

ANNEX C14: IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS (IBAS) CRITERIA

These standardized criteria are designed to identify IBAs of Global significance ('level A' criteria). They allow, however, for additional criteria to be 'nested' within them, so as to enable the international importance of sites to be identified and categorized at the regional level ('B' criteria) and/or sub-regional level ('C' criteria), and thus permit meaningful comparison to be made between sites across regions of the world.

Using the global criteria, IBAs are selected based on the presence of:

- Bird species of global conservation concern;
- Assemblages of restricted-range bird species;
- Assemblages of biome-restricted bird species; and
- Concentrations of numbers of congregatory bird species.

Globally threatened species- category Ai

The site regularly holds significant numbers of a globally threatened species, or other species of global conservation concern.

1 Restricted-range species-Category Aii

The site is known or thought to hold a significant component of a group of species whose breeding distributions define an Endemic Bird Area (EBA) or Secondary Area.

2 Biome-restricted assemblages-Category Aiii

The site is known or thought to hold a significant component of the group of species whose distributions are largely or wholly confined to one biome.

3 Globally important congregations-category Aiv

The site may qualify on any one or more of the four criteria listed below:

- I. The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, 1% or more of a biogeography population of a congregatory waterbird species.
- II. The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, 1% or more of a biogeography population of a congregatory seabird or terrestrial species.
- III. The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, at least 20,000 waterbirds, or at least 10,000 pairs of seabirds, of one or more species.
- IV. The site is known or thought to be a 'bottleneck site' where at least 20,000 pelicans (Pelecanidae) and/or storks (Ciconiidae) and/or raptors (Accipitriformes and Falconiformes) and/or cranes (Gruidae) pass regularly during spring and/or autumn migration.

Summary of global criteria for selection of Important Bird Areas

Category	Criteria	Notes
Ai Species of global conservation concern	The site regularly significant numbers of globally threatened species, or other species of global conservation concern	The site qualifies if it is known, estimated or thought to hold a population of a species categorized as Criteria or Endangered. Population-size thresholds for Vulnerable, Conservation Dependent, Data Deficient and Near Threatened species are set regionally, as appropriate, to help in site selection.
Aii Assemblage of restricted-rang species	The site is known or thought to hold a significant component of the restricted-rang species whose breeding distributions define an Endemic Bird Area (EBA) or Secondary Area (SA).	The site has to form one of a set selected to ensure that, as far as possible, all restricted-rang species of an EBA or SA are present in significant numbers in at least one site in the set and, preferably, in more.
Aiii Assemblage of biome-restricted species	The site is known or thought to hold a significant component of the group of species whose distributions are largely or wholly confined to one biome.	The site has to form one of set selected to ensure that, as far as possible, all species restricted to a biome are adequately represented.
Aiv Congregation	(i) the site is known or thought to hold , on a regular basis, $\geq 1\%$ of a biogeographic population of a congregatory waterbird species.	This applies to waterbird species as defined by Rose and Scott(1997). Thresholds are generated in some instances by combining flyway populations within a biogeographic region, but for other species but for other species that lack quantitative data, thresholds are set regionally or inter-regionally or inter-regionally, as appropriate. In such cases, thresholds will be taken as estimates of 1% of the biogeographic population.
	Or (ii) The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, $\geq 1\%$ of global population of a congregatory seabird or terrestrial species	This includes those seabird species not covered by Rose and Scott (1997). Where quantitative data are lacking, numerical thresholds for each species are set regionally or inter-regionally, as appropriate. In such cases, thresholds will be taken as estimates of 1% of global population.
	Or (iii) The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, $\geq 20,000$ waterbirds or $\geq 10,000$ pairs of seabirds of one or more species.	For waterbirds, this is the same as Ramsar Convention Criteria category 5.
	Or (iv) The site is known or thought to exceed thresholds set for migratory species at bottleneck sites (see Box 7 for definition)	Numerical thresholds are set regionally or inter-regionally, as appropriate.