IBAT

Annual Report
2019

Komodo National Park
UNESCO World Heritage Site
World Database on Protected Areas
World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL
IUCN
UN environment programme
WCMC

Introduction

"The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) has changed the way we think about data platforms in the conservation sector. It is widely acknowledged that authoritative, up-to-date data is key to addressing biodiversity loss. Yet the data is expensive to update and maintain – and this is a huge challenge for our sector.

IBAT not only packages data in the right format for decision-makers but also generates much-needed funds to help update and maintain the world's most authoritative global biodiversity datasets. IBAT is actively used by 100s of organisations and individuals on a daily basis for early stage, high-level risk screening such as scoping for an EIA and screening against their bank's environmental safeguards as well as company-level biodiversity information for annual sustainability reports. Added to this, IBAT subscriptions directly support the update and maintenance of the World Database on Protected Areas, the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas, and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IBAT is, therefore, a unique business model within the conservation sector – giving both value to IBAT users as well as supporting conservation activities."

– Dr Eugenie Regan – IBAT Manager

Arches National Park
World Database on Protected Areas

Background

IBAT is a web-based map and reporting tool that provides fast, easy and integrated access to three of the world's most authoritative global biodiversity datasets:

Timeline

2005

IBAT conceived by staff within BirdLife International, Conservation International, IUCN, and UNEP-WCMC.

2008

Formal launch at IUCN World Conservation Congress.

2010

Re-launched with a new business plan & remit of enabling decision-makers to "access integrated critical information to inform risk..."

2012

First year that IBAT posted an operating surplus. This was re-invested into the datasets as per our vision.

IBAT is developed and maintained by the IBAT Alliance (BirdLife International, Conservation International, IUCN, and UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre) with the aim to enable users to make informed decisions in policy and practice.

The IBAT team are based at the David Attenborough Building, a vibrant hub for leading conservation organisations.

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

IUCN

UN environment programme WCMC

2013

Independent product review undertaken. This guided the next four years of the tool.

2017

Staff from across the IBAT Alliance work together to develop the 2018–2023 business plan.

2018

IBAT platform was redeveloped and a new team recruited (Manager and Finance & Administration Officer).

2019

Launch of new platform, Technical Officer recruited, and user support grown to include webinars and tutorials.

Informing world-shaping decisions

"Our common vision is that decisions affecting critical biodiversity should be informed by the best and most up to date scientific information and the decision-makers who use that information should help support its generation and maintenance"

– IBAT Alliance Partners

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

2019 a year of growth

Launch of new platform

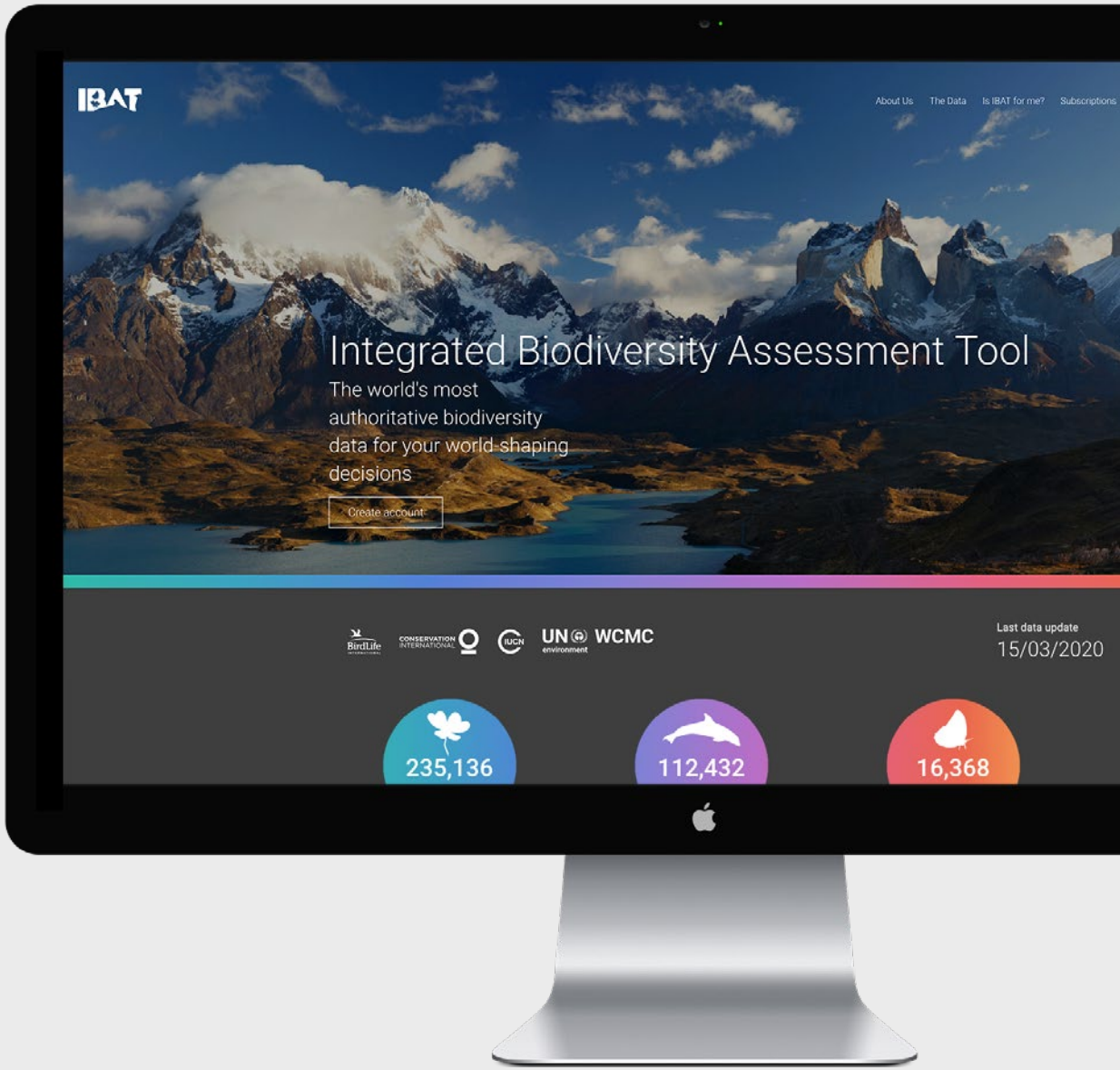
In January 2019 the new IBAT platform went live followed by our official launch event in June. It has had great feedback from our users and provides us with the foundation to keep improving the service. We are committed to continuous improvement of IBAT so please do get in touch if there's any functionality that you'd like to see.

