

# BirdLife International

## Position on selected agenda items for the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP14) Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, November 2018

This document sets out BirdLife International's position for the following select CBD COP14 agenda items and decisions, and gives examples of information, tools and activities to support CBD Parties and others in their implementation.

### 8. REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020

BirdLife International is extremely concerned that the latest review of the implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets shows that despite some successes, biodiversity continues to be lost, in some cases at an accelerating rate. BirdLife's **2018 State of the World's Birds** report<sup>1</sup> for example has found that:

- **40%** of the world's 11,000 bird species are **declining**.
- **1 in 8 bird species is threatened** with global extinction<sup>2</sup>.
- Even familiar species of birds such as the Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus*, Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* and European Turtle-dove *Streptopelia turtur* are now globally threatened with extinction.

In addition, BirdLife's **2018 State of Africa's Birds**<sup>3</sup> has revealed that **birds on the African continent are increasingly under pressure** – with some declines being drastic and fast, such as in Ghana alone which has lost in the past two decades an estimated 90-99% of its Grey Parrots *Psittacus erithacus*.

With birds being so widespread and a good indicator of ecosystem health, as well as one of the most studied group of species, this is just one stark example that current **implementation of the Aichi Targets is not going far enough**. Continuing biodiversity loss is particularly concerning as it is taking place even though some targets are set to be met by 2020, for example Target 11 with percentages of both terrestrial and marine protected areas having risen substantially in recent years. The continuing trends of species population losses have been further corroborated by the most recent regional IPBES assessments<sup>4</sup> as well.

BirdLife thus strongly supports paragraph 8 of this draft decision which urges Parties to '**significantly accelerate their efforts to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**', in particular through their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs).

We also strongly support the proposed options to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets that are outlined in paragraph 14 of the draft decision. In particular, **BirdLife supports prioritising the protection and conservation of areas important for biodiversity such as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)**, including Alliance for Extinction (AZE) sites that hold the last-remaining populations of Earth's most threatened species, as a way to accelerate implementation of Aichi Targets 11 and 12.

We further encourage Parties to ensure that they have an action plan in place (e.g. through their NBSAPs) which outlines national priorities to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020 using the possible options for accelerating progress on implementation contained in the Annex to the draft decision.

### 10. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

BirdLife very much **supports the proposal of the draft decision** for this agenda item to create a **long-term post-2020 capacity development strategic framework**, to support implementation of the post-2020 biodiversity framework. This agenda item also relates to agenda item 9 on resource mobilisation, which invites Parties and others to provide financial resources for capacity-building and technical assistance.

BirdLife further **welcomes the proposed establishment of an informal advisory committee on technical and scientific cooperation** for CBD COP15 to support the effective implementation of the Convention, and is poised to contribute to its work.

As a global partnership of 120 national conservation organisations, **BirdLife works with its Partners on capacity building** at national, regional and international levels. This includes monitoring the implementation of conservation projects that contribute to the Aichi Targets and working with governments and companies to mainstream biodiversity in sectors such as energy, agriculture and forestry. In this regard, BirdLife would like to see more regional and international collaboration on capacity-building, such as south-south partnerships. BirdLife's contributions to capacity building will be profiled at CBD COP14 in **side events**

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/attachments/BL\\_ReportENG\\_V11\\_spreads.pdf](https://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/attachments/BL_ReportENG_V11_spreads.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>[#2773 The Road Ahead: Toyota and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)

<sup>3</sup>[https://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/soab\\_2017-english\\_final.pdf](https://www.birdlife.org/sites/default/files/soab_2017-english_final.pdf)

<sup>4</sup><https://www.ipbes.net/document-library-categories/assessment-reports-and-outputs>

focusing on **capacity building and evaluation**<sup>5</sup> and also on **capacity building and mainstreaming of biodiversity**<sup>6</sup>.

