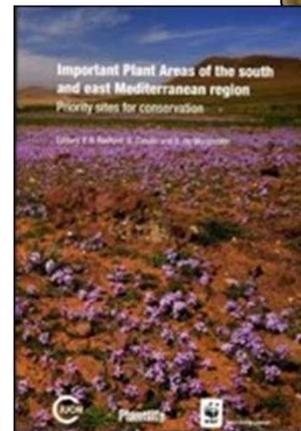
“...areas of particular importance for biodiversity...”

in Aichi Target 11



Areas of importance for biodiversity

- Many different approaches at various scales
- Most conservation action occurs at the site scale
- BirdLife International's success has led to similar approaches for other taxa
- But, this can be confusing for decision-makers...



Need for a global standard

World Conservation Congress in Bangkok in 2004:

- IUCN members recognized the need for a unifying framework for identifying important sites across all biodiversity



IUCN
The World Conservation Union
People and Nature - only one world
World Conservation Congress
Bangkok 17-25 November 2004



Global consultation process

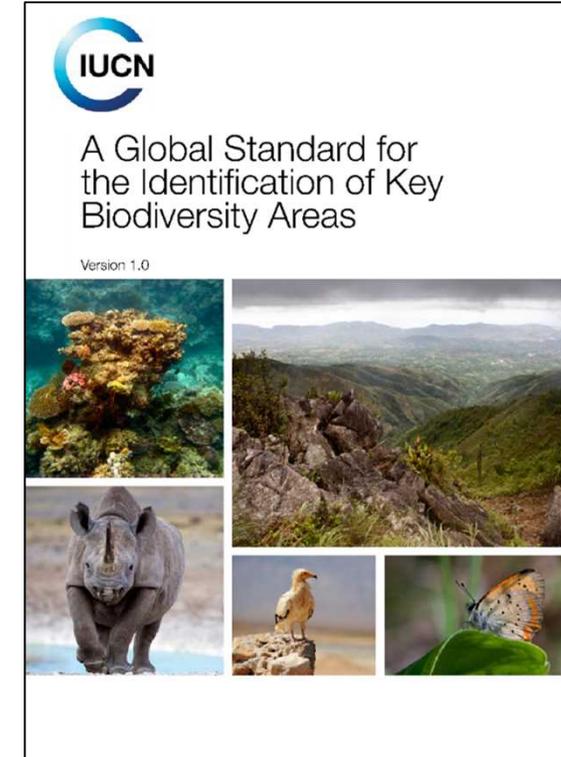
A unifying framework



- Key Biodiversity Areas provide an umbrella framework designed to harmonize existing approaches
- For the first time, the conservation community has rallied around a common approach

A Global Standard

- The KBA Standard: adopted by IUCN Council and launched at the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii in 2016
- The KBA Partnership: 13 leading nature conservation organisations committed to identify, map, monitor and conserve KBAs

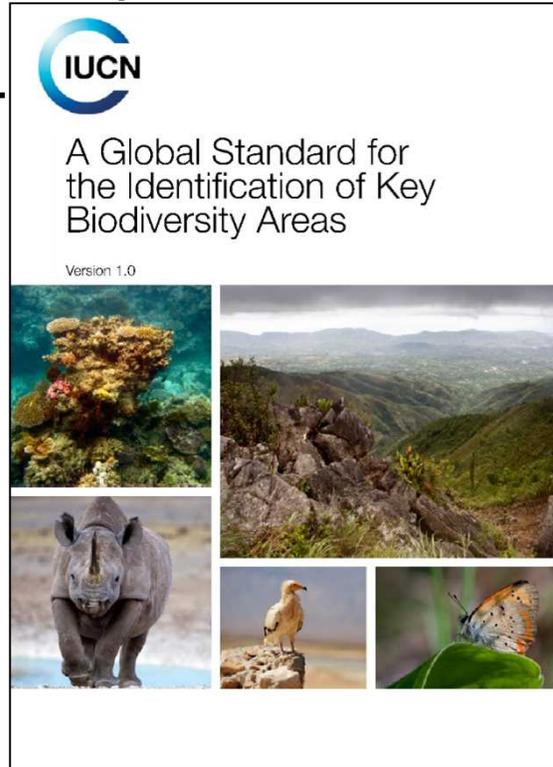
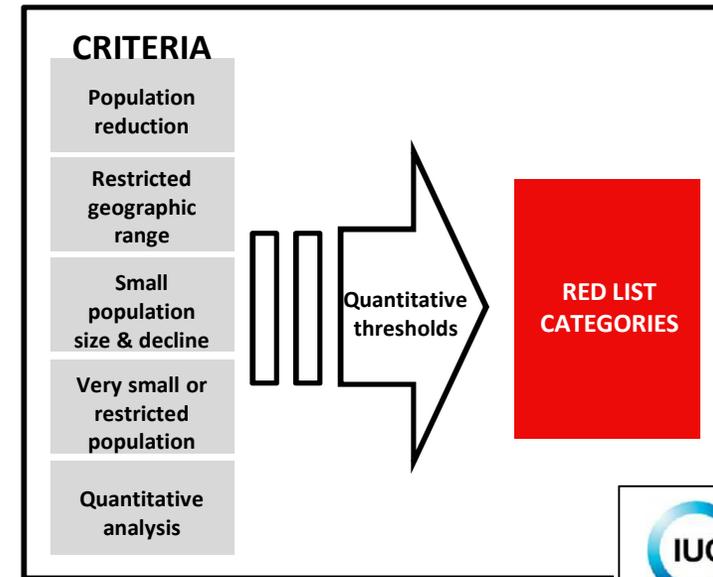


A Global Standard

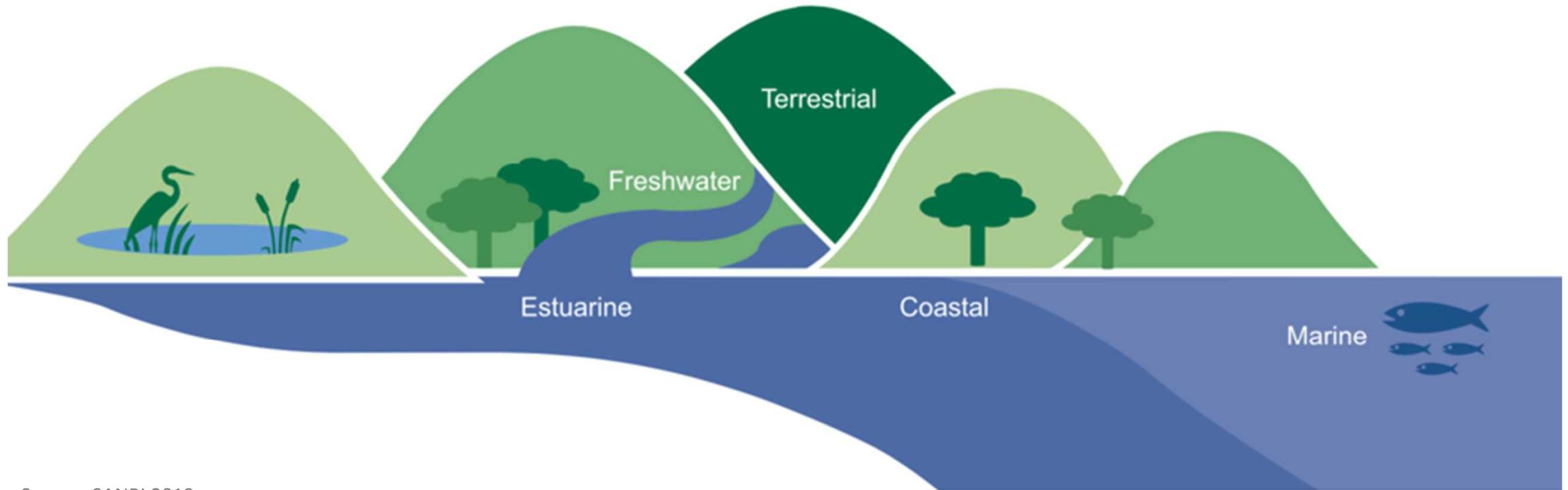
A globally standardized science-based approach for identifying KBAs