New staff

In May 2019 we welcomed Lewis Youl to the IBAT team as the IBAT Technical Officer. Lewis has a background in both biology and software development and has a passion for nature conservation. We are delighted to have Lewis on board. His skills and expertise helped us deliver key new functionalities in 2019.

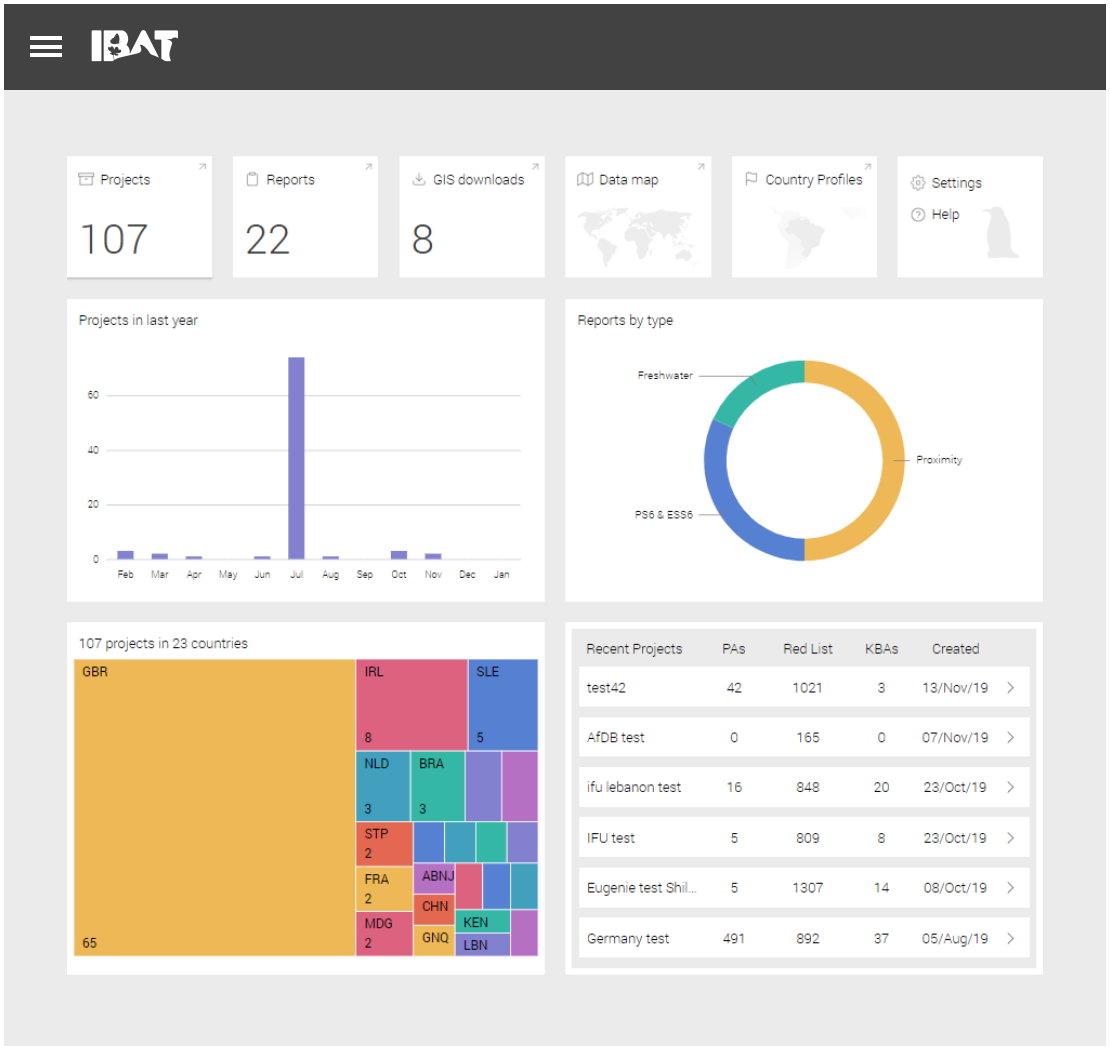
User support

A key focus of 2019 was to increase user support for accessing and using IBAT data for early stage, high-level decision making. We set up an email newsletter, a LinkedIn page, regular webinars, video tutorials, and FAQs on the website. We had guest speakers join our webinars including from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species team, the World Database on Protected Areas team, and the Key Biodiversity Areas. These were hugely popular, attracting 471 attendees in 2019 with many more watching the recordings afterwards. If you'd like to see us producing other types of content, please do let us know.



