Internship Final Report Guidelines

1.Title of internship: Update of the information on species, criteria and limits of the IBAs of the Americas

2. Host country, site location, and the dates of internship

Ecuador, Quito, 8 de noviembre del 2022 al 7 de marzo del 2023

Nombres de las instituciones patrocinadoras involucradas en la pasantía

1. **CLP, Birdlife International**

4.**The overall aim summarised in 10–15 words**

The overall is to support the Head of conservation in activities related to the KBA/IBA Program, as well as with project management activities and starts on November 08, 2022 and ends on March 07, 2023.

The purpose of the internship is to assist in all activities related to the IBA/KBA Program in order to obtain an updated database about IBAs in the Americas: review and update the World Bird Database (WBDB), check for inconsistencies in IBA polygon boundaries, review of IBA data and criteria submitted by partners during site updates or new site proposals. Mapping Local Conservation Groups and support the Americas BirdLife partnership and secretariat.

5. Full name of intern

Estefania Camila Montesdeoca Narvaez

6.Full name of Supervisor(s) and their affiliation

Maria Gabriela Toscano. IBA/KBA Program Manager, Birdlife International

7.Permanent contact address, e-mail and website of the intern

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Section 1:

Executive Summary (max 200 words)

The activities carried out during the internship were mainly based on the evaluation of IBAs from the Americas against IBA and KBA criteria and polygon metadata for 5 countries: Colombia, Mexico, Honduras, Brazil and Argentina. I got trained in the application of IBA (Important Area for Birds and Biodiversity) and also took the online course on KBA (Key Biodiversity Area) criteria and then applied to the 5 countries updates.

Mapping the local conservation groups (LCG) in the Americas IBAs, with the objective of contacting them to identify their activities, needs and plan strengthening programs for the future.

Part of my internship was assist the program officer on different activities, for example: AFI : Bird migratory routes were prioritized using the Conservation Initiatives Criteria, Conservation Status Criteria, Geographic Criteria, Population and Ecology Criteria, Monitoring and Management Criteria through analysis. In addition, relevant information on the species was included, such as the total number of individuals, the order to which they belong, and the state of conservation.

World Bird Database (WBDB): Systematization of 87 polygons of Mexico according to eight criteria: Distribution, records and abundance of Trigger species, Vegetation cover or optimal habitats for priority species, and other relevant layers. The systematized information was uploaded to the WDBD.

Introduction (max 250 words)

To conserve the most important sites for biodiversity, it is necessary to have all the information available and up to date. The goal of updating IBAs and assessing species against KBA criteria is a crucial step towards building a strong network of important sites for the conservation of biodiversity, that in turn will allow researchers, conservationists, national governments, and the general public to have a current view on the status of a sites, observe trends in species' populations and focus conservation efforts on more vulnerable and urgent sites.

Periodic KBA/IBA assessments are essential to monitor and conserve biodiversity. These assessments provide valuable information on the status of species and ecosystems and can guide conservation efforts and raise awareness about the importance of conserving biodiversity. As such, the regular KBA/IBA assessments are an important tool for scientists, conservationists and policy makers as they help protect and conserve biodiversity for future generations.

BirdLife works in partnership with local communities to ensure the sustainable provision of environmental goods and services while conserving the rich biodiversity that identifies IBAs. These are the "Local Conservation Groups" (LCG). This model is in line with the recommendations of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to support conservation and maintain traditional knowledge on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Over the years, several local groups have been formed in the Americas to carry out conservation and monitoring of IBAs. Until 2009, only 13% of the IBAs were linked to Local Conservation Groups, and to date the activities carried out by most of these groups are not available.

Section 2:

Aim and objectives (max 100 words)

The general objective is to support the Program Manager (María Gabriela Toscano) in activities related to the KBA/IBA Program updates, as well as with key project management activities related to the Conservation Division in the Americas:

- IBAs of the Americas have their species lists and quantitative information updated.
- IBA polygons are correct and accurate and do not overlap with other IBAS or KBAS.
- IBAs have been prioritized for the different programs within the BL strategy: forests, endangered species, and migratory routes.
- The current conservation status of the IBAs is known according to the criteria of the monitoring protocol developed by Birdlife International.

