

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND



NEWSLETTER

Understanding the Key
Biodiversity Areas (KBA)
Standard from A to Z



Editorial

**The need to vulgarize
the KBA's Standard is
imperative!**

justin KAMGA

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The Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) highlights site that contribute significantly to the persistence of global biodiversity. It is based on criteria that take into consideration different levels of biodiversity, namely:

- Ecosystems;
- Species, which make up ecosystems namely the group of individuals that have the ability to reproduce with each other in nature and the offspring is fertile;
- Genes found in each species.



This conservation approach originated at the 2004 World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, where IUCN Members recognized the need for a unifying framework for the identification of important biodiversity sites using data from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

This conservation approach based on the species and not on the space reinforces the commitment made by Cameroon at the international level, namely

- The Convention on Biological Diversity;
- The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;
- The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species;
- The Cartagena Protocol;
- The Nagoya Protocol.

And the application of its laws, thus law N°64 of January 20, 1994 on the regime of fauna and flora which gives a point of honour on the need to preserve biodiversity.

The need to vulgarize this concept is essential and each actor with a sensitivity for the preservation of biodiversity, namely, sectoral administrations, the private sector, national and international NGOs, researchers, donors, should play its role for the conservation of biodiversity and ensure the monitoring of species ... This information brochure allows stakeholders to enrich their knowledge on the standard of Key Biodiversity Areas.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS (KBA) STANDARD



What are Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) ?

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are sites or areas that are particularly important for biological diversity. More specifically, they are «sites that contribute significantly to the persistence of global biodiversity» in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. These sites have well-defined boundaries, which must be taken into consideration when setting conservation priorities.

The KBA Standards and their criteria



To identify Key Biodiversity Areas, the conservation community has rallied around a Global Standard for the identification of Key Biodiversity Areas. This Standard, was adopted by the IUCN Council and

launched in concert with the KBA Partnership at the 2016 World Conservation Congress in Hawaii. The adoption of this Global Standard for the identification of KBAs, has been done after a large consultation by the IUCN Council, including specific criteria and quantitative thresholds focused on five aspects:

1. Threatened Biodiversity;
2. Geographically restricted biodiversity;
3. Ecological integrity;
4. Biological processes, and
5. Irreplaceability through quantitative analysis.

These KBA criteria have been designed to capture biodiversity at the level of genes, species and

ecosystems. Overall, these criteria seek to capture different reasons why a site may be important for the persistence of global biodiversity. -The importance of a site may come from the fact that: it harbours threatened or geographically restricted biodiversity, is of outstanding ecological integrity, maintains biological processes, or is recognized by quantitative analysis as highly irreplaceable.



How to identify KBA ?

KBA are identified using criteria designed to capture elements of biodiversity at the gene, species and ecosystem levels. These criteria are applicable to marine, freshwater, terrestrial and groundwater systems. The identification of a KBA is done in a very inclusive, consultative and bottom-up manner. This allows anyone with appropriate scientific data to propose a site for designation as a KBA, though a consultation with stakeholders (both governmental and non-governmental organizations) must take place at the national level at this delineation's stage. All recommendations for a KBA should be subject to independent scientific review. This precedes the official nomination of the site with all information in accordance with the Documentation Standards for KBA. KBA sites are recognized by the KBA Secretariat and then published on the global KBA website.

At the country or national level, it is expected that a National Coordination Group will coordinate the work in each country. External «proposers» of qualified KBA sites are expected to send proposals to the KBA National Coordination Group for an initial assessment at the national level before being submitted to the KBA Secretariat. In Africa, South Africa, Uganda and Mozambique are among other countries that are establishing national KBA coordination groups.



The identification of KBA is done through a species approach. Thus, to assess KBA, assessors can focus on broad processes to cover, among other things:

- several taxonomic groups across the country;
- a single taxonomic group;
- ecosystems and ecoregions (criterion c) across the country;
- unique ecosystems and ecoregions;
- single species or small groups of species;
- site-focused assessments for the biodiversity components it contains.

1 - <http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/home>

Process for proposing a KBA (Who can propose a KBA?)