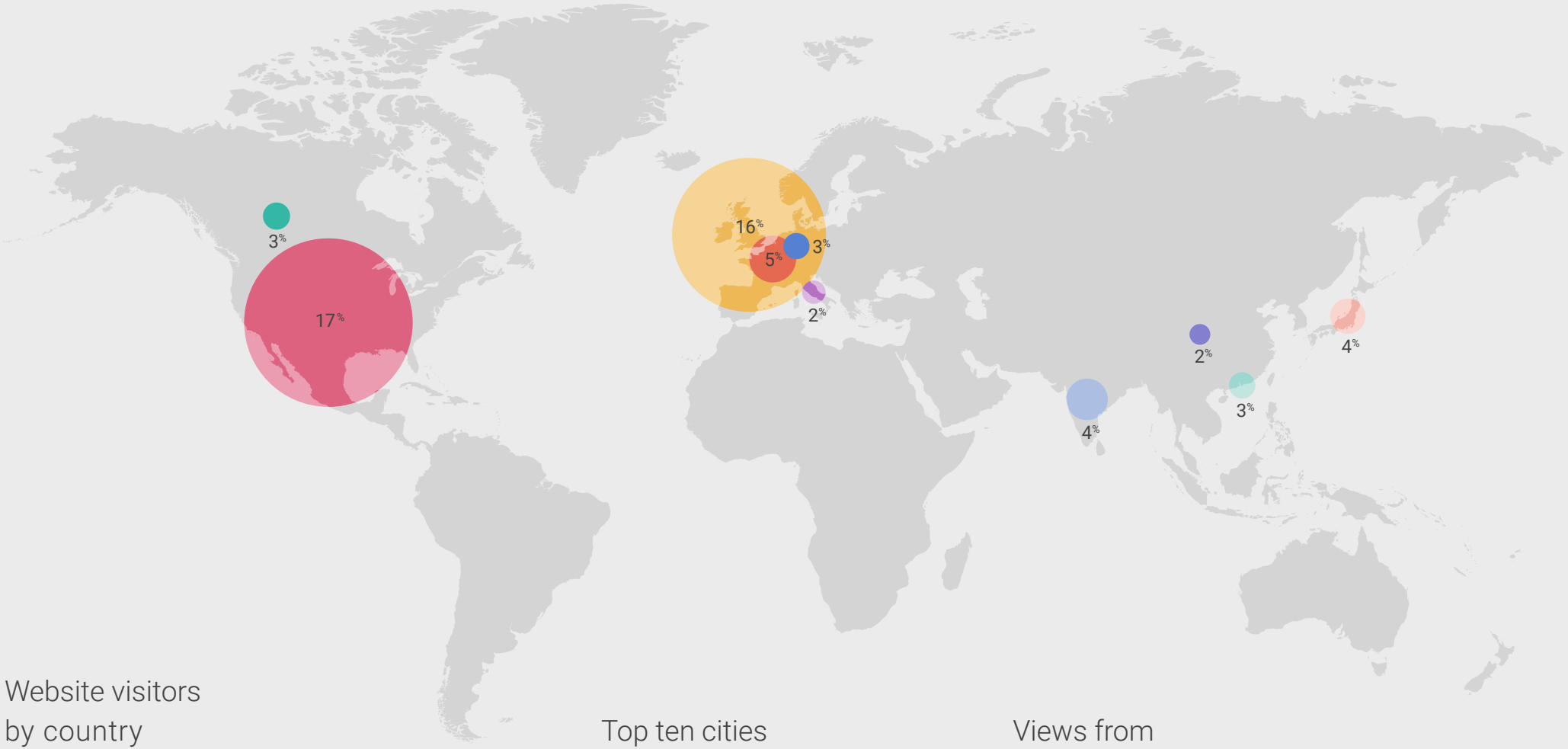
New functionalities

- Pay as you go
- Multi-site report
- Freshwater report
- Country profiles
- Data update alert
- More species data in report CSV file
- Dashboard
- CSV uploader
- Tooltips



New dashboard

Website visitor location



Website visitors by country

- United States
- United Kingdom
- France
- India
- Japan
- Canada
- Germany
- Hong Kong
- Italy
- China

