

Important Bird Areas

of

KWAZULU-NATAL



CAPE PARROT
RODNIK BILJON



IBA Programme

Bush Blackcap
WARWICK TARBOTON

The Important Bird Areas Programme (IBA) is a BirdLife International initiative to conserve important bird species and their habitats. There are over 10 000 IBAs worldwide.

A remarkable 846 bird species occur in South Africa, about 8% of the world's bird species. Sadly, over 15% of our bird species are threatened with extinction, mainly due to loss of suitable habitat. Managing a network of 122 South African IBAs is our best hope of conserving our threatened, endemic, biome restricted and congregatory birds. There are 36 IBAs in KwaZulu-Natal.

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATING IBAS

IBAs are determined using globally accepted scientific criteria. An IBA is selected on the presence of one or more of the following bird species in a geographic area:

- Bird species that are globally (A1) or regionally (C1) threatened;
- Assemblages of restricted-range (A2) bird species (restricted to less than 50 000 km²);
- Assemblages of biome-restricted (A3) bird species (75% of range confined to one biome); and
- Sites that either hold >1% of the biogeographic population of a congregatory species, or hold >20 000 waterbirds to meet the global criteria (A4), or >0.5% or >10 000 waterbirds to meet the regional criteria (C4).

CONSERVING IBAS

BirdLife South Africa conserves IBAs by prioritising sites for conservation action, developing management plans for IBAs and specific biomes, defending priority sites that are under threat and

implementing monitoring programmes. Volunteer based Local Conservation Groups (LCGs) support these projects by surveying IBAs, implementing conservation action and educating the local youth about birds and habitats. BirdLife South Africa works with bird clubs, landowners and other organisations across KwaZulu-Natal to establish LCGs.

Biodiversity Stewardship is a conservation model that engages private and communal landowners and assists them to improve their land for farming and biodiversity conservation. The Regional Conservation Manager is working with partners to conduct stewardship work aimed at formally proclaiming IBAs as protected areas. BirdLife South Africa comments on proposed developments in or surrounding IBAs to ensure that these developments can proceed sustainably and take account of valuable natural resources.

BirdLife South Africa

BirdLife South Africa is the country partner of BirdLife International, a global partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and biodiversity. BirdLife International is represented in over 100 countries. BirdLife South Africa works nationally and has more than 6,000 members and over 30 affiliated bird clubs. BirdLife South Africa focuses on threatened bird species and Important Bird Areas, and works with people to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

How can you get involved?

BirdLife South Africa relies on the public, especially birders and nature enthusiasts, as well as landowners, government and NGO partners, to assist us in conserving IBAs. You can get involved in the following ways:

- Join BirdLife South Africa: visit www.birdlife.org.za
- Join your local bird club
- Join an existing Local Conservation Group, or assist us to start one around your local IBA
- Bring to our attention any threats to an IBA, and join us in advocating for the IBA's protection
- If you are a landowner, you can become an IBA custodian

WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



CONTACT DETAILS

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www.birdlife.org.za/conservation/iba/iba-directory

