



## ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST

19 May 2021

### The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Biological Diversity Protocol listed by the European Commission

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The EWT's Biological Diversity Protocol (BD Protocol), a **groundbreaking** tool to measure the impact of business on biodiversity, has just been listed on the [European Commission Business @Biodiversity tools library](#), arguably the most comprehensive list of tools and resources available to help businesses better account for their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity.

The BD Protocol is the result of a two-year collaborative, multi-stakeholder effort. It was made possible through funding from Eskom Hld SOC Ltd and the WWF Nedbank Green Trust and involved more than forty coauthors and contributors.

The EWT recognises the importance of biodiversity to business, and through the National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN), builds capacity within business to act as powerful levers for change. The BDP is the first comprehensive tool that allows any business, big or small, to measure both its positive and negative impacts on species and ecosystems, enabling companies to consolidate their net impacts for various applications from site management and internal reporting to external disclosures. While global in application, this is the first tool explicitly developed and tested in Africa.

On 22 May each year, the **International Day for Biological Diversity** is celebrated to recognise the importance of biodiversity, how we humans impact biodiversity, and how we can prevent its destruction. This year's theme is "We're part of the solution", and we believe the BD Protocol can help companies understand and manage their impacts on nature. We will discuss this solutions-based approach with businesses we are working with at the **#TeamEurope4SouthAfrica virtual event**, open to the public, on 21 May. Register [here](#) to attend.

Reporting requirements for companies are becoming more stringent internationally, and last month the European Commission adopted a [proposal](#) that would require all large companies in the EU to report on how sustainability issues affect their business and on their impacts on people and the environment. At the same time, the United Nations has recently adopted a single system for [environmental-economic accounting](#).

The BD Protocol provides guidance on developing and managing a biodiversity impact inventory according to the appropriate organisational and value chain boundaries. It then allows you to assess impacts on both ecosystems and species, accounting for net changes in biodiversity. It is unique from other tools as it enables any organisation to compile a Statement of Biodiversity Position (shows accumulated impacts over time) and a Statement of Biodiversity Performance (shows net impacts over a specific period). It further supports other biodiversity impact measurement approaches to go beyond *ad hoc* assessments towards building a comprehensive biodiversity impact inventory backed up by accounting journal entries to track changes over time. Finally, it is based on the mitigation hierarchy and the principle of ecological equivalency to distinguish net impacts on ecosystems from net impacts on species.

The EWT recently completed a showcase of the BD Protocol on two Eskom sites: the Ingula Pumped Storage Scheme and the Sere Wind Farm. In the end, the consolidated footprint of both sites was measured, of which 60% is a positive biodiversity footprint, supporting ecosystems and species that can be proactively managed. The results enable Eskom to move beyond reporting to integrate evidence-based data into the management and budgeting for both sites, adding to Eskom's commitments to manage their vast landholdings responsibly. The report is publicly available here: <https://www.nbbnbdp.org/publications.html>

To download the BD Protocol: <http://www.nbbnbdp.org/bp-protocol.html>

To access the BD Protocol launch (4 March 2021) webinar: <https://youtu.be/lKMm17CCA30>

We believe the time is now for South African companies to integrate biodiversity considerations into their business and track their impacts on nature to make improvements. We have produced [simple steps to guide companies](#) on how to think about their relationship with biodiversity. To account for their biodiversity footprint, the BD Protocol is freely available, and a growing number of case studies are listed. The NBBN is eager to partner with forward-thinking companies on their journey from identifying biodiversity risks and opportunities specific to each company to creating management plans for biodiversity. Contact us for more information.

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

Founded in 1973, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) has consistently and effectively worked towards achieving our conservation legacy. At its core, the EWT's work is based on three strategic pillars, saving species, conserving habitats, and benefitting people. The EWT's team of specialists is based across East and southern Africa, ensuring the protection of threatened species and ecosystems. Our critical work includes conducting applied research, supporting community-led conservation, training and building capacity, addressing human-wildlife conflict, monitoring threatened species, and establishing safe spaces for wildlife range expansion. The EWT works alongside key partners, including communities, business, and governments, to create a sustainable future for wildlife and people. Find out more at [www.ewt.org.za](http://www.ewt.org.za)

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