Top ten cities

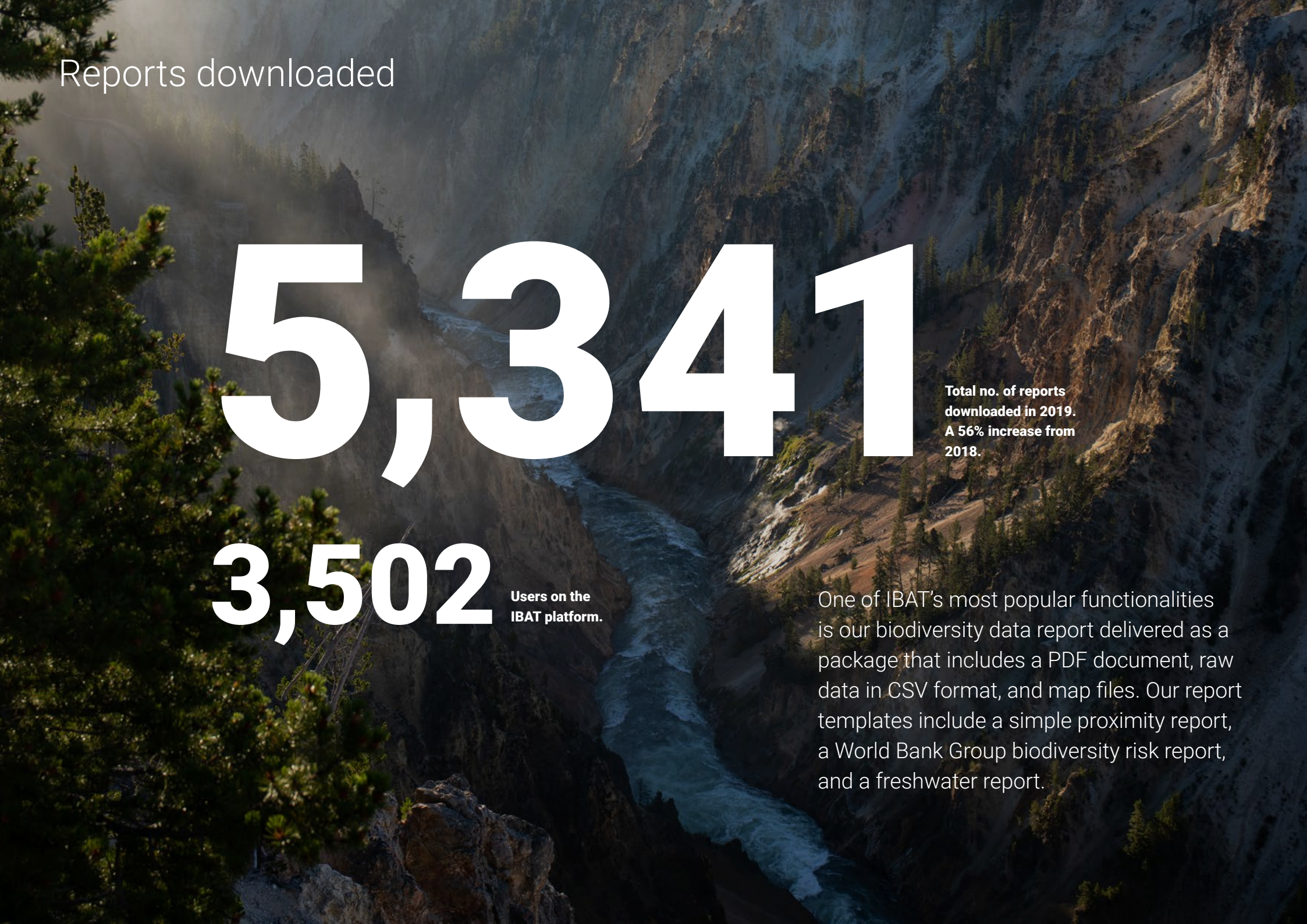
1. Chicago
2. London
3. Cambridge
4. Washington
5. Paris
6. Jakarta
7. Boston
8. New York
9. Manila
10. Tokyo

Views from

161

Countries
Speaking a total of over 100 languages

Reports downloaded



5,341

Total no. of reports downloaded in 2019. A 56% increase from 2018.

3,502

Users on the IBAT platform.

One of IBAT's most popular functionalities is our biodiversity data report delivered as a package that includes a PDF document, raw data in CSV format, and map files. Our report templates include a simple proximity report, a World Bank Group biodiversity risk report, and a freshwater report.

Range of IBAT's users

- AC Energy
- Aditya Birla Group
- African Development Bank
- Alcoa
- Allianz
- Alpage
- Anglo American
- A Rocha Ghana
- Artelia
- Asian Development Bank
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- Bangor Agricultural University
- Barrick Gold Corporation
- BHP
- BNP Paribas
- BP
- Bpifrance
- BuroHappold
- Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership
- Chevron
- CI Affiliated
- Credit Suisse
- Danish Export Credit Agency (EKF)
- Earth Active
- EDF
- ENGIE
- Eni
- ENRAC
- Enveco S.A
- Equinor
- ERM
- European Investment Bank
- Evonik (PSG Procurement Services)
- ExxonMobil
- Finance in Motion
- Finnfund
- Flora and Fauna International
- FMO (Netherlands Development Finance Company)
- General Motors
- Globeleq Africa
- Golder
- Greenpeace
- GrowWithTrees
- Hammer Aluminium Industries
- Harvard University
- Hess
- IFC
- IFU (Danish Development Finance Institution)
- Indonesian Institute of Sciences
- ING
- Inter-American Development Bank
- International Olympic Committee
- JPMorgan
- KfW
- Kinder Morgan
- Knight Piesold
- L'Oréal
- Maplecroft (Wood Mackenzie)
- McKinsey & Company
- MIGA
- Ministry of Environment Cameroon
- Mitsubishi
- Mott MacDonald
- MS & AD InterRisk Research & Consulting
- Nature Fiji
- Newmont
- NJD Advisory Services Ltd
- Olam
- Orion RP
- Petronas
- Pew Charitable Trusts
- PT Greencorp Konsultan Indonesia
- PWC (German Export Credit Agency)
- Rainforest Trust
- Repsol
- Rio Tinto
- SACE
- Shell
- South32
- Standard Chartered
- Stantec
- Swedish Export Credit Agency (EKN)
- The Biodiversity Consultancy
- The Chinese Wild Bird Federation
- The Open University
- Titan Cement
- TomTom
- Total
- Toyota
- Tullow Oil
- UK Export Finance
- UK Space Agency
- UPC Renewables
- Veolia
- Votorantim Cimentos
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Woodside
- World Bank
- WSP
- WWF
- Xenops Environmental
- Zambia Environmental Management Agency

User stories

IBAT has always put users at the heart of its development. It was initially co-developed with private sector users to support early stage biodiversity risk screening, for example screening against World Bank Group's biodiversity performance standards. This remains one of the core applications of the tool but it is now also used in a range of circumstances and by a wide set of users including the Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Evonik, IFC, International Olympic Committee, and Olam.

International Olympic Committee

Sustainability has a central place in the work of the IOC and it is one of the three pillars of Olympic Agenda 2020 – the strategic roadmap for the future of the Olympic Movement. As a result, sustainability principles are now embedded throughout the entire lifecycle of the Olympic Games: from the earlier stages of the candidature process, through to the legacy that the Games leave behind.

