IBAT

Services overview

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

IUCN

UN environment programme

WCMC

Borneo Birdwing
Troides andromache
Vulnerable

Introduction

The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT)
is an Alliance between BirdLife International, United Nations
Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring
Centre, The International Union for Conservation of
Nature (IUCN) and Conservation International.

IBAT is a biodiversity data provider licencing commercial access to global biodiversity datasets and derived data layers including the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™**, the **World Database on Protected Areas** (WDPA) and the **World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas** (WDKBA).

IBAT also provides access to biodiversity reports that offer fast, easy and web-based methods of querying these global datasets to gain site-specific insights on biodiversity risk and opportunities. IBAT Reports include a Disclosure Preparation Report, Proximity Analysis, IFC & World Bank PS6/ESS6 Report on Critical Habitat, Freshwater Report, Multi-site Analysis and Species Threat Abatement and Restoration Metric Report. Examples of all the reports and an extract of GIS data can be downloaded here or requested on demand.

Access to IBAT Datasets and Reports is arranged through a subscription or Pay As You Go download, which automatically includes a licence to use the data for commercial purposes: i.e. *(a) any use by, on behalf of, or to inform or assist the activities of, a commercial entity (an entity that operates 'for profit') or (b) use by any individual or non-profit entity for the purposes of revenue generation.*

IBAT provides a range of tutorials, guidance documents and webinars through a dedicated resources page.

To see testimonials of how other companies are using IBAT, please see here. For other FAQs see here or contact us at ibat@ibat-alliance.org

Contents

Key features

Early-stage, fast, efficient, and cost-effective biodiversity risk screening

Access up-to-date, standardised and authoritative biodiversity data

Identify opportunities for nature positive actions aligned with corporate or global targets

Create bespoke project reports for environmental due diligence

Create reports across company portfolio for annual sustainability reporting TNFD, GRI 101, SASB Standards, SFDR Disclosures and ESRS

Download spatial data for internal GIS platforms

Access a network of biodiversity experts across the world's largest conservation partnerships

Inform your corporate biodiversity strategy in line with hundreds of the world's leading organisations also using IBAT

1—The Data

Waved Albatross
Phoebastria irrorata
Critically Endangered

IBAT hosts and maintains three key global biodiversity datasets.

The three authoritative datasets in IBAT are used for international reporting purposes e.g. the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Biodiversity Targets (particularly Targets 11 and 12), to the UN to track progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (Indicators 14 & 15), to some of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) core indicators, and other international assessments and reports including the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

Information on national-level statistics from the IBAT databases can be found under IBAT's Country Profiles.

IBAT provides the most up to date information from each of the global datasets to ensure the information our customers are accessing accurately reflects our ever-changing world. Revenue generated through IBAT subscriptions is invested directly back into the data, helping meet the over **US$6.5 million** needed each year to update and maintain these databases.

Sri Lankan elephant
Elephas maximus
Endangered

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (also known as the IUCN Red List), is a rich compendium of information on threats, ecological requirements, and habitats of over 155,000* species; and on conservation actions that can be taken to reduce or prevent extinctions.

It is based on an objective system for assessing the risk of extinction of a species based on past, present, and projected threats. Species assessments are conducted following a standardised process using the rigorous IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria, ensuring the highest standards of scientific documentation, information management, expert review, and justification. IUCN aims to re-evaluate species' IUCN Red List categories every five to ten years to monitor change.

The IUCN Red List is updated routinely throughout the year with submission target dates viewable here.

IUCN Red List data can be downloaded from IBAT at the global or sub-global level (<1 million km²). This download contains species' ranges, species' point data and a full species taxonomy for the latest IUCN Red List.

*As of January 2024

World Database on Protected Areas

The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is the most comprehensive global database of marine and terrestrial protected areas.

The WDPA is a joint project between the UN Environment Programme and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Data and information in the WDPA underpin the publication of the United Nations List of Protected Areas.

