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WEBINAR SERIES

Biodiversity risk screening and critical habitat assessment: Good practice for project finance



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Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT)

IBAT gives businesses and financial institutions one point of access to authoritative global biodiversity datasets referenced by leading standards and frameworks.

The World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and derived layers (STAR)

The World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas

IBAT Alliance Partners

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Why IBAT?

Biodiversity data you can stand behind — backed by science and developed by institutions that regulators, investors, and standard-setters already trust.

Backed by the world's leading authorities

IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, BirdLife International, and Conservation International: the organisations that regulators and standard-setters reference in frameworks like TNFD, CSRD, and IFC PS6.

Built on rigorous science and strict governance

Datasets follow standardised methodologies that are consistent spatially, so assessments are comparable across locations and can be tracked over time with confidence.

Adopted at scale

Used by hundreds of global companies, financial institutions, and project developers, reducing the reputational and methodological risk of being an early adopter of an unproven tool.

Designed for every level of expertise

From teams new to biodiversity who need clear, actionable outputs, to biodiversity experts who want to interrogate the underlying data in depth. IBAT supports both without compromise.

Consistent global coverage

Every dataset undergoes quality assurance against the highest methodological standards, making IBAT data authoritative and citable in regulatory submissions, investor communications, and public-facing reports.

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Applying authoritative IBAT data across business decisions

Embed biodiversity into business strategy to manage risk, protect value and support a nature-positive future

Meet nature reporting requirements

Turn complex nature data into clear, credible reporting aligned to voluntary and regulatory frameworks (TNFD, CSRD, GRI).

Manage biodiversity-related risk

Identify and manage nature-related risks that can damage reputation, disrupt operations, and expose organisations to regulatory and legal liability.

Build a credible biodiversity strategy

Use authoritative biodiversity data to turn nature commitments into practical, site-level action.

Protect access to capital & financing

Demonstrate that assets and projects are aligned with evolving investor and lender expectations on nature (e.g. IFC PS6).

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Give financiers a clearer basis for biodiversity due diligence

IBAT helps translate biodiversity data into decision-useful signals across the project finance lifecycle

FINANCING STAGE	WHAT IBAT CAN INFORM	POTENTIAL VALUE FOR THE FINANCIER
1 Project Identification & Screening	Portfolio / site proximity to KBAs, protected and conserved areas and threatened species.	Triage opportunities, identify potentially sensitive locations and decide where enhanced screening is warranted.
2 Environmental due diligence	PS6 & ESS6 report findings to flag potential Critical Habitat features and biodiversity values needing further evidence.	Focus resources for ESIA, CHA and specialist review; reduce information gaps and avoid late discovery of material issues.
3 Credit assessment & structuring	A clearer picture of potential impacts, mitigation needs and questions to resolve before financial close.	Inform risk appraisal, conditions precedent, action plans, covenants and monitoring requirements.
4 Portfolio monitoring	Consistent data and reporting across multiple assets, with repeatable site-level screening and prioritisation.	Support portfolio oversight, client engagement and nature-related risk reporting.

FINANCIAL LOGIC **Earlier risk visibility → better-targeted due diligence → fewer surprises → more informed capital allocation**

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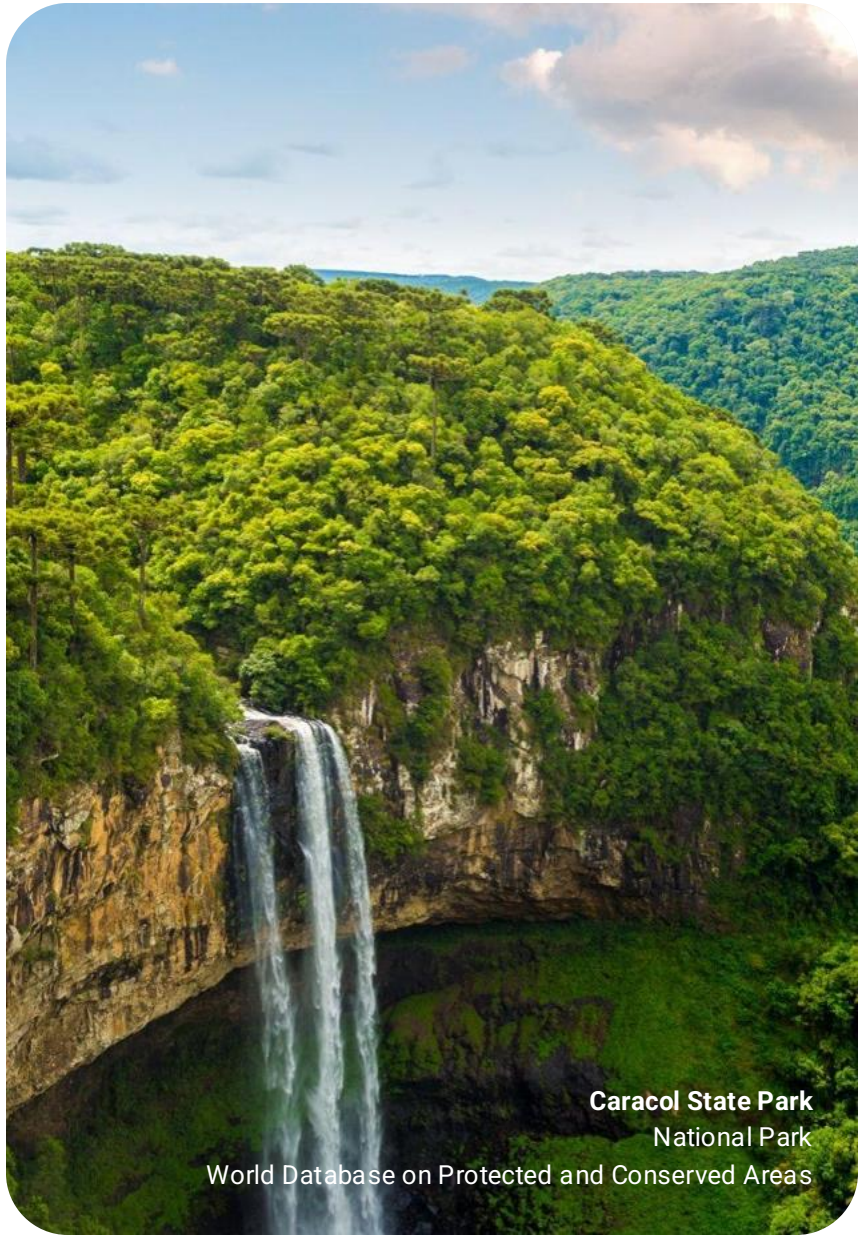
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What is IFC - Performance Standard 6?

International Finance Corporation Performance Standard 6 (IFC PS6) is a globally recognised standard for risk screening and management on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Aims: To protect and conserve biodiversity, maintain benefits from ecosystem services and sustainably managing living natural resources.

Determining the habitat type around your site is crucial to identify the applicable PS6/ESS6 requirements



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IFC - Performance Standard 6

Applicability

1.Projects located in Modified, Natural and/or Critical Habitats

2.Projects that potentially impact on or are dependent upon ecosystem services over which the client has direct management control or significant influence

3.Projects that include the production of living natural resources (such as agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, or forestry)

Applicability should be determined through the assessment process that includes desktop based and on-the-ground data.

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IFC - Performance Standard 6 – Critical Habitat

Critical Habitat is determined by 5 criteria that consider the presence of high biodiversity values

Critical Habitats - Areas of high biodiversity value including any of the five criteria:

- Criterion 1: Critically Endangered (CR) and/or Endangered (EN) species
- Criterion 2: Endemic or restricted-range species
- Criterion 3: Migratory or congregatory species
- Criterion 4: Highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems
- Criterion 5: Key evolutionary processes

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IFC - Performance Standard 6

Performance Standard 6 (2012) and its Guidance Note (2019) are widely applied by the private sector globally and are recognized by a variety of stakeholders, including governments, NGOs and other financial institutions.