#### 14. COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES

**Strengthening synergies is critical** between the CBD, other biodiversity-related conventions such as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and Ramsar Convention as well as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and processes such as the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as per this draft decision to ensure efficiencies in implementation, leverage joint aspects of work and develop a truly UN-wide post-2020 biodiversity framework.

BirdLife is very supportive of activities to facilitate cooperation among the conventions, other processes and among organisations too, including through the work of the informal advisory group in **identifying opportunities for collaboration**, and identifying specific mechanisms that can progress implementation of the multiple conventions.

In this regard, BirdLife is particularly supportive of paragraphs 14 and 15 of this draft decision, which call for further support to the **“Caring for Coasts” initiative** and a cross-convention, multi-stakeholder global **“Coastal Forum”** to **mainstream biodiversity** in coastal infrastructure, industry, shipping and fishing as well as government planning and development. This has been further reflected in the recently adopted Ramsar COP13 Resolution 18.22 on intertidal wetlands<sup>7</sup>, in addition to CMS Resolution 12.25 on intertidal and other coastal habitats for migratory species<sup>8</sup>. We thus suggest the following amendments to these paragraphs:

*14. Calls upon Parties, in accordance with national priorities and capacity, in the light of the results of the consultation process conducted under the “Caring for Coasts” initiative, the resulting work plan presented in the information document issued by the Executive Secretary and the related resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals at its twelfth meeting<sup>9</sup> and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance at its thirteenth meeting<sup>10</sup>, to provide further support for the implementation of the activities of the proposed work plan, if possible including as part of the proposed among other things,*

<sup>5</sup> [#2915 Building capacity for evidence-based evaluation of conservation activities – tools to help assess progress on the Aichi Targets and beyond](#)

<sup>6</sup> [#2911 Building capacity for civil society to support mainstreaming of biodiversity at local and national levels](#)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/event/13th-meeting-of-the-conference-of-the-parties>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cms.int/en/document/promoting-conservation-critical-intertidal-and-other-coastal-habitats-migratory-species-1>

~~the global “Coastal Forum” focused on coastal wetland conservation;~~

*15. Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to further coordinate the implementation of the “Caring for Coasts” initiative with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals<sup>60</sup>, the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and other relevant partners, in order to advance synergies in their work on the management and restoration of coastal ecosystems worldwide;*

**Coastal areas are among the most important habitats worldwide** to both people and biodiversity but they are also equally threatened and, as a consequence, many species that depend on them are at risk of global extinction, and communities vulnerable. The **ability to safeguard these areas via a mechanism such as the global coastal forum**, across multiple international conventions, is critical to ensure that both time and financial resources are used in a way that are efficient and effective, accomplishing multiple goals benefiting biodiversity conservation. This will be discussed further in a **side event**<sup>11</sup> at the COP and more information is also available in a briefing developed by BirdLife.

#### 16. SECOND WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

BirdLife is a contributor to regional and global IPBES assessments and supports proposals in the draft decision for IPBES’s 2nd programme of work to, in particular:

- ‘Undertake methodological assessments on the effectiveness of various policy instruments ... and quantify **successful approaches and cases of the conservation** and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their impacts’.

BirdLife is supportive of this research helping to determine **what policy-related actions could be leveraged post-2020** (e.g. as a scenario-modelling exercise) as well as where gaps in activities to achieve conservation success exist.

BirdLife also welcomes the focus on collaborating with the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** as reflected in the decision text.

<sup>9</sup> [Resolution 12.25 on promoting conservation of critical intertidal and other coastal habitats for migratory species](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Resolution 18.22 on promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Connected solutions for a connected world: mainstreaming biodiversity conservation across conventions, landscapes and sectors through migratory flyways](#)

## 17. LONG-TERM STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS TO THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY, APPROACHES TO LIVING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE AND PREPARATION FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

BirdLife welcomes the work that has been done so far to elucidate a process for developing a post-2020 biodiversity framework and collate initial ideas on its content. We are **supportive of the proposed process** endorsed by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in July 2018<sup>12</sup> being open, transparent and consultative and involving the contribution and engagement of all stakeholders including Parties, observers, civil society organisations, the private sector and scientific institutions.

