Mission statement
The Joint IUCN SSC/WCPA Biodiversity and Protected Areas Task Force has two formal objectives. Objective 1 is to understand the drivers of successful biodiversity outcomes in protected areas, on land and in sea. Objective 2 is to consolidate a global standard for the identification of Key Biodiversity Areas.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Capacity building

i. Global consultations: Adoption of the KBA Standard. The Joint Task Force on Biodiversity and Protected Areas led a multi-year, global consultation process that mobilized input from experts in the IUCN Commissions, Members and Secretariat staff, other conservation organizations, academia, governments, donors and the private sector to consolidate the criteria and methodology for identifying KBAs. “A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas” was adopted by IUCN Council and launched at the World Conservation Congress in 2016. United by the KBA standard, twelve international nature conservation organizations have formed a Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership to identify, document, update and monitor KBAs and to communicate, promote and position this information to ensure these important sites are adequately safeguarded. (KSR #22)

ii. One workshop: The KBA Standards and Appeals Committee, which includes a number of members of the Joint Task Force, convened a workshop in Warrenton, VA in Nov 2017 to produce a first draft of the “Guidelines for using A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas, Version 1.0”. These Guidelines will provide more detail, illustrated with examples, for applying the criteria, thresholds, and delineation procedures, in the global KBA standard. (KSR #22)

iii. Four workshops: The Joint Task Force organized training sessions on the KBA standard at the IUCN WCC in Hawaii, US; at the International Congress of Conservation Biology in Cartagena, Colombia; at a workshop on KBAs and ecosystem services in Quebec City, Canada; and at Conservation International in Washington, DC, US. (KSR #22)

iv. Two workshops: The co-chairs of the Joint Task Force are also co-PIs of a Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP) working group on Key Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The working group convened workshops in Myanmar (2016) and Canada (2017), the latter in collaboration with the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas, both of which generated considerable momentum for application of the KBA standard and the assessment of ecosystem services delivered by KBAs. KBA National Conservation Groups are being formed in both countries. (KSR #22)

v. Four workshops: We organized workshops in protected area effectiveness at the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii, the George Wright Society Meeting in Oakland, US. The Canadian Parks Summit in Banff, Canada and the Canadian Oceans Act Workshop in Ottawa, Canada. (KSR #18)

Conservation action

Communication

i. One special publication: This involved several meetings, writing workshops and text drafting. The final document is completed as follows: The KBA Partnership (2018) “Guidelines on Business and KBAs: Managing Risk to Biodiversity”. Gland: IUCN. 26 pp., 2018. (KSR #28)
Research activities


iv. One paper presentation at meeting: Background paper, “The impact of conservation action”, completed and presented by Penny Langhammer at the IUCN-GEF meeting “Our Global Commons—An International Dialogue”. (KSR #32)

Policy

Policy advice

i. Creation of one WCC Resolution: WCC Resolution WCC-2016-Res-041 Identifying Key Biodiversity Areas for safeguarding biodiversity. (KSR #22)

Acknowledgements

In completing “A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas”, we would like to thank the hundreds of scientists and stakeholders who participated in regional workshops and end-users meetings, provided data for testing the criteria and thresholds and submitted comments and suggestions during the consultation process. In particular, we would like to thank our fellow members of the KBA editorial team: Thomas Brooks, Annabelle Cuttelod, Naamal De Silva, Nigel Dudley, Lincoln Fishpool, Jon Paul Rodríguez, Carlo Rondinini and Bob Smith. The global consultation on the KBA standard would not have been possible without the generous and in-kind support from the following: Agence Française de Développement, BirdLife International, Cambridge Conservation Initiative Collaborative Fund for Conservation, Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, Fondazione Bioparco di Roma, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation through a grant to the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool, MAVA Foundation, Ministério do Meio Ambiente do Brasil, NatureServe, Parks Canada, Rio Tinto, Sapienza Università di Roma, Shell, The Biodiversity Consultancy and the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre. In completing research on the effectiveness of protected areas, we are grateful for received funding, in-kind support and/or data from the following organizations and institutions: the Global Environment Facility, Parks Canada, the Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Data Base curated by the University of Queensland and the WCPA Management Effectiveness Specialist Group, the European Union funded Biopama Program, the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), the Living Planet Index developed by WWF-UK and the Zoological Society of London, the Protected Planet database curated by UN-EP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the George Wright Society and the Species Survival Commission and the World Commission on Protected Areas operating funds.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Capacity building

Conservation activities: participation in the Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership as representative for the WCPA (Stephen Woodley). Research activities: (1) completion of “Guidelines for using A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas, Version 1.0”; (2) completion of an IUCN guidance document on tools for measuring, modelling and valuing ecosystem services delivered by KBAs, protected areas and natural World Heritage sites; (3) completion of research papers on protected area effectiveness and biodiversity outcomes: “A global analysis of management capacity and ecological outcomes in terrestrial protected areas”; (4) completion of research papers on protected area effectiveness and biodiversity outcomes: “Why Make Protected Areas Effective in Conserving Nature”; (5) training workshops on KBA standard.

Communications

Research activities: completion of peer-reviewed publication of the global Key Biodiversity Areas standard.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

By the end of 2020, we anticipate a substantial increase in the safeguard of sites of global importance for biodiversity through: (1) demonstration that protected areas are effective at conserving species and the management inputs necessary to achieve conservation outcomes in protected areas, and (2) application of the global KBA standard to identify important sites, including those in need of protection; dissemination of these data through the World Database of KBAs; and enhanced efforts by the KBA Partners and other conservation organizations, governments and the private sector to safeguard KBAs. The work of the Task Force also provides scientific analysis on the drivers of protected area effectiveness. This research was directly built into the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas and provides the bases for countries to manage for effective and equitable protected areas that lead to effective biodiversity outcomes.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 3/7
Key Priority Areas addressed:
- Capacity building (5 activities)
- Conservation action (5 activities)
- Policy (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 17, 18, 28, 32
Resolutions 2016 WCC: 041

KSR: Key Species Result