



## STEP 6:

# BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING INTO BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA



### Key questions to consider

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#### For shareholders:

Do you know the biodiversity targets of the companies you have invested in? Do they demonstrate adequate progress?

#### For the CEO and the board:

What are biodiversity targets of your business and its value chain? How are you monitoring progress against these targets?

#### For environmental and sustainability managers:

What are the SMART targets of the biodiversity strategy of your business?

#### For the financial sector:

Has your client adopted a biodiversity strategy that is commensurate to the challenges identified and contains SMART targets?

## DEVELOPING THE BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY OF YOUR BUSINESS

Key:  
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for more information





A biodiversity policy should also involve the framing of commitments according to the CBD targets:

- **Strategic Goal A:** Addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss;
- **Strategic Goal B:** Reducing the direct pressures on biodiversity and promoting sustainable use;
- **Strategic Goal C:** Improving the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity;
- **Strategic Goal D:** Enhancing the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- **Strategic Goal E:** Enhancing implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

Your business may also want to frame its policy and contribution according to the Strategic Development Goals (SDGs), especially by highlighting commitments for SDG 14 (life below water)[1] and 15 (life on land)[2].



### Anglo American case study

In 2018, Anglo American adopted milestones and targets at a group level:

- **2030 target:** Deliver net-positive impact on biodiversity across Anglo American;
- **Net Positive Impact (NPI) methodology,** Biodiversity Value Assessments (BVAs) and site-specific indicators in place at all high-risk sites by 2020;
- **Formalise partnerships** to support NPI, which are aligned with existing regional and national biodiversity stewardship initiatives, by 2020;
- **An established biodiversity framework,** supporting processes, capacity and resources in place to enable rigorous application of the mitigation hierarchy across the mining lifecycle by 2020.



[1] URL: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-14-life-below-water.html>

[2] URL: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-15-life-on-land.html>

## SMART target setting

Irrespective of whether your biodiversity policy focuses on conservation, sustainable use or the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from biodiversity, your strategy should include specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound (SMART) objectives.

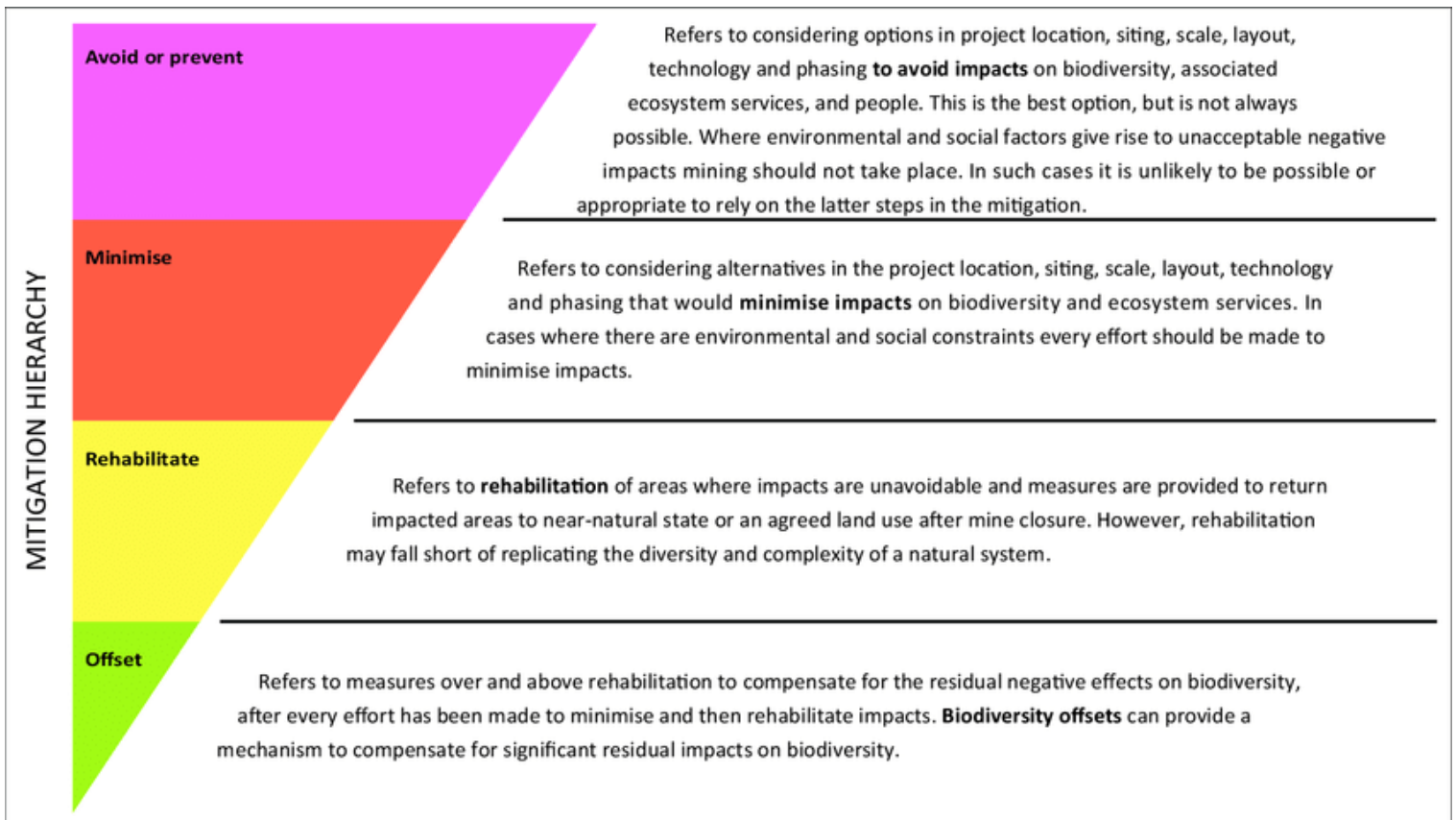


Figure 6.1:  
The mitigation hierarchy  
Source: <https://www.researchgate.net/>

To this end, you should consider several key concepts, including:

- The mitigation hierarchy (Figure 6.1), which includes impact avoidance, impact minimisation, restoration/rehabilitation and offset measures and applies to both biodiversity dependencies and impacts;
- The target of no-net-loss (NNL), which refers to the point where biodiversity gains from targeted activities (e.g. restoration and offset measures) match the losses of biodiversity caused by a business activity, product or project;

- The target of NPI, which means that biodiversity gains exceed biodiversity losses.
- The equivalency principle, which requires that biodiversity gains match biodiversity losses in net impact accounting because the type, amount and condition of biodiversity components need to be considered for your company to demonstrate whether it has achieved>NNL or NPI.



As part of the process of target setting, it is also critical to:

- Define the expected benefits and costs for your business and/or its stakeholders;
- Assess technical, financial and human resource needs and gaps;
- Establish a timeframe for each target.

## National Biodiversity and Business Network

The National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN) recognises the importance of biodiversity to business and builds the capacity of business to act as a positive force for the conservation of biodiversity in South Africa. The natural environment plays an important role in the value chain of any business. We work with innovative business leaders to identify and manage the business risks and opportunities that result from their interactions with the natural world.

We provide a platform for businesses to proactively engage with each other and discover solutions that lead to sustainable business growth and many exciting business opportunities such as new sources of revenue and the opportunity to reduce production costs.

We achieve this through the following projects:

- Biodiversity Disclosure Project
- Biological Diversity Protocol
- Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Business Toolkit