The application of PS6 offers a strategic advantage:

- it enables organizations to be ready for **other investors** in the future: more than 100 commercial banks (members of the Association of the Equator Principles), export agencies, development banks refer to PS6
- it provides a **solid basis for dialogue** on the company's environmental performance, as the approach is also well known to environmental NGOs and conservation institutions
- it allows a clear understanding of project’s potential impacts and benefits to biodiversity that can be linked to measurable targets and can be easily communicated and **reported externally** in the future

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How this translates into best practices and standards

IFC PS6 serves as best practice to standards and guidance

- International Financial Institutions standards (IFC, World Bank, ADB, EBRD and others)
- The Equator Principles – assessing and managing environmental and social risk in projects
- ICMM Mining guidance



Asian Development Bank (ADB) ESS6

- Similar to IFC PS6 in: Prioritise avoidance, apply the mitigation hierarchy, recognise critical habitat in both natural and modified habitats, and require net gains when projects affect critical habitat.
- Introduces **Priority Biodiversity Features (PBFs)** as a distinct assessment category.
- ADB ESS6 retains these general Critical Habitat criteria but expands the assessment framework to eight, adding:
  - Geographically restricted ecosystems
  - Geographically restricted assemblages
  - Ecological functions and connectivity vital to biodiversity viability
- ADB ESS6 has established a more explicit biodiversity outcome requirement even in habitats that have already been significantly modified by human activities.
- In the case of Modified Habitats, it requires no further degradation and no net loss.

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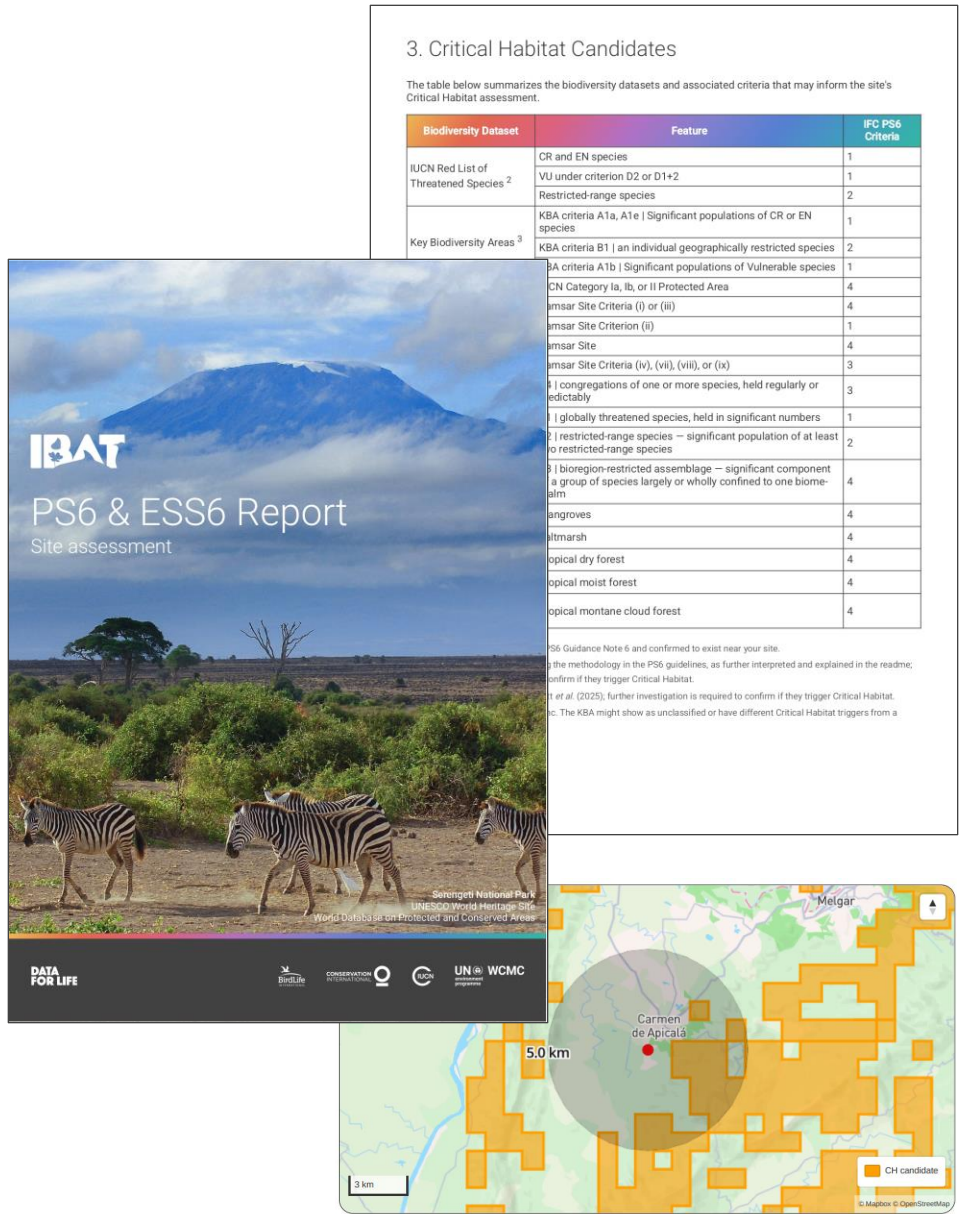
PS6&ESS6 report

IFC PS6 provides a widely recognised framework for identifying and managing biodiversity risks, including requirements relating to modified, natural and Critical Habitat.

Organisations can benefit from IBAT report outputs to do an initial screening and identify Critical Habitat candidates across the five PS6 criteria.

Report includes:

- 1 PDF with summary and features to focus on:
  - ✓ Summary of outputs and potentially non-financeable areas flagged by the screening
  - ✓ Biodiversity features and species that may trigger Critical Habitat criteria (1-5).
  - ✓ Maps of each relevant dataset overlapping with the Area of influence
- 1 Excel with detailed data on biodiversity features:
  - ✓ Detailed data on proximity and overlap with PAs and KBAs, as well as species and habitats in KBAs.
  - ✓ In-depth analysis of species considering their habitat, EOO overlap with your AoI, and more.
  - ✓ How to assess further areas and species highlighted in the results
- 1 README document (methodology guide)



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PS6 & ESS6 report

A summary of 5 key features in the report



Detailed analysis for PS6 criteria

- For example, for Criteria 2 for Endemic/restricted range species gives more granular outputs based on IUCN Red List data.

Why is it beneficial?

- Analysis and data provided can guide your assessments and expert consultation.



Critical Habitat criteria trigger analysis

- Based on IBAT data and the updated Critical Habitat screening layer published by UNEP-WCMC late 2025.

Why is it beneficial?

- Wider coverage of biodiversity features and triggers across all 5 Critical Habitat criteria

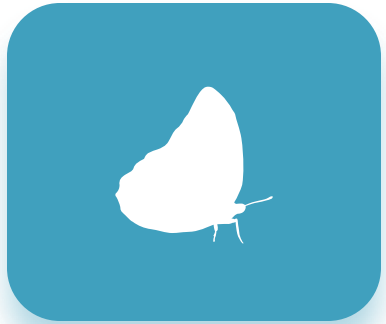


Guidance on How to assess further

- Guidance on how to assess further the priority biodiversity features flagged in the report.

Why is it beneficial?

- Recommendations can be used by a biodiversity expert, consultant or sustainability team to identify further requirements.



