

BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS

Presenters

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Biodiversity offsets are fast becoming a 'hot topic' internationally and in South Africa. At a national level, government is working on a biodiversity offsets policy framework; at provincial level the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal have developed guidelines for offsets.

- **Financial institutions** are making offsets a requirement of projects applying for funding (e.g. IFC).
- Some of the **larger multinational companies** (e.g. Rio Tinto) have committed themselves to using offsets to achieve 'no net loss' or 'net gain' of biodiversity.
- **Authorities** are – or are having to consider - including biodiversity offsets as conditions of authorization for development.
- **Conservation agencies** are being called on by developers and consultants to help find offsets.
- **Environmental consultants** are expected to be 'in the know' and advise clients on biodiversity offsets.

The purpose of this one-day course is to bring different groups up to date on biodiversity offsets. The course will equip participants – be they from government departments, businesses, consultancies or banks – with the 'nuts and bolts' of biodiversity offsets, and provide them with a sound point of departure to explore offsets in more detail.

The course will give participants a solid foundation in offset principles and their appropriate application, and cover the main criteria and approaches used to design, locate and implement offsets.

Course outline

08:00-08:30	Registration, tea and coffee
08:30-08:45	Welcome and introduction of participants
08:45-09:00	What are the main questions that participants have about offsets?
09:00-09:30	Why biodiversity offsets?
09:30-10:00	Offsets in the mitigation hierarchy; offsets and no net loss/ net gain versus compensatory conservation; offset approach in SA
10:00-10:30	Tea
10:30-11:00	When are offsets possible and appropriate? Offsets in planning and impact assessment
11:00 – 11:15	Types of biodiversity offsets
11:15 – 12:00	Determining the size of offset; designing and locating offsets
12:00-12:30	Implementing and financing management of offsets
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:00	Introduction to group exercise
14:00 – 15:30	Group exercise, case study
15:30 - 16:30	Present and discuss case study
16:30 – 17:00	Discussion and conclusion
17:00-17:15	Course Evaluation and Closure

Course materials

1. Handouts of slides
2. Key references on biodiversity offsets

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