



Bush Blackcap
WARWICK TARBOTON

IBA Programme

The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) Programme is a BirdLife International initiative to conserve important bird species and their habitats. There are over 12 500 IBAs worldwide.

A remarkable 847 bird species occur in South Africa, about 8% of the world's bird species. Sadly, over 15% of our bird species are threatened with extinction, mainly due to loss of suitable habitat. Managing a network of 112 South African IBAs is our best hope of conserving our threatened, endemic, biome restricted and congregatory birds. There are 29 IBAs in KwaZulu-Natal.

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATING IBAS

IBAs are determined using globally accepted scientific criteria. An IBA is selected on the presence of one or more of the following bird species in a geographic area:

- Bird species that are globally (A1) or regionally (C1) threatened;
- Assemblages of restricted-range (A2) bird species (restricted to less than 50 000 km²);
- Assemblages of biome-restricted (A3) bird species (75% of range confined to one biome); and
- Sites that either hold >1% of the biogeographic population of a congregatory species, or hold >20 000 waterbirds to meet the global criteria (A4), or >0.5% or >10 000 waterbirds to meet the regional criteria (C4).

CONSERVING IBAS

BirdLife South Africa conserves IBAs by prioritising sites for conservation action, obtaining formal protection, developing management plans for IBAs and biomes, defending priority sites that are under threat and implementing monitoring programmes. Volunteer based Local Conservation Groups (LCGs)

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support these projects by surveying IBAs, implementing conservation action and educating the local youth about birds and habitats. BirdLife South Africa works with bird clubs, landowners and other organisations across KwaZulu-Natal to establish LCGs.

Biodiversity Stewardship is a national programme that engages private and communal landowners to assist them to formally declare their high biodiversity value lands as legally protected areas, and to improve the management of these lands for supporting livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. The Regional Conservation Manager is working with partners to implement stewardship work aimed at formally proclaiming priority IBAs as protected areas. BirdLife South Africa comments on proposed developments in or surrounding IBAs to ensure that these developments take account of valuable natural resources.

BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA

BirdLife South Africa is the country partner of BirdLife International, a global partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and biodiversity. BirdLife International is represented in over 100 countries. BirdLife South Africa works nationally and has more than 4,000 members and over 30 affiliated bird clubs. BirdLife South Africa focuses on threatened bird species and Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, and works with people to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

BirdLife South Africa relies on the public, especially birders and nature enthusiasts, as well as landowners, government and NGO partners, to assist us in conserving IBAs. You can get involved in the following ways:

- Join BirdLife South Africa: visit www.birdlife.org.za
- Join your local bird club
- Join an existing Local Conservation Group, or assist us to start one around your local IBA
- Bring to our attention any threats to an IBA, and join us in advocating for the IBA's protection
- Become an IBA Champion for a priority IBA
- Donate to the IBA Fund to support ground level conservation work in IBAs

