



KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS: ENVIRONMENT

NEWS: The world's most bio-diverse areas are threatened by extractive industries, says report.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The world's most bio-diverse areas are threatened by extractive industries, says report. Document provides maps that pinpoint the exact areas which are being impacted

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

- **Definition:** Sites that significantly contribute to global biodiversity persistence, including ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity.
- **Conservation Importance:** Vital for conservation due to outstanding ecological integrity.
- **Key Biodiversity Area Partnership:** Involves 13 global conservation organizations.

Identification:

- **Criteria Development:** Criteria and thresholds set by BirdLife International, IUCN, and other organizations.
- **Qualifying Criteria:** Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet one or more of 11 criteria within 5 categories:
 - Threatened biodiversity
 - Geographically restricted biodiversity
 - Ecological integrity
 - Biological processes
 - Irreplaceability

Important Criteria for KBAs:

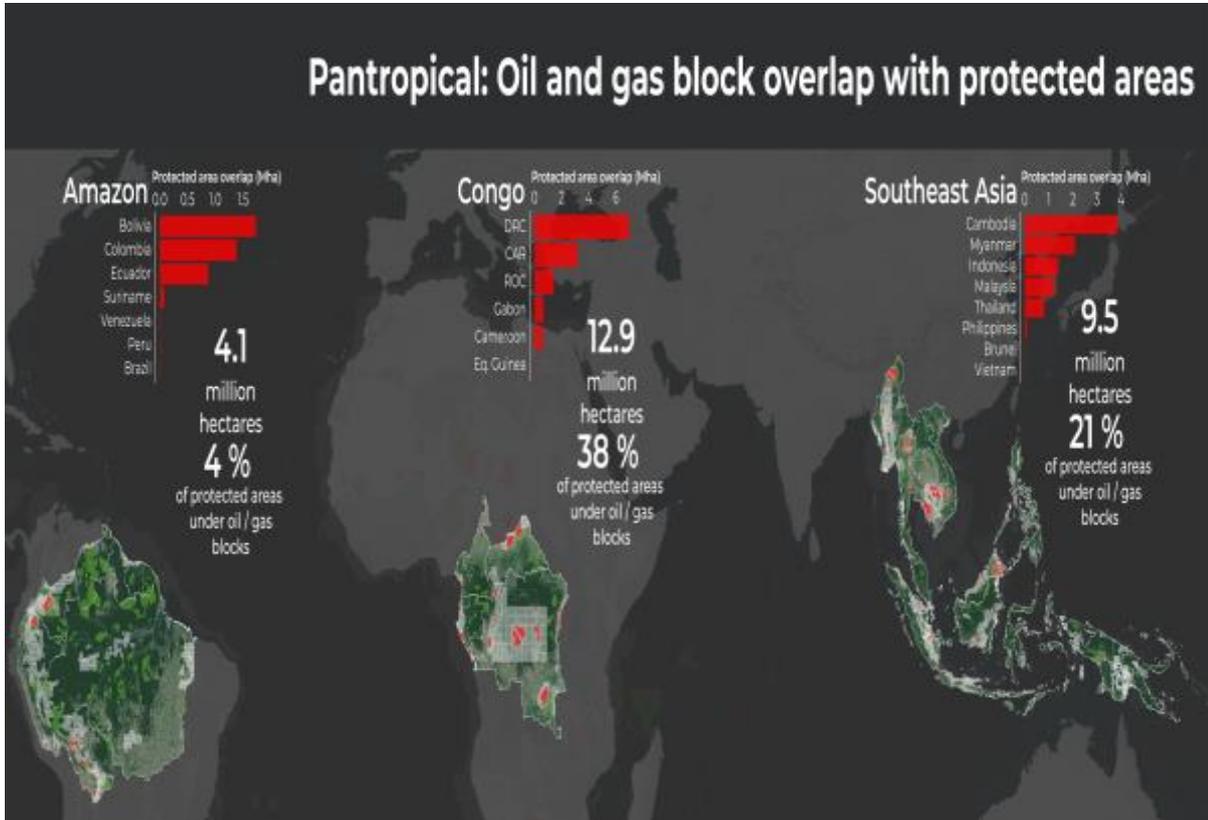
- **Species Richness:** Areas with a high diversity of species.
- **Endemism:** Regions with species unique to a specific area.
- **Threatened Species:** Sites that protect numerous endangered species needing urgent conservation.
- **Habitat Integrity:** Ecological health and integrity of habitats are essential.
- **Ecological Significance:** Areas crucial for ecological processes, like breeding grounds for migratory species.
- **Global Statistics:** 16,356 KBAs identified globally, supporting 13,762 trigger species.
- **India's KBAs:** Include biodiversity hotspots like Western Ghats, Sundarbans, and Eastern Himalayas.

Study Findings:

- **Oil and Gas Concessions:** 518 KBAs (18% of KBA area) in the pantropics under active/potential oil and gas concessions.



- **Overlap in Amazon:** Oil and gas blocks overlap with 14% of KBAs and 12% of Indigenous Territories.
- **High-Integrity Forests:** Over 180 million hectares affected or planned for fossil fuel extraction in pantropics.



Source: <https://gokulamseekias.com/prelims-c-a/environment/key-biodiversity-areas/>