Activities and Methodology (max 500 words)

- IBA species lists and quantitative information updates: During my internship I have been able to carry out some of the most important activities that I have carried out is the evaluation of different countries based on the criteria of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) and Important Areas for Birds and Biodiversity (IBA). To achieve this, first I was trained in the application of IBA criteria and use of the database WBDB, in addition, I took the online KBA training course, which allowed me to understand how to apply KBA criteria as well as how to delineate KBA boundaries.

  In addition, I also conducted an IBA assessment in the Atlantic Forest of Brazil using the KBA and IBA criteria. This implied identifying both species and IBAs to designate the corresponding criteria. To do this I used a spreadsheet which allowed me to check thoroughly sites and species.
- IBA polygons revision: I reviewed the boundaries of the IBA sour partners updated the tabular information. Using a Geographic Information System (GIS) program I compared the polygons updated by partners them with the old ones, protected areas, looking for overlapping issues or lack of accuracy. This activity helped in the identification of changes in the polygons.
- IBAs prioritization for other Birdlife programs: Another important activity that I have carried out is the prioritization of migratory species using the criteria provided by the

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, such as population and ecology, geography, monitoring and management, conservation status and size. of the population in order to improve and provide a clear database. The criteria used to prioritize the flyways were: Conservation Initiatives Criteria, Conservation Status Criteria, Geographic Criteria, Population and Ecology Criteria, Monitoring and Management Criteria

In conclusion, the activities that I have carried out in the field of biodiversity conservation have been instrumental in identifying key areas and species that require conservation efforts. Through the use of KBA and IBA criteria, the prioritization of migratory species and the systematic updating of metadata, I have been able to contribute to the protection and conservation of different species and their habitats.

Outputs and results (max 250 words)

IBA species lists and quantitative information updates: List of sites with trigger species assessed against IBA and KBA criteria. This assessment helped confirm or reject IBA updates on the WBDB and the Datazone that will be available to the public at the end of march 2023. The countries evaluated were: Brazil with 10 IBA, Colombia with 40 IBA, Mexico with 30 IBA, Honduras with 15 IBA

IBA polygons revision: Metadata systematization. Map revisions and reports to assess their accuracy. I contributed to the systematic updating of the metadata of the Mexican polygons to be included in BirdLife's World Bird Database (WBDB). This evaluation will be available at the march 2023 database update

IBAs prioritization for other Birdlife programs: Evaluation of the criteria described for each bird species according to its importance. Spreadhseet of migratory species prioritization. This prioritization will allow to identify key sites along the Americas flyways to protect, conserve and manage, as part of the Americas Flyways Initiative that is being carried out by the coalition of Audubon Americas, Birdlife and CAF.

Prioritization of IBAs for other Birdlife programs: Prioritization of land birds according to the criteria described in the IUCN for each species according to its importance. This prioritization will allow the identification of key sites along the flyways of the Americas to protect, conserve and manage, as part of the Americas Flyways Initiative being carried out by the coalition of Audubon Americas, Birdlife and CAF.

I assessed several areas to determine their ecological importance and prioritize conservation efforts. In Mexico, I evaluated 30 IBAs and 87 IBA polygons; in Colombia, I evaluated 40 IBAs and Honduras with 15 IBAs.Gathering information from local conservation groups: Spreadsheet with information about which LCG works in which IBa, what are their activities and contact information. This information will be used to identify these groups major needs and plan a capacity building strategy to maintain conservation activities in those IBAs managed by LCG.

Achievements and impacts (max 500 words)

Internships can have both short- and long-term impacts on conservation efforts and the advancement of the mission of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) and Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA). Here are some potential impacts:
Short-term impacts:
Immediate contribution to conservation efforts: Interns can make an immediate contribution to conservation efforts by supporting ongoing projects and programs, such as monitoring bird populations or assessing the health of ecosystems.
Capacity building: Internships can provide training and hands-on experience to individuals who may be interested in pursuing a career in conservation, thereby building the capacity of the conservation workforce.
Networking: Interns can build relationships with other professionals in the conservation field, which can help them to learn about new opportunities and stay informed about the latest developments.
Long-term impacts:
Increased conservation awareness: Interns who gain experience in the field of conservation may become advocates for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, promoting these causes throughout their careers and personal lives.
Improved scientific understanding: Interns who work on research projects can contribute to the scientific understanding of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, which can inform conservation policy and management decisions.
Strengthened conservation organizations: Interns who go on to pursue careers in conservation can bring their knowledge and skills to the organizations they work for, strengthening these organizations and enabling them to more effectively advance the mission of KBA and IBA.

