



## IBA PROGRAMME

Martial Eagle  
ALBERT FRONEMAN

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 11 IBAs in the Northern Cape.

### 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 km<sup>2</sup>);
- 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) 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 the Northern Cape 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](http://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

### IBAS OF THE NORTHERN CAPE

Name	IBA No.	Approx. size (ha)	Protection status	Qualifying criteria
Kalahari Gemsbok National Park	SA027	959 970	Fully	A1, A3
Spitskop Dam	SA028	13 040	None	A1, A3, A4i, iii
Augrabies Falls National Park	SA029	55 270	Fully	A1, A3
Orange River Mouth Wetlands	SA030	2 300	None	A1, A2, A3, A4i, iii
Dronfield	SA031	11 030	None	A1, A3
Kamfers Dam	SA032	1 170	None	A1, A3, A4i, iii
Benfontein	SA033	9 770	None	A1, A3
Mattheus-Gat Conservation Area	SA034	67 970	None	A1, A3
Haramoep and Black Mountain Mine	SA035	116 070	None	A1, A3
Bitterputs Conservation Area	SA036	68 580	None	A1, A2, A3
Platberg-Karoo Conservancy	SA037	1 246 330	None	A1, A3, A4i, ii

# Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas of the NORTHERN CAPE



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### WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



### CONTACT DETAILS

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White-backed Vultures

ALBERT FRONEMAN

**HABITAT TYPES** The Northern Cape supports six of our country's nine biomes: the largest is the Nama-Karoo biome, followed by the Savanna, Succulent Karoo, Grassland, Fynbos and Desert biomes. There are many vegetation types within these biomes, and the most extensive vegetation types are: Bushmanland Grassland and Shrubland, Orange River Nama Karoo, Shrubby Kalahari Dune Bushveld, Upper Nama Karoo and Upland Succulent Karoo.

**FLAGSHIP SPECIES FOR THE REGION** The Northern Cape is home to the endemic Red Lark. This province hosts a significant portion of the populations of arid-adapted large terrestrial birds such as Kori Bustard, Ludwig's Bustard, Karoo Korhaan and Blue Korhaan. The Karoo region supports Blue Crane, and the Kalahari region is home to the biome-restricted Burchell's Sandgrouse and Stark's Lark. Kamfers Dam just outside Kimberley hosts the largest permanent population of Lesser Flamingos in the country and is the only breeding site for this species in South Africa. Many of the threatened raptors like Martial Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Verreaux's Eagle, White-backed Vulture and Lappet-Faced Vulture are an integral part of the ecosystems of the region.

**THREATS TO THE NORTHERN CAPE'S BIRDS** The major threats to the birds of the more arid ecosystems are habitat degradation, poisoning, collisions with transmission power lines and electrocutions on reticulation and distribution power lines, water quality and quantity, renewable energy developments (wind and concentrated solar plants) and climate change. It is predicted that climate change will cause habitat alteration and shifts, with bush thickening in savanna regions. Extended or severe droughts and rainfall variability will impact most on locally resident species in specific habitats (such as the Red Lark), and territorial species with slow reproductive rates and extended parental care like the Martial Eagle.

