

Important Bird Areas: Summary of Global Categories and Criteria

<u>Category</u>	<u>Criterion</u>
A1- Globally threatened species	The site regularly holds significant numbers of globally threatened species, or other species of global conservation concern.
A2- Restricted-range species	The site is known or thought to hold a significant component of the restricted range species whose breeding distributions define an Endemic Bird Area (EBA) or Secondary Area (SA).
A3- Biome-restricted assemblages	The site is known or thought to hold a significant component of the group of species whose breeding distributions are largely or wholly confined to one biome.
A4- Globally important congregations	(i) The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, 1% of a biogeographic population of a congregatory waterbird species. or (ii) The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, 1% of the global population of a congregatory seabird or terrestrial species. or (iii) The site is known or thought to hold, on a regular basis, 20,000 waterbirds or 10,000 pairs of seabirds of one or more species. or (iv) The site is known or thought to exceed thresholds set for migratory species at bottleneck sites.

Analysis methodology

The map and the underlying analysis of IBA protection status were created using the most up-to-date information available on the distribution of IBAs, combined with the 2009 release of the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) available from UNEP-WCMC (www.unep-wcmc.org). Where polygon information was available, the analysis attempts to provide an approximation of the extent of overlap between the IBAs and existing protected areas. Where no polygon information was available, the analysis identified whether the approximate point location fell inside a protected area or not and does not attempt to give an approximation of the extent of overlap. Where available, KBAs identified for non-bird taxa are also included in the analysis and presented on the map. This information has been kindly provided by Conservation International.

Every attempt has been made to maintain consistency between IBA and protected area information where the sites are coincident or overlapping. However, some differences in the polygons exist which may lead to minor mismatches in the map and results of the analysis. The results presented are only designed to provide a guide to the main gaps in protection. Further work is required to provide accurate proposals for future enhancements to the protected area network.

For more information on the BirdLife work on Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in **Malawi** please visit the BirdLife website or contact our country partner below:

BirdLife IBA Programme Website: http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sites/sites_programme.html

The BirdLife country partner:

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Towards an ecologically representative network of protected areas in Malawi



Main Messages

- **The CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (POWPA) requires countries to complete their PA gap analyses. This was originally required by 2006, a deadline which was extended at COP-9 to 2009.**
- **The BirdLife Important Bird Areas (IBA) programme has identified and mapped key areas for birds in Malawi.**
- **Comparing the locations of IBAs with those of existing protected areas is a simple yet effective way of finding where key species are left unprotected or under-protected.**

POWPA and Gap Analysis

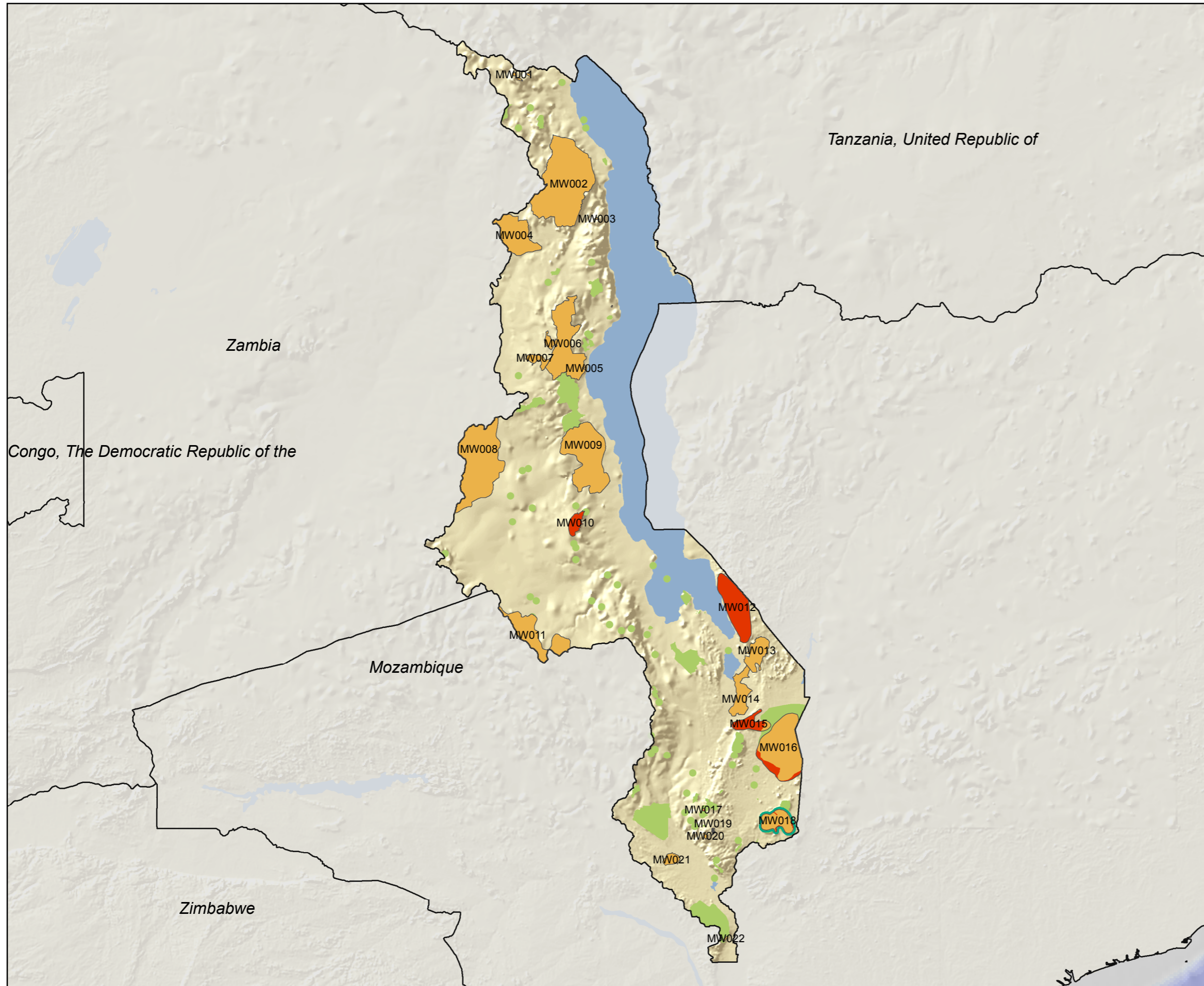
In February 2004, the Seventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) developed a comprehensive Programme of Work on Protected Areas (POWPA) with the aim of encouraging countries to establish and maintain comprehensive and ecologically representative networks of protected areas. To achieve this, the CBD asked each Government to conduct a gap analysis by 2006, to find out if and where their current protected area system falls short of adequately protecting its biodiversity. Since this requires collection, analysis and compilation of a wide variety of information, much of which is not readily available (particularly in developing countries), many countries were unable to meet this deadline. Thus in 2008, the Ninth Conference of the Parties urged Governments 'not later than 2009, to finalize as a matter of urgency the ecological gap analysis...'