The compilation and management of the WDPA is carried out by the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), in collaboration with governments, non-governmental organisations, academia and industry. The WDPA is sourced from almost 500 data providers in 245 countries and territories. These include governments, international secretariats, regional entities, NGOs and individuals.

Note, some data providers place restrictions on the use of the data provided to the WDPA. These can include prohibiting the use by commercial entities of the data provided. The WDPA information provided through the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool, or IBAT, is bound by these restrictions.

The WDPA is updated at the start of each month in IBAT and represents over 295,000* sites around the world.

Further information and metadata on Protected Areas can be seen in the WDPA Manual and IUCN Management Categories.

*As of June 2024

World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) are the most important places in the world for species and their habitats.

The KBA network includes *'sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity'*, in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems.

Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet one or more of 11 criteria, clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and irreplaceability.

One subset of KBAs includes the Alliance for Zero extinction sites, which hold the last-remaining populations of 1,483 of the Earth's most threatened species. Protecting these sites is essential to preventing species extinction.

The World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (WDKBA) is managed by BirdLife International on behalf of the KBA Partnership and is updated twice per year.

Further information on the process and methodology for identifying sites as KBAs can be found in the KBA Standard and associated guidelines, as well as their business user guidance.

The Species Threat Abatement and Restoration Metric

The Species Threat Abatement and Restoration Metric (STAR) uses data on the distribution, threats, and extinction risk of Threatened and Near-Threatened species.

The Species Threat Abatement and Restoration Metric (STAR) is a raster data layer and IBAT Report derived from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.

For the first time, STAR allows organisations to quantify the potential contributions that species threat abatement and restoration activities offer towards reducing extinction risk across the world.

STAR shows how interventions deliver reductions in pressure that can result in changes to the Red List Index (RLI), which is used as the biodiversity indicator for the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Targets and the United Nations System for Environmental-Economic Accounting.

STAR will be highly relevant for organisations contributing towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as organisations setting science-based targets for nature.

IBAT has produced an Industry Briefing Note on STAR and for more information on the calculation and interpretation of STAR, please refer to IBAT's Business User Guidance.

STAR Scores reflect:

- The number and Red List categories of Threatened and Near-Threatened species present at a site or administrative region, and the proportion of their ranges occupied by the site. The greater the proportion of species' ranges occupied by the site, the greater influence a project can have over the populations that live there, and the more threatened they are, the larger the potential return.

- How much each kind of pressure affects those species. The greater the potential reduction in a pressure is, the greater the potential return

- The effectiveness with which particular pressures are reduced by interventions

- STAR Scores represent the opportunity to reduce the threat status for species of conservation concern to the category of 'Least Concern' - if all species were Least Concern, the STAR score for a given area would be 0.
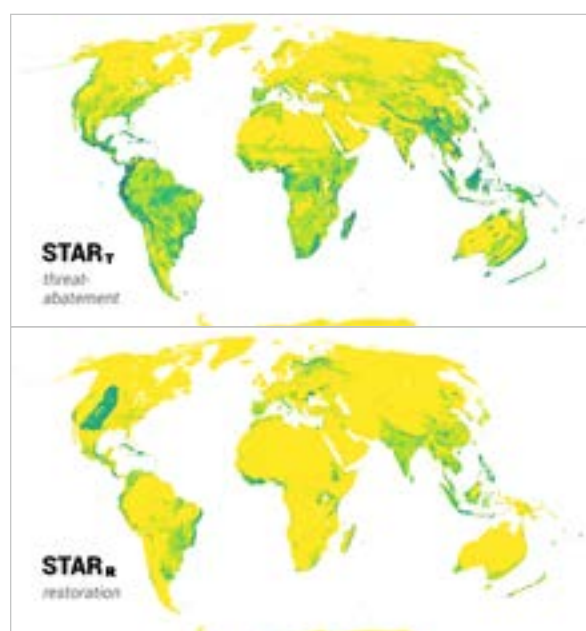
Rarity-Weighted Richness data layer

IUCN Red List Rarity-Weighted Richness data layer

The rarity-weighted richness map is a raster layer showing the relative importance of each ~1km (30 arc-seconds) grid cell in terms of its aggregate contribution to the global distribution of species of mammals, birds, amphibians, crabs, crayfishes and shrimps. The rarity-weighted richness for each species within a grid cell was calculated as the contribution of the cell toward the global distribution of the species. These scores were summed across all species present within a grid cell to give an overall score.

