

DRAFT MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS IN LAND USE PLANNING AND IEM

BIODIVERSITY PLANNING FORUM
15 MAY 2014



Biodiversity and Conservation



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

- This guideline recommends minimum requirements for the consideration of biodiversity in the course of IEM, which includes spatial and development planning, environmental assessment and decision making
- Motivates how best available information on biodiversity priorities be used when undertaking Strategic Spatial Planning, Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), designing EMFs, pre-application screening; and Basic Assessment, Scoping and EIA



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CONTENT OF DOCUMENT PART A

- General introduction and background
- Concepts such as biodiversity pattern and process; ecological infrastructure and ecosystem goods and services



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CONTENT –PART B

- Overview of the legal landscape
- Discussion of law and biodiversity assessment in practice-how values about biodiversity are reflected in different laws
- Also distinction between laws that control and laws that guide development planning

A table presents a number of activities and all applicable laws and the authorities that are responsible for their administration



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CONTENT-PART C

- Policy framework (NDP, NSSDAP, NBSAP, NBF, etc)
- Methods of identifying priorities for biodiversity conservation (systematic biodiversity planning, hierarchy of biodiversity importance, etc)
- Useful information (NFEPA, Red List of SA Plants, IBAs)



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CONTENT-PART C

Tables included provide information on the following:

- Statutory gazetted notices and guidelines related to biodiversity mainstreaming (Table 7)
- International 'best practice' guidelines on biodiversity mainstreaming (Table 8)
- South African 'best practice' guidelines on biodiversity mainstreaming (Table 9)
- Ecosystem guidelines for land use planning, environmental assessment and biodiversity management (Table 10)



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CONTENT –PART D

A good practice guide to assess impacts on biodiversity and **ecosystem goods and services**

- Flagging biodiversity in sector-specific context

Introduces different types of impacts on biodiversity in different ecosystems, how they should be identified, assessed and, if residual negative impacts are unavoidable, mitigated

- Scope of Assessment
- Mitigation Hierarchy

Table 11 –guidance on appropriate specialist involvement (will vary, depending on ecosystems, habitats and species at risk)

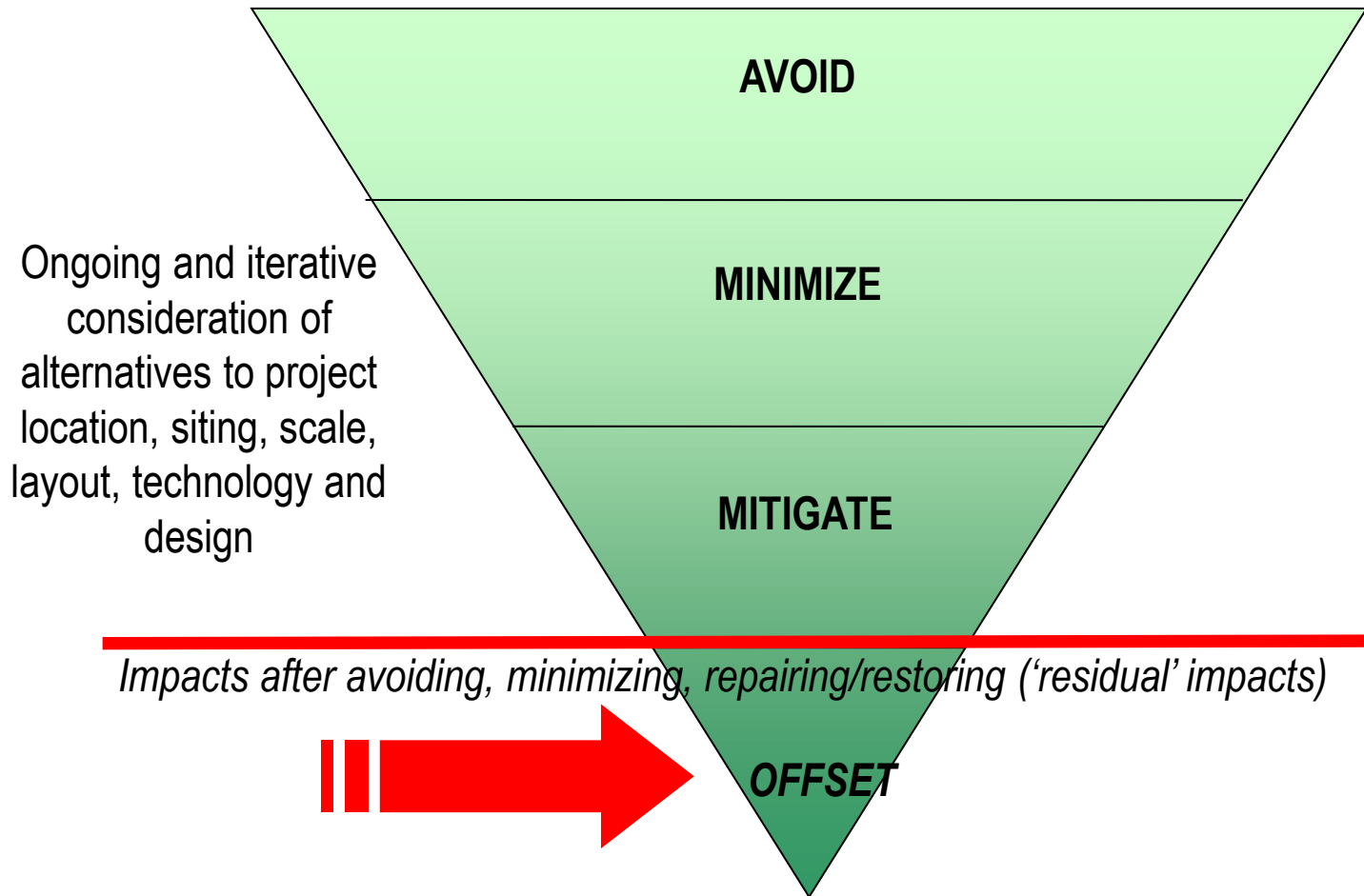


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Offsets a useful mechanism but as a last resort



CONTENT-PART E

This section deals with biodiversity impacts associated with different types of development, flagging biodiversity in **sector specific** contexts such as:

- Bounded or place-restricted infrastructure development (mining
- Linear development (power lines, roads pipelines),
- Coastal impacts (ports, harbours, marinas),
- Forestry and agricultural impacts (irrigation, dry land cultivation, vineyards),
- Water resources development (dams, reservoirs, pipelines),
- Marine and offshore development (oil and gas), and
- Ecotourism (lodges, trails)

Includes different sector guidelines.



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CONTENT-PART F

Minimum Requirements for Biodiversity-inclusive impact assessment. It looks at the following stages:

- pre-application screening,
- scoping, and
- environmental impact assessment



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DECISION SUPPORT TOOL

- Is the information on biodiversity sufficient and relevant as the basis for impact assessment?
- Are there ecosystems and/ or areas in the proposed development area of high and/ or moderate importance?
- Are there species of conservation concern in the proposed development area?
- Are there important 'ecological drivers' of ecosystem function that must be maintained?
- Are there any clear trends in land use or resource availability in the area that could affect the proposed development and its impacts?



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CONCLUSION

This guideline is now available for public comment.

It has been submitted to WG 1 to comment on.

It will be submitted to WG4 and we are planning to submit to DAFF, DRDLR and DMR as well.

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