



A world first for business - the disclosure of a company's global biodiversity footprint

30 May 2022

On Friday, 20 May, the Endangered Wildlife Trust's National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN) released a report on the global biodiversity footprint of Sibanye-Stillwater. This is the first time a company has measured and disclosed all their consolidated impacts from direct operations in the United States and South Africa, using on-the-ground site-based data. It comes down to a few simple numbers. Covering nearly 50,000 ha and 37 different ecosystem types in both the USA and South Africa, Sibanye-Stillwater has a baseline footprint of 87% negative footprint and 13% positive footprint. The changes in footprints were also measured for operations that were taken over by Sibanye-Stillwater and new mine developments. Disclosing these changes means Sibanye-Stillwater can adopt targets and policies to measure and improve their positive impacts.

The report is also a global first for a company to disclose its net and periodic impacts. The assessment of both cumulative and periodic impacts was done using the accounting framework of the Biological Diversity Protocol (BD Protocol). The NBBN developed the BD Protocol after 12 months of consultation with 40 different contributors globally. The framework enables companies like Sibanye-Stillwater to develop group-level consolidated footprints and identify biodiversity risks and opportunities for individual operations, ecosystems, and geographies.

The Lead for the BD Protocol, Dr Joël Houdet, underlined that the BD Protocol "builds trust with stakeholders through data that makes sense on the ground and can be verified by anyone." In a webinar dedicated to International Biodiversity Day 2022, panellists discussed why it is smart for companies to take nature into account. Businesses are at increasing risk from nature loss in the form of dwindling supply chains, higher regulatory costs and increased stakeholder pressures. Nicola Robins, Director of Incite said "Environmental pressures are changing the value of organisations and investors are starting to price this risk into their valuations".

Moving beyond talk to catalyse real action, the EWT presented the science behind the BD Protocol and how any company, in any region, can use it to measure and disclose their impacts.

In the webinar, Simone Liefierink from Sibanye-Stillwater outlined their biodiversity commitments. For new mine developments (such as the United States PGM operations in Montana), the 'No Net Loss' policy will guide restoration efforts, and for pre-existing operations in South Africa, the policy is to have a "net gain" to improve the state of biodiversity from the date of takeover. The BD Protocol will enable Sibanye-Stillwater to set and embed its targets through a remuneration-based long-term incentive process. As Dr Joël Houdet stated, the "BD Protocol is a game-changer in the biodiversity space as it allows data on site to filter through to group-level KPIs."

Dr Gabi Teren, Programme Manager of the NBBN, highlighted how "this is a massive leap forward and goes beyond mining by showing what is possible through putting real data to complex ecosystems but communicating the results in a simple way."

Dr Joël Houdet added that "When we talk about global targets, we need to understand our baselines, we need to be realistic and we need to make strategic decisions which are cost-effective because numbers without on-the ground reality will set us up for failure." The footprints and targets in the report paves the way for the private sector to measure and improve ecosystems under their management in a way that benefits both nature and businesses for decades to come.

The disclosure consists of the consolidated group report and a one-page information sheet, available to download from www.ewt.org.za/NBBN

[Download the full consolidated report here](#)

[Download the one-page summary here](#)

EWT MEDIA RELEASE

Links to the webinar recordings

[Biodiversity is an investment for your business - Nicola Robins, Incite](#)

[The need for business to take nature seriously - Michael Ofosuhen-Wise, Business for Nature](#)

[The Biological Diversity Protocol – what sets it apart? Dr Joël Houdet, The EWT](#)

[Intro to Sibanye Stillwater's Footprint - Simone Liefierink Sibanye-Stillwater](#)

[Sibanye Stillwater's Biodiversity Footprint Q and A - Dr Gabi Teren, The EWT](#)

[Biodiversity is your Business](#)

[The Biodiversity Protocol - A Quick Start Guide](#)

About The Endangered Wildlife Trust

Founded in 1973, the Endangered Wildlife is driven by a team of passionate and dedicated conservationists working through 13 specialised programmes across southern and East Africa, each falling under one of our three key strategic pillars: Saving species, conserving habitats, and benefitting people. 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, landowners, academic institutions, and governments, to create a sustainable future for wildlife and people.

[Click here for more information](#)

About Sibanye Stillwater

Sibanye-Stillwater is a multinational mining and metals processing Group with a diverse portfolio of mining and processing operations and projects and investments across five continents. The Group is also one of the foremost global PGM auto catalytic recyclers and has interests in leading mine tailings retreatment operations. Their vision is to be a leader in superior shared value for all stakeholders and our purpose is to safeguard global sustainability through our metals. We recognize our Nature Positive journey is key to achieving these goals.

[Click here for more information](#)

For more information please contact:

Dr Gabi Teren
EWT's National Biodiversity and Business Network Manager
gabit@ewt.org.za