High values show that a cell holds a large number of species and/or that the average ranges of the species present in the cell are small, so that the cell represents a relatively high proportion of their range.

Loss of species' populations in such cells is therefore of disproportionate significance in terms of loss of global biodiversity (at least for the taxonomic groups considered). Rarity-weighted richness is also known as 'range-size rarity' or 'range-rarity', and has been used as a metric of 'biodiversity significance'.

2–Reports

IBAT offers a variety of reports to suit all of your reporting needs. All reports can be accessed as Pay As You Go or through an annual subscription.

Mount Hood Wilderness Area, USA
World Database on Protected Areas

Disclosure Preparation Report

The Disclosure Preparation report identifies and prioritises sensitive sites in terms of their importance for biodiversity.

The report is particularly relevant for the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) recommended disclosure Strategy D and the Locate phase of the TNFD LEAP approach as well as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Disclosure 101-4 'Identification of biodiversity impacts' and Disclosure 101-5 'Locations with biodiversity impacts' within GRI 101: Biodiversity 2024.

Sensitive sites are defined as sites where:

- The area of influence (site + buffer) overlaps with a protected area or Key Biodiversity Area (KBA).
- The area of influence (site + buffer) has STAR Threat Abatement and/or STAR Restoration scores exceeding the global median values of 0.01 and 0.003 respectively.

Sensitive sites are then given a significance score to aid the prioritisation of sites. Significance scores of high, medium, and low are assigned based on the proximity of the site to a KBA or protected area relative to the appropriate buffer size based on the type of operation and also the maximum STAR Threat Abatement and STAR Restoration scores found within the area of influence.

Disclosure Preparation Report files

Suitable for

The assessment of sensitivity and prioritization of sites to prepare for disclosure via the TNFD or GRI

Contains

Protected areas, Key Biodiversity Areas & IUCN Red List Species

Location

Multiple points, polygons or line features can be included. Up to 1,000 sites

Buffers

A buffer of either 5km, 10km, 20km or 50km is automatically applied depending on the type of site/operation

The report can be used to:

- Assess proximity of sites to protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas
- Determine which species may be present within 50km of each site
- Identify sites which are sensitive with regards to importance for biodiversity
- Prioritize sites in preparation for disclosure and to help guide action

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2 PDF Reports

The first PDF contains the classification of all sites as sensitive or not sensitive based and the prioritisation of sensitive sites. The second PDF contains further information on sensitive sites ordered by potential priority.

README

2 README files (1 PDF and 1 CSV) containing an overview of methodology, the definition of terms, the IBAT platform, limitations, a disclaimer, and recommended citations.

CSV Files

Full attribute lists of protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas including distance from site and overlap with site. IUCN Red List species found potentially found within 50km of each site. Overall results showing which criteria are triggering sensitivity and significance.

Use Case

The assessment of sensitivity and prioritization of sites to prepare for disclosure via the TNFD or GRI.

Proximity Report

Screen an Area of Interest at the project-level and determine its proximity to protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas within three buffer distances between 1-50km.

The report also provides insights on Threatened species within a 50km buffer.

