

GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING REPRESENTATION ACCURACY (RA), IN DICHOTOMOUS KEY FORM

This key was developed to assess RA for individual observations, i.e., Source Features. However, because Element Occurrence Representations (EO Reps) are utilized in conservation planning and analyses, an overall RA value is needed for each EO Rep. The RA value for an EO would either equal the RA assigned to the underlying Procedural Feature* when the EO is comprised of a single feature, or would be developed using the RA values assigned to each of its component Procedural Features in the case of a multi-source EO. For multi-source EOs, a comment should be entered in the RA Comments field of the EO record describing how the overall RA value was derived.

When the RA values assigned to individual Source Features that comprise a single EO would differ significantly (e.g., high RA versus low), as would be the case when an historical observation with a large amount of associated locational uncertainty is combined with more recent observations with much less associated uncertainty, consider treating the historical observation as a separate principal EO. In such cases, use the Separation Comments field to explain the rationale for creating separate principal EOs from observations that would have been grouped into a single occurrence according to the EO specifications for the Element.

1. Locational uncertainty type is **negligible**RA is **very high**
1. Locational uncertainty type is **areal-estimated, areal-delimited, or linear**2
 2. Procedural Feature* is 1 hectare (ca. 2.5 acres) or less RA is **high**
 2. Procedural Feature is larger than 1 hectare3
 3. Conceptual feature type is **point**4
 4. Procedural Feature is 50 hectares (ca. 125 acres) or less.....RA is **medium**
 4. Procedural Feature is larger than 50 hectares5
 5. Procedural Feature is 2500 hectares (ca. 6178 acres) or lessRA is **low**
 5. Procedural Feature is larger than 2500 hectares..... RA is **very low**
 3. Conceptual feature type is **line or polygon**6
 6. More than 80% of the Procedural Feature is comprised of the observed area (i.e., less than 20% of the Procedural Feature is comprised of area added for locational uncertainty) **or** the Procedural Feature is 1 hectare or less..... RA is **high**
 6. 80% or less of the Procedural Feature is comprised of the observed area (i.e., 20% or more of the Procedural Feature is comprised of area added for locational uncertainty) **or** the observed area is unknown (Procedural Feature greater than 1 hectare).....7
 7. 20% or more of the Procedural Feature is comprised of the observed area (i.e., less than 80% of the Procedural Feature is comprised of area added for locational uncertainty)RA is **medium**
 7. Less than 20% of the Procedural Feature is comprised of the observed area (i.e., 80% or more of the Procedural Feature is comprised of area added for locational uncertainty) **or** the observed area is unknown8
 8. Procedural Feature is 50 hectares (ca. 125 acres) or lessRA is **medium**
 8. Procedural Feature is larger than 50 hectares.....9
 9. Procedural Feature is 2500 hectares (ca. 6178 acres) or lessRA is **low**
 9. Procedural Feature is larger than 2500 hectares RA is **very low**

* Note that the term "Procedural Feature" refers to the final size of the digitized feature **plus** any area resulting from adding the specified uncertainty distance buffer (for those with areal estimated uncertainty) or procedural buffer (for those with linear uncertainty). Since an EO Rep may be generated from different conceptual feature types (e.g. the EO Rep may be based on a point feature and a polygon feature), the key was developed to assign RA for each Source Feature based on a comparison of the observed area with the area of the Procedural Feature derived from that Source Feature. However, because Biotics 4 does not generate and display individual Procedural Features, a user may not be able to directly view the individual Procedural Features when assigning RA. In this case, the user will need to visualize them for her/himself.