

IBA Technical Resources - What is available and where to find it

Where to find technical resources

Finalized and draft technical resources developed by BSC (and often in collaboration with our Partners) are available on-line via the national IBA website or available upon request (some materials are confidential). Finalized documents will be updated as required, for example as reporting systems are updated, when population thresholds change, as criteria are updated etc. Partners and coordinators will be advised by e-mail when key technical items are updated and input requested when appropriate.

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What is available?

Guidance Documents and Criteria

1. Title: **Canadian Important Bird Area Criteria (2 versions: original and updated 2012)**
Audience: Partners, coordinators, technical committee members, Caretakers, governments, stakeholders, and the public
Description: The original criteria for nomination/designation of IBAs and updated versions.
Date Finalized: April 2001-original: 2012 updated criteria (not published on the web yet) available upon request.
Notes: Original is available from the national website – [click here](#). *Amendments reflect updates to BirdLife International's standardized criteria, the US Audubon Society's development of continental criteria etc.*
2. Title: **Conducting an IBA Review - Updating Site Information**
Audience: **Partners, coordinators, technical committee members**
Description: Guidance related to why and how to update publicized IBA/site information.
Date Finalized: updated April 2011
Notes: Follow guidance when updating site information to ensure consistent communication of the most relevant details. One aim is to encourage policy, planning, and regulatory type decision-makers to make more informed, more eco-conscious decisions. National partners have reporting responsibilities to BirdLife International and site information must be updated to ensure continued recognition of Canada's global IBAs. Available upon request.
3. Title: **Updating Important Bird Area Information: A Caretakers' Guide**
Audience: **Caretakers**, Partners, coordinators, and technical committee members

Description: Guidance specific to using the Caretaker's report form to update publicized IBA/site information.

Date Finalized: updated April 2011

Notes: Caretakers should follow this guidance when making site visits and using the reporting form to update site information. This will ensure consistent communication of the most relevant details. Available upon request.

4. Title: **Guiding Principles for Nominating and Designating Important Bird Areas and Defining their Boundaries**

Audience: Partners, coordinators, technical committee members, Caretakers, governments, stakeholders, and the public etc.

Description: Provides rationale for the nomination and designation of Canadian IBA's and how their boundaries are defined.

Date Finalized: Updated April 2011.

Notes: Includes information pertaining to why designations may change and how/which sites become officially 'recognized' by BirdLife International. Available from www.ibacanada.org

5. Title: **IBA Boundaries**

Audience: Partners, coordinators, and technical committee members (keen Caretakers)

Description: Describes the common reasons IBAs should be re-digitized and delineation principles.

Date Finalized: April 2011

Notes: The comprehensive 'boundary document' that describe how to define boundaries; provides internationally developed guidance and common sense. Available upon request.

6. Title: **IBA Prioritization Key – Updating Site Information**

Audience: Partners, coordinators, and technical committee members

Description: A guide to prioritizing which IBAs should be targeted first when updating site information.

Date Finalized: June 2010

Notes: Prioritization processes for updating site information and initiating monitoring and conservation initiatives are inherently linked and capacity dependent. Sites are prioritized and stored using tables within an Access shell (see "Databases" below). Available upon request.

7. Title: **IBA Prioritization Key – Monitoring, Assessment, and Conservation (not available yet)**

Audience: Partners, coordinators, and technical committee members

Description: A guide to prioritizing which IBAs should be targeted first when establishing monitoring and assessment programs and initiating restorative/maintenance type conservation activities.

Date Finalized: Draft expected 2011/12 – other supporting information needed

Notes: Prioritization and assessment/monitoring programs will depend, in part, on information collected by Caretakers for updating site information. Monitoring and conservation initiatives are inherently linked and capacity dependent. Available upon request.

8. Title: **Steps to Starting IBA Monitoring (not available)**

This document was not disseminated – but a monitoring protocol for eBird was developed in collaboration with BC Nature. Additional guidance re: specific monitoring protocols for specific birds/groups of birds are being considered.

9. Title: **IBA Conservation Planning and Assessment Guidance (not available yet)**

To follow. This will be an on-going process that will require collaboration within and external to the IBA ‘partnership’. It will require considerable effort to develop a ‘useful’ method and process of assessment. New reporting structures and monitoring forms/templates will also be required and provided. Concepts presented by J. Moore at the 2012 IBA workshop – refer to PPT available from the “Drop Box”. Meetings have been convened with US Audubon and more are to follow in 2012.

10. Title: **IBA Canada eBird protocol**

Description: This document describes how to use the IBA Canada within eBird to submit bird observations so they can be automatically compiled for inclusion in the IBA Site Summary.

Availability: available on the IBA Canada website:

http://www.ibacanada.org/resources/eBird_IBA_protocol.pdf

Databases - Reporting Templates, Population Thresholds, Prioritized IBAs

1. Title: **Prioritized Important Bird Areas (not a document, but information that is available)**

Audience: Partners, coordinators, and technical committee members

Description: Access/Excel tables. Sites can be categorized based on designation, whether threatened populations exist, if overlap exists with protected areas, status following review by BirdLife etc.

Date Finalized: as required/requested by regional partners

Notes: The intent is to target our collective efforts to ensure the most ‘valuable’ and sensitive sites are given priority for updating information, monitoring, assessing, and initiating conservation activities. Our IBA-protected area overlap analysis, the analysis and spreadsheet showing which IBAs may be lost as a result of updates to criteria/thresholds is available etc.

Other information is available upon request and as needed by our Partners.