Any KBA proposal can be made online. For this purpose, a temporary KBA proposal form has been developed. This form provides all the relevant information required for a proposal and automatically calculates the KBA criteria for the user. The completed form and the online application are then sent to the KBA Regional Contact Point (RCP). The RCP checks, among other things, whether the KBA criteria have been applied, whether the documentation is adequate and whether the delimitation of sites is accurate and precise. If the RCP is satisfied with the proposal, it is then forwarded to experts for an external evaluation. This external evaluation focuses on data that has been provided regarding the extent of a species or ecosystem.



validating and publishing Process for a KBA

This process takes place after the external evaluation of the proposal. Indeed, as soon as the proposal is evaluated by the external experts, it is forwarded to the RCP who will forward it to the proposer for integration of any possible comments. Once the proposer and the RCP have resolved the reviewers' comments and are satisfied with the proposal, it is formally nominated to the KBA Secretariat. At this level, a second review takes place to ensure that the criteria, scoping, documentation and consulta-

tion are adequate - the KBA Secretariat and the proposer may seek clarification at this stage.

Confirmation or validation of the site is done as soon as it meets the KBA criteria and documentation requirements. It is then accepted into the WDKBA2 as a valid KBA and published in the next update. Once published, the site is made available on IBAT3to help guiding companies to minimize their impacts on KBA.

2 - <https://www.iucn.org/resources/conservation-tools/world-database-of-key-biodiversity-areas>

3 - https://www.ibat-alliance.org/sample-downloads?tab=gis-downloads&anchor_id=resource-header

Management bodies of a **KBA**

On the international level

The KBA partnership has been established since 2016. To date, 13 institutions or organisations support the KBA programme. On behalf of the partnership, the global KBA database is administered by BirdLife International. Member organisations of the partnership are organised into several committees and working groups coordinated through a secretariat.

On the national level

A National Coordination Group is expected to coordinate the work in each country. The proposed sites should be sent to this group for an initial assessment at the national level before being submitted to the Global KBA Secretariat.