IBAs of KwaZulu-Natal

Name	IBA No.	Approx. size (ha)	Protection status	Qualifying criteria
Grasslands	SA125	1 084 554	Partial	A1, A2, A3, A4i, ii, iii
Ndumo Game Reserve	SA052	11 870	Full	A2, A3
Kosi Bay System	SA053	27 812	Full	A2, A3
Lake Sibaya	SA054	7 102	Full	A4iii
Phongolo Nature Reserve	SA055	11 185	Full	A2
Ithala Game Reserve	SA056	29 615	Full	A1, A3, A4i
Mkhuzi Game Reserve	SA057	33 982	Full	A1, A2, A3, A4i
Lake St Lucia & Mkuze Swamps	SA058	132 815	Full	A1, A2, A3, A4i, iii
Chelmsford Nature Reserve	SA059	5 984	Full	A1, A4i
Hluhluwe–iMfolozi Park	SA060	89 934	Full	A1, A2, A3
Lake Eteza Nature Reserve	SA061	341	Full	C1, C4i
Spioenkop Game Reserve	SA062	3 678	Full	C1
Umlalazi Nature Reserve	SA063	1 194	Full	A1, A3
uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park	SA064	237 884	Full	A1, A2, A3, A4i, ii
Ongoye Forest Reserve	SA065	3 883	Full	A1, A2, A3
Entumeni Nature Reserve	SA066	510	Full	A1, A2, A3
Dhlinza Forest Nature Reserve	SA067	203	Full	A1, A2, A3
Weenen Game Reserve	SA068	4 924	Full	C1
Umvoti Vlei	SA069	4 243	Partial	A1
Blinkwater Nature Reserve	SA070	274	Full	C1
KwaZulu-Natal Mistbelt Forests	SA071	4 077	Partial	A2, A3
Hlatikulu Nature Reserve	SA072	186	Full	A1
Umvoti Estuary	SA073	271	None	C4ii
Karkloof Nature Reserve	SA074	2 095	Full	A1, A2, A3
Umgeni Vlei Nature Reserve	SA075	966	Full	A1
Midmar Nature Reserve	SA076	2 830	Full	C1
Impendle Nature Reserve	SA077	8 757	Full	A1
KwaZulu-Natal Mistbelt Grasslands	SA078	6 267	None	A1, A4i
Richards Bay Game Reserve	SA079	1 293	Full	A4i, iii
Greater Ingwangwana River (Coleford NR)	SA080	1 275	Full	A1
Franklin Vlei	SA081	2 331	None	A1, A4i
Penny Park	SA083	556	None	A1
Mount Currie Nature Reserve	SA084	1 769	Full	C1
Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve	SA085	1 895	Full	A1, A2, A3
Umtamvuna Nature Reserve	SA086	2 588	Full	A1, A2, A3, A4ii
Mt Moreland	SA123	259	None	A4ii

HABITAT TYPES A combination of the warm subtropical climate of the coastline rising inland towards the cold climate of the Drakensberg Mountains results in a contrasting diversity of habitats. Coastal habitats include subtropical forest, mangroves and estuaries. The north is characterised by moist savanna where a number of big five game reserves are found. Inland the KZN Midlands has unique moist grassland, while Mistbelt Forests are found along slopes and ravines. The Drakensberg high ground mostly consists of alpine grasslands where snow is common.

FLAGSHIP SPECIES FOR THE REGION The KZN Midlands is the most important location for the Critically Endangered Blue Swallow, while adjacent Afromontane forests are important for species such as Cape Parrot, Orange Ground Thrush and Bush Blackcap. The foothills of the Drakensberg support grassland endemics such as Rudd's Lark, Botha's Lark and Yellow-breasted Pipit. Further up the mountain Drakensberg Rockjumper and Drakensberg Siskin are found. All three crane species occur in the province and the Bearded Vulture and Cape Vulture may be seen soaring over the high peaks of the Drakensberg escarpment. Wetlands in high altitude grasslands are one of the few known localities where the almost mythical White-winged Flufftail has been recorded. The north coast is important as a stopover for migrating waterbirds and Southern Sanctuary and the Lake St Lucia wetlands host migrants in their thousands during summer. The only population of Green Barbet in southern Africa is found at Ngoye Forest.

THREATS TO KWAZULU-NATAL'S BIRDS Habitat loss is the most significant threat facing bird species in the province and occurs due to afforestation for timber production, a burgeoning human population, developments, mining and agriculture. Encroachment by alien invasive plant species, which displaces natural habitat for birds, is an on-going threat throughout the Province.