Important Bird Areas as Key Biodiversity Areas

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) identified using birds. They are selected through the application of a set of four standard, internationally recognized criteria (see table below), based, as far as possible, on accurate and up-to-date knowledge of bird distributions and populations. The IBA categories and criteria refer to two essential attributes used to identify priorities for conservation: vulnerability (Category A1) and irreplaceability (different aspects of which are covered by A2, A3 and A4). The IBA process is participatory and involves literature reviews, field surveys and wider consultations that bring together experts, stakeholders, and indigenous and local communities. It also fully takes into account existing protected area networks and the birds they protect, as well as bringing additional sites onto the conservation agenda, often for the first time.

As well as being an important conservation focus in their own right, because of the way much biodiversity is distributed, birds are also good indicators for other groups. This is because they have well-understood distributions and habitat requirements and a greater amount of information is available on the taxonomy, status and distribution of the world's birds than is the case for any other major taxonomic group. They are, in addition, relatively easy to identify and record in the field and can act as flagships for conservation. In the absence of detailed information on other taxa, birds can be a highly effective means of setting geographical priorities for conservation.

KBAs are an extension of the IBA approach to other animal groups and plants. They are sites of global significance for biodiversity conservation, identified, as with IBAs, using standard criteria and thresholds and based on the occurrence of key species from other animal and plant groups. The IBA criteria are a subset of the KBA criteria, meaning that all IBAs automatically qualify as KBAs.



Legend

- Unprotected sites
- Protected sites
- Protected Areas
- IBA Boundary (KE001 etc = Unique IBA code, see table)
- IBA centroid (boundary not yet delineated or visible at this scale)
- IBAs where Ramsar designation is lacking and may be appropriate
- Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites

0 160 km

Coordinate system: Geographic WGS 1984

Map created September 2009

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Sources:

Important Birds Areas: BirdLife International, August 2009

Protected Areas: World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), compiled by UNEP-WCMC (WDPA custodian), 2009

AZE Sites: Alliance for Zero Extinction, 2009

Ramsar Sites: BirdLife International (2002) Important Bird Areas and potential Ramsar Sites in Africa. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International

Bathymetry: Reproduced from the GEBCO Digital Atlas published by the British Oceanographic Data Centre on behalf of the International Oceanographic Commission (of Unesco) and the International Hydrographic Organisation, 2003.

Topography: Reproduced from GLOBE Digital Elevation Model. The Global Land One-kilometer Base Elevation (GLOBE) Digital Elevation Model, Version 1.0. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Geophysical Data Center, 325 Broadway, Boulder, Colorado 80305-3328, U.S.A. Digital data base on the World Wide Web (URL: <http://seamless.usgs.gov/>)

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