



Identifying and Conserving KBAs: Experiences from Around the World

**Dr. Penny Langhammer, WCPA/SSC Joint Task
Force on Biodiversity and Protected Areas**

Annabelle Cuttelod, IUCN

Lincoln Fishpool, BirdLife International



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What are Key Biodiversity Areas?

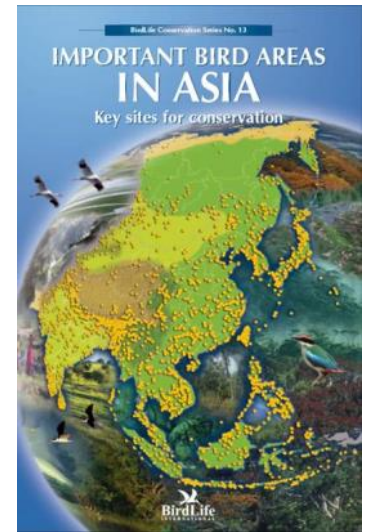


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- Sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity
- Identified by national constituencies using globally standardised criteria and thresholds
- Applicable across taxonomic groups in terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments
- Have delineated boundaries but are not necessarily formal protected areas or need to be
- Valuable tools to guide decision-making

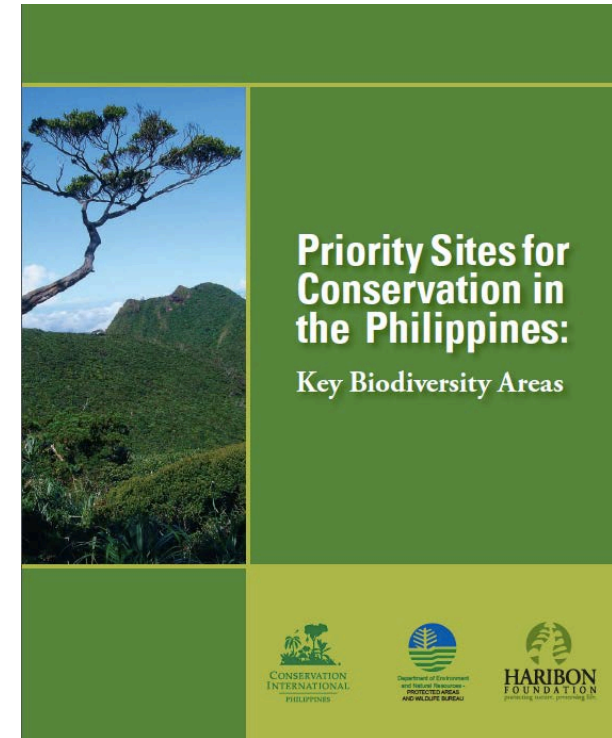
Key Biodiversity Areas and Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas

- Effort to identify important sites pioneered by BirdLife International partnership with IBAs
- More than 12,000 IBAs identified, delineated and documented worldwide in terrestrial, inland water and marine habitats to date
- Have informed designation of:
 - Protected areas by national governments
 - Special Protection Areas under the European Union Birds Directive
 - Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention
 - Emerald Network sites under the Berne Convention
 - Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas through the CBD



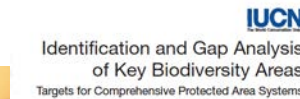
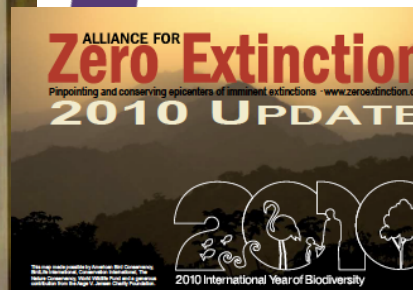
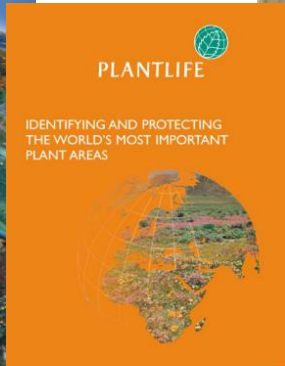
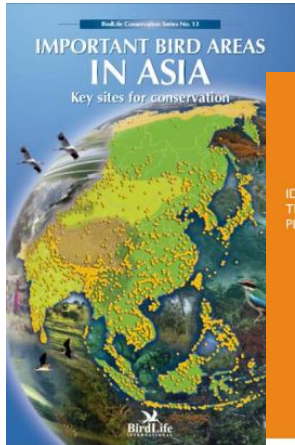
Key Biodiversity Areas and Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas

