

WCC-2016-Res-041-EN

Identifying Key Biodiversity Areas for safeguarding biodiversity

RECALLING Resolution 3.013 *The uses of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* (Bangkok, 2004), which requested the Species Survival Commission (SSC) to convene a worldwide consultative process to agree a unified methodology to identify Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs);

FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 5.036 *Biodiversity, protected areas, and Key Biodiversity Areas* (Jeju, 2012), which welcomed the efforts of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)/SSC Joint Task Force on Biodiversity and Protected Areas in consolidating standards for the identification of KBAs as sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity;

RECOGNISING that since the 1970s BirdLife International Partners have documented and promoted the conservation of more than 12,800 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) using globally standardised criteria in bottom-up multi-stakeholder processes;

RECOGNISING that other organisations have developed similar processes to identify important sites for subsets of biodiversity, including Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, NatureServe Network B-ranked sites, Important Fungus Areas, Important Plant Areas, Prime Butterfly Areas, Important Marine Mammal Areas and freshwater, marine and terrestrial KBAs;

RECOGNISING the widespread application of, and further demand for, information about such important sites by Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), finance institutions, the private sector, governments and the conservation community;

FURTHER RECOGNISING the importance of KBAs for indigenous and local communities living in and around them;

THANKING the WCPA and SSC, supported by IUCN Members and the Director General, for their efforts in developing a global standard for the identification of KBAs;

GRATEFUL for financial and in-kind support from a wide range of organisations to develop this standard;

WELCOMING the adoption of the 'IUCN Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas' by IUCN Council in April 2016; and

WELCOMING the development of a KBA Partnership to bring together a coalition of organisations that are committed to coordinating jointly the identification and promotion of KBAs using the new IUCN Standard;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:

1. REQUESTS the Director General and Commissions to work with KBA Partners to fundraise for identifying, promoting and protecting KBAs;
2. INVITES Commissions, Members and other institutions, as appropriate, to work with KBA Partners to identify and document KBAs through:
 - a. completing the documentation of existing important sites for biodiversity using the new KBA Standard;
 - b. applying the Standard to elements of biodiversity for which sites have yet to be identified, so filling taxonomic and geographic gaps;
 - c. monitoring the condition, threats and conservation measures at KBAs to keep documentation up to date; and
 - d. creating an effective knowledge sharing platform/network among stakeholders, practitioners, researchers, scientists etc.

3. INVITES governments to:
 - a. use KBAs to support the identification of sites for establishing new and expanding existing protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs);
 - c. use the coverage of KBAs by protected areas and OECMs as an indicator for Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15;
 - d. use KBAs for focusing conservation action for species and ecosystems, as appropriate;
 - e. recognise and provide opportunities for indigenous and local communities living in and around KBAs to participate in their safeguarding, planning and governance, as appropriate; and
 - f. to invest in the identification and documentation of KBAs;
4. INVITES relevant MEAs to work with their Parties to use KBAs to inform the location of new or expanded protected areas, OECMs and conservation actions as appropriate;
5. ENCOURAGES the private sector, finance institutions and donors to consider KBAs as critical habitats for environmental and sustainability safeguards;
6. INVITES the conservation community to use KBAs to inform conservation planning, priority setting and implementation; and
7. ENCOURAGES donors to support the KBA Partnership in identifying and promoting KBAs and to direct resources at KBA conservation.