Expended Site-specific Metrics

- Expanded KBA metrics, including information on trigger species and ecosystems. Detailed overlap with KBAs and PAs.

Why is it beneficial?

- More context on the biodiversity areas intersecting your site and data on possible impacts to include in reporting and disclosure.



Enhanced Visual Documentation

- Individual maps for each dataset trigger, providing clearer visual evidence for review and internal documentation

Why is it beneficial?

- Clearer visual evidence to share with internal and external stakeholders.

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What is a candidate?

A candidate is a feature or species that may cause your site to qualify as Critical Habitat under one of the five criteria specified in IFC Guidance Note 6. You confirm a candidate by assessing it against that criterion's threshold. It is not meant to give a definitive finding, and this report never states that a site is Critical Habitat.

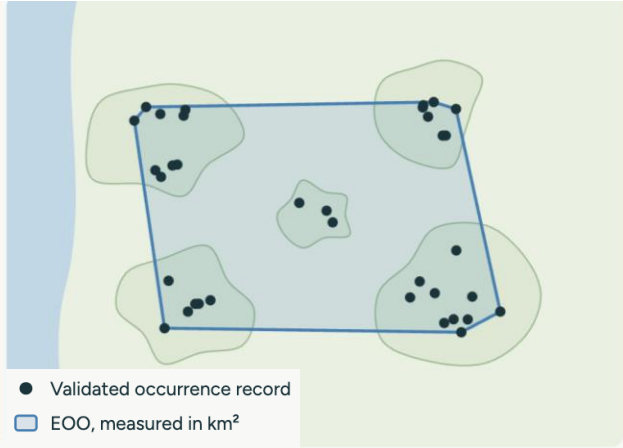
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What is the EOO?

Extent of occurrence

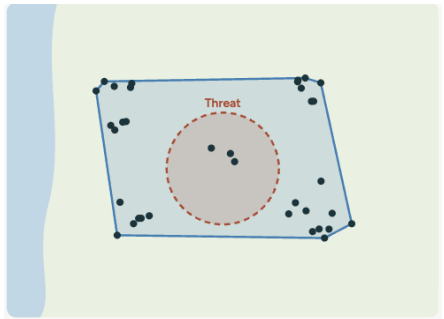
What is an EOO?

The Extent of Occurrence is the area contained within the shortest continuous imaginary boundary that can be drawn to encompass all known, inferred, or projected sites of a species.



Why it matters for risks?

EOO measures the overall geographic spread of the locations at which the species is found and shows how vulnerable a taxon may be at a large-scale



Wide EOO

When records are spread out, local threat may impact only a few individuals or none



Narrow EOO

When records are packed together, threats can reach them all

Why do we use it in this report?

IFC PS6 Criterion 1 and Criterion 2 thresholds are set on share of global population. No global dataset gives population share.

Guidance Note 6 states that where population estimates are not available, “surrogates of population size (for example, Extent of Occurrence, estimates of total area of known sites, estimates of area of occupied habitat) will be essential in this decision-making”

* EOO overlap is not population share. A species may be absent from most of its EOO, or concentrated in the part that overlaps your site. The proxy is deliberately conservative in order to catch the second case, and it will over-report the first.

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How is a candidate identified?

IFC PS6 Criterion 1:

	Threshold to assess against (Guidance Note 6)	High	Medium
Criterion 1, CR or EN species	≥ 0.5% of the global population AND ≥ 5 reproductive units (GN72(a))	> 0.4% EOO overlap	> 0.3%
Criterion 1, VU species (see below)	as GN72(a) (GN72(b))	n/a	> 0.4%

High sits at 80% of the Guidance Note 6 population share, Medium at 60%. The reproductive-unit counts cannot be screened from global data at all.

Below the Medium figure the rating is Low. A Low species still appears in the workbook, with the reason it fell below, but it is not a candidate.

VU need to meet both D2 (or D1+2), denoting a very small population or restricted area of occupancy and overlap thresholds.

Protected and conserved areas, Key Biodiversity Areas, and the additional layers uses UNEP-WCMC's Screening layer methodology with likely mapping to High, potential to Medium.

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How is a candidate identified?

IFC PS6 Criterion 2:

	Applies to (GN74)	A restricted-range species has
Definition 1	Terrestrial vertebrates and plants	an EOO less than 50,000 km²
Definition 2	Marine systems	provisionally, an EOO of less than 100,000 km²
Definition 3	Coastal, riverine, and other aquatic species in habitats that do not exceed 200 km width at any point (for example, rivers)	a global range of less than or equal to 500 km linear geographic span, being the distance between occupied locations furthest apart

First, a definition must apply to them, based on taxonomy, system and habitat reported in IUCN Red List.

Second, after calculation EOO, its range would need to meet that definition. Where more than one definition applies, meeting any one is sufficient.

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How is a candidate identified?

IFC PS6 Criterion 2:

	Threshold to assess against (Guidance Note 6)	High	Medium
Criterion 2, restricted-range species	≥ 10% of the global population size AND ≥ 10 reproductive units (GN75)	> 8% EOO overlap	> 6%

Third, your site falls within the part of its range that the EOO was measured over.

A species can meet a definition globally and still not be a Criterion 2 candidate at your site because calculations may depend on seasonality:

- ✓ EOO is calculated separately for seasonality codes 1 and 2 (“Resident” and “Breeding Season”) and for codes 1 and 3 (“Resident” and “Non-breeding Season”) for every species. The lower EOO is taken.
- ✓ A species may be present at your site only in other season outside of the calculated EOO.
- ✓ A species with a large non-breeding range and a small breeding range, where your site sits in the nonbreeding area, is the common case.

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How is a candidate identified?

IFC PS6 Criterion 3:

IUCN Red List species recorded as migratory or congregatory are listed at Low, for awareness.

EOO overlap serves as a proxy of a species' range falling in your Area of Influence, which bears on whether a site is important to a species but is silent on whether it is a bottleneck, staging post, colony or refuge.

A Criterion 3 candidate at High or Medium comes only from a dataset that records aggregation at a place:

- ✓ KBA criteria D1a, D1b, D2 and D3
- ✓ Ramsar congregation criteria
- ✓ IBA A4
- ✓ IMMA congregation criteria

A Low species still appears in the workbook, but it is not a candidate

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How is a candidate identified?

IFC PS6 Criterion 4 and 5:

All other additional layers that apply for Criterion 4 and 5, use UNEP-WCMC's Screening layer methodology with likely mapping to High, potential to Medium.