Definitions, criteria and quantitative thresholds designed to ensure that KBA identification is:

- objective
- repeatable
- transparent



The criteria are applicable to marine, freshwater, terrestrial and subterranean systems

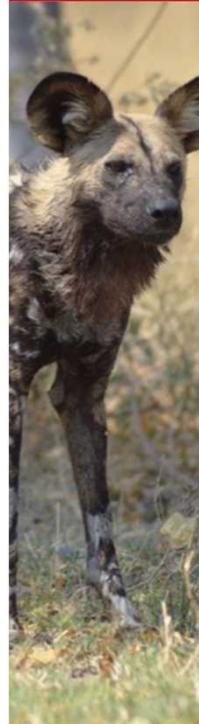


KBA Criteria

KBA criteria are designed to capture biodiversity at genetic, species and ecosystem levels

Collectively, the criteria aim to capture the various ways in which a site can be important for the global persistence of biodiversity

A. Threatened biodiversity



B. Geographically restricted biodiversity



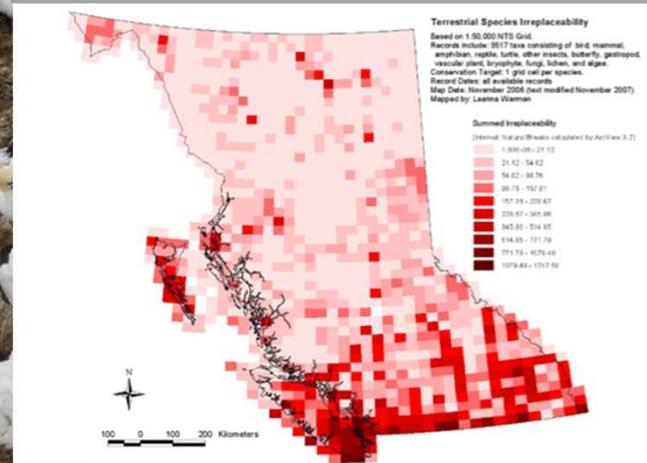
C. Ecological integrity



D. Biological processes



E. Irreplaceability through quantitative



A. Threatened biodiversity



© Alison Woodley

A1. Threatened species

A2. Threatened ecosystem types

B. Geographically restricted biodiversity



© Arthur Haines

B1. Individual geographically restricted species

B2. Co-occurring geographically restricted species

B3. Geographically restricted assemblages

B4. Geographically restricted ecosystem types

C. Ecological integrity



D. Biological processes



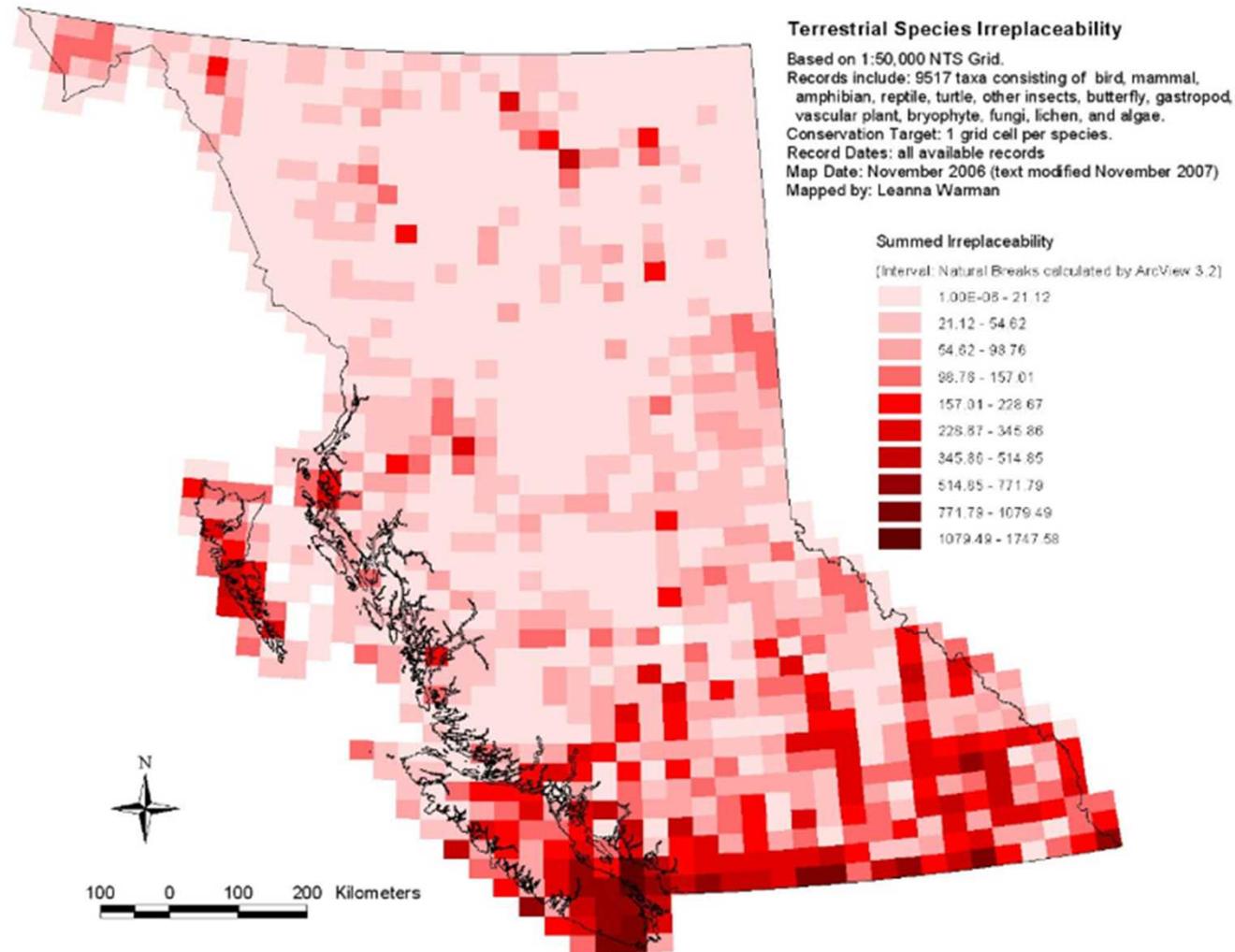
© Peter Chadwick / WWF

D1: Demographic aggregations

D2: Environmental refugia

D3: Recruitment sources

E. Irreplaceability through quantitative analysis



(a) Representing at least X mature individuals of each species

(b) Representing at least an area of Y km² for each species

Thresholds

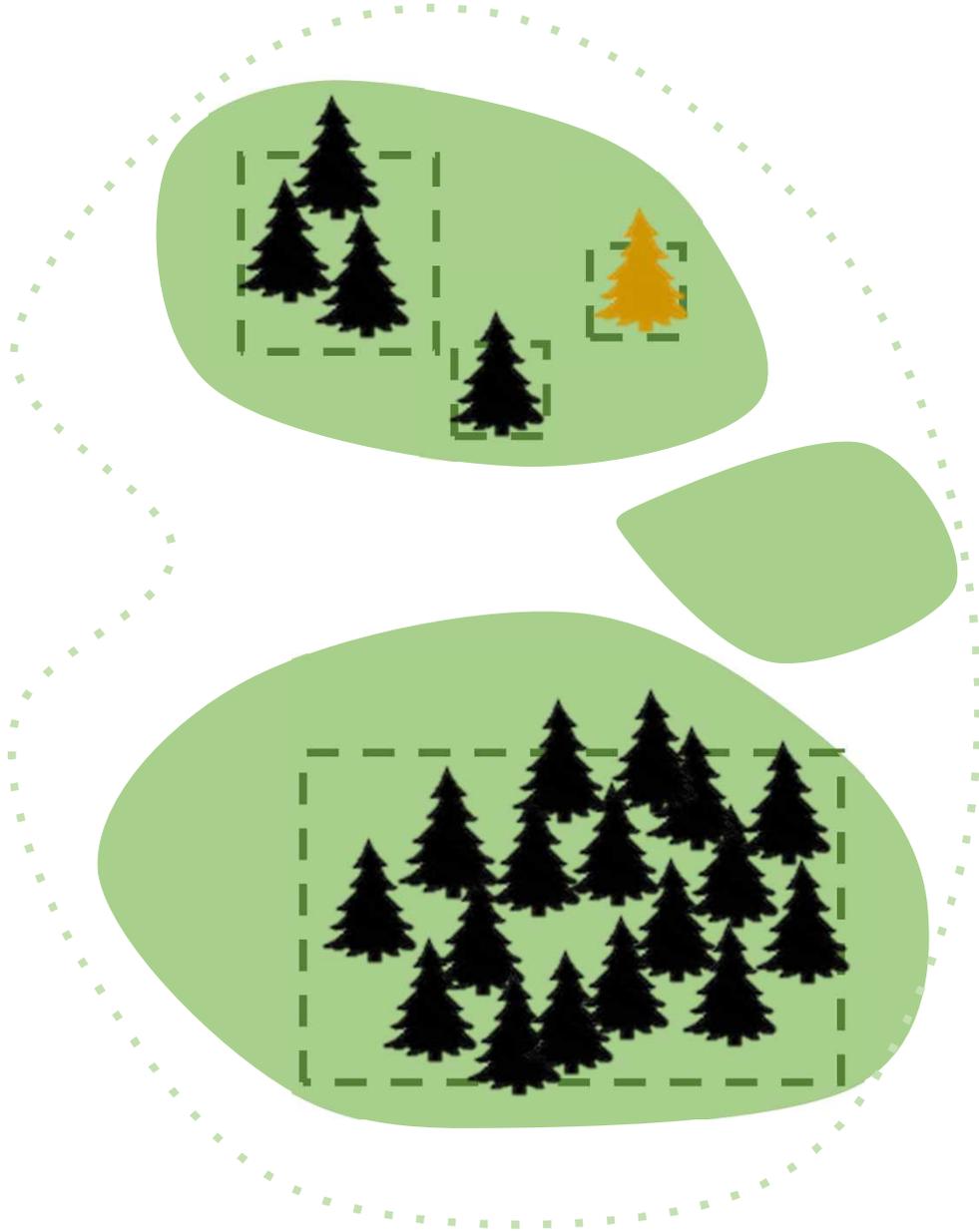
A. Threatened biodiversity

Site regularly holds one or more of the following:

<u>Biodiversity element at site</u>	<u>% Global population/extent units</u>	<u>Reproductive</u>
A1: Threatened species		
(a) CR/EN species	(a) $\geq 0.5\%$	≥ 5
(b) VU species	(b) $\geq 1\%$	≥ 10
...	...	
...	...	
(e) Single-site CR/EN species	<i>entire population</i>	

Note. Low thresholds for threatened species are precautionary

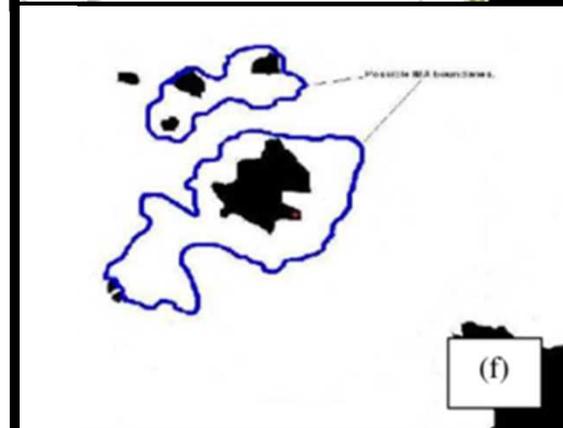
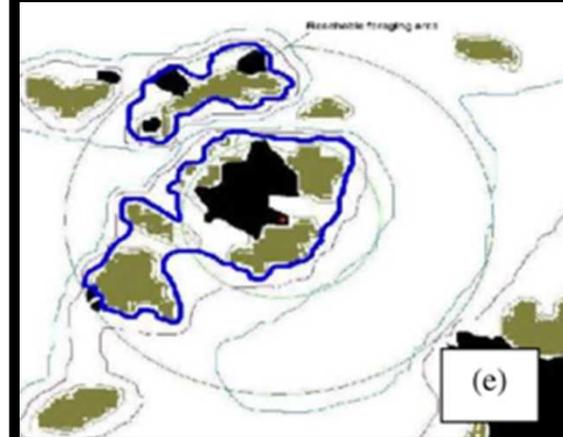
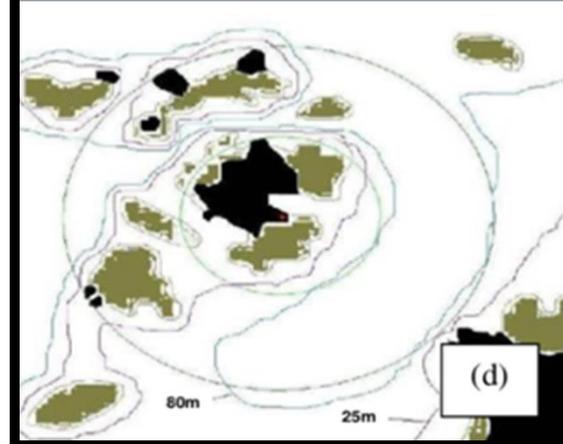
Assessment parameters