Regarding the **substantive content of the post-2020 framework**, BirdLife agrees with the initial principles that have been communicated so far in both the draft decision<sup>13</sup> and information document by the Executive Secretary which synthesizes initial views on scope and content<sup>14</sup>, namely that:

- The **2050 Vision remains relevant** and should be part of a post-2020 biodiversity framework, **but needs review**.
- A science-based and actionable **2030 mission**, or **milestone goal**, should be developed as a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision, and also for 2040.
- The post-2020 global biodiversity framework needs to support and be integrated into the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.
- New and / or revised targets for the post-2020 global framework should be **'SMART'** - specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic and time-bound - and developed at the same time as, and their approval dependent upon **indicators** to assess their degree of implementation.
- Post-2020 targets should focus on similar themes as the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan, for example on preventing species extinctions, protecting habitats, maintaining ecosystem services and ensuring the sustainability of development and industrial activities but be **more ambitious and also allow for new ideas**.

In addition, BirdLife calls for consideration of:

- New and / or revised **targets based on science-based evidence**, including social science. In this regard, BirdLife has been working with the CBD Secretariat and a number of other science-based organisations to develop thinking on the evidence needed for a post-2020 biodiversity

framework<sup>15</sup> and an updated area-based target (e.g. building on Target 11)<sup>16</sup>. **Side events** will take place at COP14 to highlight this work on both **science-based evidence**<sup>17</sup> and **area-based targets**<sup>18</sup>.

- Targets realigned into a hierarchical theory of change and a **measurable biodiversity outcome** such as a headline 1.5°C Paris Agreement-type 2030 milestone goal.
- **Milestone goals for 2030 and 2040, as well as 2050**, to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss (e.g. measured by trends in population abundance and extinction risk) by 2030, stabilise it by 2040 and restore it to an agreed baseline by 2050.
- Post-2020 **targets being better linked to each other** and to targets set by other international conventions and policy processes.
- An updated or new **area-based target** (building on Aichi Target 11) focusing on documenting and retaining the biodiversity value of all **Key Biodiversity Areas** and other sites of global significance for biodiversity through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).
- Updated or new target(s) aimed at retaining intact ecosystems and restoring degraded ecosystems to maintain **ecosystem services** such as clean water and air, maximising nature's contributions to people.
- Updated or new target(s) to manage the rest of the planet sustainably, supported by **responsible production and consumption** and the equitable distribution of resources.
- **Gaps addressed**, such as better consideration of climate change (e.g. nature-based solutions for adaptation and mitigation, as well as incorporating climate change adaptation into species conservation efforts).
- **Pledges / voluntary commitments** for post-2020 and beyond (e.g. through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions and other national planning processes), with appropriate monitoring, reporting and verification.
- In addition to more ambitious targets, efforts must be made to **improve implementation**, and confirm a system to **'add up' national targets to the global level** and similarly use **global indicators that can be disaggregated** to the national level.
- A simple, **common and compelling narrative** about the importance and urgency of biodiversity conservation for the post-2020 framework.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbi-02/sbi-02-rec-19-en.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/2822/5119/ab7fef04c258c730c3bb43f3/cop-14-02-en.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/09c0/0f53/a4cef3e6647ba15a68aec411/cop-14-inf-16-en.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/5ec1/d94f/60fb5937bc06b92013ec09dd/sbi-02-inf-33-en.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/b0ad/2d72/c89c5d360d03e57c246e6977/sbstta-22-inf-36-en.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> [#2848 Effective use of knowledge for developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#)

<sup>18</sup> [#2947 Safeguarding space for nature, securing our future: perspectives from an international science-policy symposium on area-based conservation post-2020](#)