IBAT is a key tool used by the IOC already during the initial dialogue with cities interested in hosting the Olympic Games. "Thanks to IBAT, we can now make sure that biodiversity is taken into account at the very early stages of the cities' Olympic journey," says Michelle Lemaitre, Head of Sustainability at the IOC. "Based on data provided by IBAT, cities can modify their plans for the siting of Olympic venues to avoid impacting areas of high biodiversity value. They can also go a step further, looking into ways in which hosting the Olympic Games can contribute to biodiversity conservation in the area."

The use of IBAT has been facilitated by IUCN's Business and Biodiversity Programme, through the IUCN/IOC partnership. The partnership was established in 2016, to support the IOC in the delivery of its 2017 Sustainability Strategy, specifically in relation to nature conservation.

Asian Development Bank

Francesco Ricciardi, an environmental specialist in the ADB's sustainable development and climate change department, explains that the bank uses IBAT at the project concept stage to screen potential biodiversity risks. "It is used to identify if the proposed project is located in an area of high biodiversity value, if potentially there are endangered species recorded in proximity, as well as protected areas or natural reserves. If one or more such risks are identified, it triggers additional studies and evaluations required by ADB's Safeguards Policy Statement."

He says that IBAT is a "convenient tool", allowing the ADB's environmental specialists to use a single, user-friendly database instead of a number of single-resource databases, or more complicated tools such as geographic information system (GIS) applications.

Evonik

"IBAT has been an essential tool to help Evonik understand our biodiversity risks and opportunities on-site"
– Denis Sepoetro, Evonik.

Evonik is one of the world's leading specialty chemicals companies. The chemical sector plays a key role in a sustainable future. Biodiversity has been included in their materiality analysis since 2017. Evonik are aware that their business operations involve both opportunities and risks for biodiversity. Based on data from IBAT, Evonik is able to examine and mitigate the potential impact of our global sites on areas significant for biodiversity – and have reported on this in their last two sustainability reports.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

"The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) uses IBAT at several points in the financing process," says Courtney Lowrance, its principal environmental specialist. It is used in AIIB's initial project screening process, then by the environmental and social (E&S) specialists assigned to a project to identify any biodiversity studies that might be required.

"In particular, IBAT allows users to compile a list of key biodiversity areas and potential species of concern within a specific radius of the project site," she adds. "This helps E&S specialists in scoping the environmental and social impact assessment. Compiling the species of concern would be much more difficult without the tool."

Giraffe *Giraffa Camelopardalis*
IUCN Red List Vulnerable
Kruger National Park, South Africa
World Database on Protected Areas
World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas

Olam

"Regularly updated, geographically specific information on biodiversity is key to help us assess risks, and prioritise actions"

– Moray McLeish, Vice President, Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability, Olam

Olam International is a leading food and agri-business supplying food, ingredients, feed and fibre to 19,800 customers worldwide. Olam's value chain spans over 60 countries and includes farming, processing and distribution operations, as well as a sourcing network of an estimated 4.8 million farmers. Through their purpose to 'Re-imagine Global Agriculture and Food Systems', Olam aims to address the many challenges involved in meeting the needs of a growing global population, while achieving positive impact for farming communities, our planet and all Olam's stakeholders. Regeneration of the Living World is a priority in Olam's sustainability framework and IBAT data is used to screen for biodiversity risks in supply chains.

IFC

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused exclusively on the private sector in developing countries and emerging markets. IFC contributed to the design of IBAT in its early days of development and has worked closely with IBAT to incorporate features and recommendations based on IFC's *Performance Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources (PS6)* into the IBAT portal. IFC uses IBAT to screen for biodiversity risks and critical habitat values in project locations globally as part of its environmental due diligence. The IBAT portal is a user-friendly system that enables IFC's Environmental and Social Specialists to access important conservation data such as, Key Biodiversity Areas, legally protected areas, and threatened species information, flagging potential biodiversity risks based on PS6. This helps IFC achieve consistency in its approach to preliminary biodiversity screening across our pipeline of projects globally.

"Screening biodiversity risks in the developing countries, frontier markets, and fragile states where we work is integral to unlocking private investment. IBAT helps us to do that."

– Lori Anna Conzo, Senior Environmental Specialist, International Finance Corporation

Bringing data to life

Described by our users as “a must for any project on biodiversity conservation”, IBAT offers a ‘one-stop shop’ data search service for those seeking authoritative global biodiversity information. IBAT subscriptions, in turn, help update and maintain these datasets.

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

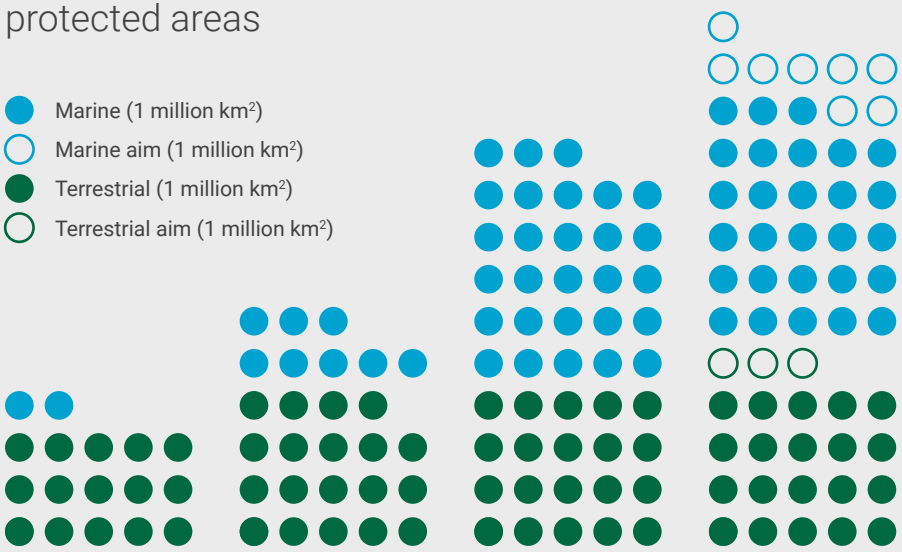
World Database on Protected Areas

World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas

Great Barrier Reef
UNESCO World Heritage Site
World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas

World Database on Protected Areas

Progress to date in coverage of protected areas



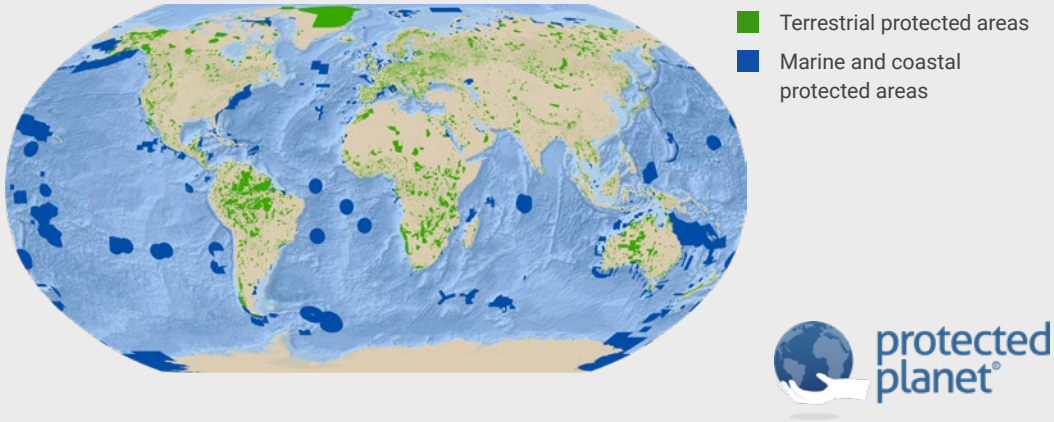
The World Database on Protected Areas is the most comprehensive global database on protected areas, and is updated on a monthly basis.

It is a joint product between the UN Environment and IUCN and is managed by the Conserved Lands and Seascapes Programme at UNEP-WCMC. The team works on a continuous basis with representatives from governments, communities and collaborative partners, as well as international bureaux and secretariats. It aims to be the most authoritative global platform providing the world's decision makers and the community of practitioners with the best possible and global information, knowledge and tools, for the planning and management of protected and conserved areas.

The funding provided by the IBAT alliance in 2017 and 2018, alongside contributions from other sources, has supported the update and improvement of country protected area data and information, and the development of guidance materials to support the delivery of technical and capacity building workshops to strengthen the countries' ability to manage and maintain their own national protected area datasets.

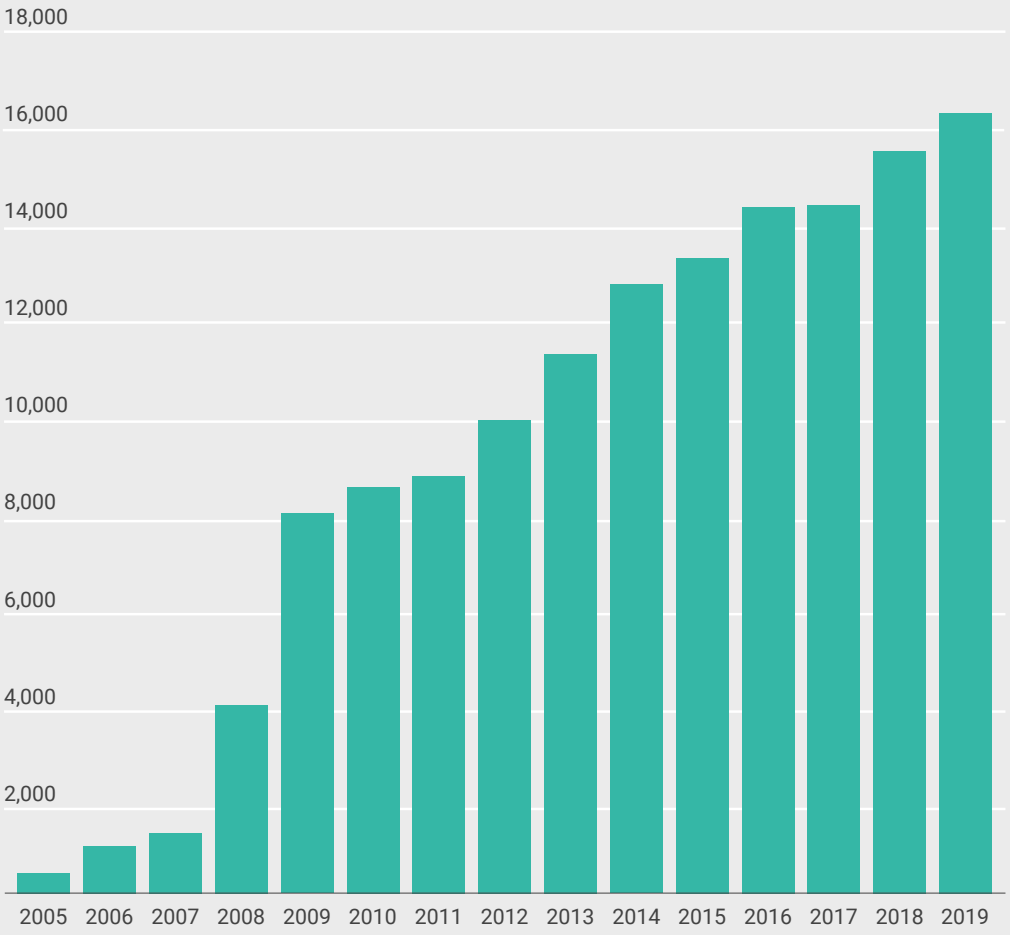
In 2019, IBAT income supported the update and improvement of country protected area data. This included the update and validation of over 245,000 protected area records in over 240 countries and territories. As of December 2019 over 230,360 records have been updated and/or validated in over 90 countries and territories. Important highlights include the first ever government-approved update for Tonga and updates of Zambia's and Papua New Guinea's protected area networks, the first updates of these areas in over 14 years.