- i. number of mature individuals
- ii. area of occupancy 
- iii. extent of suitable habitat 
- iv. range 
- v. number of localities 
- vi. distinct genetic diversity 

Delineating¹ KBAs

- Delineation is the process of defining the geographic boundaries of a KBA
- Aim is to derive KBA boundaries that are ecologically relevant yet practical for management
- Required step in KBA identification
- It occurs in consultation with rights-holders and other relevant stakeholders



1

The image on this slide will be switched out as soon as Jessica develops it
GWC, 2020/06/13

KBAs inform national, regional, and global decision-making

- Policy support to description of sites under international conventions
- Targets and indicators for CBD biodiversity targets and Sustainable Development Goals (14.5, 15.1, 15.4)
- Protected area creation & expansion
- Allocation of conservation funding
- Private and public sector environmental safeguards



KBAs ENABLE COUNTRIES TO...

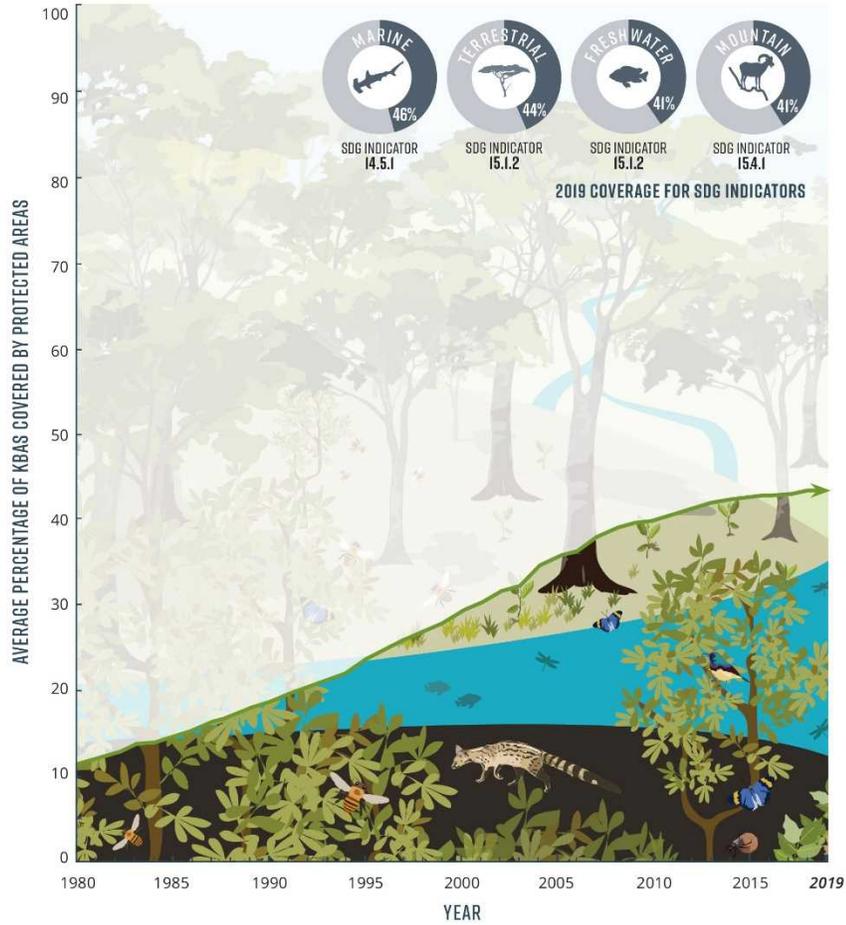


KBAs and other conservation initiatives

- KBAs use data from Red List of Species and Red List of Ecosystems, species population data and genetic diversity data
- KBAs can then inform a variety of processes to better target conservation resources and contribute to halting biodiversity loss

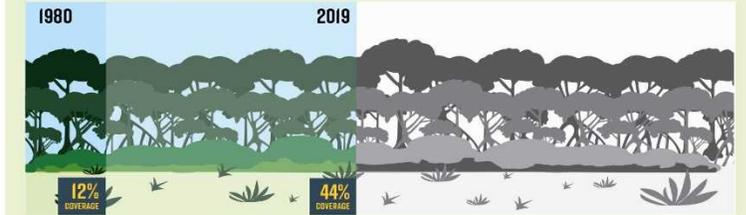
Protected area coverage of KBAs

WORLDWIDE COVERAGE OF KBAs BY PROTECTED AREAS

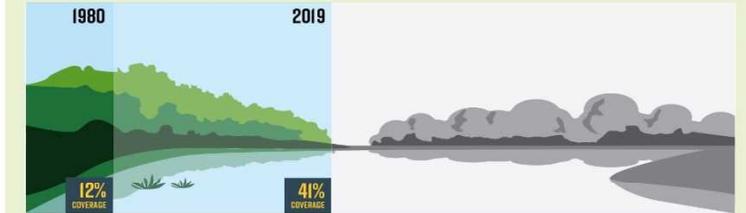


AVERAGE WORLDWIDE PROTECTED AREA COVERAGE OF KBAs HAVE INCREASED.

