

Eliciting inputs from the biodiversity sector on draft biodiversity protocols developed for the EIA screening tool

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Biodiversity Planning Forum
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Presentation Outline

- Background and process followed to date
- Legislative Context
- What is the Screening Tool?
 - Mitigation hierarchy
 - Screening tool classification system
- Biodiversity Protocols
 - Input Biodiversity Screening Data – Terrestrial and Aquatic
 - Example of a protocol
 - Spatial implication of the implementation of the screening tool and protocols
- Conclusion

Background

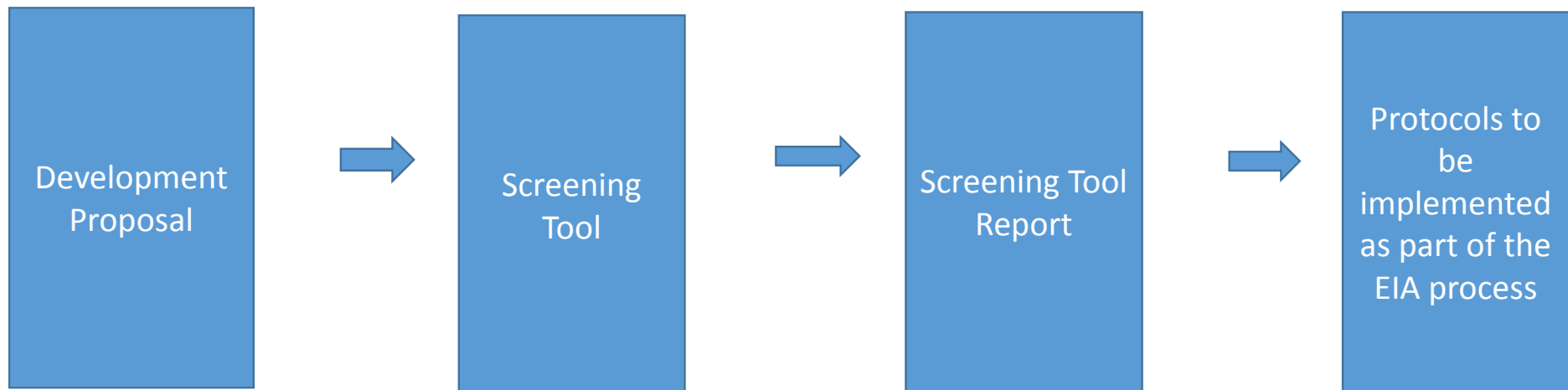
- **SANBI** and **CSIR** are working on three biodiversity related protocols
- There are **other biodiversity related protocols** that will be informing the screening tool, however **SANBI is not responsible for these** (Avifaunal, Marine).
- In the late 2016 DEA decided that the '**minimum requirements for biodiversity assessments in EIAs**' process would inform the development of the biodiversity related protocols
- **Numerous specialist involvement** (Aquatic, estuarine, wetland , species specialist – NGOs) in the development of these protocols.
- The protocols are in the **WG5 Workplan** and will have to be **approved by the competent authority**.
- **Ongoing engagement** with the **Competent Authorities** for EIAs through **WG5 Implementation Workshop Meeting**.
 - A **further two day engagement** with the **CA** is planned for **July 2018**.
 - A Comments and Response Trail Doc is being maintained for the biodiversity protocols.