- Support implementation of site safeguard policies of the International Finance Corporation, World Bank and Regional Development Banks
- KBA concept integrates, builds upon and extends the successful IBA approach to biodiversity more generally
- IBAs have been the starting point for identifying KBAs for multiple taxonomic groups



Overarching framework

Key Biodiversity Areas



Journal of Conservation Biology, 2008, 22, 201-211

Identifying important sites for conservation of freshwater biodiversity: extending the species-based approach

W. R. T. DARWALL
IUCN - The World Conservation Union, Cambridge, UK

J. -C. VIE
IUCN - The World Conservation Union, Gland, Switzerland

Abstract Species richness in relation to area of habitat is extremely high for many freshwater groups, with an estimated 12 000 fish, 3000 amphibian and 2000 mollusc species dependent on freshwater habitats. Other major groups (invertebrates) such as insects, molluscs, plants and mammals. The IUCN Red List and the Nature Conservancy assessments both indicate the serious vulnerability and degradation of global water habitats world-wide. This article discusses the need for the conservation of the most important sites for freshwater biodiversity. Clearly, a method is needed for pinpointing sites for conservation at both local and regional scales. IUCN had a workshop in May 2002 to develop a method for prioritizing important sites for freshwater biodiversity conservation. The goal of the workshop was to develop a method which would help to focus on conservation efforts and funds on the regional scale and would serve as a tool for future conservation efforts at the local scale. The method was developed on the foundation of a review of the existing site prioritization schemes for terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems. Eight approaches for a broad range of priority sites and for existing schemes provided input to the development of the site prioritization method. This paper describes the development of the method, the selection of important sites for freshwater biodiversity and the resulting priorities.

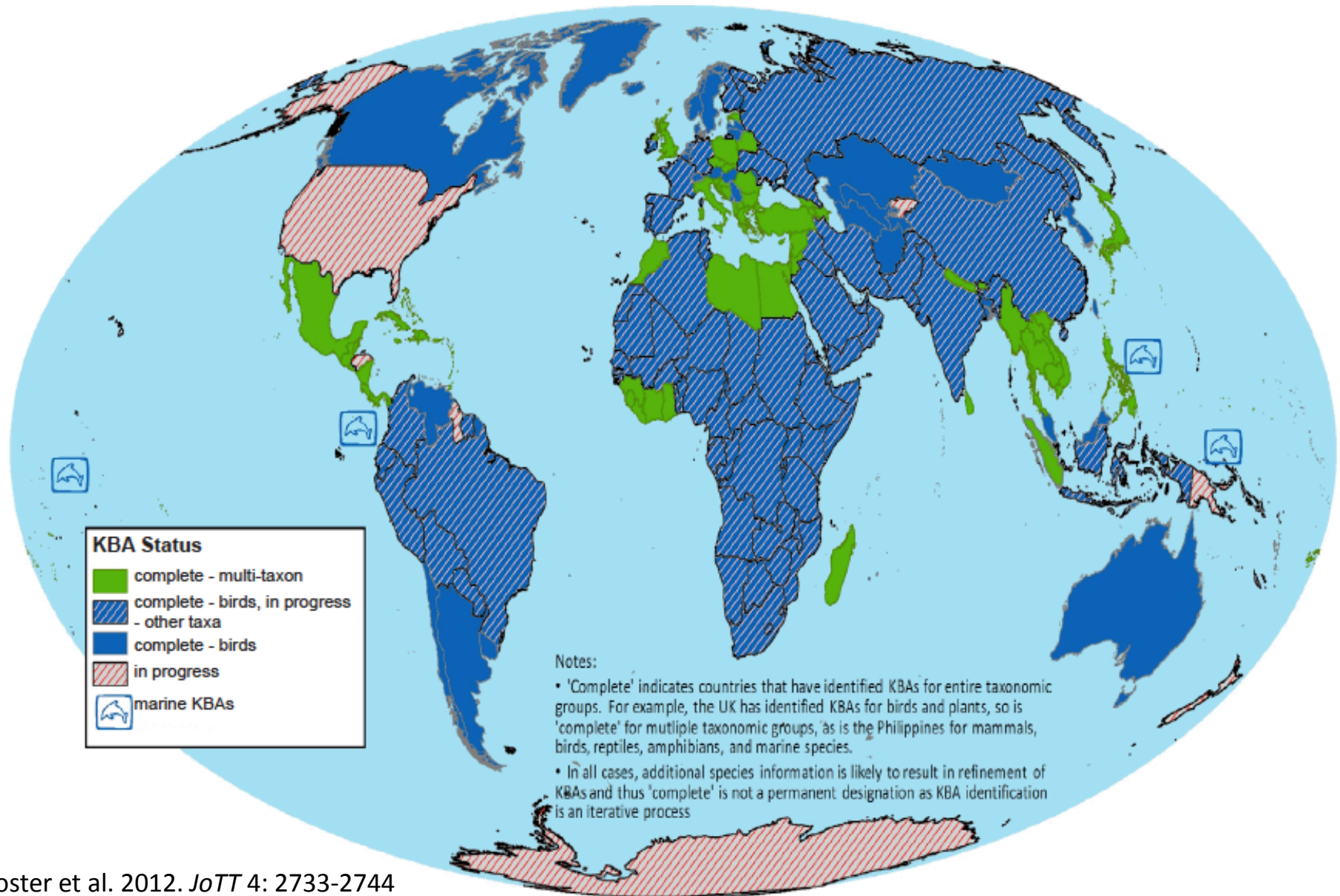
KEY WORDS: biodiversity, conservation, freshwater, priority sites, species.