This report represents the starting point for many biodiversity risk screenings and is consequently available across all IBAT Subscriptions in addition to Pay As You Go.
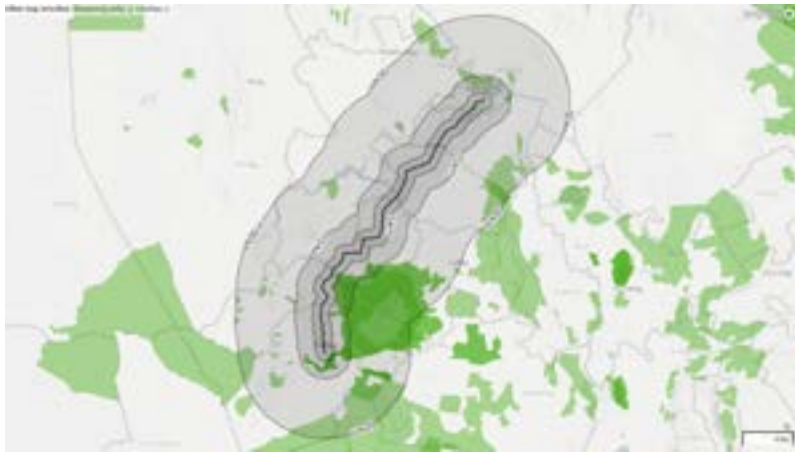
Example Proximity Report map with three buffer zones

Suitable for

High-level early stage biodiversity risk screening of projects

Contains

Protected areas, Key Biodiversity Areas & IUCN Red List Species

Location

Single point, polygon or line feature

Buffers

User specified - Select up to three buffers between 1km and 50km for your geometry.

The report can be used to:

- Screen investments, prospect sites and investigate proximity to biodiversity
- Guide the scope of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Check that the results of an EIA have captured globally-important aspects of biodiversity

Proximity Report files

PDF Report

Summary of protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas overlapped for each buffer and IUCN Red List of Threatened Species for a 50km buffer.

PNG Files

Two .png files showing the outline of the project and chosen buffers in relation to protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas.

CSV Files

Full attribute lists of protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas for each buffer selected and IUCN Red List Species for a 50km buffer.

Use Case

High-level early stage biodiversity risk screening for a single site.

README

A README file containing an overview of the IBAT platform, limitations, a disclaimer and recommended citations.

Download example

PS6 - ESS6 Report

Initial screening for International Finance Corporation Performance Standard 6/ World Bank Environment & Social Standard 6 Report.

This report offers IBAT users the chance to screen an Area of Interest at the project-level and identify potential Critical Habitat.

Using set buffer distances of 1, 10 and 50km, the Report calculates the proximity of sensitive protected areas in the form of IUCN protected area management categories Ia, Ib and II, as well as 'Natural' or 'Mixed' World Heritage Sites. Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are also identified with special consideration given to Alliance for Zero Extinction sites. For KBAs, the report considers sites that support Critically Endangered, Endangered, restricted-range and congregatory species. The report also provides insights on Critically Endangered, Endangered, and restricted-range species within a 50km buffer.

Based on the findings of the report, a determination of the likelihood of Critical Habitat being present is stated as either 'Unclassified', 'Potential' or 'Likely'.

Suitable for

High-level early stage biodiversity risk screening against IFC and World Bank performance standards

Contains

Protected areas, Key Biodiversity Areas & IUCN Red List Species

Location

Single point, polygon or line feature

Buffers

Predefined at 1, 10 and 50km

Likelihood of Critical Habitat flagged

The report can be used to:

- Scope risks to include within an assessment of risks and impacts
- Identify gaps within an existing assessment of risks and impacts
- Prioritise between sites in a portfolio for further assessment of risks and impacts
- Inform a preliminary determination of Critical Habitat
- Assess the need for engaging a biodiversity specialist
- Identify additional conservation experts or organizations to inform further assessment or planning

PS6-ESS6 Report files

PDF Report

Summary of protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas overlapped for 1km, 10km and 50km buffers, as well as their likelihood to trigger Critical Habitat. IUCN Red List Species within a 50km buffer and restricted range species.

PNG Files

Two .png files showing the outline of the project and buffers in relation to protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas.

CSV Files

Full attribute lists of protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas for each buffer and IUCN Red List Species for a 50km buffer.

PDF Report

High-level early stage biodiversity risk screening for a single site with specific reference to PSS6 and ESS6.

README

A README file containing an overview of the IBAT platform, limitations, a disclaimer and recommended citations.

Download example

Freshwater Report

This report draws from assessments made by the IUCN Freshwater Unit on the global distribution of freshwater decapods, fishes, molluscs, odonates, plants and turtles.