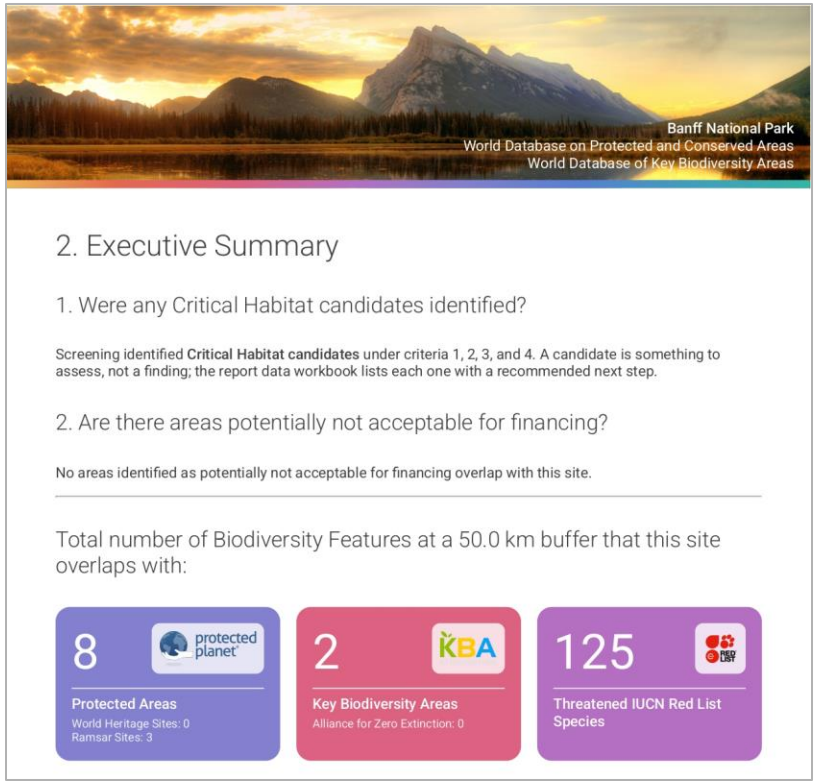
Biodiversity feature	Designation criterion / trigger
Cold seeps	
Cold water corals	Modelled occurrence; Observed occurrence
Ever-wet tropical forest	
Great Apes habitat	
Hydrothermal vents	Active; Inactive
Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas	A1; A2; A3; A4; B1b
Important Marine Mammal Areas	A; B1; B2; C1, C2 and C3; D1; D2
Intact Forest Landscapes	
Irreplaceable protected areas	
Mangroves	
Saltmarsh	
Sea turtle nesting sites	All sea turtle species; CR and EN sea turtle species
Seagrass beds	
Seamounts	
Tiger Conservation Landscapes	
Tropical dry forest	
Tropical moist forest	
Tropical montane cloud forests	
Warm water coral reefs	

- ✓ No data is available yet from the IUCN Red List of Ecosystem so no data on extent and status. Focuses on GN80b.
- ✓ For Criterion 5: Cold Seeps, Active Hydrothermal vents, Cold water corals, Warm Water coral reefs

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PS6 & ESS6 outputs

Results summary



Key outputs:

- ✓ Executive summary of Critical Habitat candidates
- ✓ Identification of potentially non-financeable areas flagged by the screening
- ✓ Total biodiversity numbers of WDPCA, WDKBA and IUCN Red List for AoI

Critical Habitat Candidates

Biodiversity Dataset	Feature	IFC PS6 Criteria
IUCN Red List of Threatened Species [2]	CR and EN species	1
	VU under criterion D2 or D1+2	1
	Restricted-range species	2
Key Biodiversity Areas [3]	KBA criteria A1a, A1e | Significant populations of CR or EN species	1
	KBA criteria B1 | an individual geographically restricted species	2
	KBA criteria A1b | Significant populations of Vulnerable species	1
World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas [1]	IUCN Category Ia, Ib, or II Protected Area	4
	Ramsar Site Criteria (i) or (iii)	4
	Ramsar Site Criterion (ii)	1
	Ramsar Site	4
	Ramsar Site Criteria (iv), (vii), (viii), or (ix)	3
Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas [3,4]	A4 | congregations of one or more species, held regularly or predictably	3
	A1 | globally threatened species, held in significant numbers	1
	A2 | restricted-range species — significant population of at least two restricted-range species	2
	A3 | bioregion-restricted assemblage — significant component of a group of species largely or wholly confined to one biome-realm	4
Mangroves [3]	Mangroves	4
Saltmarshes [3]	Saltmarsh	4
Tropical Dry Forests [3]	Tropical dry forest	4
Tropical Moist Forests [3]	Tropical moist forest	4
Tropical Montane Cloud Forests [3]	Tropical montane cloud forest	4

Key outputs:

- ✓ Identifies biodiversity features and species that may trigger Critical Habitat criteria.
- ✓ Shows the trigger, corresponding PS6 criterion and data source.

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PS6 & ESS6 outputs

Species Summary

- **Criterion 1**: Critically Endangered (CR) and/or Endangered (EN) species
- **Criterion 2**: Endemic or restricted-range species

Species Summary

Criterion 1 — Critically Endangered or Endangered species:
CR and EN species identified as candidates for triggering CH: 14
VU species identified as candidates for triggering CH: 11
See how a candidate is identified in the workbook ReadMe. A complete list is provided in the workbook.

Criterion 2 — Restricted-Range Species: 55
Identified using method specified in the workbook ReadMe, or KBA trigger species as per Dunnett et al. (2025).

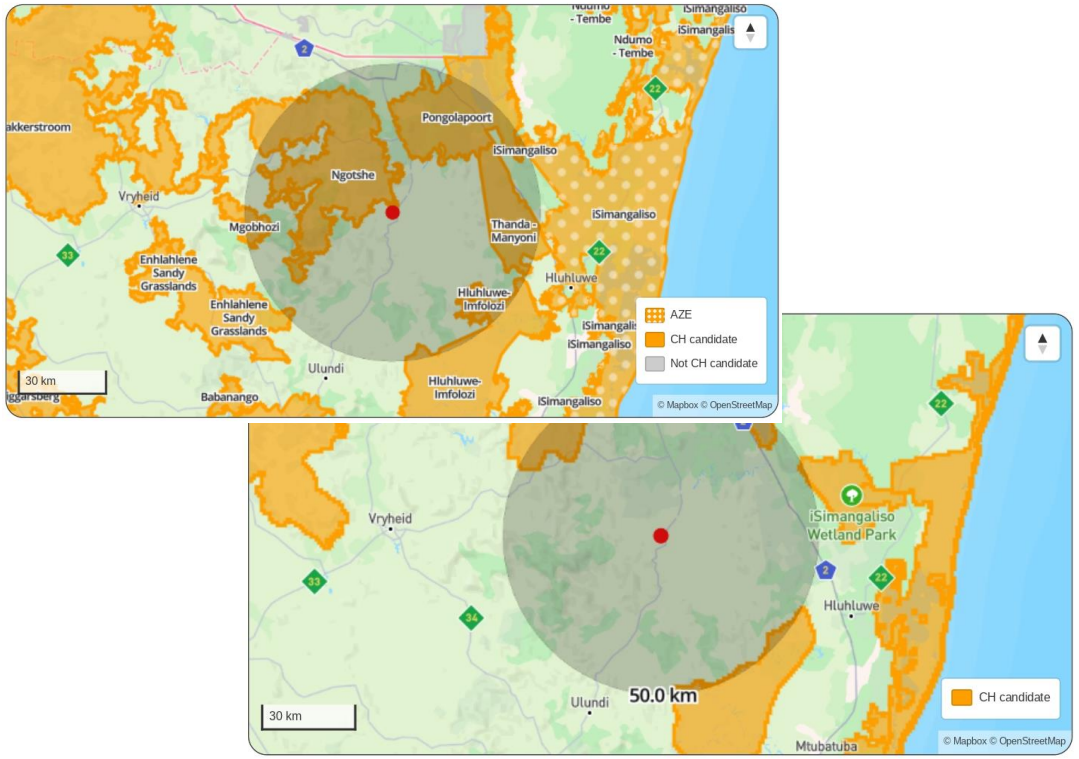
Criterion 3 — Migratory and Congregatory Species:
KBA-confirmed congregatory species: 0
Migratory species (Red List): 219
Congregatory species (Red List): 152
KBA-confirmed species are included in the table below. Red List migratory and congregatory status is recorded for awareness; the workbook lists all — assess those relevant to the site.