BirdLife also acknowledges the importance of the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework, as with the current 2011-2020 Strategic Plan, to **indigenous peoples**, whom many of our BirdLife Partners work with. We will be consulting accordingly, for example regarding on their priorities and views in terms of how traditional knowledge (article 8j) and natural resource management (article 10c) are to be included in the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

## 20. SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

BirdLife **welcomes the voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector** in this decision and encourages Parties and others to incorporate the guidance, and for there to be capacity building on this issue which can be facilitated through the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

However, we note that **the guidance provided is limited to the wild meat of terrestrial vertebrates in tropical and subtropical habitats** used for food only, as opposed to other types of animals and species, other types of habitats and other types of uses.

This is a concern given that other types of species, in other areas, are being exploited in unsustainable ways, both for food and other purposes. For example, **illegal killing of birds is increasing in a number of areas of the world**, with unsustainable exploitation now a significant threat for a number of species, including some that were previously very common such as the Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* and House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*<sup>19</sup> (both globally Least Concern but with decreasing populations).

**Consideration should thus be given to guidance on other types of taxa** in other habitats, in particular on assessing the level of legal versus illegal exploitation at the national level. It was recently acknowledged at the Arctic Biodiversity Congress for example that illegal killing of birds in northern regions is a major issue needing to be further assessed and quantified through undertaking an **inventory of bird harvest in the circumpolar region**. BirdLife believes that these types of regional analyses would support the ability of the CBD to support sustainable wildlife management efforts at the national and international level in the future.

BirdLife has been working closely with its Partner in Egypt on the topic of illegal and / or unsustainable hunting of birds, which will be discussed at a **side event** during CBD COP14<sup>20</sup>.

## 21. BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

BirdLife **supports the development and adoption of the proposed voluntary guidelines** for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches

to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the associated decision, which BirdLife helped develop.

To limit global temperature rise, it is not only important to rapidly reduce the production of greenhouse gas emissions through the development of biodiversity-friendly renewable energy, but also to simultaneously remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere using **nature-based solutions**. Conserving and restoring natural habitats such as forests, wetlands and grasslands could provide much of the mitigation needed by removing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it in the soil and vegetation. Numerous biodiversity, water and livelihoods **co-benefits are also derived from nature-based solutions**, which, in turn, work to increase social and cultural resilience to climate change impacts. Community-based adaptation approaches should also be considered.

BirdLife thus also supports the decision's call for Parties to **integrate climate change and related national priorities** into national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

## 22. MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY WITHIN AND ACROSS SECTORS

BirdLife **supports the proposed long-term strategic approach for mainstreaming biodiversity** and the establishment of an Informal Advisory Group to steer this work forward and also integrate it into the post-2020 framework, noting its further relevance to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. We particularly support the wording under paragraph 6(b) of the proposal for the Advisory Group to:

**'Undertake research and analysis on the extent to which mainstreaming approaches are being used by Parties, and identification of major gaps, obstacles and challenges'**

We feel that the CBD's work on mainstreaming and its activities **could be more ambitious** though, for example through working directly with businesses to encourage mainstreaming activities to be undertaken but also by identifying those circumstances and best practices where mainstreaming is successful and can even be **incentivised for the business sector as a whole** (e.g. where multi-sector benefits can be achieved, such as retaining / maintaining biodiversity while benefiting agricultural yields / quality and also water quality). Related to this, we feel that **more work could also be done with mainstreaming relating to trade**, with supply chains and trade itself potentially impacting biodiversity. This could be facilitated through work with **trade treaties** as well.