The report uses the HydroBASINS Level 8 data layer to identify freshwater sub-basins within specified zones upstream and downstream of a chosen point. The report highlights the presence of freshwater species within HydroBASINS as well as those that are migratory in nature. This reflects the unique nature of freshwater systems, which have high degrees of connectivity meaning pressures can be transported large distances.

Suitable for

High-level early stage biodiversity risk screening of projects with potential to impact on freshwater ecosystems

Contains

Freshwater species upstream and downstream of a specified location

Location

Single point

Buffers

Select three zones upstream and downstream of the given location

This report can be used to:

- Determine which species may be present in a specific project site and the sub-basins hydrologically connected (upstream and downstream).
- Understand the IUCN Red List Categories of these species.
- Understand the movement patterns (migratory status) of freshwater species.

Example map of an upstream hydrobasin from a Freshwater Report

Freshwater Report files

PDF Report

Summarises freshwater species in hydrobasins upstream and downstream of a specified location within the specified buffers.

CSV Files

One file for each of the buffers specified (as well as the exact site basin) containing IUCN Red List species for a 50km buffer.

README

A README file containing an overview of the IBAT platform, limitations, a disclaimer and recommended citations.

Use Case

High-level early stage biodiversity risk screening for a single site with potential to impact freshwater ecosystems.

Download example
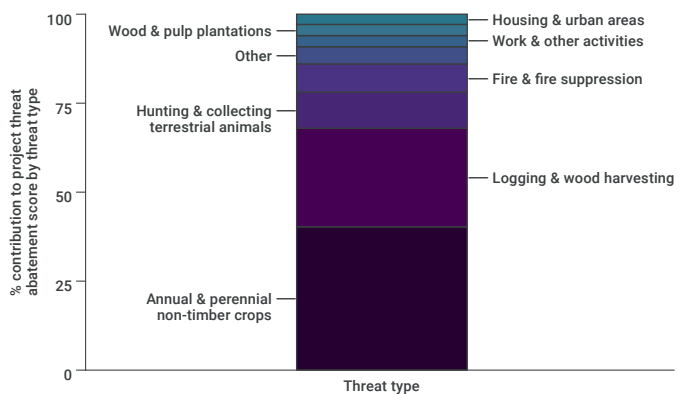
STAR Report

STAR

STAR is a biodiversity metric that uses the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species data to estimate the potential reduction in species extinction risk that could be achieved at a site, across a corporate footprint, or within a country.

It can also be used to set species extinction risk targets, and measure progress towards those targets.

STAR is calculated in a standardised way, using global and spatially explicit data, meaning that scores can be assessed, compared and added for any site, country or region. STAR scores can also be broken down to show the contributions of individual threat types. STAR's scaleability lends itself to a range of private and public sector application, as it enables identification and comparison of opportunities and risks across multiple projects or assets, and can help set science-based targets for nature at a range of scales.

Contains

IUCN Red List Species (Birds, Mammals and Amphibians)

Location

Any point, polygon or line feature

This report can be used to:

- Screen for opportunities to invest in the most impactful conservation actions
- Screen for conservation risks associated with business operations
- Set science-based targets focused on species extinction-risk
- Plan mitigation actions and identify locations suitable for offsets
- Track progress towards delivering corporate biodiversity goals

Example map from a STAR report

Example breakdown of STAR Threat Abatement scores within the Area of Interest by threat type

STAR Report files

PDF Report – STAR Threat Abatement and Restoration scores for species located within an Area of Interest with maps displaying spatial variation in STAR opportunities. Scores for Threat Abatement and Restoration are disaggregated by threat type. IBAT's STAR Briefing Note and Business User guidance also included as PDFs.

Zip Files – 4 CSV Files containing the breakdown of STAR Threat Abatement and Restoration scores by threat type, and for each grid cell. For Enterprise and Enterprise Plus Subscribers, an additional CSV File containing a list of the individual species present in the AOI.

