



Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): A tool for supporting conservation and stewardship across Canada

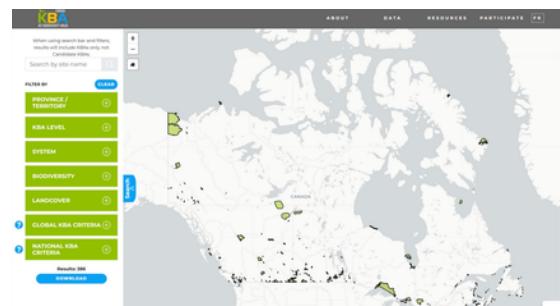
Key Biodiversity Areas

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are a scientifically robust, quantitative, and credible tool that captures a wide range of biodiversity values and can inform conservation decisions and actions. They focus on sites that are disproportionately important for supporting biodiversity. If these sites are lost or degraded, species or ecosystems could disappear from Canada or from the planet.

Found across terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments, KBAs support rare and threatened species and ecosystems, as well as key natural processes. They range in size from small patches of habitat to large tracts of land or water.

KBAs in Canada

- About 760 candidate and published KBAs identified to date.
- Sites cover over 750,000 km², or almost 5% of Canada's land and waters.
- About 44% of published KBAs have a freshwater focus. These are significant sites for 348 species.



Map of KBAs in Canada (kbacanada.org)

Why are KBAs important?

- They are a building block for biodiversity conservation in Canada
- Provide recognition for places, species, and ongoing work
- Inform planning for protected areas and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)
- Support Indigenous-led conservation
- Guide land use planning and consultation regarding development
- Foster stewardship and restoration
- Guide biodiversity monitoring
- Provide education and inspiration
- Are an indicator of progress towards federal and international conservation commitments
- Attract funding for conservation work and promote ecotourism

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Learn more about Wildlife Conservation Society Canada and explore kbacanada.org
- Read about the full KBA identification process
- Read the "National Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas" and the "Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas"
- Explore published and candidate KBAs at the KBA Canada interactive map
- Read the KBA Annual Report 2025
- Participate in the KBA Caretaker program
- Head outside and record your local observations to eBird and iNaturalist, and contribute to the KBA iNaturalist projects
- Contact Peter at psoroye@wcs.org if you have suggestions for sites, new data, or people that KBA Canada should get in touch with

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