Protected Areas of the world



World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas

Number of KBAs identified



The World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (WDKBA) compiles the data on all sites of significance for the global persistence of biodiversity.

It is managed by BirdLife International on behalf of the KBA Partnership, a consortium of 13 of the world's leading conservation organisations who are identifying, mapping and promoting the conservation of the most important places on the planet for biodiversity.

Sites are identified at national level and the criteria used to identify them focus on five aspects of biodiversity value:

1. Threatened species/ecosystems
2. Species/ecosystems with restricted ranges
3. Intact sites with minimal human impact
4. Biological processes such as congregations of species
5. Sites of high irreplaceability

The funding provided by the IBAT Alliance in 2019, alongside contributions from other sources, has supported the ongoing management and development of the WDKBA and the update of the KBA dataset. In 2019, 80 Freshwater KBAs were added, with over 540 associated trigger species. This brings the total number of KBAs to 16,329 and the overall number of trigger populations held in the database to 136,000, an average of 8 species per KBA. In addition, work has been conducted to review the boundaries of more than 650 existing sites across some 40 countries and territories. This has been carried out in full collaboration with staff in BirdLife's regional offices and partner organizations.

Where necessary, boundaries have been updated or refined, and in 120 cases sites previously only mapped with a point, now have a polygon boundary.

While more than 13,000 sites in the WDKBA are triggered by bird species because of the 40 years of BirdLife International's Important Bird and Biodiversity Programme (IBA), we have reached the point where more non-bird than bird species trigger KBA status (52%).

In 2019, the coverage of KBAs by protected areas continued to be used as an indicator of progress towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15, as well as for assessing progress towards the 'Aichi Targets' in the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity, adopted through the Convention on Biological Diversity. In particular, the indicator featured prominently in the first Global Assessment of the Inter-governmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which was released in May 2019. Currently, an average of 43.1% of each KBA is covered by protected areas. However, only 19.2% of KBAs are completely covered by protected areas, 41.5% have partial coverage and 39.3% lack any coverage by protected areas. New research published in 2019 suggested that a high proportion of unprotected KBAs may be covered by 'Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures' (OECMs), such as community-managed reserves and some private protected areas.

KBA
KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

More than 31,000 species are threatened with extinction

That is more than 27% of all assessed species.

AMPHIBIANS
41%

MAMMALS
25%

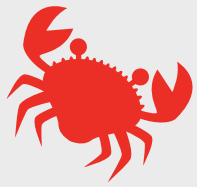
CONIFERS
34%

BIRDS
14%

SHARKS & RAYS
30%

REEF CORALS
33%

SELECTED CRUSTACEANS
27%



The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is the world's most comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of animal, fungi and plant species and their links to human livelihoods.

It is a powerful tool to inform and catalyse action for biodiversity conservation through policy change and action on the ground.

The IUCN Red List evaluates the extinction risk of thousands of species, using nine categories; Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) and Vulnerable (VU) species are considered to be threatened with extinction.

Data from the IUCN Red List is of international importance and is used to track progress towards UN Sustainable Development Goal 15–Life on Land. It is anticipated the implementation of a new post-2020 international framework for saving nature will hinge on the availability and performance of the IUCN Red List.

Resources generated by IBAT are provided to the IUCN Red List Partnership (www.iucnredlist.org/about/partners) to support three key areas. We are expanding the IUCN Red List to make it more representative of life on earth by assessing species of invertebrates and plants. We also aim to review regularly the assessment of species already on the IUCN Red List so that changes in the status and taxonomy of species are incorporated.

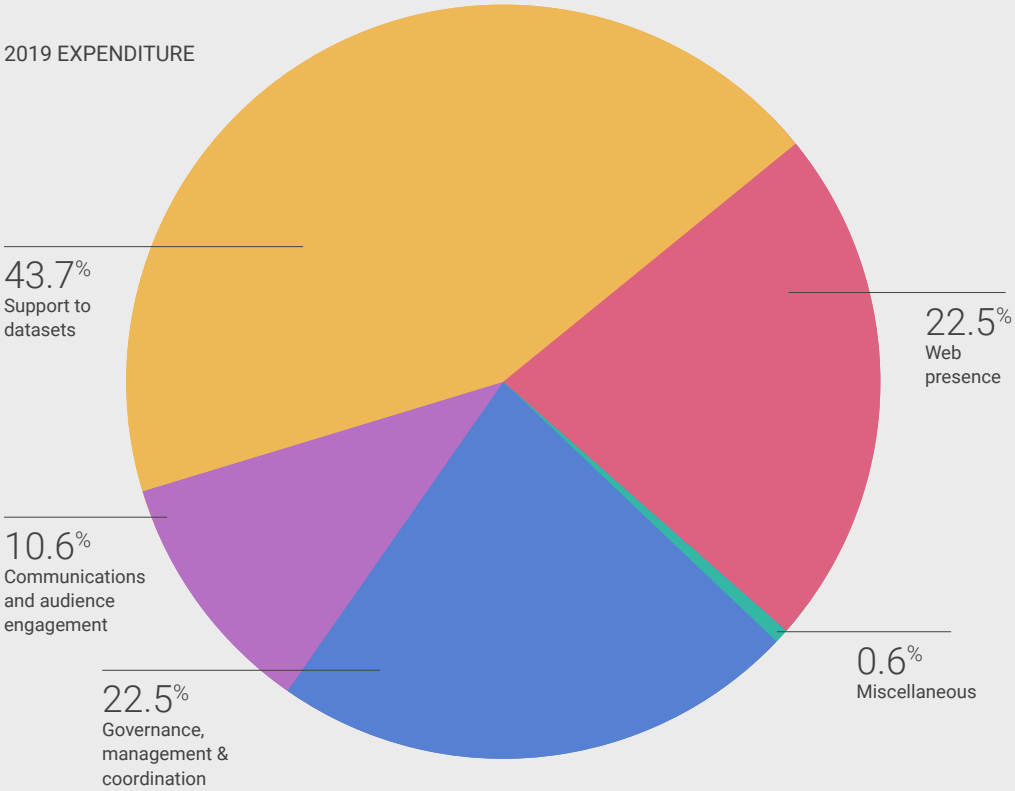
In 2019 we added 15,563 new entries to the IUCN Red List. These included 11,815 plants because of the large focus on global tree assessments. We also conducted re-assessments of 3,227 species – bringing the total number of assessments to a record-breaking 18,790 in 2019!