README – PDF "README" containing recommended use of IBAT and limitations.

Use Case – Identification of opportunities for positive biodiversity actions and target setting, as well as screening for investment opportunities or risks.

Download example

Multi-site Report

The Multi-site Report enables users to identify the biodiversity-related features of multiple operational sites for corporate disclosure.

The Multi-site Report serves to facilitate corporate assessments of biodiversity risk and improve the inclusion of biodiversity within annual sustainability reporting. In particular, this report is relevant for Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard GRI 304: Biodiversity and the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (among other reporting mechanisms). For each operational site chosen by the user, the following biodiversity-related features are provided; counts of protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) within the selected radius of operational sites, counts of Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable IUCN Red List species that are potentially found within a 50 km radius.

Total and mean scores associated with the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration Metric (STAR) are also provided to allow users to determine the relative opportunities for positive biodiversity action at sites.

Suitable for

Incorporating biodiversity into annual sustainability reporting (e.g. reporting against GRI 304, SASB standards or SFDR Disclosure requirements)

Contains

Protected areas, Key Biodiversity Areas & IUCN Red List Species, total and mean STAR scores per site
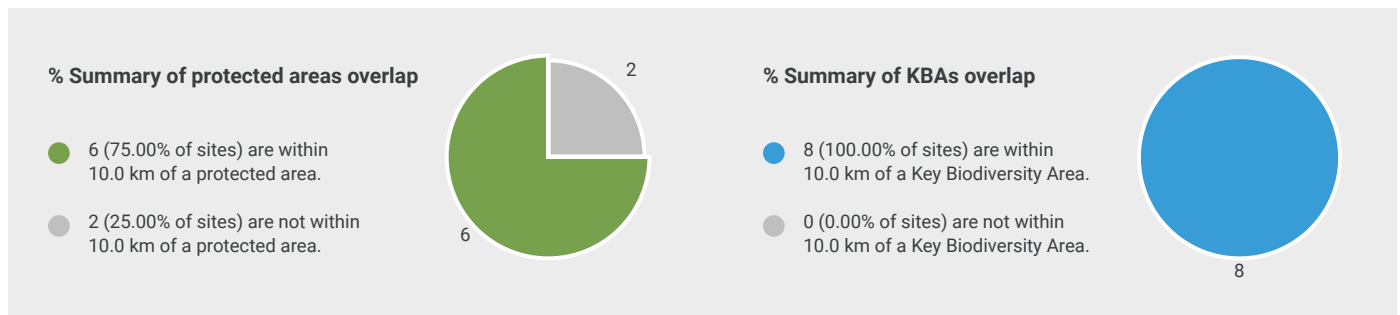
Location

Multiple points, polygons or line features can be included for up to 1000 sites. Contact us if larger assessments are needed.

Buffers

Select a single buffer between 1-50km to be applied to all sites.

This report can be used to:

- Conduct corporate biodiversity assessments suitable for annual sustainability reporting and meeting global certification standards

% Summary of protected areas overlap

- 6 (75.00% of sites) are within 10.0 km of a protected area.
- 2 (25.00% of sites) are not within 10.0 km of a protected area.

% Summary of KBAs overlap

- 8 (100.00% of sites) are within 10.0 km of a Key Biodiversity Area.
- 0 (0.00% of sites) are not within 10.0 km of a Key Biodiversity Area.

Example excerpts from a Multi-site Report

Multi-site Report files

PDF Report – Protected areas, Key Biodiversity Areas and IUCN Red List Species visualised and compared across a portfolio of sites. Includes total and mean STAR Threat Abatement and Restoration Scores for each site.

CSV Files – Five files detailing the protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas within chosen buffer of each site, IUCN Red List category counts for each site, total and mean STAR scores for each site and a summary overlaps table.

README – A README file containing an overview of the IBAT platform, limitations, a disclaimer and recommended citations

Use Case – Incorporating biodiversity into annual sustainability reporting (e.g. reporting against GRI or SASB standards).