CONTACT DETAILS

KwaZulu-Natal Regional Conservation Manager: Nick Theron

Tel: 078 545 8977 • email: nick.theron@birdlife.org.za

IBA National Office

Tel: +27 (11) 789 1122 • email: daniel.marnewick@birdlife.org.za

www.birdlife.org.za/conservation/important-bird-areas/iba-directory

IBAS OF KWAZULU-NATAL

Name	IBA No.	Approx. size (ha)	Protection status	Qualifying criteria
Ndumo Game Reserve	SA052	11 870	Fully	A1, A2, A3
Phongolo Nature Reserve	SA055	20 390	Fully	A1, A2, A3
Ithala Game Reserve	SA056	29 615	Fully	A1, A3, A4i
Chelmsford Nature Reserve	SA059	5 984	Fully	C1
Hluhluwe–iMfolozi Park	SA060	89 934	Fully	A1, A2, A3
Lake Eteza Nature Reserve	SA061	341	Fully	C1, C4i
Spioenkop Nature Reserve	SA062	5 440	Fully	C1
Umlalazi Nature Reserve	SA063	1 194	Fully	A1, A3
Maloti Drakensberg Park	SA064	231 940	Fully	A1, A2, A3, A4ii
Ngoye Forest Reserve	SA065	3 883	Fully	A1, A2, A3
Entumeni Nature Reserve	SA066	510	Fully	A1, A2, A3
Dlinza Forest Nature Reserve	SA067	203	Fully	A1, A2, A3
Umvoti Vlei	SA069	4 243	Partial	A1
KwaZulu-Natal Mistbelt Forests	SA071	31 760	Partial	A1, A2, A3
Hlatikulu	SA072	186	None	A1
Umgeni Vlei Nature Reserve	SA075	966	Fully	A1
Midmar Nature Reserve	SA076	2 830	Fully	C1
Impendle Nature Reserve	SA077	8 757	Fully	A1, A3
KwaZulu-Natal Mistbelt Grasslands	SA078	29 410	None	A1
Richards Bay Game Reserve	SA079	1 293	Fully	C1, C4i, iii
Greater Ingwangwana River	SA080	1 275	Fully	A1
Franklin Vlei	SA081	2 331	None	A1
Penny Park	SA083	556	None	A1
Mount Currie Nature Reserve	SA084	1 769	Fully	C1
Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve	SA085	1 895	Fully	A1, A2, A3
Umtamvuna Nature Reserve	SA086	2 620	Fully	A1, A2, A3
Mount Moreland	SA123	270	None	A4ii
iSimangaliso Wetland Park	SA128	217 970	Fully	A1, A2, A3, A4i, iii
Karkloof	SA129	27 680	Partial	A1, A2, A3

Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas

of

KWAZULU-NATAL



GREY CROWNED CRANE
ALBERT FRONEMAN



HABITAT TYPES A combination of the warm subtropical climate of the coastline rising inland towards the cold climate of the Drakensberg escarpment results in a contrasting diversity of habitats. Coastal habitats include subtropical forest, mangroves and estuaries. The north is characterised by moist savanna where a number of big five game reserves are found. Inland the KZN Midlands has unique moist grassland, while Mistbelt Forests are found along slopes and ravines. The Drakensberg high ground mostly consists of alpine grasslands where snow is common.

FLAGSHIP SPECIES FOR THE REGION The KZN Midlands is the most important location in South Africa for the Critically Endangered Blue Swallow, while adjacent Afromontane forests are important for species such as Cape Parrot, Orange Ground Thrush and Bush Blackcap. The Drakensberg Escarpment is an endemic bird area with species such as Drakensberg Rockjumper and Drakensberg Siskin occurring while Bearded Vulture and Cape Vulture may be seen soaring over the high peaks. All three crane species are represented with the population strongholds of Grey Crowned Crane and Wattled Crane found in the KZN interior. Wetlands in high altitude grasslands are one of the few known localities where the almost mythical White-winged Flufftail has been recorded. The north coast is important as a stopover for migrating waterbirds and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park host migrants in their thousands during summer. The only population of Green Barbet in southern Africa is found at Ngoye Forest.

THREATS TO KWAZULU-NATAL'S BIRDS Habitat loss is the most significant threat facing bird species in the province and occurs due to afforestation for timber production, a burgeoning human population, developments, mining and agricultural intensification. Encroachment by alien invasive plant species, which displaces natural habitat for birds, is an on-going threat throughout the province. Bush encroachment by native plants is occurring at an accelerated rate displacing species that require more open habitat. Poisoning is an on-going threat especially for raptors and vultures.