Overall, internships can play an important role in advancing the mission of KBA and IBA by building capacity, contributing to ongoing conservation efforts, and fostering a network of professionals who are dedicated to protecting biodiversity. By investing in internships, conservation organizations can create a lasting impact on the future of biodiversity conservation..

Section 3:

Conclusion

The internships have allowed me to expand my knowledge in: correctly applying the KBA/IBA criteria, metadata systematization, prioritization of migratory routes, information gathering on local conservation groups. On the other hand, the internships allowed me to collaborate with the organization to carry out my master's thesis.

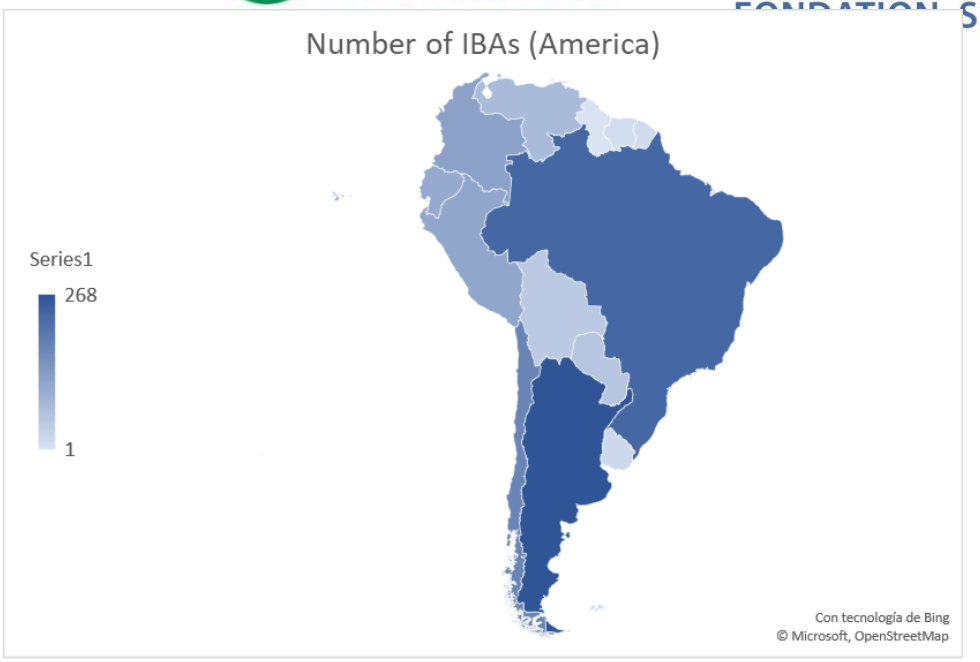
At the end of my internship I evaluated several areas for the evaluation and updating of IBA/KBA criteria. In Mexico, I evaluated 30 IBAs and 87 IBA polygon metadata with their update in the WDBD; in Colombia I evaluated 40 IBAs and Honduras with 15 IBAs. On the other hand, I collected information from local conservation groups that work within the IBAs. This information will be used to identify the main needs of these groups and plan a capacity development strategy to maintain conservation activities in those IBAs managed by LCG.

Section 4:

Appendices

Please include important additional information not required in the main text along with:

Argentina	268	136	50.7
Bolivia	50	4	8.0
Brazil	234	1	0.4
Chile	177	3	1.7
Colombia	125	0	0.0
Ecuador	109	6	5.5
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	23	0	0.0
French Guiana	16	0	0.0
Guyana	1	1	100.0
Paraguay	57	4	7.0
Peru	116	0	0.0
Suriname	13	0	0.0
Uruguay	22	3	13.6
Venezuela	76	0	0.0
Total	**1287**	**158**	**12.3**



1. Table 1. Mapping of actors within the IBAs in Latin America

Bibliography

- https://www.iucnredlist.org/
- https://www.conservationtraining.org/enrol/index.php?id=1145
- https://birdlife-my.sharepoint.com/personal/maria_toscano_birdlife_org/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fmaria%5Ftoscano%5Fbirdlife%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FIBAs%2DKBAs%2F2022%2FInternship%2FIntro%20IBAs%2DKBAs%20Camila&ct=1669760553672&or=OWA%2DNT&cid=7532e486%2Dcd13%2Dc1af%2D2ba8%2D44121b1a2efa&ga=1

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