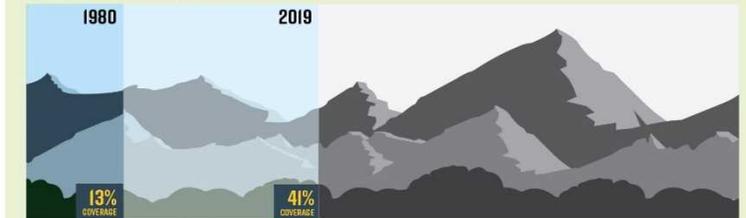
TERRESTRIAL KBAs, SDG INDICATOR 15.1.2



FRESHWATER KBAs, SDG INDICATOR 15.1.2



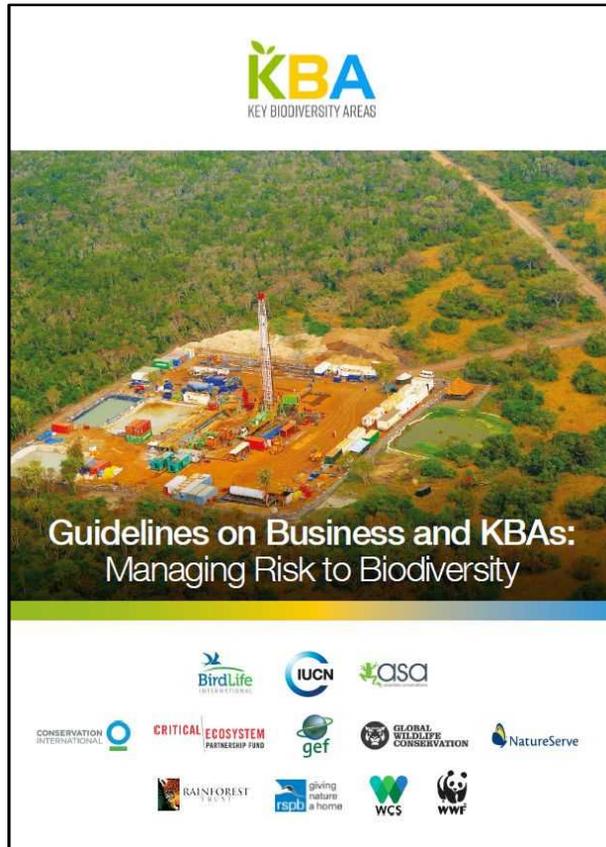
MOUNTAIN KBAs, SDG INDICATOR 15.4.1



MARINE KBAs, SDG INDICATOR 14.5.1



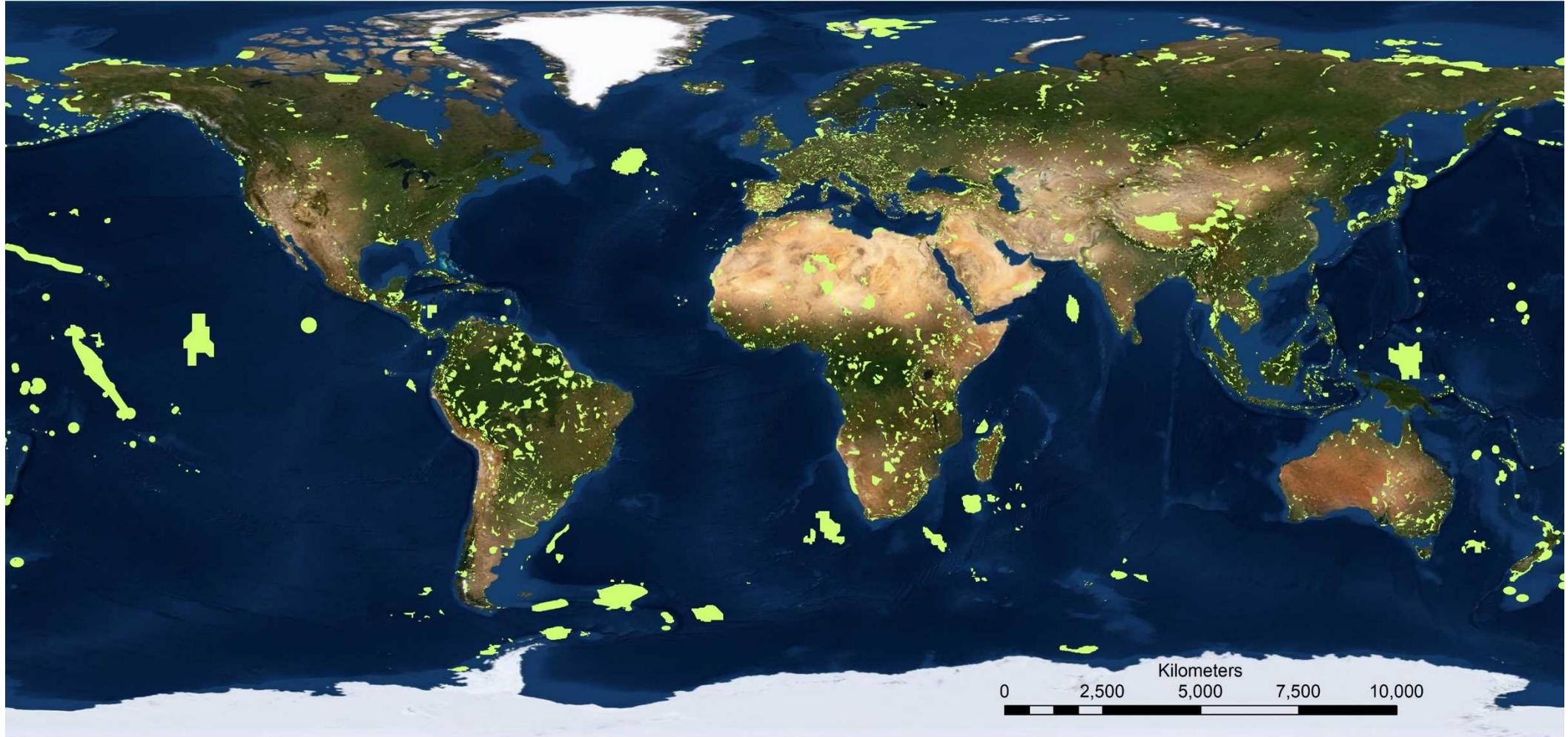
Used by business and financing institutions



- Guidelines for Businesses and governments developed around KBAs
- KBAs – Critical Habitat (IFC, Equator Principles, Socete Generale)
- Banks and biodiversity no-go policy:
<http://banksandbiodiversity.org>



