

The post-2020 framework offers a critical once-in-a-decade opportunity to address the biodiversity crisis, building on the [2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity](#) and its 20 Aichi Targets.

The Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework developed by the Post-2020 Co-Chairs and CBD Secretariat (henceforth Zero Draft) is a useful first draft and helps frame the main areas where countries should be focussing action. We here provide some comments on specific areas of the Zero Draft that are relevant to the role Key Biodiversity Areas can play in post-2020 agenda. [Key Biodiversity Areas \(KBAs\)](#) are 'sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity'. Over 16,000 have been identified to date in terrestrial, freshwater and marine realms and in virtually all countries worldwide (for more information, and to access data from the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas, see www.keybiodiversityareas.org). However, it is also recognised that KBAs need still to be identified across multiple taxonomic groups (plants, most vertebrates and invertebrates) and other elements of biodiversity. The identification and conservation of KBAs is supported and promoted by the KBA Partnership which brings together most of the world's major international conservation organisations (see <http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/kba-partners>).

The statements provide here are specific to Key Biodiversity Areas and do not comment on levels of ambition or other aspects of the ZeroDraft. Please refer to individual KBA partner submission's for other relevant comments.

Comments on the 2030 Action Targets (Section D/12 page 9)

We here present comments on the targets that are relevant to KBAs and provide some suggested rewording of targets, explaining our rationale for doing so.

(a) Reducing threats to biodiversity

Target 2: Protect sites of particular importance for biodiversity through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, by 2030 covering at least [30%] of land and sea areas with at least [10%] under strict protection.

Consistent with the KBA Partnership submission to the OEWG of September 2019, we suggest:

- Replacing the opening word, "Protect" with the following text "Conserve, restore, and document the value of all key biodiversity areas and other..."
- Deleting "at least [60%] of such sites and"
- Deleting "with at least [10%] under strict protection"

Thus, the KBA Partnership would suggest including KBA language into Target 2 as follows: *Conserve, restore, and document the value of all key biodiversity areas and other sites of particular importance for biodiversity through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, by 2030 covering at least [30%] of land and sea areas.*

Please note that most KBA Partners have additional text suggestion on this target, which can be found in their independent submissions. This above text edit is ONLY intended to incorporate KBA specific language, and should not be considered to be a proposal for a fully formed Target.

Specific rationale for this proposed modification:

- We strongly support the shift in emphasis from protected areas as an end in themselves, to conservation of sites of particular importance for biodiversity (through means such as protected areas and OECMs).
- Given the target calls for both protected areas and OECMs, we propose replacing the first word 'protect' with 'conserve'.
- We recommend that KBAs should be specifically mentioned as they are the only global, site-scale network of areas of biodiversity importance; they have been identified bottom-up through nationally led processes, encompass all elements of biodiversity (including genes, species and ecosystems), foci of different prioritisation methods (threat, geographical restriction, integrity, ecological processes and irreplaceability) and encompass existing networks focused on particular subsets of biodiversity (e.g. Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites etc).
- The mention of KBAs would also imply that both species and ecosystems should be adequately represented and conserved
- Currently, 50% of the area of the world's 16,000 Key Biodiversity Areas are covered by protected areas, and preliminary results (Donald et al 2019 Conservation Letters DOI: 10.1111/conl.12659) indicate that many unprotected sites are likely covered by OECMs, so the proposed 60% coverage is already likely exceeded, and 100% is both achievable and necessary by 2030.
- We are concerned about the mention of 10% under Strict Protection as it implies that other sites don't need effective protection, so suggest dropping this clause.
- Many additional sites are likely to qualify as KBAs for different taxonomic groups and ecosystems, and documenting these needs to be a focus of action over the coming 10 years to be sure we are placing protected areas and OECMs in the most important places.

Annex 1

We here provide comments on the goals and other targets where KBAs would be directly relevant and should be referenced in their guidance

Comments on the 2030 and 2050 Goals (section B/10, page 8)

KBAs are most relevant to goals (a) and (b) and we focus our comments here on these two goals.

(a) No net loss by 2030 in the area and integrity of freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and increases of at least [20%] by 2050, ensuring ecosystem resilience;

We suggest that the guidance on this Goal also references the importance of considering KBAs in identifying priorities for restoration efforts and management activities to achieve the goal, as increasing the extent and condition of natural ecosystems in and around KBAs would deliver disproportionate benefits to biodiversity, given that these sites have already been identified as contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity. Sites qualifying as KBAs because of the threatened and geographically restricted ecosystems they

contain, or because of their high levels of ecological integrity should be the main focus of any targeted conservation and restoration towards this Goal.

(b) The percentage of species threatened with extinction is reduced by [X%] and the abundance of species has increased on average by [X%] by 2030 and by [X%] by 2050

Guidance associated with this Goal can point out that identification and conservation of KBAs across multiple taxonomic groups (plants, fungi, vertebrates and invertebrates) would make a substantial contribution to halting extinction, given that these sites have been identified as significant for the global persistence of species in these groups.

Comments on the 2030 Action Targets (Section D/12 page 9)

We here present comments on the targets where KBAs would be relevant explaining our rationale for doing so.

(a) Reducing threats to biodiversity

Target 1: Retain and restore freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, increasing by at least [50%] the land and sea area under comprehensive spatial planning addressing land/sea use change, achieving by 2030 a net increase in area, connectivity and integrity and retaining existing intact areas and wilderness

We believe that it is essential to specify natural ecosystems here as we should not be aiming to increase the area and connectivity of converted ecosystems, for example. We recommend referencing threatened ecosystems to focus restoration on these ecosystems rather than all ecosystems. We also recommend expanding on what minimum assessment is needed for national spatial planning to clarify what should be included. A 50% increase is only expanding the area of existing land under spatial planning by a half. A more ambitious goal would be that at least 80% of countries have comprehensive national spatial plans with plans to restore ecosystems as part of these plans.

Target 3: Control all pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species, achieving by 2030 a [50%] reduction in the rate of new introductions, and eradicate or control invasive alien species to eliminate or reduce their impacts by 2030 in at least [50%] of priority sites.

Guidance on this target needs to clarify that the focus is on eliminating or managing impacts in sites of significance for the global persistence of biodiversity such as KBAs, because 'priority sites' are not clearly defined, and could be interpreted as simply the two most important sites worldwide, for example.

(c) Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

Target 13: Integrate biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts, ensuring by 2030 that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and that biodiversity-inclusive strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments are comprehensively applied

We are happy that national and local planning has been identified as a critical process to ensure the mainstreaming of biodiversity values across countries but believe that this target should be more specific in what should be achieved and therefore more measurable (for

example, it is unclear how one could measure the degree to which biodiversity values have been integrated into the specified processes). We would suggest that national and local planning specifically incorporates the idea of a revision of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for 2020-2030 with each country developing or updating national and local spatial plans as part of the NBSAP incorporating at a minimum an assessment of KBAs (globally important sites - for multiple species groups and ecosystems), corridors, and intact habitat. Ensuring these spatial plans are mainstreamed across government sectors and recognised by business would ensure that countries would be more likely to achieve this target. As an ambition we would encourage that at least 80% of parties achieve such spatial plans and demonstrate that they are integrated across sectors of government. Other aspects of the proposed target as worded above are also clearly critical but are less relevant to KBAs directly. We would encourage that rewording of the target makes it specifically measurable, showing what governments should put in place to ensure biodiversity is mainstreamed. Spatial biodiversity plans are one component of what is required.

Submitted by the signatories to the Key Biodiversity Areas Partnership Agreement (<http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/kba-partners>). For more information contact aplumptre@keybiodiversityareas.org