Legislative Context

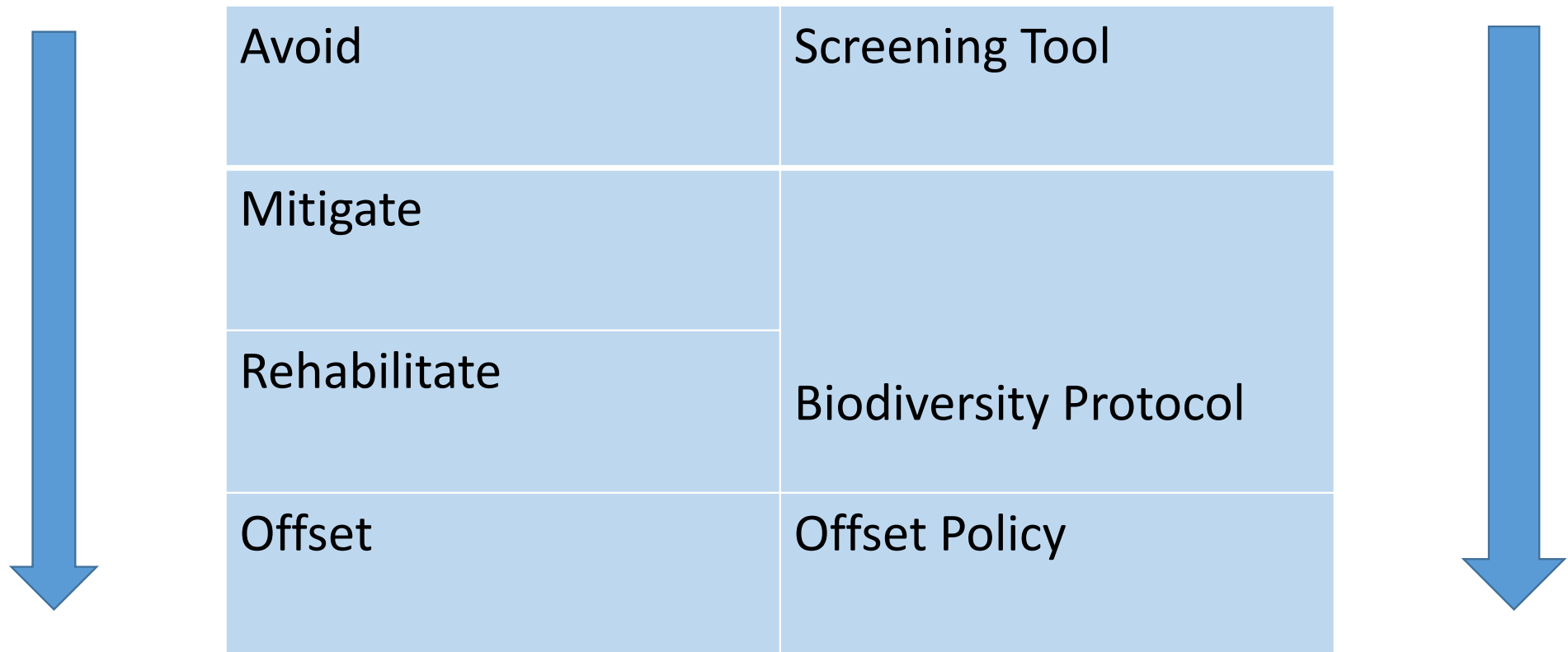
- **Regulation 16 (1) (b) (v)** - report generated by the national web based environmental screening tool
- **Regulation 19 (1) (a) basic assessment reports...**speaks about the inclusion of specialist reports...**(8)** A specialist report must contain all information set out in Appendix 6 to these Regulations.
- **Regulation 23 (1) scoping reports (a)** an environmental impact report inclusive of any specialist reports **(5)** A specialist report must contain all information set out in Appendix 6 to these Regulations.
- Protocols are intended to take the place **Appendix 6** – specialist report and is to cater for two scenarios
 - Assessment
 - Compliance statement

What Is The Screening Tool?

- Pre screening of environmental sensitivities.
- Implements the mitigation hierarchy.
- Generates a screening report that identifies the relevant protocols for specialist studies.
- The protocol will be implemented as part of the assessment process.



Mitigation Hierarchy



1			SPECIALIST STUDY / THEME																									
2	CLASSIFICATION SELECTION		Agriculture	Landscape/scenic/visual/sense of place	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Paleontology	Terrstrial biodiversity	Aquatic biodiversity	Marine	Surface water/Hydrology/Water quality	Birds	Bats	Civil aviation	Defence	RFI	Noise	Flicker	Radiation	Traffic	Geotechnical/Seismic/soils/Slopes	Climate Impact Assessment	Health Impact Assessment	Socio-Economic Assessment	Ambient Air Quality Assesemnt	Point Source Assessment	Seismic	Development Zones	
3			P	P	P	P	P			P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P											
29	22	Tellecommunications/ Radio Broadcasting Tower		*									*	*	*	*												
30	23	Tellecommunications/ Radio Broadcasting Mast		*									*	*		*												
31	24	Tellecommunications/ Radio Broadcasting Receivers	*	*	*	*	*						*	*	*													
32	25	Marine Cables						*	*																			
33	26	Electricity generation Petroleum	*	*	*	*	*	*	*									*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
34	28	Electricity generation Coal	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
35	29	Electricity generation nuclear	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
36	30	Electricity generation hydro	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*									*	*	*		*					

* This is only for illustrative purposes.