<sup>19</sup><https://www.birdlife.org/campaign/stop-illegal-bird-killing>

<sup>20</sup>[#2775 Managing Hunting & Trapping of Migratory Birds in Egypt Through Research, Policy and Outreach](#)

BirdLife thus urges a focus on strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination for mainstreaming work and proposes that **successful examples of mainstreaming can be taken from other conventions** and multi-stakeholder processes. This includes the Convention on Migratory Species' **Energy Task Force**, which BirdLife coordinates, and works to reconcile renewable energy developments with the conservation of migratory species, as acknowledged in the draft decision text for this agenda item. A **side event** describing the work of the Energy Task Force and the role of flyways in connecting and mainstreaming biodiversity across countries, scales, sectors, stakeholders and conventions will take place at the COP<sup>21</sup>.

The **BirdLife Partnership is engaged in a diverse range of mainstreaming initiatives** around the world with industry, governments and communities, with case studies illustrating sustainable solutions to conservation challenges<sup>22</sup>. BirdLife would be pleased to **share lessons learned** from these experiences working in partnership with governments and other stakeholders to date, and thus contribute to the informal advisory group, although we note that currently Annex II states that experts must be 'nominated by Parties' and hope that self-nomination may be considered.

With very few NBSAPs including a specific focus on the energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing sectors, BirdLife strongly supports inviting Parties to **integrate mainstreaming** relating to these sectors into **national biodiversity strategies and action plans** and national sustainable development plans, which should be reflected in the recommendations to Parties in the same way as under health, and also under the proposed long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming.

As such, a revised paragraph 5 under 'Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors' could be as follows:

*5. Recognizes that, while policies and tools exist to address the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, there are still opportunities to mainstream biodiversity in the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, including in relation to national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), national sustainable development plans, other strategic planning, decision-making and economy-wide and sector-wide policies;*

For paragraph 11(b) of the draft decision, BirdLife encourages strategic environmental assessments to take

place at the planning stage and before awarding concessions / projects, so a suggested amendment to the text would be:

11(b) *'To include approaches to conserve, enhance and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services in upstream decisions on investments in these sectors, through such available tools as strategic environmental assessments, cumulative impact assessments and integrated spatial planning, including the evaluation of alternatives to such investments, to be undertaken at the planning stage or before awarding concessions and projects.'*

BirdLife further highlights that the **Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT)**<sup>23</sup> and **Soaring Bird Sensitivity Mapping Tool**<sup>24</sup> are tools that can be used to support these strategic and spatial planning activities.

For 11(d) of the draft decision, we suggest the following amendment:

11(d) *'To apply the mitigation hierarchy when planning and designing new projects and plans, with an emphasis on avoidance of potential risks to biodiversity;*

For 11(f) of the draft decision, we suggest:

11(f) *'To provide, where appropriate, effective incentives, and eliminate harmful subsidies in order to mainstream biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors, consistent with international obligations;*

Regarding paragraph 13 inviting multilateral development banks, insurance companies, the business sector, financial institutions and others to increase and improve the implementation of best practices for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, we suggest that this paragraph also encourage **reporting on the implementation of mainstreaming practices**. This could be supported for example through the development of integrated science-based indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools for mainstreaming, to be coherent across all sectors. BirdLife also encourages the **private sector to identify what case studies exist and are effective as best practices** in conserving biodiversity, and are transferable to other countries, sectors and situations – this kind of information exchange within and amongst the business sector would be invaluable.

BirdLife is very supportive of seeing **increased engagement of the private sector** in CBD processes, for example via voluntary commitments and mainstreaming champions.

Other **side events** focusing on approaches to mainstreaming that BirdLife is either leading on or involved in at the CBD COP

<sup>21</sup> [#2824 Connected solutions for a connected world: mainstreaming biodiversity conservation across conventions, landscapes and sectors through migratory flyways](#)

<sup>22</sup> <http://datazone.birdlife.org/info/mainstream>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.ibat-alliance.org/>

<sup>24</sup> <http://migratorysoaringbirds.undp.birdlife.org/en/sensitivity-map>

include one focusing on conservation options at windfarms<sup>25</sup> and one on flyway conservation in Egypt's energy sector<sup>26</sup>.

