BirdLife International Important Bird Areas Programme

This document compares the CBD high seas criteria with the BirdLife International Important Bird Areas Programme (IBA) criteria.

Further details on the IBA criteria and the IBA Programme can be found on the BirdLife Website

IBA Programme
http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sites/sites_programme.html

IBA criteria
http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sites/global_criteria.html

Annex I

CBD MPA criteria	Uniqueness or rarity	Special importance for life-history stages of species	Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats	Vulnerability, Fragility, Sensitivity, or Slow recovery	Biological productivity	Biological diversity	Naturalness
BirdLife IBA criteria	**A1, A2 , A3**	**All criteria**	**A1**	**A1**	**All; particularly A4**	**All criteria**	**All?**

Annex II

Required network properties and components	Definition	Applicable site specific considerations (*inter alia*)	BirdLife International marine IBA fit
Ecologically and biologically significant areas	Ecologically and biologically significant areas are geographically or oceanographically discrete areas that provide important services to one or more species/populations of an ecosystem or to the ecosystem as a whole, compared to other surrounding areas or areas of similar ecological characteristics, or otherwise meet the criteria as identified in annex I.	• Uniqueness or rarity	IBAs take account for uniqueness (i.e. A2 biome restricted, and A3 restricted range; though not currently applicable to seabirds) and/or rarity (i.e. A1 – IUCN Red List species)
		• Special importance for life history stages of species	IBAs take account for special importance for life history stages of species. IBAs have been identified for seabirds during breeding, passage and non-breeding seasons
		• Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats	IBAs take account of threat status via criteria A1
		• Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity or slow recovery	covered under IBA criteria A1
		• Biological productivity	Seabirds as top predators are an indicator of the state 9and productivity) of the marine environment
		• Biological diversity	IBAs are suitable for identifying key areas for the vast majority of seabirds during some or all of their annual cycles
		• Naturalness	??

Representativity	Representativity is captured in a network when it consists of areas representing the different biogeographical subdivisions of the global oceans and regional seas that reasonably reflect the full range of ecosystems, including the biotic and habitat diversity of those marine ecosystems.	A full range of examples across a biogeographic habitat, or community classification; relative health of species and communities; relative intactness of habitat(s); naturalness	IBA programme has been applied worldwide using the global A-level criteria. Criteria have also been applied at a regional or sub-regional scale in some areas (e.g. Europe, Middle East, N. America).
Connectivity	Connectivity in the design of a network allows for linkages whereby protected sites benefit from larval and/or species exchanges, and functional linkages from other network sites. In a connected network individual sites benefit one another.	Currents; gyres; physical bottlenecks; migration routes; species dispersal; detritus; functional linkages. Isolated sites, such as isolated seamount communities, may also be included.	IBAs form a network of sites across regions and globally. How well the linkages between sites work is being developed through the flyways approach (currently restricted to the terrestrial/freshwater environments, though certainly applicable and being developed in the marine environment).
			Migration bottlenecks are one of the four types of marine IBA. Already several sites identified.

			Currents, gyres, and seamounts have been identified as some of a number (more than those listed) of key oceanographic variables that effect seabird distribution and result in aggregations that may trigger IBA criteria. These features may be used to help delineate marine IBAs
Replicated ecological features	Replication of ecological features means that more than one site shall contain examples of a given feature in the given biogeographic area. The term "features" means "species, habitats and ecological processes" that naturally occur in the given biogeographic area.	Accounting for uncertainty, natural variation and the possibility of catastrophic events. Features that exhibit less natural variation or are precisely defined may require less replication than features that are inherently highly variable or are only very generally defined.	IBAs are applied in such a way that as long as one or more of the 4 global criteria is met, then the area can become an IBA. This means that there are (in most cases) more than 1 IBA for each species. Exceptions may exist where a species nests in a restricted area (e.g. only on 1 island globally), though more than one sites for each species should be identified once at sea feeding areas have been adequately covered.
Adequate and viable sites	Adequate and viable sites indicate that all sites within a network should have size and protection sufficient to ensure the ecological viability and integrity of the feature(s) for which they were selected.	Adequacy and viability will depend on size; shape; buffers; persistence of features; threats; surrounding environment (context); physical constraints; scale of features / processes; spillover / compactness	IBA boundaries are set to adequately provide the necessary resources for the trigger species they have been identified for them though an extended period of time.