Launched globally in 2005, the **Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE)** was established to designate and effectively conserve the most important sites for global biodiversity conservation. Today, over 100 conservation groups comprise the Alliance.

The [Alliance for Zero Extinction](https://zeroextinction.org/) engages governments, multilateral institutions and non-governmental biodiversity conservation organizations working to prevent species extinctions. Just under 1,500 of Earth’s most endangered species are restricted to just a single site, making these sites globally irreplaceable from a biodiversity conservation viewpoint.

The Alliance for Zero Extinction has identified 853 AZE sites, which are the areas that hold the last-remaining populations of one or more species evaluated to be Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. These sites, a subset of Key Biodiversity Areas, must be effectively conserved to prevent the loss of the world’s species at highest risk of extinction, through protected area planning or other effective area -based conservation measures.

**The conservation of these 853 sites, identified globally using standardized criteria, must be the world’s top priority to prevent species extinctions**.

**AZE sites as indicators**

Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites are response targets (outcomes) that are:

* Specific, measureable, and identified using globally standardized criteria through broad consultation
* Consistent and comparable across countries

The [*Quick guide to Aichi Biodiversity Target 12*](https://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/targets/T12-quick-guide-en.pdf)statesthat *“*imminent extinctions of known threatened species can in many cases be prevented by protecting important habitats (such as Alliance for Zero Extinction sites).”

AZE sites have been successfully mainstreamed into key financial sector entities, including the IFC’s [Guidance Note 6](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/5e0f3c0c-0aa4-4290-a0f8-4490b61de245/GN6_English_June-27-2019.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=mKqG85z) and The World Bank’s [ESS6](http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/837721522762050108/Environmental-and-Social-Framework.pdf#page=81&zoom=80), and can be further integrated into other sectors.

**Recommendations**
1. We **recommend that the conservation of AZE sites be considered as an indicator related to preventing species extinctions and to conserving biodiversity** (Aichi Targets 12 and 11/GBF Target 2).

2. We further **recommend that the successful integration of AZE site conservation into multiple sectors be considered as an indicator for mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors** (GBF Target 13)**.**