#### 24. SPATIAL PLANNING, PROTECTED AREAS AND OTHER EFFECTIVE AREA-BASED CONSERVATION MEASURES

BirdLife supports the adoption of this draft decision and the:

- Voluntary guidance on integration of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures into the wider land- and seascapes and on mainstreaming these into sectors - Annex I
- Voluntary guidance on governance and equity - Annex II
- Scientific and technical advice on other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) - Annex III
- Considerations in achieving Target 11 in marine and coastal areas – Annex IV

We welcome the agreement on the definition of OECMs and their associated principles and consider that this will contribute significantly to progress in achieving Target 11.

However, BirdLife notes with concern the language in paragraph 3 of the draft decision which 'Welcomes the scientific and technical advice on other effective area-based conservation measures, contained in annex III to the present draft decision, to be applied in a flexible way and on a case-by-case basis'. Flexibility is necessary for implementation in different national and ecological contexts but we caution that the same flexibility could also lead to there being a high degree of variation in the quality and quantity of biodiversity being conserved, particularly without **more detailed information about how the criteria are applied**. For example, we would anticipate that areas designated for intensive and industrial forestry, mining, or agriculture use should not be considered as OECMs given the criteria.

With a view that OECMs are meant to effectively deliver biodiversity conservation objectives, we believe that **clarity is needed on the use of the Criteria for Identification** as outlined in Annex III, Section B and suggest that additional guidance is incorporated into this section. BirdLife urges a discussion on this at CBD COP14 and for new protected areas and OECMs to focus on the quality of the land / freshwater / sea that they conserve and associated biodiversity outcomes over solely increasing percentages.

For the various Annexes and Annex III in particular on the 'Criteria for Identification' table for OECMs, under **Criterion**

<sup>25</sup>[#3023 Shutdown on Demand \(SOD\) Implementation in wind farm projects at Gabel El Zayt bottle neck area: efficient conservation measures, minimum risks and low energy loss](#)

<sup>26</sup>[#3030 Mainstreaming Flyway Conservation into Egypt's Energy Sector](#)

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/home>

<sup>28</sup> <http://zeroextinction.org/>

**C** 'Achieves sustained and effective contribution to in situ conservation of biodiversity', and under 'In situ conservation of biological diversity', BirdLife **welcomes reference to Key Biodiversity Areas**, which include Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas<sup>27</sup>, as being an attribute for which OECMs would be designated. Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites<sup>28</sup>, as a subset of KBAs that hold the last-remaining populations of Earth's most threatened species, should be prioritised in particular. BirdLife will jointly host a **side event** on KBAs and AZE sites at the COP<sup>29</sup>.

BirdLife manages the World Database of KBAs on behalf of the KBA Partnership and has undertaken a recent study in 10 countries showing that **almost 80% of unprotected KBAs** in these countries have management systems in place that appear to **meet some of the suggested criteria of OECMs**. Thus **KBAs appear to be a useful starting point for identifying OECMs** for the purpose of reporting against global biodiversity targets.

There is also a **need for increased land/ seascape-scale planning and connectivity**, linking with other Aichi Targets that involve area-based considerations, such as 5, 7, 14 and 15, and those under other conventions and processes, such as the Sustainable Development Goals. This will be outlined in a **side event**<sup>30</sup> at the COP and was further explored during a joint BirdLife, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, CBD international symposium on 'Safeguarding space for nature, securing our future: developing a post-2020 strategy' in February 2018, hosted by the Zoological Society of London and the National Geographic Society<sup>31</sup>. The meeting reviewed both evidence and options for area-based conservation in the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