Biodiversity Protocol

- Legal tool intended to provide guidance to the EAP or specialist preparing an assessment for a specific theme to:
 - Undertake the assessment using a consistent methodology
 - Provide consistent documents
- Allow level of assessments to be undertaken based on the sensitivity of the site using a two tier system:-
 - In (Very High, high and medium) : where development intersects with biodiversity priority areas/feature and requires an Assessment.
 - Out (Low): where development **does not** intersect with biodiversity priority areas/feature and requires a compliance statement



Input Biodiversity Screening Data – Terrestrial

- Terrestrial Biodiversity VERY HIGH SENSITIVITY delineated areas
 - Protected Areas
 - Critical Biodiversity Areas
 - Ecological Support Areas
 - Strategic Water Source Areas (Terrestrial component)
 - NFEPA Catchments (Terrestrial component)
 - Priority Areas for Protected Area Expansion

- Terrestrial Biodiversity VERY HIGH SENSITIVITY features
 - Indigenous forest



* Species information has not been included under this theme

Input Biodiversity Screening Data - Aquatic

- Aquatic Biodiversity VERY HIGH SENSITIVITY delineated areas
 - Ecological Support Areas that include aquatic features
 - Critical Biodiversity Areas that include aquatic features
 - Strategic Water Source Areas (Aquatic component)
 - NFEPA Catchments (Aquatic component)
- Aquatic Biodiversity VERY HIGH SENSITIVITY features
 - Rivers
 - Wetlands
 - Estuaries



* Species information has not been included under this theme

Spatial implication of the implementation of the screening tool/protocol

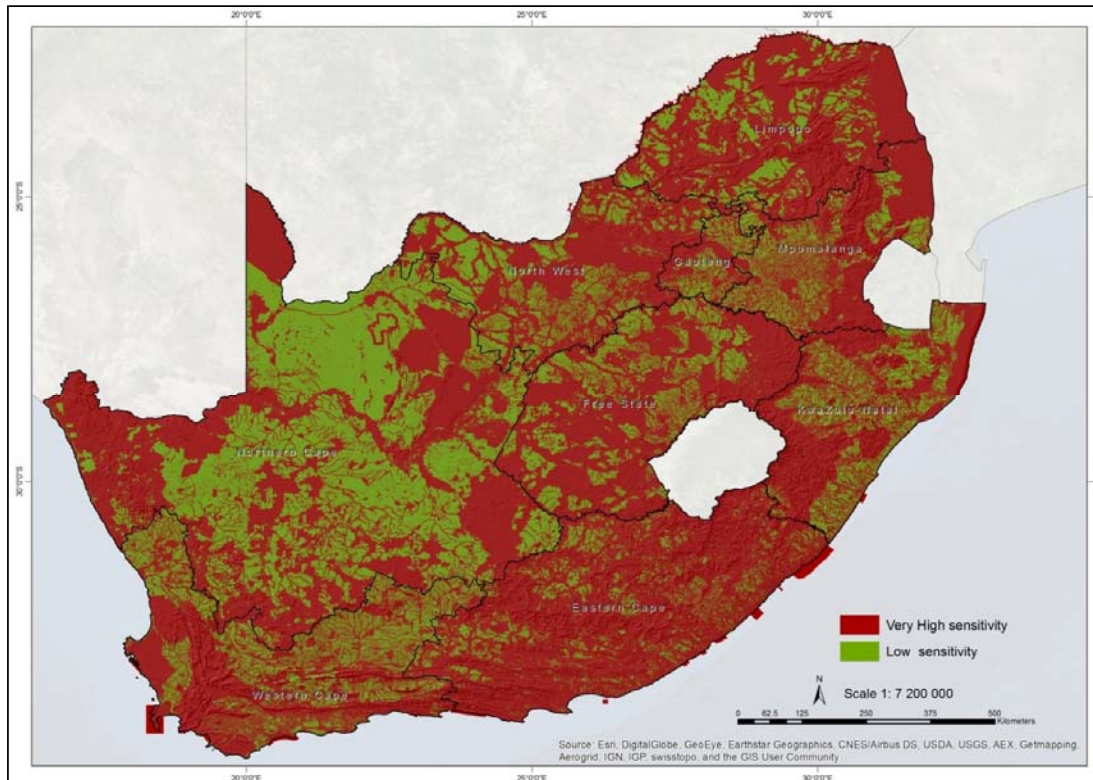


Figure 1. Spatial implication of combined aquatic and terrestrial “very high/ in” delineated areas and features and the “low sensitivity/out” areas for the whole country

