

Activities of the South African National Biodiversity and Business Network in 2018 – 1 page summary

Building the capacity of business through information sharing

The NBBN's information sharing and networking events aim to build the capacity of South African businesses and related sectors such as government, consulting, NGO and academia, to better integrate biodiversity into all levels of business. Over the past year, we presented two such events.

The first event, held in July, was entitled *Engaging Business on Biodiversity*, and was presented in partnership with the Department of Environmental Affairs. The key aim of the event was introduce Dr Christina Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to South African businesses. The NBBN also utilised this opportunity to present on the NBBN's most recent project, which is being developed with sponsorship from Eskom, namely the Biodiversity Disclosure Project (BDP).

The NBBN presented its fourth annual National Biodiversity and Business Indaba in October. Proudly sponsored by the DEA, the South African National Biodiversity Institute, Anglo American, De Beers, Transnet, Pick n Pay, Nedbank and Eskom, the event attracted over 80 delegates from various sectors, including business, consulting, academia, the NGO sector, and government. Highlights of the event included an opening address from Ms Nosipho Ngcaba, Director General of the DEA, and keynote addresses from Peter Lukey, Chief Policy Advisor: Strategic Environmental Intelligence at DEA. With a theme of "Biodiversity Offsetting for the Benefit of Biodiversity and Business", the indaba exceeded the expectations of delegates for a one and a half day programme filled with the latest developments and case studies relating to business and biodiversity offsetting in South Africa.

Biodiversity Disclosure Project

The NBBN is in the process of developing a Biodiversity Disclosure Project (BDP), which will be in place by 2020. It will support the private sector in integrating biodiversity into their strategies and activities, thereby helping business recognise, measure, value, and responsively manage their direct and indirect dependencies and impacts on biodiversity. Eskom, South Africa's parastatal power utility company, proudly supports the development of the BDP.

The BDP will drive broad business action in the area of biodiversity mainstreaming in South Africa within the next three years. To achieve this goal, the BDP team (comprised of the EWT's Shelley Lizzio, Constant Hoogstad and Yolán Friedmann, and Dr Joel Houdet of Integrated Sustainability Services), in collaboration with stakeholders, will develop the following three tools: the Biodiversity Disclosure Project Platform, the Biodiversity Measurement Protocol, and the Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Business Toolkit.

Black Mountain Mining

Since 2015, the NBBN has been supporting the IUCN on the implementation of their partnership with Black Mountain Mining (BMM). The goal of the partnership is to support BMM with the implementation of the mitigation hierarchy for their Gamsberg Project in the Northern Cape. The NBBN works with the IUCN and the Gamsberg Project team, providing specialist advice on matters relating to biodiversity mainstreaming with the aim of reducing the company's impact on biodiversity and effectively offsetting their residual biodiversity impact.

In 2018 the NBBN has been focusing on assisting BMM with the implementation of the management actions listed in the Gamsberg Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP). This involved weekly teleconferences to track progress with the implementation of the BMP, as well as regular visits to site to provide face-to-face support. Furthermore, in May 2018 the NBBN and the IUCN presented at the 2018 International Association for Impact Assessment's international conference in Durban, South Africa on the partnership between BMM and IUCN.

Networking business partners

The NBBN distributes a monthly newsletter to its database of more than 600 members, keeping these members up to date with the latest biodiversity and business information from across South Africa and the world. We use regular emails to communicate our upcoming events with our members. Our newsletter presents an opportunity to showcase the sustainability work of our partners, present NBBN thought leadership pieces, and to share information on the new projects being developed by the NBBN, such as the BDP mentioned above.

The achievements of the NBBN would not be possible without the support of its partners. We would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank our partners, including Nedbank, Pick n Pay, Hatch, Anglo American, Transnet, the Department of Environmental Affairs, Eskom and Woolworths, for their continued support.