World Database of KBAs



Query information: World Database of KBAs

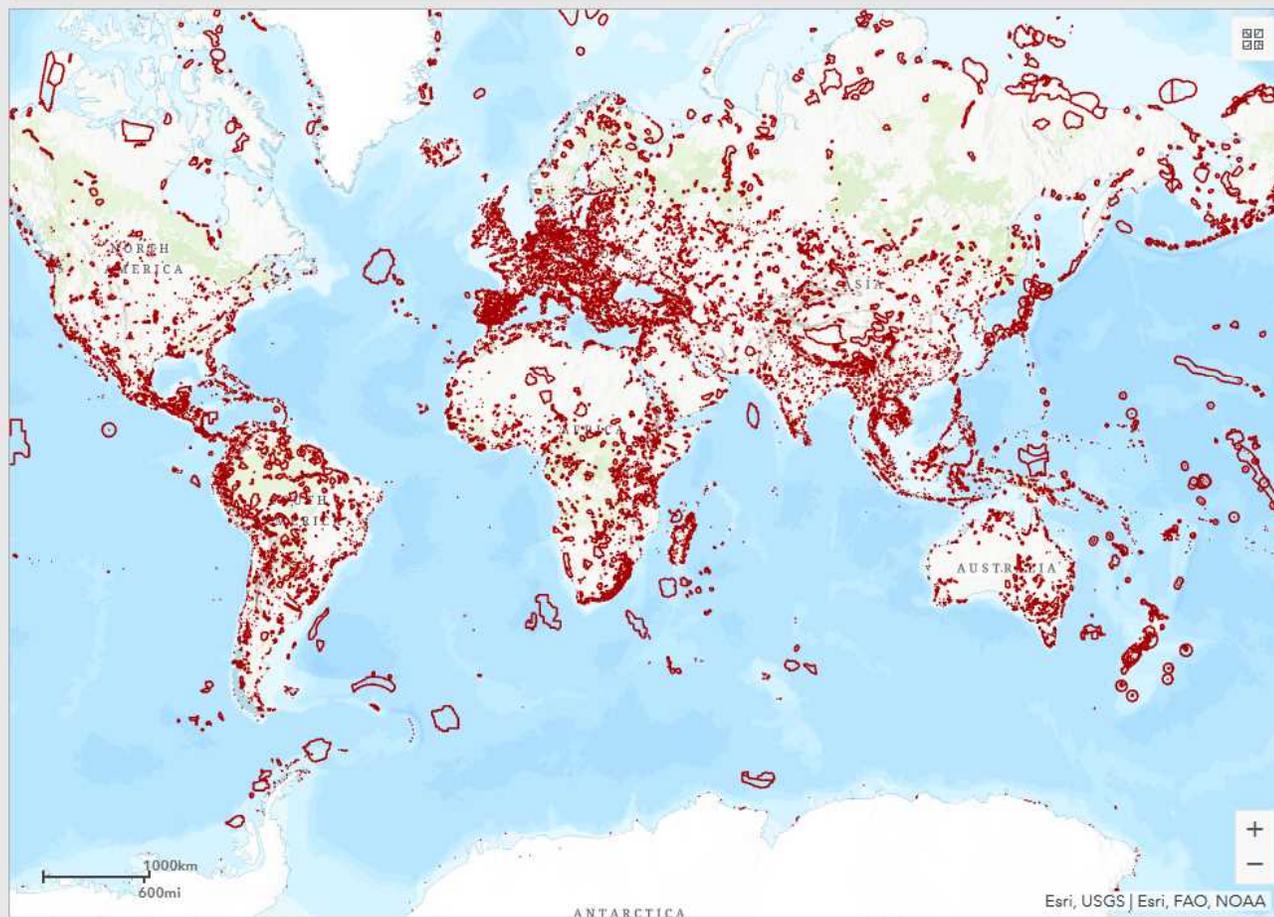
KBA Data

Open in a new window

Map Search

Dashboard (2020 - 10)

