

# South Africa's Outreach to Business and other Stakeholders CBD COP 12 Business Forum



Biodiversity and Conservation



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# Global Provisions

- South Africa established the Biodiversity and Business Network aligned to the Provisions of the recent COP Decisions on Business and Biodiversity



- The Aim of the NBBN is to facilitate engagement amongst members to assist the integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity into business agendas and operations.



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# National Biodiversity & Business Network

## Activities

- Provide pragmatic and practical support to facilitate the mainstreaming process.
- Assist companies in understanding and mainstreaming the goals of the CBD, other key environmental conventions and the relevant policy framework in terms of biodiversity.
- Help to create a better understanding of the common challenges concerning biodiversity, as well as the key opportunities that biodiversity mainstreaming presents.
- Support the implementation of demonstration projects, research projects and the development of locally relevant tools to support the mainstreaming process in South African businesses.

## Progress

**7 founding partners +16 supporting partners**

The NBBN started with 184 members, we currently have **672 members**

Profile of membership

60% of members are from private sectors, 26% of members are from government,

14% of members are from NGOs and Academia



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# Achievements of the NBBN

- Hosted 13 workshops and training sessions around the country.
  - Mainstreaming of biodiversity into the business sector as a whole.
  - Mainstreaming of biodiversity into the agricultural supply chain.
  - Mainstreaming of biodiversity into the real estate sector.
  - A number of other workshops covering business relevant issues e.g. investment in ecological infrastructure.
- Conducted an assessment of current practices and to inform the strategy of the NBBN going forward.
- Produced a guidance document for the real estate sector on how to increase the biodiversity value of private residential properties.
- SA supported the NBBN representation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity in October 2013 and the World Forum on Natural Capital in November 2013.



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# Some Lesson Learned

## Key strengths

- Achieved agreed deliverables for first six months
- Created national momentum and interest for business
- Confirmed that there is a business need for the NBBN and that businesses want it
- All events were fully booked and well attended with great representation by business
- Good international exposure
- Great interest for international collaboration

## Key weaknesses

- **Human capacity** – Staff Turnover
- **Communication/exposures** – need to consolidate communication strategy, press releases and regular articles
- Geographical Focus: Too much inland focus.



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# National Best Practices

- South African Mining and biodiversity Forum sub-committee on training, capacity building and mainstreaming of mining and biodiversity issues has been established.
- The focus is on the M&B Guidelines initially: other issues: Offsets, Biodiversity Basics, discussion and consensus building
- Key is to ensure that **training targets** the correct audiences and that content matches requirements: formal general training for new people, detailed formal training for those with existing capacity, training for mining engineers, discussion for general audiences, inclusion into broader environment programmes (Universities, Unions/NGOs/Media)
- Important to have a consistent message and interpretation of the guidelines for all audiences.
- Apply the M&B Guideline approach to other sectors: Development of sector specific guidelines-Business and Biodiversity Initiatives.

Mining and Biodiversity Guideline  
Mainstreaming biodiversity into the mining sector



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# Preliminary Assessment of Training

- **Training** has been conducted at a number of training sessions at different venues.
- Participants in the training sessions came **from the private sector, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations and government.**
- Over **500 individuals** have attended training thus far.
- Most of the participants felt that the training was **very effective** in understanding the key content of the guidelines (Survey, 2014).
- There is strong support for continued training events, especially for detailed training on specific issues and for specific sectors.
- Through training events, a large number of relevant people have been made aware of the guideline and have stated that they have used the guideline, to varying degrees, in their work (Survey, 2014).



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# Lessons Learned in Development of Tools and Outreach

## Effective co-ordination

- Lesson 1: Good co-ordination is fundamental to successful co-operation
- Lesson 4: Process management is important during the development of guidelines
- Lesson 6: Securing high-level endorsement requires flexibility and perseverance

## Effective communication

- Lesson 2: Utilise existing sector-based platforms for co-operation and implementation
- Lesson 7: A coherent first draft expedites early input from stakeholders
- Lesson 9: Understanding government structures improves collaboration
- Lesson 13: Present the consideration of biodiversity as a way to avert business risk

## Bridging the mandate gap

- Lesson 3: Align with the sector to identify mutual focus, goals and interests
- Lesson 5: Securing high-level endorsement is beneficial to biodiversity mainstreaming
- Lesson 8: Biodiversity mainstreaming is a useful concept to bridge differing mandates
- Lesson 10: Be aware of resistance to increasing mandatory regulatory requirements

## Biodiversity conservation remains a priority

- Lesson 11: Emphasise the mitigation hierarchy as an approach to mitigation
- Lesson 12: Protection from mining is a positive motivation for biodiversity stewardship



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# “THE GAME CHANGER”

- **Building a robust biodiversity** economy that contributes substantially to the financial and economic climate in SA.
- **Broadening rural economic development drivers** by enabling black landowners and beneficiaries to participate in the mainstream wildlife economy as shareholders and entrepreneurs.
- **Optimizing the land economic value** through community private public partnerships without compromising land ownership or use rights.
- Developing game ranches as **new and alternative engines of rural economic development** with strong emphasis on human resource development, job creation and reduction of poverty.
- Building platforms for community based **land use, good governance and planning.**
- **Participating and contributing** as the key driver in food security strategy and programmes through game meat production;
- **Calls for a paradigm shift** that places biodiversity as viable alternatives for a business rural development model and land reform.



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# 2024 VISION KEY DELIVERABLES

- **Jobs:** 60 000 new sustainable jobs created
- **Expansion:** 2 million ha of communal land restored and developed for commercial game ranching
- **Equity:** R4 billion in game and R3 billion on fixed assets and infrastructure resulting in improved rural income, skills development, institutional capacity building, entrepreneurship and food security.
- **Conservation and Game Improvement:** 300 000 heads of wildlife under private community owned ranches.

***Need investment of about R2.5 billion over the next 10 years to achieve the Vision 2024.***



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Kiruben Naicker

Director: Science Policy Interface

Department of Environmental Affairs

[Knaicker@environment.gov.za](mailto:Knaicker@environment.gov.za)

Website: [www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za)



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