



**ENDANGERED
WILDLIFE TRUST**

Less than 25% of South African businesses consider their impacts on nature.

9 December 2021

Start

Out of 354 South African companies assessed by the Endangered Wildlife Trust for their performance towards reducing their impacts on biodiversity, only 79 even recognise biodiversity as a material issue, indicating that much work needs to be done to gear up South African corporates to understand the critical role of nature-based capital in their supply chains.

On 8 December 2021, the EWT released the third annual Biodiversity Disclosure Project (BDP) report, rating the biodiversity performance of all Johannesburg Stock Exchange-Listed Companies and 27 State-Owned Enterprises. The rating is one of the first of its kind globally and is critical in comparing biodiversity performance in a scientifically rigorous and standardised way. The rating allows for comparing biodiversity performance specifically across all sectors and company sizes.

The EWT's National Biodiversity and Business Network assessed the biodiversity mainstreaming performance of the target organisations according to eight key questions, reflecting the steps for companies to follow to effectively mainstream biodiversity into their activities. This assessment was conducted in 2020-21 using publicly available information, including company websites and 2020 annual reports (e.g. annual integrated reports, sustainability reports). Each company was contacted electronically to offer them the opportunity to review their results and share any additional information if warranted.

Since 2018, there have been incremental increases to average scores across all questions, indicating slight improvements in a small number of companies providing statements that explain their interactions with biodiversity, but average scores remain worryingly low overall: i.e. less than one out of a maximum average of four. For the companies that have recognised biodiversity as a material issue and are addressing the associated risks and challenges, few have assessed their biodiversity footprints and developed comprehensive strategies with targets and KPIs.

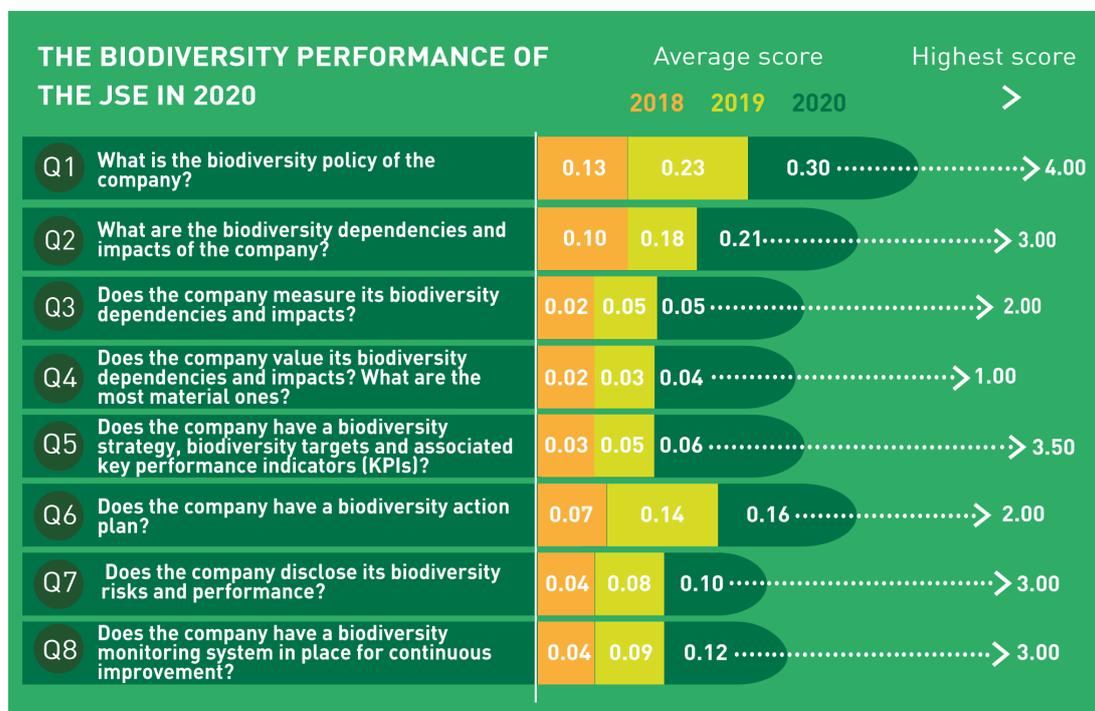
The Basic Resources Sector is again taking the lead in biodiversity policies as the only sector with more than 50% of companies demonstrating evidence of biodiversity mainstreaming (i.e. any total score above 0). The finance sector, comprising 63 companies, had the lowest biodiversity performance. This lack of recognition of biodiversity risks and impacts by the financial sector is concerning since biodiversity loss is enabled by financing impactful companies and projects such as big infrastructure or oil and gas.

Over half the world's total GDP is moderately or highly dependent on nature and its services, and the World Economic Forum's 2020 Global Risks Report ranks biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse among the top five threats humanity will face in the next ten years. The private sector is one of the main drivers of the biodiversity crisis, and as a country blessed with irreplaceable biodiversity, this

report highlights the need for action. It is time for corporates in South Africa to develop biodiversity impact inventories to measure their biodiversity footprints, set science-based targets to reduce their negative footprints and invest in biodiversity conservation and restoration. Businesses can be part of the global movement to protect and restore nature, but they urgently need to make it part of their agenda.

The top 10 ranked companies overall were:

Rank 2020	Rank 2019	Company name	Sector	2020 total score	2019 total score
1	1	ANGLO AMERICAN PLATINUM / ANGLO AMERICAN PLC / KUMBA IRON ORE	Basic materials	16	15.5
2	2	WOOLWORTHS HOLDINGS LIMITED	Consumer staples	13	13
3	43	COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE RICHEMONT SA	Consumer discretionary	12.5	2
4	5	SIBANYE GOLD LIMITED	Basic materials	11.5	10
5	5	AFRICAN RAINBOW MINERALS LIMITED	Basic materials	11	10
5	3	MONDI LIMITED / MONDI PLC	Basic materials	11	11
5	7	BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO PLC	Consumer staples	11	9
6	48	OCEANA GROUP LIMITED	Consumer staples	10.5	2
7	7	GOLD FIELDS LIMITED	Basic materials	10	9
7	8	SASOL LIMITED	Energy	10	8
8	21	GLENCORE PLC	Basic materials	9.5	5
8	8	SAPPI LIMITED	Basic materials	9.5	8
9	8	BHP GROUP PLC	Basic materials	9	8
10	28	ESKOM	SOE	8.5	4



The Questions asked of each company and the average score changes from 2018-2020.

Companies would not operate without nature, yet these results show that very few companies realise that intact ecosystems and the services they provide are critical to their continued functioning and growth. The NBBN has published freely available mainstreaming guidelines on its [website](#) to help guide companies in the disclosure process.

The Full report with individual scores for every company assessed will be publicly available on www.nbbnbdp.org from 16:00 8 December 2021.

End

About the Endangered Wildlife Trust

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) has worked tirelessly for nearly 50 years to save wildlife and habitats, with a vision to promote a healthy planet and an equitable world that values and sustains the diversity of all life. 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

About the National Biodiversity and Business Network

The National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN) aims to promote biodiversity conservation by working with businesses to provide solutions that mitigate their impacts and provide opportunities to ensure sustainable business practices. Our network aims to assist businesses to develop and disseminate relevant tools and guidelines while sharing experiences in an African context.

For more information, please contact:

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