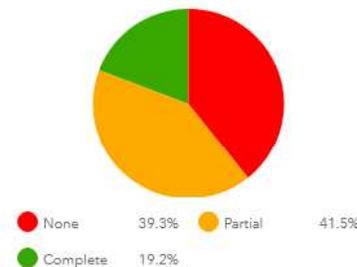
Select Region Select Country



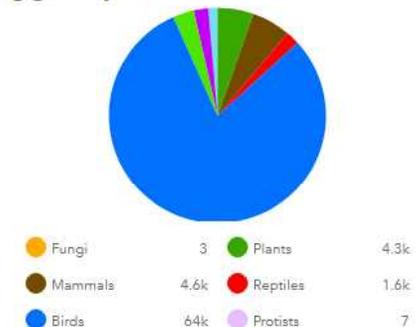
Number of KBAs
16,315

Area in KBAs (km²)
20,356,799

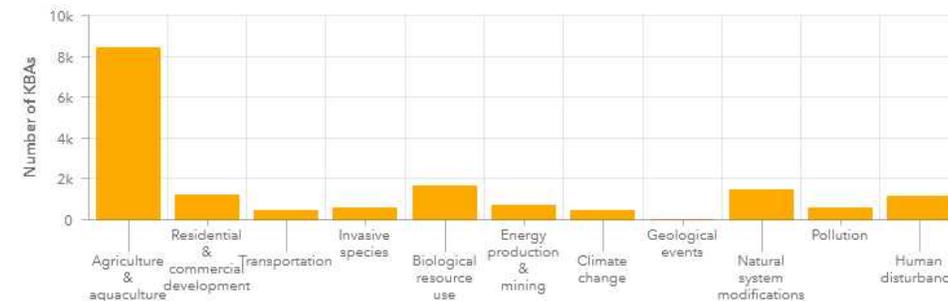
Percentage covered by Protected Areas



Trigger Species

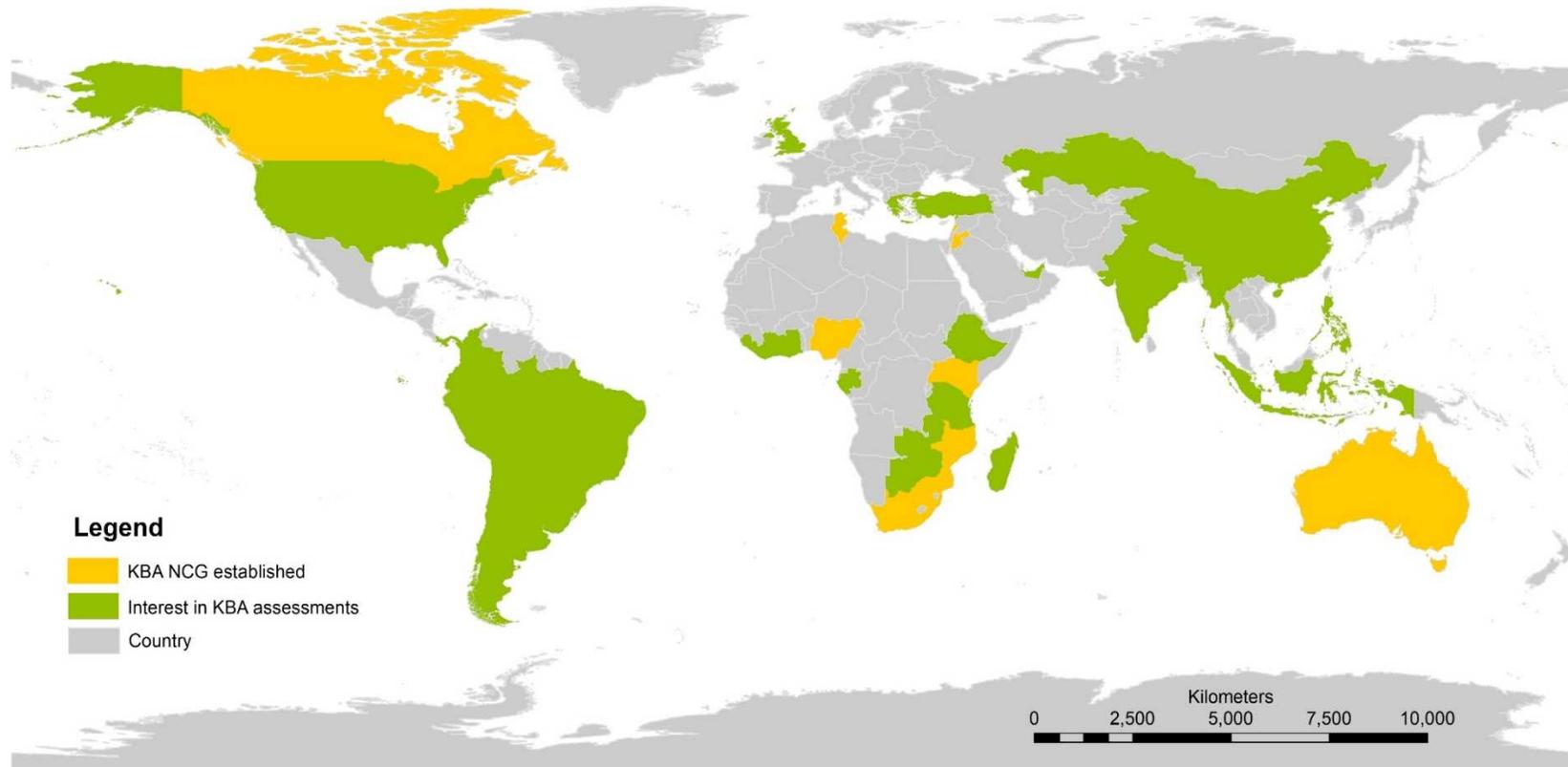