PS6 Criteria	Common name	Scientific name	IUCN criteria
1 & 2		Acanthocladus guayaquilensis	B2ab(iii)
1 & 2		Aegiphila glomerata	B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii)
2		Aiphanes eggersii	B1ab(i,ii,iii,iv)+2ab(i,ii,iii,iv)
1 & 2	Lilacine Amazon	Amazona lilacina	A4abcd
1 & 2	Roof Anole	Anolis bitectus	B2ab(iii)
2		Anolis nigrolineatus	
2		Banara regia	B2ab(iii)
1	Grey-cheeked Parakeet	Brotogeris pyrrhoptera	A2cd+3cd+4cd
1 & 2	Equatorial Dog-faced Bat	Cabreramops aequatorianus	B1ab(iii)
2	Guayaquil Caecilian	Caecilia tenuissima	
2		Capparidastrum bonifazianum	
1	Ecuadorian White-fronted Capuchin	Cebus aequatorialis	A2acd+4acd
1		Centrolobium ochroxylum	A2cd
1 & 2	Pacific Horned Frog	Ceratophrys stolzmanni	C2a(i)
1	Esmeraldas Woodstar	Chaetocercus berlepschi	C2a(i)
1 & 2		Chomelia ecuadorensis	B2ab(iii)
2	Zapatito	Clitoria brachystegia	B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii)
2	Peters' Running Snake	Coniophanes dromiciformis	B1ab(iii)
1	Blomber's Tree Boa	Corallus blombergi	B1ab(iii,iv,v)
2	Laurel blanco	Cordia macrantha	B2ab(iii)
2		Croton aequatoris	B2ab(iii)

Key outputs:
- ✓ Species identified as potential Criterion 1 and 2 candidates.
- ✓ Additional information on migratory and congregatory species.

Updated Maps

Key Biodiversity Areas



Key outputs:
- ✓ One map for each relevant dataset overlapping with the AoI

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Report data workbook

Excel file with the detailed data

Protected Area Name	Overall Designati	Area of PA (km²)	Overlap Area (km²)	Overlap Area (%)	Distance from Site (km)
Isla Santay	Ramsar	47.76	47.74	99.96	9.64
Manglares Churute	Ramsar	500.86	329.39	65.77	25.54
Manglares Churute	National	500.85	329.39	65.77	25.54
Manglares del Estuario Interior del	Ramsar	153.45	153.44	99.99	18.3
Isla Santay	National	22.16	22.14	99.91	11.07
Los Samanes	National	8.52	8.53	100	3.08
Manglares El Salado	National	155.43	155.27	99.9	4.28
Parque Lago	National	21.5	21.39	99.5	16.05

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Report data workbook

File with the detailed data

				IFC PS6 Criteria candidates	
Scientific Name	Common Name	Overall possibility of triggering CH	How to assess	Criterion 1 candidate	Criterion 2 cand
Acanthocladus guayaquilensis		High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.	High: EN species with EOO % overlap with AoI > 0.4%	High: Restricted-l
Aegiphila glomerata		High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.	High: EN species with EOO % overlap with AoI > 0.4%	High: Restricted-l
Aiphanes eggersii		High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.		High: Restricted-l
Amazona lilacina	Lilacine Amazon	High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.	High: CR species with EOO % overlap with AoI > 0.4%;	High: Restricted-l
Anolis bitectus	Roof Anole	High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.	High: EN species with EOO % overlap with AoI > 0.4%	High: Restricted-l
Anolis nigrolineatus		High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.		High: Restricted-l
Banara regia		High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.		High: Restricted-l
Cabreramops aequatorianus	Equatorial Dog-faced Ba	High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.	High: EN species with EOO % overlap with AoI > 0.4%	High: Restricted-l
Caecilia tenuissima	Guayaquil Caecilian	High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.		High: Restricted-l
Cebus aequatorialis	Ecuadorian White-fronte	High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.	High: CR species with EOO % overlap with AoI > 0.4%;	
Centrolobium ochroxylum		High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.	High: CR species with EOO % overlap with AoI > 0.4%	
Ceratophrys stolzmanni	Pacific Horned Frog	High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.	Medium: KBA trigger A1b	High: Restricted-l
Chomelia ecuadorensis		High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.	High: EN species with EOO % overlap with AoI > 0.4%	High: Restricted-l
Clitoria brachystegia	Zapatito	High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.		High: Restricted-l
Coniophanes dromiciformis	Peters' Running Snake	High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.		High: Restricted-l
Corallus blombergi	Blomber's Tree Boa	High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.	High: EN species with EOO % overlap with AoI > 0.4%	
Cordia macrantha	Laurel blanco	High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.		High: Restricted-l
Croton aequatoris		High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.		High: Restricted-l
Croton churutensis	Sangre de Drago	High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.	High: EN species with EOO % overlap with AoI > 0.4%	High: Restricted-l
Cynophalla ecuadorica	Sebastián vaina morada	High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.		High: Restricted-l
Dichapetalum asplundeanum		High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for		High: Restricted-l
Duguetia peruviana	Chirimollo	High	Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for	High: EN species with EOO % overlap with AoI > 0.4%	High: Restricted-l

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How to assess columns

How to Assess column in workbook:

The reports includes a How to Assess section in the workbook that carries the recommended next step for candidate.

For example:

Protected areas – *Identify the qualifying species from the Ramsar registry (rsis.ramsar.org) for Criteria 1 and 3; assess the site's wetland habitats as ecosystems for Criterion 4.*

Key Biodiversity Areas - *Assess the KBA's qualifying species (listed in the Species tab) against the criteria.*

Species - *Assess this species against the criteria it is a candidate for.*

Tropical Moist Forests – *Identify species associated with the habitats Forest – Tropical Moist Montane and Forest – Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland for further assessment. Consult the JRC Tropical Moist Forest Observatory (forobs.jrc.ec.europa.eu) or local databases.*

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Biodiversity risk screening and critical habitat assessment: Good practice for project finance

Drawing on hands-on consultancy experience, this presentation explores how to combine IBAT with field survey data and expert judgement to establish robust biodiversity baselines, inform Critical Habitat Assessments and support project decisions. A short real-world case study will illustrate how good data and appropriate methods helped address lender requirements and support financing.

04/11/2026



Who we are

Helping companies manage risk and unlock opportunities – for nature and business to thrive

- Science-driven specialists in nature and biodiversity
- Unparalleled field expertise
- Strategic advisors to leaders and standard setters
- Delivering business value through practical innovation
- Client-focused, full-spectrum nature solutions

20 years' experience in solving nature and biodiversity challenges

300 clients across diverse sectors



70+ staff bridging science and busi expertise

Conservation Fund

As an impact driven consultancy, we donate 12.5% of our profits to support conservation projects selected by our staff worldwide

5 continents

From local ecosystems to global supply chains, **we deliver projects across all five continents**

The Biodiversity Consultancy

Sources of information for screenings and CHAs

- **Global datasets:** IBAT and internationally recognised areas and datasets (Important Marine Mammal Areas / Important Shark and Ray Areas / Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas)
- **Supplementary desktop evidence:** Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) - 1,378,291 verified species. Including eBird & iNaturalist data (588,690 taxa), national databases and Red Lists, tracking data, sensitivity maps and literature
- **Local interpretation:** regional experts and stakeholder knowledge
- **Site verification:** targeted field survey, habitat mapping and taxonomy

Biodiversity screenings vary in detail according to the project stage, risks and decisions required. They range from rapid early-stage screening and due diligence, through critical habitat screening and preliminary assessment, to a full Critical Habitat Assessment (CHA).



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Ecologically Appropriate Area of Analysis (EAAA)

- EAAA represents the landscape that could include areas of high biodiversity value (species and/or ecosystems)
- It is the study area in a CHA and it's usually larger than the project's area of impact/influence (AoI)
- Multiple EAAAs for a project, e.g. terrestrial animals, plants & habitats; migratory birds & bats; aquatic habitats & species etc.