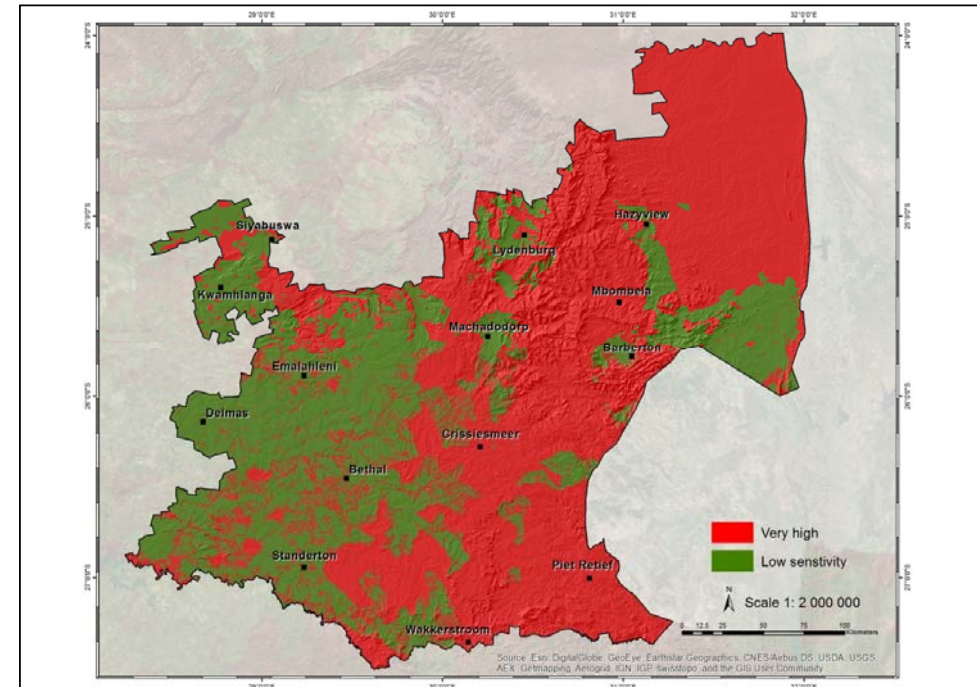


Figure 2. Spatial implication of combined aquatic and terrestrial “very high/ in” delineated areas and features and the “low sensitivity/out” areas for the Mpumalanga Province

Terrestrial Biodiversity Protocol – relating to CBAs

f. a detailed assessment of the potential impact(s) of the proposed development on Terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Areas, including:

- I. **List the reasons** why a terrestrial ecosystem has been identified as a CBA (list criteria, see CBA Guideline and consult with provincial authorities)
- II. Is **development consistent with maintaining the CBA in its current state** or in achieving the goal of rehabilitation
- III. **impact** on species **composition** and **structure of vegetation** with indication of the extent of clearing activities
- IV. impact on **ecosystem threat status**
- V. impact on **explicit subtypes** in the **vegetation**
- VI. impact on **overall species** and **ecosystem diversity** of the site
- VII. impact on **populations of species of special concern**
- VIII. impact on **ecological functioning and ecological processes** (fire, migration) that operate within or near the proposed development footprint
- IX. impact on **ecological connectivity** (on site, and in relation to the broader landscape)
- X. **ecological corridors** or introducing barriers that impede migration and movement of flora and fauna



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Conclusion

- Comments on the draft protocol are due on the 29th of June 2018 (a.kamineth@sanbi.org.za).
- A further draft will be completed by mid July 2018 that will incorporate the comments of this meeting and other engagements.
 - A Comments and Response Trail Document is being maintained for these protocols.
- Further stakeholder engagement meetings will be organized with the competent authorities