Download example

3—Subscriptions

Northern Long-eared Owl
Asio otus
Least Concern

Subscriptions

FREE

$0

- Access to Country Profiles
- Visual Data Map displaying:
  - Protected Areas,
  - Key Biodiversity Areas
  - IUCN Red List Species
  - STAR Layer (50km resolution)
  - Rarity-weighted species richness
- Download reports using Pay As You Go
- Save sites

> Free IBAT Accounts **do not constitute a licence** to inform commercial decisions (except when using Pay As You Go) and will not offer sufficient information for biodiversity risk screening

BASIC

$5,000
USD per annum

Everything in Free and:

- Access to Site Catalogue
- Upload & save multiple locations to Visual Data Map
- 10 proximity reports

PRO

$15,000
USD per annum

Everything in Basic and:

- Access to 5km resolution STAR layer on map
- 30 PS6 ESS6 reports, 30 proximity reports, 30 freshwater reports and 30 STAR reports
- 1 million sqkm GIS download – IUCN Red List, WDPA, WDKBA
- 100,000 sqkm GIS download – STAR and Rarity-weighted species richness
- 3 Multi-site reports
- 1 Disclosure Preparation Report (up to 300 sites)

ENTERPRISE

$25,000
USD per annum

Everything in Pro and:

- Unlimited GIS download (IUCN Red List, WDPA, WDKBA)
- 1 million sqkm GIS download – STAR and Rarity-weighted species richness
- Unlimited reports
- 3 Disclosure Preparation Reports (up to 1000 sites each)

ENTERPRISE PLUS

$35,000
USD per annum

Everything in Enterprise and:

- Unlimited GIS Download (STAR and Rarity-weighted species richness)
- Access to web services
- Unlimited Disclosure Preparation Reports (up to 1000 sites each)

> Consultants can use a companies' IBAT Subscription on their behalf at no extra cost. Alternatively, consultants can access Pay As You Go and contact the IBAT team to set up bespoke consultancy plans

Pay As You Go

Whilst not a subscription, the PAYG service is designed for consultancies to create one-off project screenings or GIS downloads on behalf of other organisations, or for companies themselves to purchase ad hoc reports.

GIS download (the cost is charged per GIS download and not for the total area of GIS downloads for more than 1 project*)

< 2,500km²	$1,000
2,500 - 100,000km²	$2,500
100,000 - 1,000,000km²	$5,000

Report Options

Single Report	$750
Multi-site Report (GRI)	$5,000

* Choose from either Core Datasets (IUCN Red List, WDPA, WDKBA) or Derived Datasets (STAR & Rarity-Weighted Richness)

For Disclosure Preparation Reports

Single site	$1000
Up to 20 sites	$2,500
Up to 100 sites	$5,000
Up to 1000 sites	$7,500
>1000 sites	Enterprise subscription, or multiple reports using above pricing

Report types

More information about the different report types and GIS downloads, as well as examples, can be found here.

Geodatabase

- **Contains** - Protected areas, Key Biodiversity Areas and IUCN Red List Species
- **Suitable for** - Complete global spatial data
- Only available to **Enterprise and Enterprise Plus subscribers**

GIS Downloads

IBAT offers GIS Downloads that are available on Pay As You Go or through an annual subscription. These files can then be imported into your own systems for advanced analysis.

- **Contains** - Choose from either Core Datasets (IUCN Red List, WDPA, WDKBA) or Derived Datasets (STAR & Rarity-Weighted Richness)
- **Suitable for** - Complete spatial data for a specific region of interest
- Location - Up to 1,000,000 km²

Download example

IBAT's web services (APIs)

Access to IBAT's web services (APIs), which currently deliver the World Database on Protected Areas and The World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas data (see documentation here) and the IUCN Red List (see documentation here).

API integration will allow organisations to automatically retrieve the latest biodiversity information from IBAT to include in internal GIS tools.

Veluwezoom National Park
World Database on Protected Areas

IBAT

Get in touch with us

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www.ibat-alliance.org

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

IUCN

UN environment programme

WCMC

Humphead wrasse
Cheilinus undulatus
Endangered