



National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN)



HATCH



2018 NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS INDABA

Theme: Biodiversity Offsetting for the Benefit of Biodiversity and Business

30 – 31 October 2018

18th Floor, 55 Marshall Street, Marshalltown, Johannesburg, South Africa

PROGRAMME

Contents

1. Sponsors.....	3
2. Context.....	4
3. Aim and objectives.....	4
4. Approach.....	4
5. Outputs	4
6. Target audience	4
7. Programme – DAY 1	6
8. Programme – DAY 2	7

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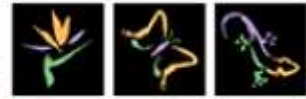
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2. Context

The mitigation hierarchy is a framework for managing the potential impacts of development projects on biodiversity. Biodiversity offsets are the fourth and final step in the mitigation hierarchy, after avoidance, minimisation and rehabilitation, and aim to compensate for residual impacts caused by development projects. When implemented correctly they have the potential to help slow the decline of biodiversity and ecological infrastructure, and contribute to the country's conservation estate. Consideration of offsets can also reinforce use of the mitigation hierarchy. Biodiversity offsets are increasingly being required in terms of national policy and legislation, by international finance institutions and through the biodiversity commitments made by companies themselves.

Biodiversity offsetting is, however, inherently complex and still an emerging practice. To date, offsets in South Africa have been undertaken within the context of policy uncertainty and with a lack of understanding and capacity amongst all role players on the subject. Further problems include timing issues in relation to the EIA process, the practical challenges of identifying offset sites, costing the offsets and establishing appropriate institutional and financial arrangements. The track record in terms of developing and effectively implementing biodiversity offsets in South Africa is consequently poor.

3. Aim and objectives

The aim of the Indaba is to move towards more effective biodiversity offsetting in South Africa by:

- Building an understanding of what biodiversity offsets are, including the associated risks and obligations;
- Identifying key challenges and success factors; and
- Improving the capacity of the role players in the biodiversity offsetting process.

4. Approach

The Indaba will involve short formal training sessions as well as interactive sessions that draw on case studies and the experience of participants to facilitate learning. Day 1 of the Indaba will provide delegates with an opportunity to build their capacity on the theory of biodiversity offsetting. Whilst on Day 2 delegates will be presented with the opportunity to delve deeper into the key practical issues.

5. Outputs

The key output of the event will be an improved understanding amongst Indaba participants of the biodiversity offsetting process, from the identification of the need for biodiversity offsets to successful implementation.

Specifically, participants will be engaged in discussions to:

- Identify key challenges and success factors for biodiversity offsetting;
- Develop proposals to assist different role players in improving the practice of biodiversity offsets; and
- The identification of key gaps in guidance on biodiversity offsets.

6. Target audience

Biodiversity offsetting involves a wide range of role players, including: **regulatory and commenting authorities, environmental assessment practitioners, biodiversity specialists, NGOs, and development proponents**. Each has a role to play within the process of deciding whether an offset is required and in defining the "what", "where", "how" and "when" in terms of appropriate design and effective implementation. Engagement between these actors is important throughout the offsetting

process. The Indaba therefore invites participation from across this suite of role players to ensure a collective learning outcome.

Specifically this event is relevant to:

- Businesses that may be required to offset their residual biodiversity impact. Relevant business representatives could include engineers, senior managers, project managers, sustainability managers, biodiversity officers, environmental control officers, amongst others.
- Government agencies involved in projects that may require biodiversity offsetting. Such agencies may be responsible for deciding when to call for biodiversity offsets, for reviewing offset proposals and for including offsets in the conditions of authorisation.
- NGOs with an interest in biodiversity offsetting or who are stakeholders on projects that may involve offsets.
- EIA practitioners and biodiversity specialists who may be involved in the design of offsets or in the planning for their effective implementation.

7. Programme – DAY 1

11h45 – 12h45	REGISTRATION & LUNCH	
12h45 – 13h00	Welcome	Jeffrey Manuel, South African National Biodiversity Institute; Yolan Friedmann, CEO, Endangered Wildlife Trust (TBC)
13h00 – 13h30	Opening address	Ms Nosipho Ngcaba, Director General of the Department of Environmental Affairs (TBC)
13h30 – 14h00	Keynote address	Peter Lukey, Chief Policy Advisor: Strategic Environmental Intelligence, Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
14h00 – 16h00	BIODIVERSITY OFFSET TRAINING: The fundamentals on the Mitigation Hierarchy, including Biodiversity Offsets	Amrei von Hase, Science Advisor, Forest Trends Association; Susie Brownlie, Member, de Villiers Brownlie Associates; Dave Cox, Chief Scientist, Institute of Natural Resources
16h00 – 16h15	COFFEE & NETWORKING	
16h15 – 16h30	Status of the National Offset Policy	Pamela Kershaw, Deputy Director: Biodiversity Planning, DEA
16h30 – 16h45	Overview of Provincial biodiversity offset policies and guidance documents	Susie Brownlie
16h45 – 17h00	Overview of National Wetland Offset guideline	Doug Macfarlane, Managing Member & Principal Scientist, Eco-Pulse
17h00 – 17h10	Overview of day's proceedings	Shelley Lizzio, Manager: National Biodiversity & Business Network, Endangered Wildlife Trust

8. Programme – DAY 2

8h30 – 9h30	REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST	
9h30 – 9h45	Introduction of the day's programme	Shelley Lizzio
9h45 – 10h00	TBD	Barney Kgope, Acting Chief Director Biodiversity Planning and Management, DEA (TBC)
10h00 – 12h00	Biodiversity offsetting case studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clairewood Logistics Park • Hilton College • Spring Grove Dam • AfriSam <i>Followed by an invitation to delegates to present their own case studies</i>	Facilitator: Susie Brownlie Kevin McCann, Director, Conservation Outcomes; Dave Cox; Amrei von Hase
12h00 – 12h45	Interactive session to identify key biodiversity offset issues for discussion in breakout sessions	Facilitator: Susie Brownlie
12h45 – 13h30	LUNCH & NETWORKING	
13h30 – 14h15	Breakout sessions to discuss key biodiversity offsetting issues, possible solutions and key ingredients for success	Session leads: Kevin McCann; Dave Cox; Amrei von Hase
14h15 – 15h00	Feedback from breakout sessions – themes, experiences and emerging recommendations	Facilitator: Shelley Lizzio
15h00 – 15h30	COFFEE & NETWORKING	
15h30 – 16h15	Key considerations to ensure that offsetting benefits biodiversity and business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key challenges and success factors for biodiversity offsets. • Recommendations for different role players. • Key gaps in guidance on offsets. 	Susie Brownlie; Amrei von Hase; Dave Cox
16h15 – 16h30	Wrap up	Shelley Lizzio