



STEP 9:

BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING INTO BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA



Key questions to consider

For shareholders:

Do you know whether the companies you have invested in are improving or regressing with respect to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use?

For the CEO and the board:

Are your biodiversity spending and investments producing positive results for both your business and its stakeholders?


For environmental and sustainability managers:

Are you reaching the objectives set out in the biodiversity strategy of your business? Is there any room for progress or improvement?

For the financial sector:

Has your client delivered on its biodiversity commitments? What progress has been made?

MONITORING AND IMPROVING THE BIODIVERSITY PERFORMANCE OF YOUR BUSINESS

Key:  This icon denotes a weblink for more information



Key messages

- Biodiversity mainstreaming is an ongoing process of improving the integration of biodiversity into your business strategies and activities;
- Reviewing previous steps of your mainstreaming journey can be undertaken at any time, for instance reviewing the materiality assessment process due to new evidence, or expanding the impact measurement process to expanded value chain boundaries;
- Each material biodiversity issue should have Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to progress;
- It is critical to monitor both changes in biodiversity impacts/dependencies and the associated efforts, such as costs/benefits and progress towards targets.

This last step of the 9-Steps Biodiversity Mainstreaming Guidelines helps you with monitoring and improving your biodiversity performance. Biodiversity mainstreaming is an ongoing process of improving the integration of biodiversity into your business strategies and activities. Reaching step nine of our biodiversity mainstreaming guidelines is not an end goal.

This means that you may **review** or **re-visit** any mainstreaming step, at any appropriate time, as part of your business decision-making, planning and progress monitoring process. You may do so, for example, should you wish to (re-)align your biodiversity performance outlook towards national or international best practice

Key Performance Indicators for progress monitoring

To ensure effective progress monitoring, each material biodiversity issue should have KPIs, including impacts/dependencies KPIs (e.g. measurements of biological resource harvesting or extraction), values (e.g. importance expressed in percentages or monetary units) and associated targets (e.g. expressed as percentage improvement on baseline of impacts/dependencies and values).



From the perspective of the Biological Diversity Protocol), you should consider tracking change in:

- The scale of biodiversity impacts across appropriate value chain boundaries for both:
 - Land cover (i.e. biodiversity footprint expressed in surface area metrics);
 - Species on which you have material impacts (i.e. net impact on their population size);
- The implementation of the mitigation hierarchy, including the effectiveness of impact avoidance, minimisation, restoration and offset measures for both land cover (expressed in surface area metrics) and species (expressed in population size metrics);
- Biodiversity-related revenues and receivables;
- Biodiversity-related expenses and liabilities;

- Biodiversity-related costs to stakeholders (e.g. loss of ecosystem services expressed in quantitative and monetary values);
- Biodiversity-related benefits or savings to stakeholders (e.g. government savings due to new protected areas contributing to national targets, additional supply of ecosystem services supplied to communities expressed in quantitative and monetary values).



Mainstreaming is a long-term journey

Striving for the improvement of your biodiversity performance may involve, for instance:

- Reviewing your materiality assessment process to update or refine your biodiversity priorities (e.g. looking also at the costs and benefits to external stakeholders after focusing only on your company’s bottom line);
- Expanding the biodiversity dependencies and impacts that you include in your biodiversity policy and strategy (e.g. fishing industry: looking at impacts on non-target species and associated ecosystems after focusing on the ones that you harvest);
- Expanding the value chain boundaries for which you measure and value biodiversity dependencies and impacts (e.g. looking at supply chain aspects after focusing on direct operations);
- Adopting more ambitious objectives and targets as part of your biodiversity strategy (e.g. adopting no-net-loss targets after focusing on impact avoidance and minimisation);
- Working with new stakeholders or partners in implementing your biodiversity strategy (e.g. working with all your suppliers on biodiversity mainstreaming after focusing on the top five in terms of volumes of materials purchased).

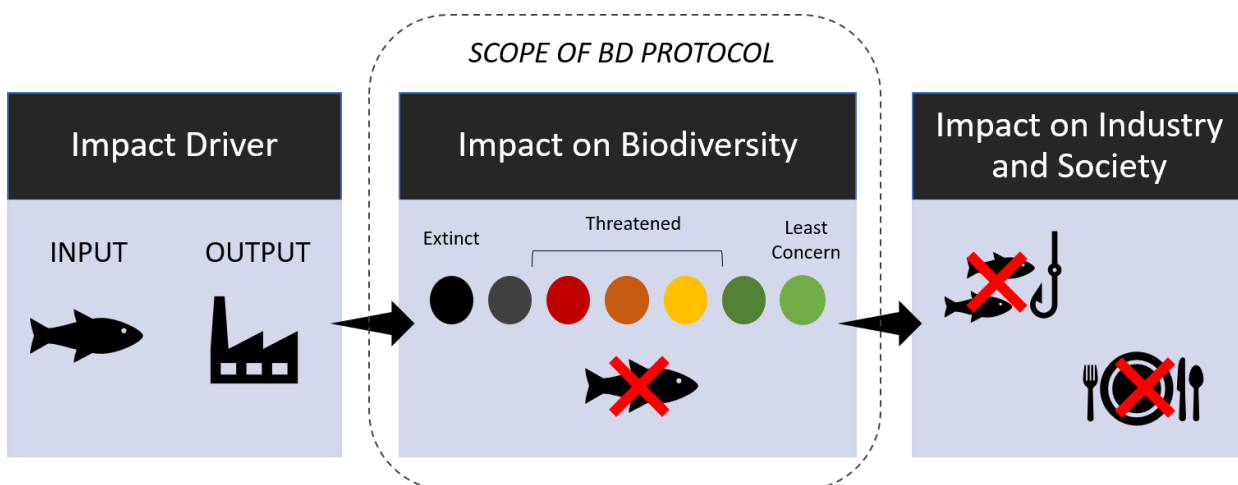


Figure 9.1: The biodiversity impact pathway: impact drivers, impacts on/changes in biodiversity and impacts on industry and society.

To recap on the 9 steps click the image to navigate to the guideline



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