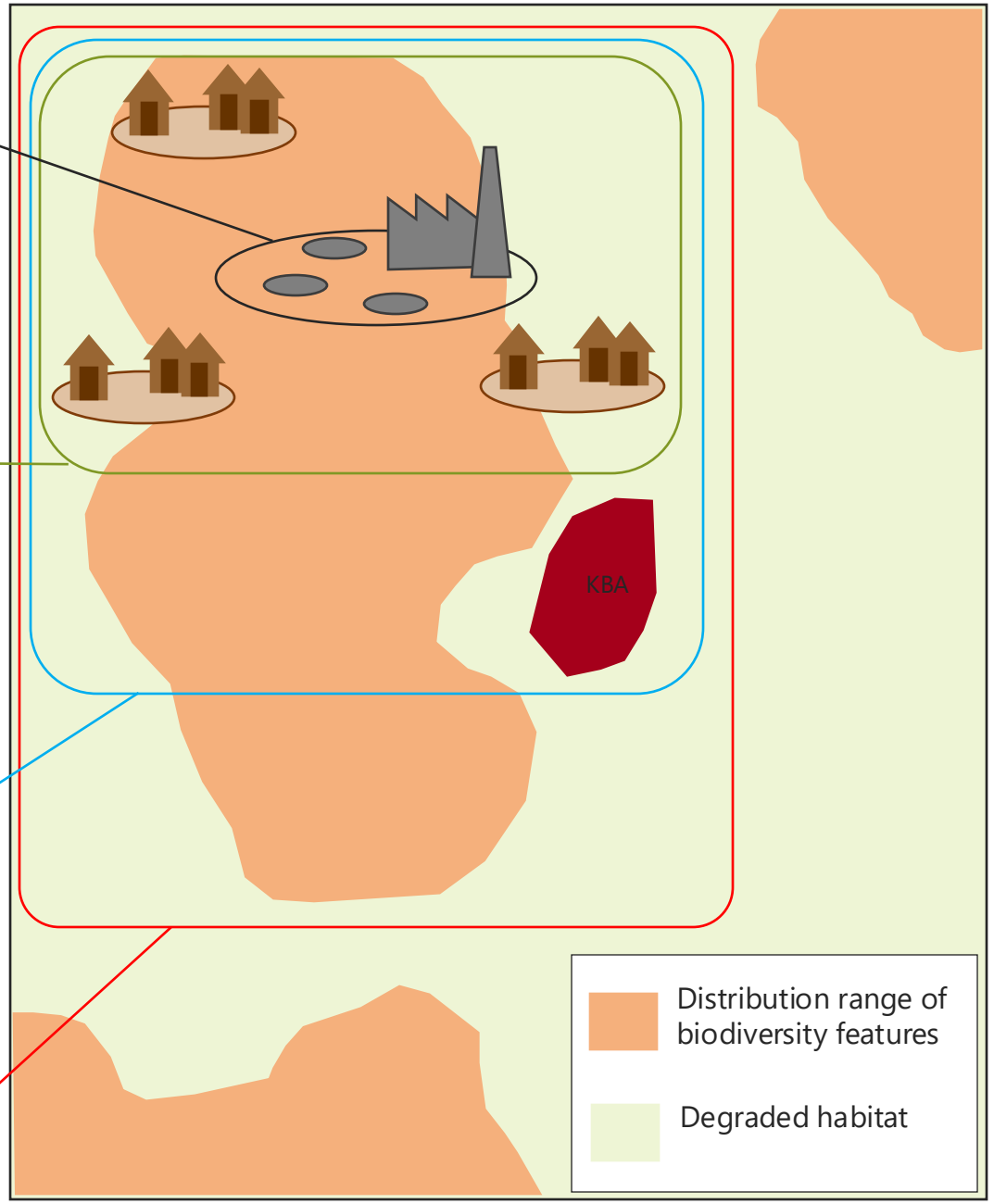
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Direct impact area: project site & physical footprint

Indirect impact area: Includes induced impacts caused by people attracted to a project or its new infrastructure

Perceived impact area: Includes any area of stakeholder concern, e.g. Key Biodiversity Area

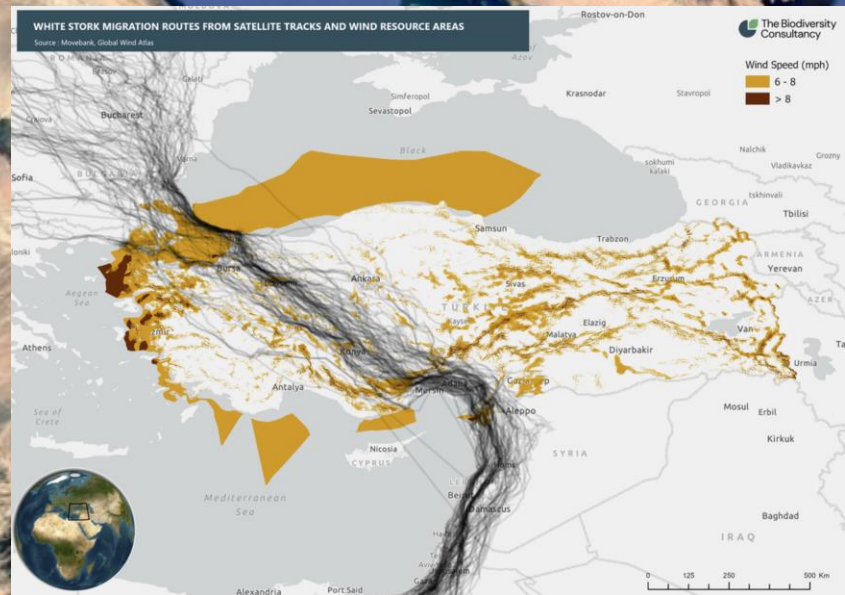
EAAA: Based on ecologically appropriate boundaries



Challenge example 1: EAAA boundaries for migratory birds

- Migratory airspace is not automatically a meaningful EAAA.
- The assessment must identify whether movements at collision risk altitude are linked to discernible sites, bottlenecks or landscape features.
- Surveys must cover the relevant migration periods and collision-risk airspace.
- Poorly timed or spatially narrow surveys may leave a material CHA uncertainty unresolved.