Introduction
Species-rich sites are considered to be the most important sites for conservation of biodiversity (Patterson 1992). However, information on species distributions and dispersal routes is frequently cited as being highly relevant for conservation planning purposes, particularly in island systems (e.g. Atoll, Phoenix, Christmas & Cocos 2002). Despite this, lack of species information, both in widespread organisms and freshwater systems, is a major constraint on the development of conservation plans (Harris & Fitter 1995; Kay 1995; Mollusc Conservation Advisory Panel 1995; Mollusc Conservation Advisory Panel 1995; Mollusc Conservation Advisory Panel 1995). In the absence of species information, it is widely used as a tool in the site prioritization process and provides the international benchmark to guide global biodiversity conservation.

Correspondence: W. R. T. Darwall, IUCN, 200, The Woodlands, Cambridge CB2 3RQ, UK. E-mail: w.r.darwall@iucn.org

+ other elements of biodiversity (e.g. ecosystems, biol. processes)

Global progress with KBA identification





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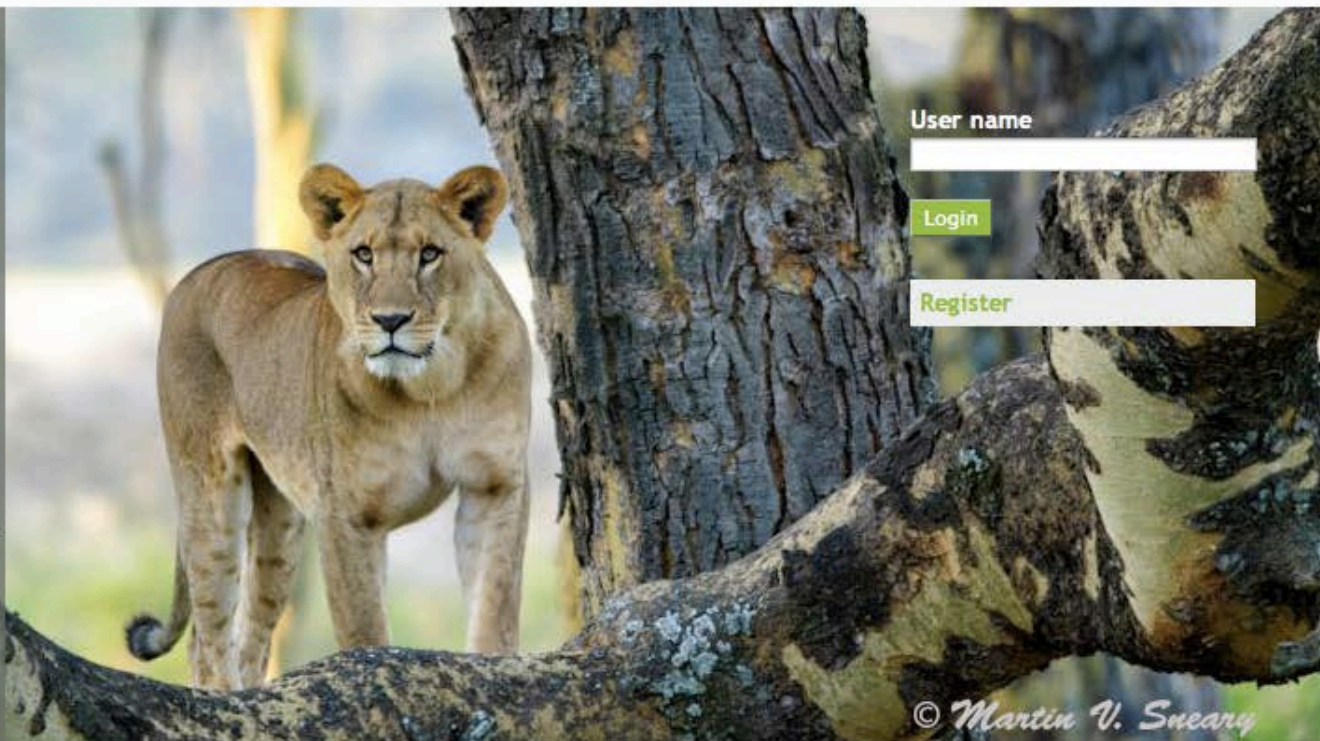
Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool

<https://www.ibat-alliance.org/ibat-conservation>

IBAT for Research and Conservation Planning is an innovative tool designed to facilitate access to a range of global and national data layers, such as protected area boundaries, biological information about habitat and species diversity indices, and key areas for biodiversity, which can be useful for research and conservation planning purposes.

The tool is the result of a ground-breaking conservation partnership among BirdLife International, Conservation International, International Union for Conservation of Nature and UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and is made possible by a diverse set of data providers, users and funders in government, business and civil society from over 200 countries and territories.

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CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL



Development of an IUCN KBA Standard

Online consultation
through 30 Nov 2014

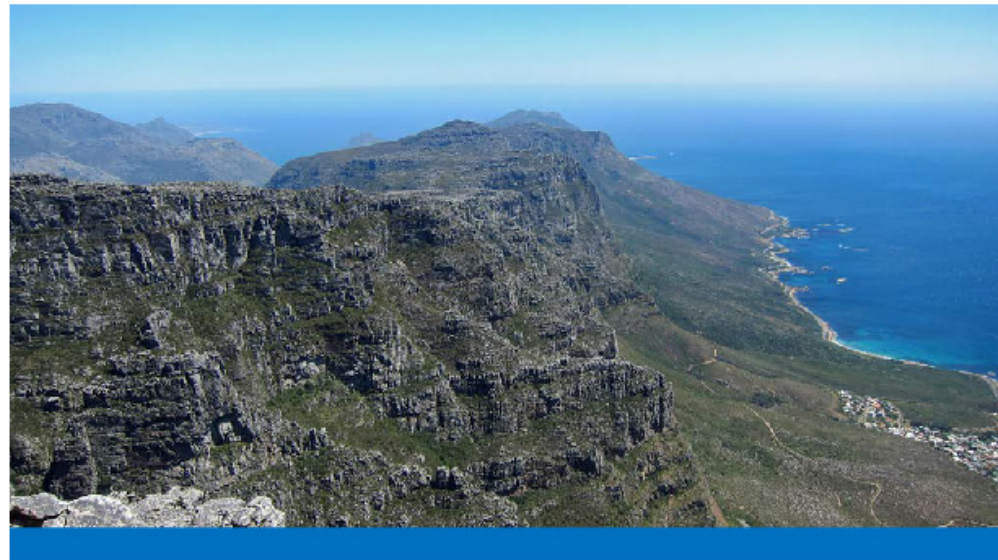
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annabelle.cuttelod@iucn.org



Consultation Document on
an IUCN Standard for the
Identification of Key
Biodiversity Areas

Draft 1 October 2014



Applications of KBA data



deliver more, and more effective, site conservation
set/refine national site conservation agendas



contribute to implementation and monitoring of biodiversity
targets



identify priorities, fulfil international commitments



raise awareness, advocate for conservation action



negotiate rights on natural resources, access funding



comply with environmental safeguard policies

guide conservation and development investments

In this session



- **Key Biodiversity Area identification in the Philippines**
Sheila Vergara, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
- **Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation in the Western Ghats: The Key Biodiversity Area Approach**
Rajeev Raghavan, IUCN SSC/WI Freshwater Fish Specialist Group
- **Priority Sites for Conservation in Australia**
Samantha Vine, BirdLife Australia
- **Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites in Brazil**
Glaucia Drummond, Biodiversitas
- **Enhancing ecological connectivity of important biodiversity areas through the Emerald Network at pan-European level**
Iva Obretenova, Council of Europe
- **IBAs in the marine environment**
Lincoln Fishpool, BirdLife International
- **Questions and discussion**