Threats at KBAs



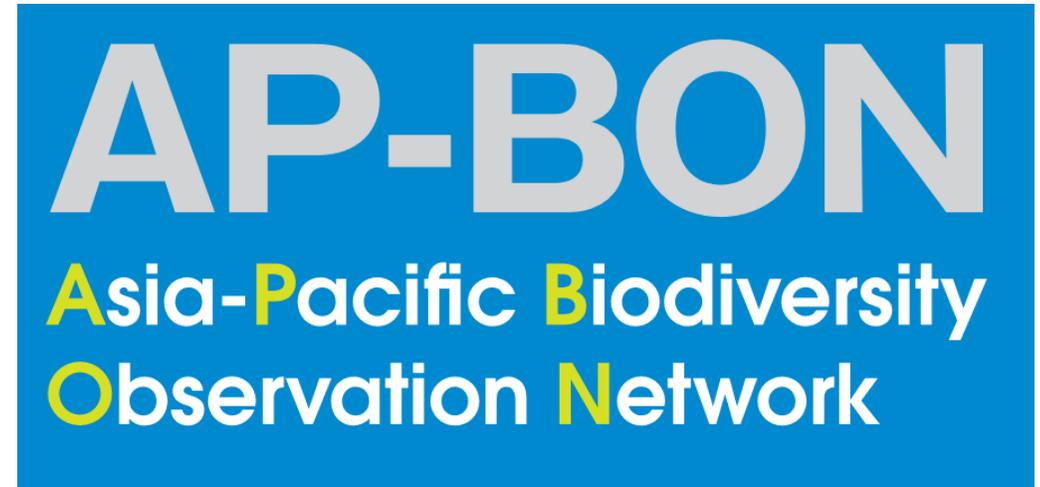
KBAs identified nationally

- KBAs are identified at a national level
- Encourage the establishment of KBA National Coordination Groups

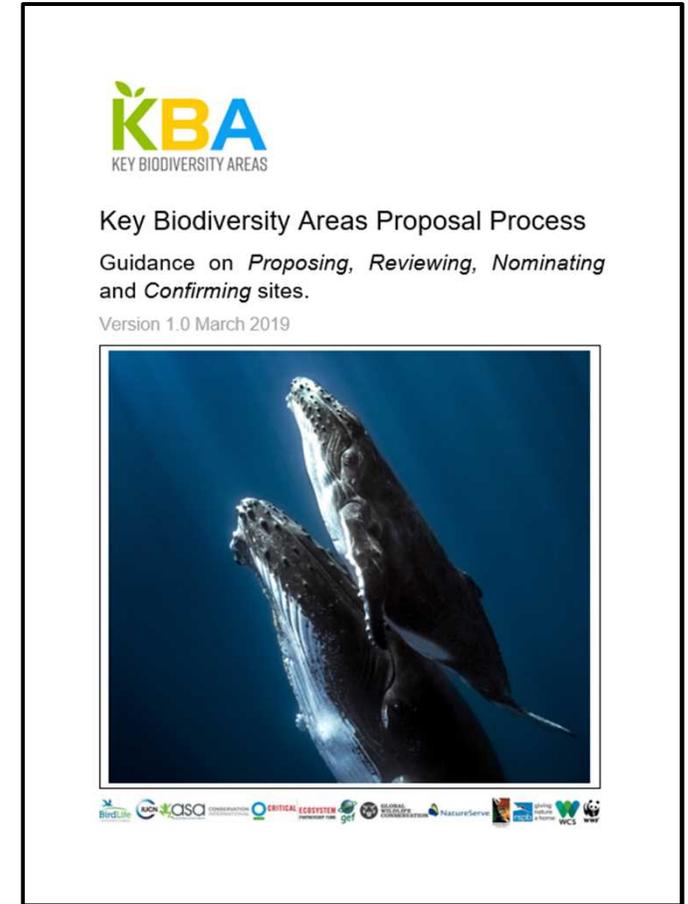
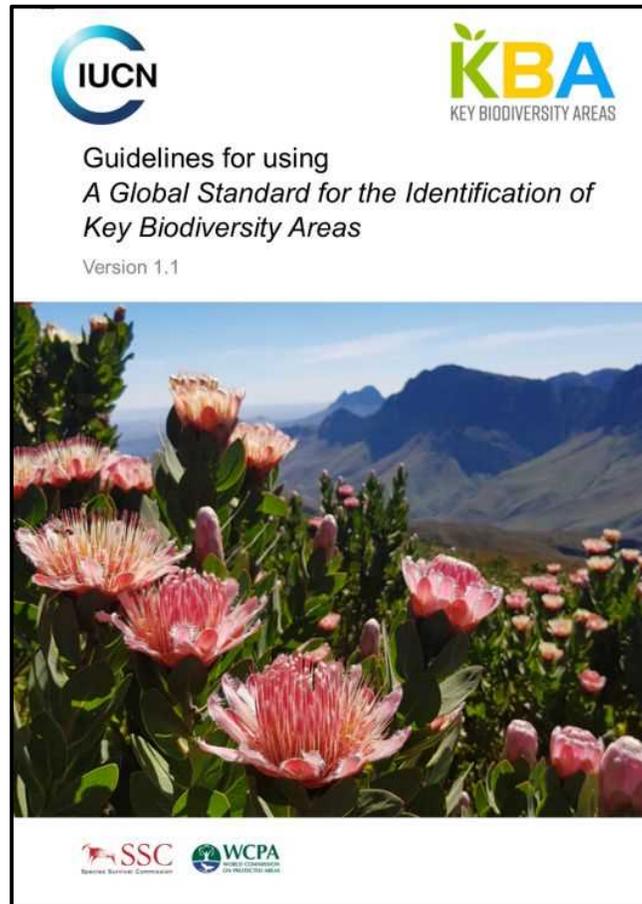
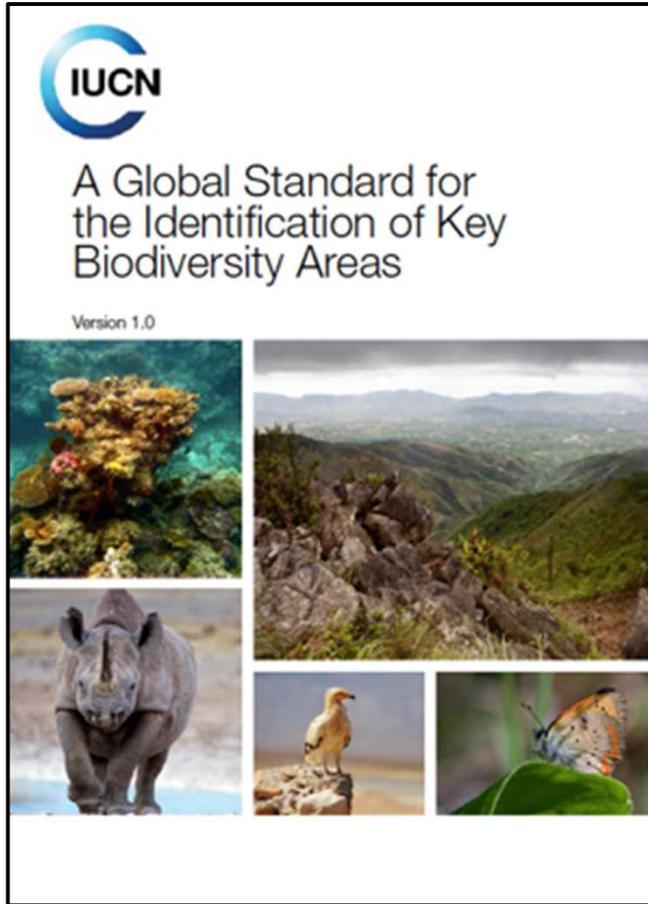