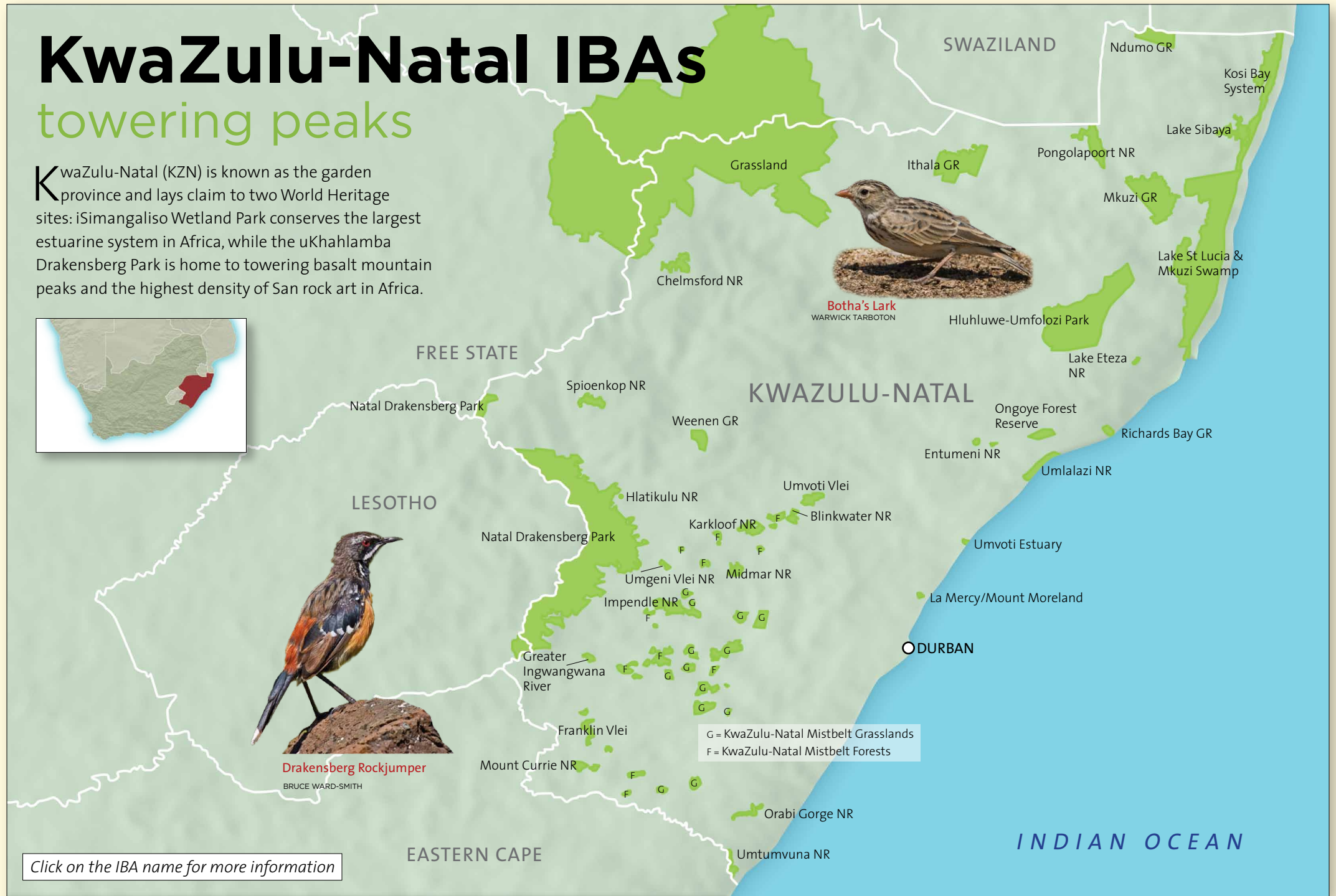
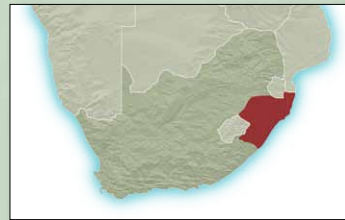


Bearded Vulture
CHRIS VAN ROOYEN

KwaZulu-Natal IBAs

towering peaks

KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) is known as the garden province and lays claim to two World Heritage sites: iSimangaliso Wetland Park conserves the largest estuarine system in Africa, while the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park is home to towering basalt mountain peaks and the highest density of San rock art in Africa.



Botha's Lark
WARWICK TARBOTON



Drakensberg Rockjumper
BRUCE WARD-SMITH

G = KwaZulu-Natal Mistbelt Grasslands
F = KwaZulu-Natal Mistbelt Forests

Click on the IBA name for more information