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.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium
By the end of 2020, we anticipate a substantial increase in the safeguard of sites important for globally threatened, geographically restricted, and congregatory species 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 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) standard to identify important sites in need of protection, dissemination of these data through the World Database of KBAs, and enhanced efforts by the KBA Partners and other conservation organisations, 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 basis for countries to manage for effective and equitable protected areas that lead to effective biodiversity outcomes.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess
Research activities: (1) complete a peer-reviewed publication of the global Key Biodiversity Areas standard; (2) complete Guidelines for using A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas, Version 1.0; (3) complete an IUCN guidance document on assessing the value of ecosystem services at sites, for KBAs, protected areas, and World Heritage Sites; (4) complete research papers on protected area effectiveness and biodiversity outcomes: ‘A global analysis of management capacity and ecological outcomes in terrestrial protected areas’; (5) complete research papers on protected area effectiveness and biodiversity outcomes: ‘Why Make Protected Areas Effective in Conserving Nature’; (6) hold training workshops on the KBA standard; (7) assist in development of a KBA National Coordination Group for Canada; (8) complete a research paper on the relationship between Key Biodiversity Areas and systematic conservation planning; (9) complete a research paper on the end user engagement process during development of the global Key Biodiversity Areas standard.

Plan
Policy: (1) help develop an IUCN-led guidance document on businesses working in or impacting Key Biodiversity Areas; (2) promote KBAs as a key part of the post-2020 conservation targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Act
Conservation actions: participate in the Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership as representative for the World Commission on Protected Areas (Stephen Woodley).
Activities and results 2019

Assess

Research activities

ii. The Canadian National Coordination Group is led out of the office of Wildlife Conservation Society Canada (Justina Ray). The effort involved all Canadian KBA partners, as well as Federal, Provincial and Territorial Government. Over USD 800,000 has been raised and over 100 KBAs tentatively identified. (KSR #22)

Plan

Policy
i. Presentations on KBAs were given as part of IUCN interventions at CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings, as well as during side events. (KSR #26)

Act

Conservation actions
i. Stephen Woodley represented WCPA on the KBA Partnership. WCPA Chair Kathy MacKinnon was also involved in a number of partnership issues. (KSR #22)

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 3/5

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Main KSRs addressed: 22, 26, 32

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016-Res-041

KSR: Key Species Result