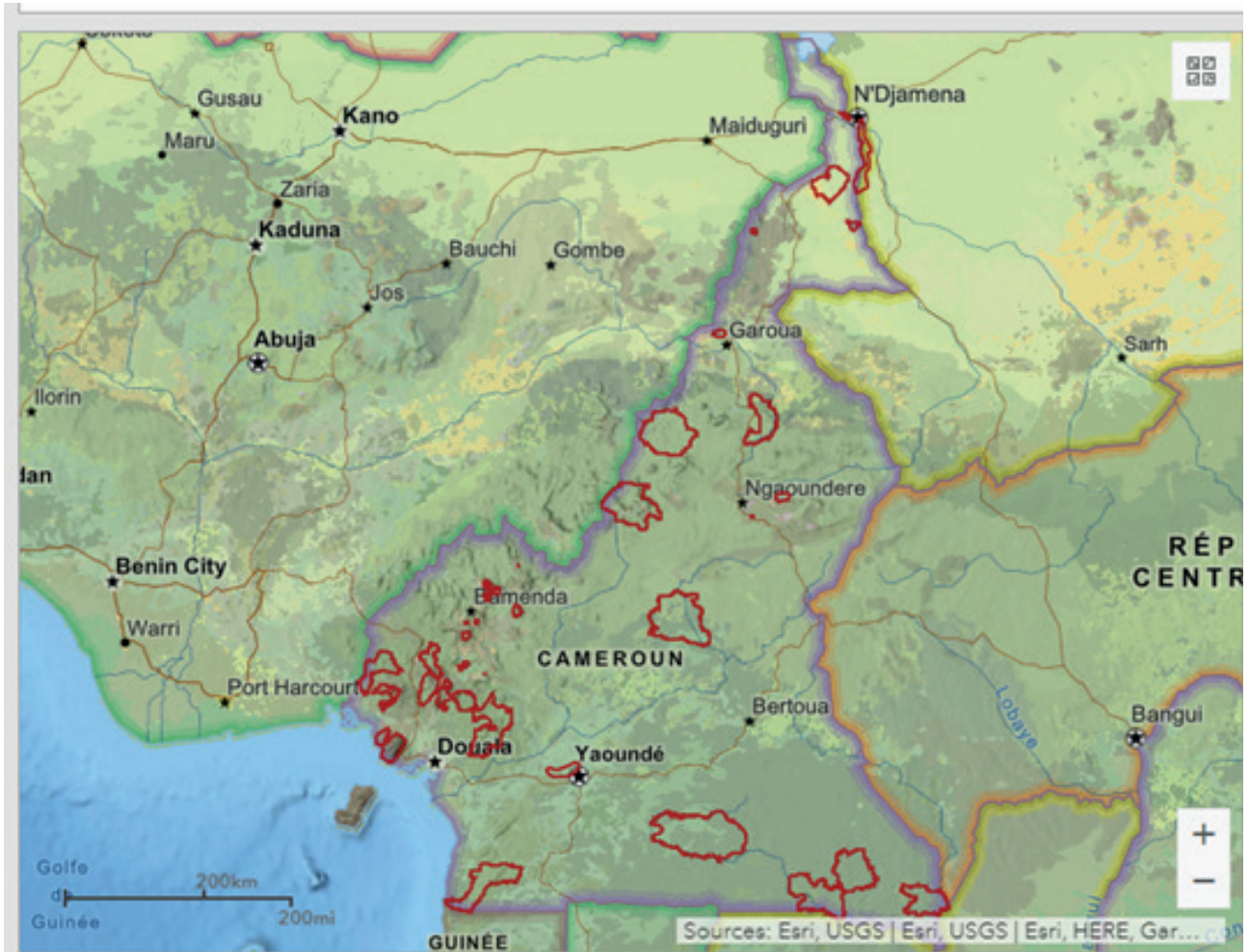
Implications of KBA

L'Application of KBA standards results in generating and updating a large amount of reliable data. Therefore, KBA can support the strategic expansion of protected area networks by governments and civil society working to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (especially Targets 11 and 12) as established by the Convention on Biological Diversity; inform the description or identification of sites under international conventions (such as Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity, Internationally Important Wetlands under the Ramsar Convention, and World Heritage Natural Sites); informing private sector safeguarding policies, environmental standards and certification schemes; supporting conservation planning and priority



setting at national and regional levels; and providing local and indigenous communities with opportunities for employment, recognition, economic investment, societal engagement and civic pride.

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) in Cameroon



<http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/kba-data>

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

From 14 to 17 December 2021, Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER), IUCN-Cameroon, the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development and its partners involved in conservation in Cameroon will organize a training workshop on the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Standard and information on the importance of setting up a National KBA Coordination Group in Cameroon.

This training will bring together about thirty participants active in the conservation and management of biodiversity in Cameroon. They will come from universities, administrative sectorial (MINEPDED⁴, MINFOF⁵, MINRESI⁶), national and international civil society organizations, representatives of the private sector, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities.

The training workshop is supported by the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Secretariat. It will be facilitated by Dr. Simmy Bezeng, who is an international expert on the identification of key biodiversity areas. He has conducted several trainings in Africa and Asia on KBA and accompanied several countries in the establishment of National Coordination Groups (NCGs) of Key Biodiversity Areas. He is the Regional Red List and Key Biodiversity Area Programme Officer at Birdlife South Africa. He is also a member of the IUCN species survival Commission.

The overall objective of the workshop is to improve stakeholders' knowledge on the global standard for the identification of key biodiversity areas. During five (05) days, participants will be able to improve their knowledge on the process of identification, delimitation and validation of key biodiversity areas. They will also be informed on the importance and the process of setting up a National Coordination Group for Key Biodiversity Areas. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to reassess the status of the Yabassi and Tchabal Mbabo Key Biodiversity Areas.

The workshop is organized within the framework of the implementation of the Support project for the vulgarization of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) in Cameroon, which is financially supported by the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) and BirdLife International. Activities of this project are deployed in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Cameroon and Birdlife South Africa.

4 - Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development

5 - Ministry of Forests and Wildlife

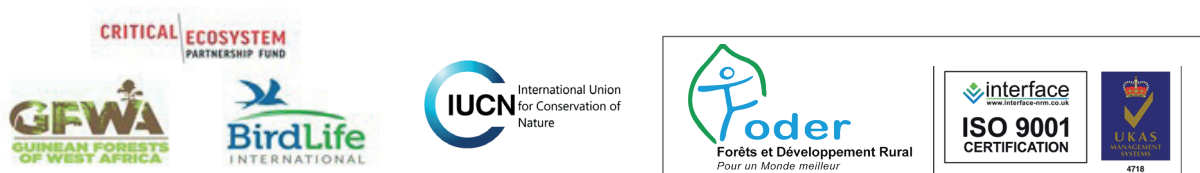
6 - Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation



To go further

www.keybiodiversityareas.org

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The content of this newsletter is the sole responsibility of Foder and can in no way reflect the views of Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), BirdLife International and project implementation partners.





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