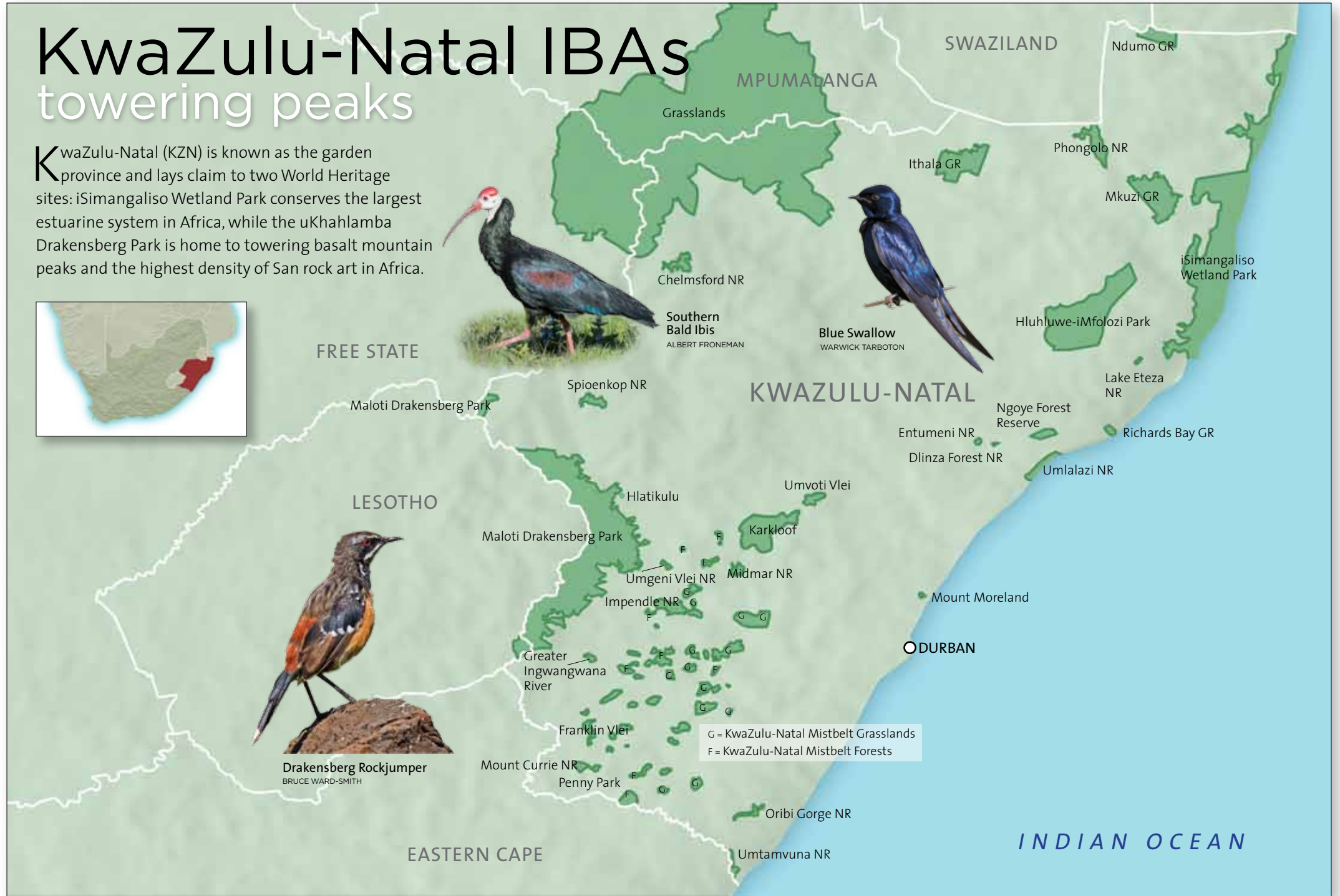


Bearded Vulture
CHRIS VAN ROOYEN

KwaZulu-Natal IBAs

towering peaks

KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) is known as the garden province and lays claim to two World Heritage sites: iSimangaliso Wetland Park conserves the largest estuarine system in Africa, while the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park is home to towering basalt mountain peaks and the highest density of San rock art in Africa.



Drakensberg Rockjumper
BRUCE WARD-SMITH