**Key results from the meeting** support the principles in the annexed guidelines for this agenda item, such as:

- **The current protected area target is not adequate in terms of quantity or quality** - there is a need to effectively conserve at least 30% of land and sea to prevent / slow down species loss;
- Further expansion of protected areas and OECMs needs to take place in sites important for biodiversity such as **Key Biodiversity Areas** to ensure their conservation;
- Conserving ecosystem services often requires area-based approaches in different locations;
- Addressing biodiversity loss also depends on people everywhere **living more sustainably**;

<sup>29</sup>[#2954 Saving sites for species: protecting Alliance for Zero Extinction sites as an urgent priority for Aichi Targets 11 and 12 and the post-2020 biodiversity framework and Key Biodiversity Areas as sites for ensuring the persistence of biodiversity post-2020](#)

<sup>30</sup>[#2638 Bridging Aichi Targets 5, 11 and 15 with the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas \(DOPA\) and the World Atlas of Desertification \(WAD\)](#)

<sup>31</sup> [CBD/SBSTTA/INF/22/36](#)

- Land/seascape and national level land and marine-use planning are needed to safeguard, buffer and connect important areas for both species and ecosystem services (also relating to the work of other conventions, processes and outcomes such as CMS, Ramsar and the Global Flyways Summit<sup>32</sup>).

The outcomes of the ‘Safeguarding Space for Nature’ symposium will be presented in a **side event** at CBD COP14<sup>33</sup>. Synergies with the CMS in particular will be explored in another **side event**<sup>34</sup>.

The latter relates to guidance, e.g. in Annex I, under section II of Voluntary Guidance for identifying:

- A(b) Key species, ecosystems and ecological processes for which fragmentation is a key issue;
- A(c) Important areas to improve connectivity.

## 25. MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

The CBD-led exercise to describe EBSAs has enabled the most extensive process to date to generate agreement over areas of greatest ecological and biological value in the marine environment.

BirdLife therefore **supports the continuation of this initiative** and calls for the **adoption of the draft decision** on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity – EBSAs with its Annexes, with considerations outlined in this position.

BirdLife calls for **other relevant regional and global organisations**, such as Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, the International Seabed Authority and the International Maritime Organisation **to make use of EBSAs in their respective area-based management efforts**, with a view to collectively contributing to achieving global biodiversity conservation and sustainable development goals.

BirdLife welcomes the reports of the regional workshops - Black Sea and the Caspian Sea and the Baltic Sea - and calls for the summary reports to be included in the EBSAs repository.

In regards to the Annex ‘Options for modifying existing EBSAs and for describing new areas, and for strengthening the scientific credibility and transparency of the EBSAs process’, BirdLife stresses that:

**The proposals for modification of existing EBSAs, both within and beyond national jurisdiction, should have a strong technical and scientific basis and follow a regional or**

**global peer reviewed process** that is consistent and aligned with the current scientific process to describe EBSAs.

The **credibility** and future use of the EBSAs network to inform various area-based measures could be strengthened by **further developing the criteria** to describe EBSAs, particularly **through the use of quantitative thresholds** applied to the existing criteria, such as those used to identify Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). The Informal Advisory Group would support Parties in developing such thresholds.

**Valuable scientific information** of the EBSAs process has been provided by **non-governmental organisations (NGOs)**. An example of such contributions can be demonstrated through the broad use of data on marine Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (mIBAs) – a large subset of KBAs – to inform the description of current EBSAs to date.

**Parties** are therefore invited to recognize the **valuable scientific information being provided by these knowledge holders** into the EBSAs process, to continue to cooperate with them, and to **call for their active contribution to the process in Annex II, Section C, paragraph 5**.



**BirdLife International is the world’s largest conservation partnership, with 120 national Partners, and the pre-eminent international authority on bird conservation.**

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<sup>32</sup> <https://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/news/summit-flyways-our-declaration>

<sup>33</sup> [#2947 Safeguarding space for nature, securing our future: perspectives from an international science-policy symposium on area-based conservation post-2020](#)

<sup>34</sup> [#2932 CMS - COP 13, 2020 in India](#)