KBAs and AP-BON

- Biodiversity data generated by AP-BON can be used to identify KBAs
- Provision of more accurate range and Suitable Habitat Maps for species to help identify KBAs
- KBAs provides a means of turning biodiversity data into concrete conservation results at a national level
- AP-BON efforts can help monitor KBAs and their trigger elements
- Professor Y. Trisurat – KBA Community Representative for Asia



Tools for learning more about the KBA criteria, delineation and proposal process



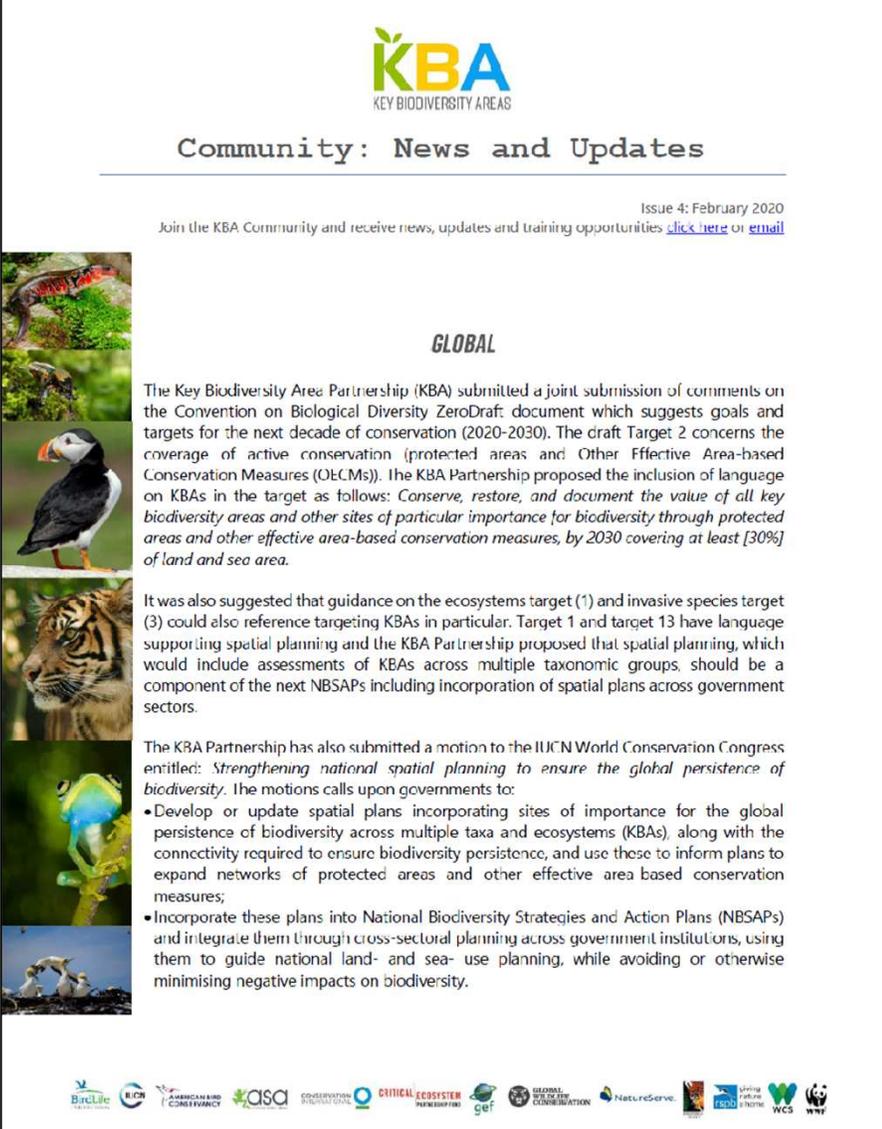
KBA Community

- KBA Community:
chair.kba.community@keybiodiversityareas.org

Professor Y. Trisurat – Community Representative for Asia

Dr M. Crosby and Dr M. O’Brien – Regional Focal points for Asia and Pacific respectively

- www.keybiodiversityareas.org



The screenshot shows the cover of the KBA Community newsletter, Issue 4: February 2020. The KBA logo is at the top. The title is "Community: News and Updates". Below the title, it says "Join the KBA Community and receive news, updates and training opportunities [click here](#) or [email](#)". The main content is under the heading "GLOBAL". It contains three paragraphs of text and a list of bullet points. The text discusses the KBA Partnership's joint submission of comments on the Convention on Biological Diversity ZeroDraft document, which suggests goals and targets for the next decade of conservation (2020-2030). The draft Target 2 concerns the coverage of active conservation (protected areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)). The KBA Partnership proposed the inclusion of language on KBAs in the target as follows: *Conserve, restore, and document the value of all key biodiversity areas and other sites of particular importance for biodiversity through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, by 2030 covering at least [30%] of land and sea area.* It also suggests that guidance on the ecosystems target (1) and invasive species target (3) could also reference targeting KBAs in particular. Target 1 and target 13 have language supporting spatial planning and the KBA Partnership proposed that spatial planning, which would include assessments of KBAs across multiple taxonomic groups, should be a component of the next NBSAPs including incorporation of spatial plans across government sectors. The KBA Partnership has also submitted a motion to the IUCN World Conservation Congress entitled: *Strengthening national spatial planning to ensure the global persistence of biodiversity.* The motions call upon governments to:

- Develop or update spatial plans incorporating sites of importance for the global persistence of biodiversity across multiple taxa and ecosystems (KBAs), along with the connectivity required to ensure biodiversity persistence, and use these to inform plans to expand networks of protected areas and other effective area based conservation measures;
- Incorporate these plans into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and integrate them through cross-sectoral planning across government institutions, using them to guide national land- and sea- use planning, while avoiding or otherwise minimising negative impacts on biodiversity.

At the bottom of the newsletter cover, there is a row of logos for various organizations: BirdLife International, IUCN, American Bird Conservancy, ASA, Conservation International, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, GEF, Global Wildlife Conservation, NatureServe, Living Planet Fund, WCS, and WWF.