

Easter Health-check and KBA Guardian FAQ

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Last updated December 2022

KBA Guardian

What does being a KBA Guardian involve?

The minimum core task for an KBA Guardian is to complete the annual KBA Easter Health-check for their KBA. This should take no more than 2-3 hrs a year.

Many Guardians take their role beyond the health-check to improve the conservation of the KBA and its birds e.g. by conducting bird surveys, raising awareness through working with local councils on signage or advocacy.

How long can I be a Guardian for?

We are asking people to consider committing to the Guardianship in the long term. Experience goes a long way in this business but more importantly following a KBA over years also leads to ever growing enjoyment and appreciation.

Do I need to be an experienced birder?

No. The beauty of the KBA program is that it focuses on biodiversity in general. So we actively encourage anyone with local environmental knowledge and interest (bird or otherwise) to consider a Guardianship. Their knowledge will add a lot to the conservation effort.

What support can I get?

The KBA program is a priority for many BirdLife Australia branches and the National office. Some branches have KBA coordinators or conservation officers who can support you and there is always support available through the National Office KBA Project Coordinator (KBA@birdlife.org.au).

How can I become a KBA Guardian?

Please contact the National KBA Program Manager (KBA@birdlife.org.au) to find out about a KBA in need of a guardian and to register as a volunteer KBA Guardian. If you want to find your own KBA to adopt you can browse the Google Earth file from the BirdLife Australia KBA website <https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org.au/resources> and click on the KBA SPATIAL DATA LAYER you are interested in to see if it still needs a Guardian.

What if my local KBA already has a Guardian?

Fantastic! They are more than likely keen to get support in their work improving the KBA. The National KBA Project Coordinator can facilitate contact.

There are also a number of remote KBAs in need of Guardians. For those areas the KBA Easter Health-check could be conducted as a desktop exercise or you might just be tempted to visit...

KBA Easter Health-check

What is the Health-check good for?

The KBA Easter Health-check informs BirdLife Australia about the conservation threats and positive actions in each KBA and tells us where to focus our efforts. Together with Bird Survey data this results in a very powerful tool for science-based conservation.

The Health-check is also used to update the KBA information on BirdLife International's website <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/site>.

How much work is The Easter Health-check?

For anyone familiar with their KBA filling out the KBA Easter Health-check should take between 1-3 hrs a year only. If you are taking on an KBA you are unfamiliar with or for the first time it may require more effort in the first year, maybe even a whole day's work.

I feel I do not know enough about the KBA should I still consider becoming its Guardian?

Yes, absolutely; for three reasons:

1. For BirdLife Australia any information is better than none as some KBAs have received almost no attention since their declaration in 2009.
2. The Easter Health-check is repeated annually. Filling it in will identify areas where you would like to know more. Filling in these gaps could be a focus of your guardianship in the following year and you can then update and refine the information in the next Health-check.
3. Even experienced Guardians sometimes feel like that as the old adage goes: the more you know the more questions you have.

Where can I find the KBA Health-check?

All KBA Health-checks are online now:

<https://portal.birdlife.org.au/kba-health-check/>

If you have a birddata login already use this to access the site if not create a login here:

<https://support.birdlife.org.au/sign-up>

Can anyone fill in the KBA Easter Health-check?

To avoid duplication and wasted effort, we ask that only registered KBA-Guardians fill out the Health-check and do so for 'their' KBA only.

Where can I find more info about the tech specs of my KBA?

The website <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/search> has general information about Australia's KBAs. This BirdLife International website gets updated as required with information provided by BirdLife Australia.

You can also click on the map on <https://birdlife.org.au/programs/key-biodiversity-areas/> to find out about trigger species and KBA-Guardians of each every KBA.

Where can I find out about the exact location of KBAs?

You can download a Google Earth .kzm file of all Australian KBAs from the website

<https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org.au/resources>

This can be viewed and navigated using Google Earth available for free download here

<https://www.google.com/earth/download/ge/agree.html>

Where can I find out about the bird surveys of my KBA?

Knowing about bird surveys in your KBA is important to fill out the Easter Health-check but the Health-check itself is NOT a report on Bird Survey Data and does NOT expect you to collect or summarize bird surveys.

If you require bird survey data as part of the habitat assessment you can find fully vetted surveys on birddata using the explore tab and choosing your KBA of interest.

https://birddata.birdlife.org.au/explore#area_layer_id=2

If you need a detailed extraction of survey data for your area, please contact the National KBA Project Coordinator (KBA@birdlife.org.au)

On eBird you can find bird surveys for 'your' KBA as described on this website.

<https://ebird.org/explore/birdlife>

Or detailed surveys reports directly to the National KBA Project Coordinator (KBA@birdlife.org.au)

Published reports in Ornithological journals can be found here: <https://sora.unm.edu/>

Where can I find out more about the Threats to my KBA?

Guardians that live or work near the KBA will often be able to complete the Threats section based on following the local news.

Other sources especially for the desktop Health-check include:

- Talking to Branch Conservation officer
- The list of EPBC referrals <http://epbcnotices.environment.gov.au/referralslist/>
- Council planning schemes
- Web search using the KBA or national parks name
- Talking to Friends of... groups

Where can I find out more about the Conservation Actions for my KBA?

Sources especially for the desktop Health-check include:

- Talking to Branch Conservation officer
- Talking to Friends groups

- Calling up National Parks Staff where the KBA overlaps with Parks,
- Talking to Indigenous Rangers where they are involved in the area's management
- Getting in touch with the 'Natural Resources Management' bodies and checking their environmental management plans
- Web search

What is a desktop only Health-check?

Wherever possible we aim to find a KBA-Guardian who lives or works near the KBA as they will often be aware of threats and conservation actions simply because they follow local news.

If you conduct a desktop analysis, please tick the appropriate box.

This approach provides data for areas that would otherwise remain entirely unsurveyed.

Desktop Health-checks have been approved by BirdLife International.

What happens to the data I collect?

The data will be used by BirdLife Australia and BirdLife International for conservation work likely including the publication of summary data but not datasets collected by one individual without their consent. The data will not be sold. Details are outlined in the volunteering and data use agreement available here: <https://birdlife.org.au/programs/key-biodiversity-areas/>