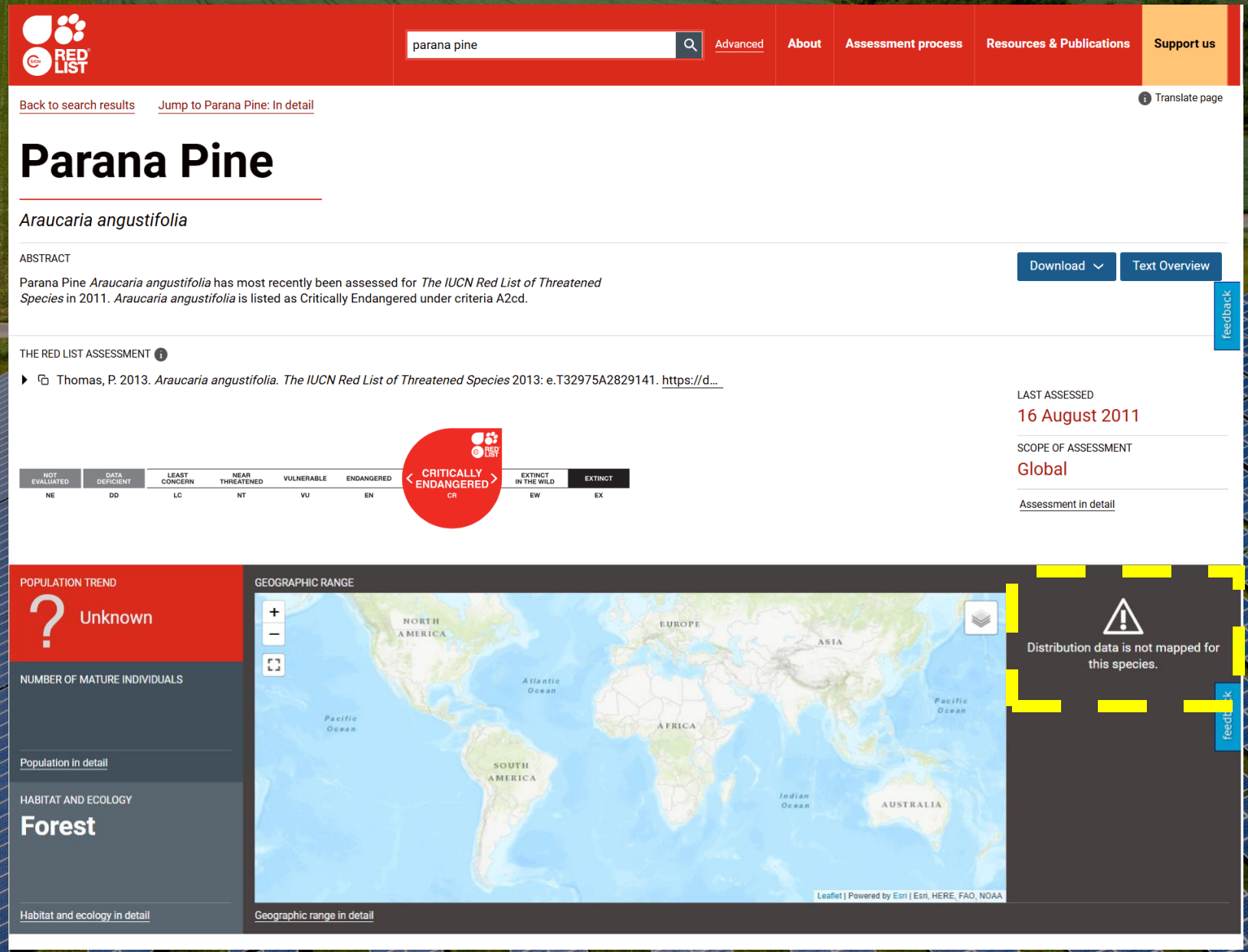




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Challenge example 2: Screening for poorly known groups – plants

- Plants often CH qualifying under PS6 Criteria 1 and 2.
- By nature of the level of information needed for an IUCN Assessment, IBAT data is not comprehensive for all taxonomic groups. Only ~18% of plants have been assessed and of those ~half don't have spatial data.
- An issue in countries / regions with high plant endemism
- Supplementary herbarium, GBIF, national and botanical-expert evidence may be needed before CHA can be finalized.



Challenge example 3: Natural and modified habitat classification

- PS6-aligned CHAs should describe natural habitats in Project area
- Natural habitats under PS6 range from **pristine to degraded natural habitats**, as long as "*human activity has not essentially modified an area's primary ecological functions and species composition*" (IFC PS6)
- Degradation does not automatically make habitat "modified". Misclassification can lead to inappropriate mitigation requirements, underestimated residual impacts.
- E.g. cattle grazing in natural grasslands, or logging in forests don't automatically qualify them as modified habitat under PS6



Natural habitats can include pristine and degraded habitats

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Critical Habitat Assessment for solar PV in Colombia

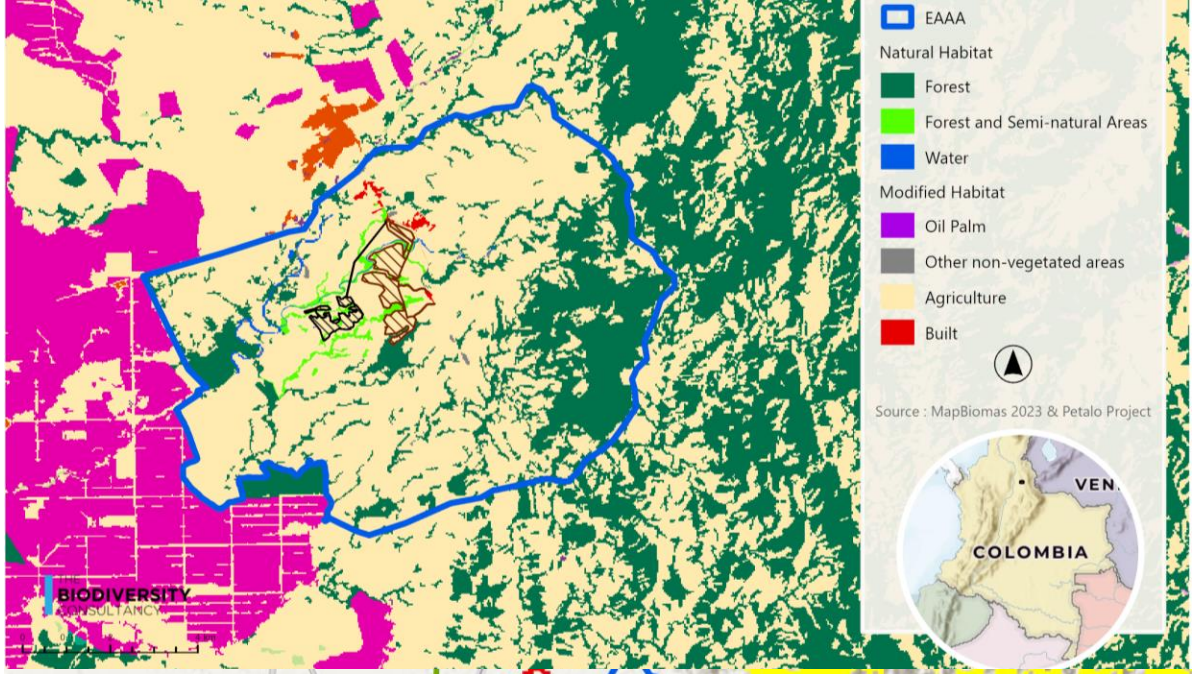
- Two adjacent solar PV projects in Norte de Santander
- IFC Performance Standards alignment required for project finance
- Large number of potentially relevant biodiversity features
- Need to refine screening longlist to features requiring detailed CHA evaluation

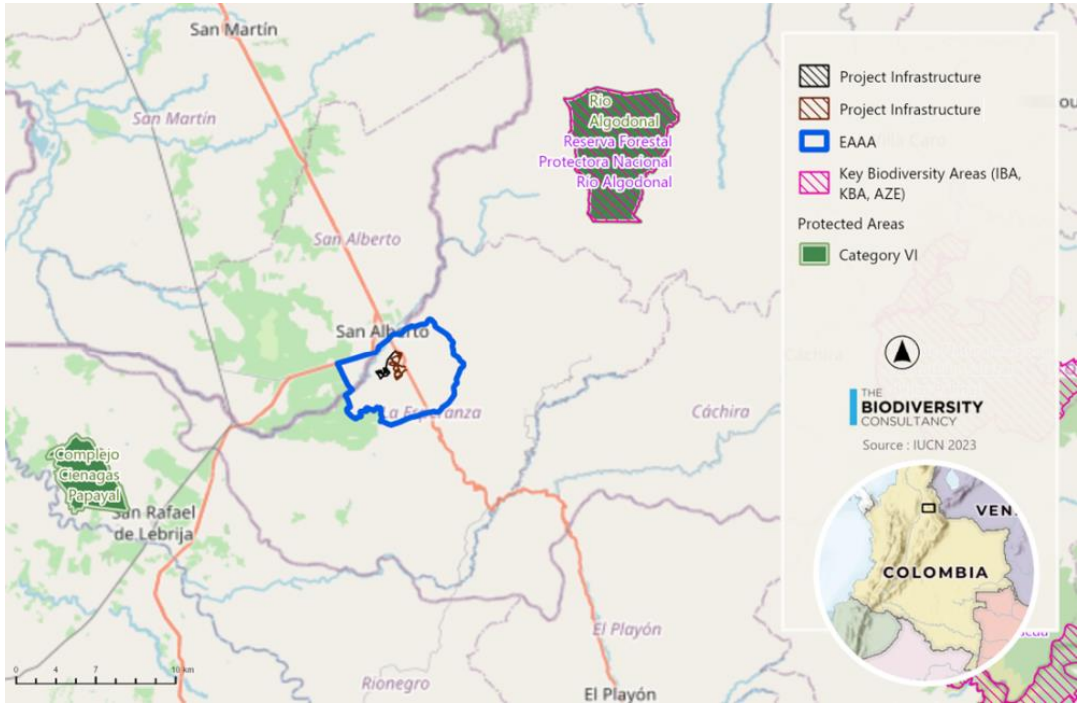


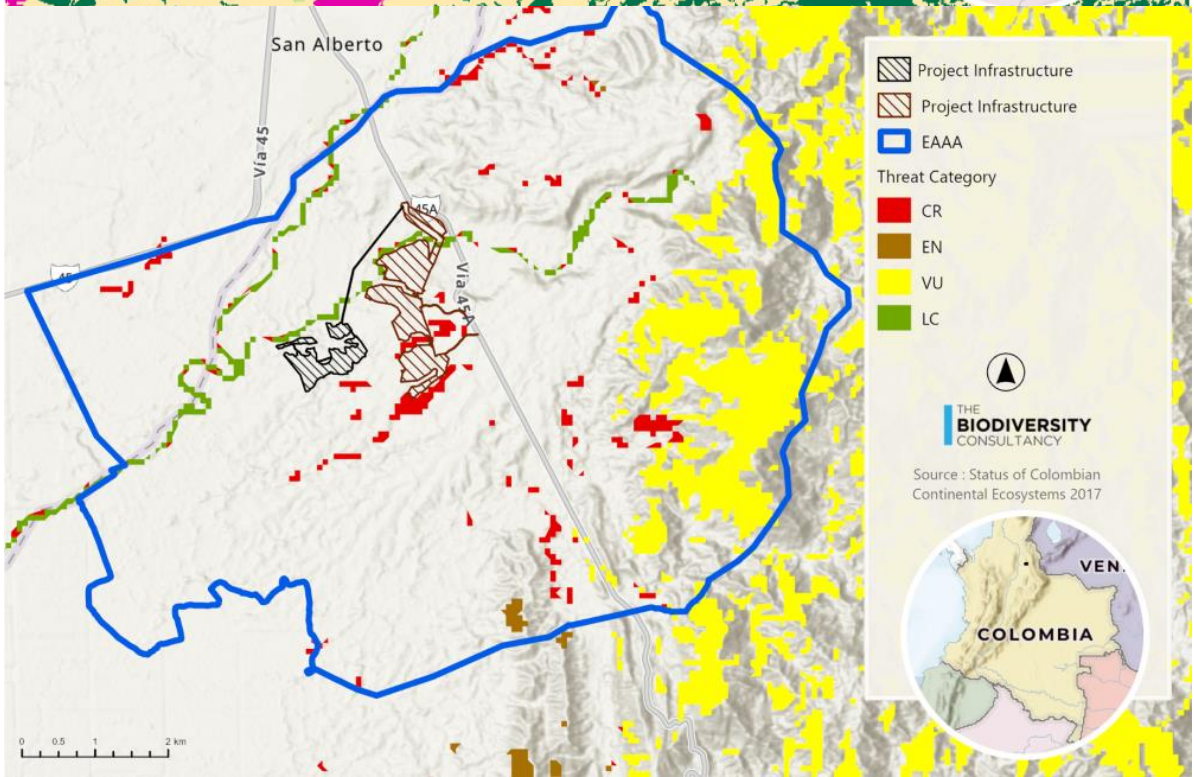
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Critical Habitat Assessment approach and outcomes

- Screened >815 features against the PS6 criteria
- Reviewed secondary spatial species and habitat data alongside rapid survey results
- Confirmed that no assessed features met Critical Habitat thresholds
- Identified **natural habitat** and two plant species of conservation concern
- Translated the findings into a No Net Loss Strategy and simple Biodiversity Offset Management Plan







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Q&A – Ask your question to the panel



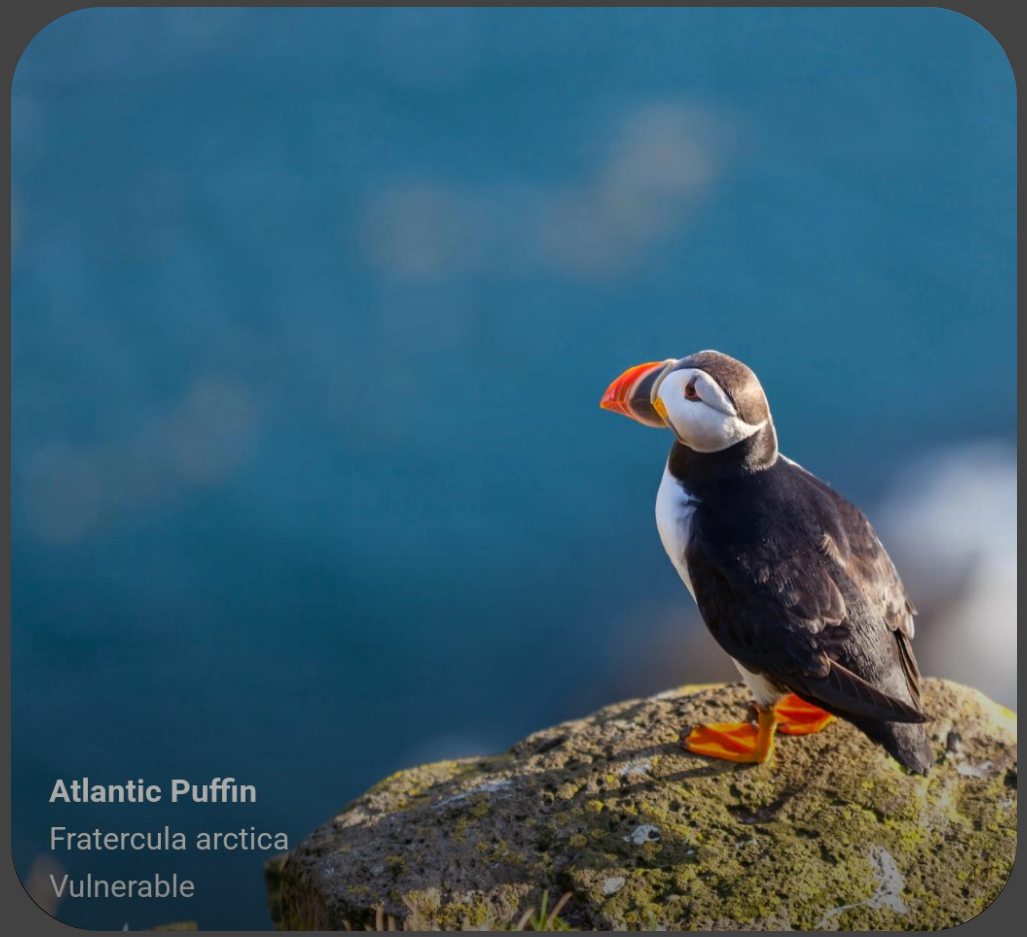
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Northern Long-eared Owl
Asio otus
IUCN Red List Least Concern

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