2. Title: **IBA (live) Web-based Reporting**

Audience: Partners, coordinators, technical committee members

Description: Visit the national website, open a site summary, log-in, and start editing. Designated representatives will be provided with a password; one from each region/or as needed.

Date Finalized: still working out some bugs – but it functions well now.

Notes: A web-based log-in protected editing interface. If the ‘session times out’ copy text, log out and then log in again, and paste text back into the appropriate space. A PPT on how to use this tool is available – see ‘presentations/tutorials’ below. Contact Mike Burrell for further guidance.

3. Title: **Caretakers’ Reporting Form: Updating IBA Information**

Audience: Caretakers, Partners, coordinators, and technical committee members

Description: This is not a site assessment form, but an initial form to help Caretakers, when in the field, document site details required to update publicized information. Format is similar to the live web-based reporting structure and is the precursor to an assessment program.

Notes: This reporting form is subject to change.

4. Title: **Bird Observations Reporting Templates – 2 tables (one for the web, one for eBird)**

Audience: Partners, coordinators, technical committee members, Caretakers, people/groups monitoring birds.

Description: Excel spreadsheet to report bird observations where monitoring results can be integrated into Nature Counts (via eBird or directly via BSC). Restrictions can be added for sensitive information (species at risk for example) where only target audiences are permitted to view and raw data would not be freely disseminated. Do not use this reporting template to bulk upload sensitive information using eBird; please submit sensitive information directly to Mike Burrell. The second table is used to format data so it is ready for upload to our IBA website.

Date Last Updated: April 2014.

Notes: BSC encourages IBA staff/volunteers to disseminate and collect as much ‘external’ information as possible to complement results from studies already integrated into Nature Counts.

5. Title: **Population Thresholds (Confidential) – not web posted**

Audience: Partners, coordinators, technical committee members

Description: Excel/Access table. It is anticipated that for some categories and species that updates will be completed as required. Information will be disseminated upon request to Mike Burrell/Andrew Couturier.

Date Last Updated: Complete – updated when new information comes to light.

Notes: Confidential information. Distribution is restricted and governed solely by BSC.

6. Title: **IBA Monitoring and Assessment Form**

Refer to the Caretaker reporting form and guidance – additional efforts re: documenting conservation activities and management at IBAs will follow – refer to #9 above.

Maps

1. Title: **IBA Polygons – shape file**

Audience: Partners, coordinators, technical committee members, Caretakers, and as formally requested from BSC (by consultancies and governments etc.)

Description: Shape file. Restrictions for use and data sharing agreements with BSC apply. *Do not disseminate, but direct interested parties to Mike Burrell or Andrew Couturier.*

Date Last Updated: on-going as boundaries are modified

Notes: On-going modifications expected as boundaries change. Mailing list is being compiled to provide updates to information consumers in future/as required.

2. Title: **IBA Polygons – KMZ**

Audience: Partners, coordinators, technical committee members, Caretakers, governments and decision-makers, and other volunteers/general public

Description: Save this file under “my places” using Google Earth to visualize IBAs overlain on satellite/other Google supported imagery or upload using ArcGIS Explorer. Will help to visualize extent of sites, identify key survey/observational areas, identify potential threats etc.

Date Last Updated: on-going as boundaries are modified

Notes: Available [here](#) from the IBA Canada website.

3. Title: **IBA Site Maps and Provincial Maps - PDF**

Audience: Partners, coordinators, technical committee members, Caretakers, governments and decision-makers, and other volunteers/general public

Description: Printable PDF site and regional maps are free to download from the IBA website.

Date Last Updated: on-going as boundaries are modified

Notes: Territories have not been completed yet. Contact Mike Burrell if a map is missing or inconsistencies exist. Available [here](#) from the IBA Canada website or directly from site summaries.

4. Title: **ArcGIS Explorer – installation and digitization instructions** – see ‘presentations/tutorials’ below.

5. Title: **Established Monitoring Programs**

Audience: Partners, coordinators, technical committee members, Caretakers and other volunteers

Description: Identifies the location (point/route) where BSC and its partners are conducting standardized bird monitoring studies within each IBA (i.e. CBS, BBS, marsh and loon monitoring etc.). This is available via BSC’s web mapping service (GIS required), or can be requested from Mike Burrell.

Date Last Updated: This information is somewhat outdated – update expected.

Notes:

Presentations/Tutorials

1. Title: **eBird for IBA Caretakers** (created by BSC)
Audience: Partners, coordinators, technical committee members, Caretakers and other volunteers/naturalists
Description: Video– this is a 70 minute video introducing you to features of interest with eBird aimed at IBA Caretakers. It is available on the IBA Canada Youtube channel at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDKIKzje9bY>
Notes: An eBird quick start guide is also available from the excellent help section of eBird (<http://help.ebird.org/>).
2. Title: **ArcGIS Explorer – installation and digitization**
Audience: Partners, coordinators, technical committee members, and Caretakers
Description: PDF with download and instructions on how to use the software to digitize an IBA boundary. Available from the IBA Canada website.
Notes: Any questions, please contact Mike Burrell.
3. Title: **On-line editing tool – how to log in and use the IBA website to update site information**
Audience: Partners, coordinators, technical committee members (one designate/region)
Description: Youtube video recording of webinar (contact Mike Burrell).
Notes: Any questions, please contact Mike Burrell.
4. Title: **Technical Presentations**
Audience: Partners, coordinators, technical committee members (one designate/region)
Description: PPTs by IBA Canada staff are available upon request, however these may also have been disseminated to Partners or are within the newly created Drop Box folder.
Notes: Any questions, please contact Mike Burrell.

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