IBAT resources help us to keep the IUCN Red List up to date, make it more inclusive, and ensure it is underpinned by appropriate technologies.

2019 financial report

IBAT subscriptions directly support the update and maintenance of three of the world's most authoritative global datasets: the World Database on Protected Areas, the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas, and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The annual cost of updating and maintaining these datasets is estimated at US$6.5 million. An additional US$114 million will be needed to reach baselines of data coverage for global biodiversity and conservation knowledge products.



2019 subscription income

	USD
TOTAL	1,113,500

2019 expenses

	USD
Support to management, maintenance and interpretation of core IBAT data sets	450,000
Web presence (maintenance of IBAT 2.0 and redevelopment of the new IBAT 3.0 platform)	231,300
Governance, management and coordination (IBAT staff, support to IBAT from Alliance, travel)	231,600
Communications and audience engagement	109,190
Miscellaneous (office equipment, legal, other)	6,650
TOTAL	1,028,740

What next?

The World Economic Forum have reported that 'major biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse' is one of the top ten risks facing our world both by likelihood and impact. The major challenge for conservation organisations is scaling up our activities fast enough to address the biodiversity crisis. Innovative technological solutions, such as IBAT, are essential to ensuring that we can scale up our efforts and ensure that biodiversity is taken into account in decision making across a range of sectors.

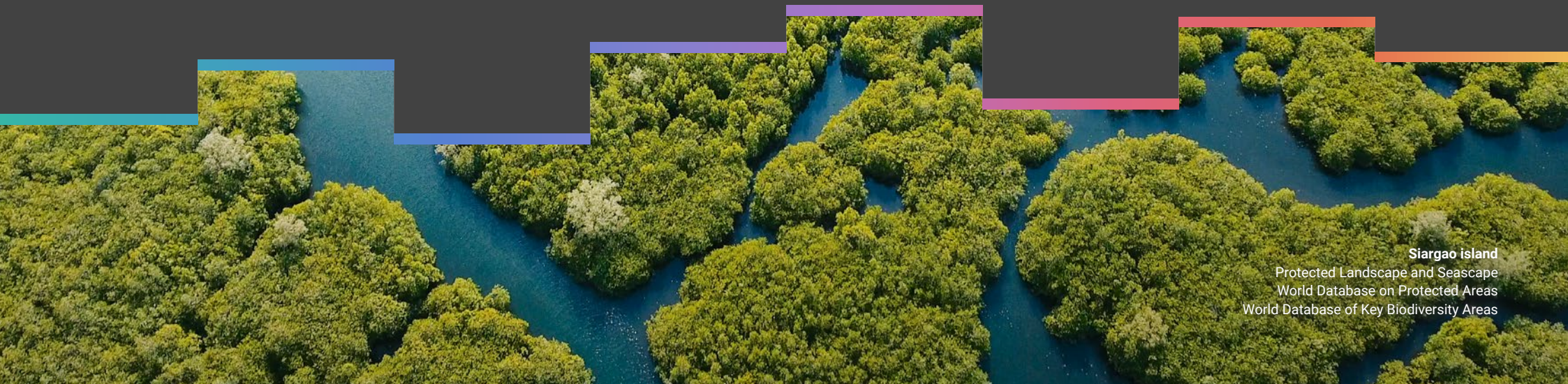
IBAT is now widely used by a suite of sectors including renewable energy, extractives, supply chain, and financial institutions. But we can do more. In 2020 we are: 1. Expanding the IBAT team to ensure that we can serve a growing user base; 2. Delivering key functionalities such as web services allowing the data to be seamlessly integrated into third party applications; and 3. Offering user resources such as webinars to help users better understand, interpret, and use the data.

Finally, IBAT is not just a technological solution to help decision makers - it's also a critical source of funding for updating and maintaining the three most authoritative, global biodiversity datasets. As one of our users said *"Regularly updated, geographically specific information on biodiversity is key"*. We continue to invest as much of the IBAT subscription income as possible into the datasets. We would like to thank IBAT subscribers for their support. It is greatly appreciated.

Veluwezoom National Park
World Database on Protected Areas

Get in touch with us

ibat@ibat-alliance.org
www.ibat-alliance.org



Siargao island
Protected Landscape and Seascape
World Database on Protected Areas
World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas