



**ENDANGERED  
WILDLIFE TRUST**  
Protecting forever, together.

22 May 2019

### **The EWT and the NCC open consultation on the Biological Diversity Protocol to businesses**

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Shareholders are becoming increasingly active in voicing their concerns and expectations of business in relation to environmental matters, as can be seen from the recent activity from the RAITH Foundation, Theo Botha and Just Share and their drive in influencing the disclosure practices of Standard Bank.

Biodiversity forms an integral part of this move toward greater accountability and transparency. The recent landmark new report from the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#) calls for more effective business action, across sectors, towards the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.

To do so requires a better understanding of the business dependencies and impacts on biodiversity. While various tools and approaches may be used by some businesses to measure changes in biodiversity across their value chain, the lack of standardised, comparable, credible and unbiased methodology to help them consolidate and report their impacts on biodiversity needs to be addressed.

“To support this drive, the development of the Biological Diversity Protocol (BD Protocol) is being undertaken in close collaboration with a wide range of global stakeholders through an [online consultation process](#).” says Yolán Friedmann, CEO of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT).

The BD Protocol is a comprehensive biological diversity accounting and reporting framework that can help businesses produce the credible and unbiased information needed for various biodiversity-related applications, from site management to disclosure. The BD Protocol is an output of the [Biodiversity Disclosure Project \(BDP\)](#), managed by the EWT’s National Biodiversity & Business Network. While the [GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard](#), which provides requirements and guidance for companies and other organisations preparing a corporate-level GHG emissions inventory, was the benchmark standard for the vision and structure of the BD Protocol, the BD Protocol is aligned to the [Natural Capital Protocol](#). It helps provide biodiversity-specific guidance to measuring changes in the state of natural capital (step 6 of the Natural Capital Protocol), by providing guidance on how to measure change(s) in biodiversity components impacted by business.

The BD Protocol includes guidance on how to:

- Develop and manage a biodiversity impact inventory according to the appropriate organisational and value chain boundaries;
- Identify and determine material biodiversity impacts;
- Assess impacts on biodiversity, considering the nature of the biodiversity components impacted;
- Account for net changes in biodiversity, in accordance with the impact mitigation hierarchy and the associated equivalency principle;
- Apply the biodiversity accounting framework to build Statements of Biodiversity Position and Performance and account for biodiversity gains and losses over time;
- Validate and verify a biodiversity impact assessment;
- Disclose or report on an organisation's impacts on biodiversity in a coherent and meaningful manner.

“To ensure that the BD Protocol is robust and widely supported, the EWT is launching a consultation process hosted by the Natural Capital Coalition through [Collaborase](#),” says Friedmann.

Consultation will last for three months until 15 August 2019, after which all comments, questions and contributions will be collated, analysed and summarised in a stakeholder feedback report for public release. The BD Protocol will then be revised accordingly for official publication at a later date, prior the 2020 Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity which will be hosted by China. As part of this consultation process, any commentator may request to be recognised as a co-author or contributor to the BD Protocol.

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### **About the Endangered Wildlife Trust**

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), champion of conservation in Africa, has worked tirelessly for over 45 years to save wildlife and habitats, with our vision being a world in which both humans and wildlife prosper in harmony with nature. From the smallest frog, to the majestic rhino; from sweeping grasslands to arid drylands; from our shorelines to winding rivers: the EWT is working with you, to protect our world.

The EWT's team of field-based specialists is spread across southern and East Africa, where committed conservation action is needed the most. Working with our partners, including businesses and governments, the EWT is at the forefront of conducting applied research, supporting community conservation and livelihoods, training and building capacity, addressing human wildlife conflict, monitoring threatened species and establishing safe spaces for wildlife range expansion.

A beacon of hope for Africa's wildlife, landscapes and communities, the EWT is protecting forever, together. Find out more at [www.ewt.org.za](http://www.ewt.org.za)

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