

Initial Biodiversity Assessment & Planning (IBAP)

PRIVATE SECTOR ■ PUBLIC INTEREST ■ INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

CHALLENGE

Too often, large-scale development projects start without proper attention paid to the environment. Unfortunately, this often leads to important species and habitats being unnecessarily threatened or lost. In addition to this environmental harm, these mistakes can lead to a damaged reputation for a company both at the local and global level, and in some cases may mean losing their license to operate in a given region.

RESPONSE

Conservation International's (CI) Center for Environmental Leadership in Business is working with conservation and industry partners to develop a tool that integrates biodiversity information and conservation planning into the earliest stages of a mining or oil and gas project's design and implementation.

Initial Biodiversity Assessment and Planning (IBAP) is a science-based approach, which draws on CI's core competencies—expertise in biodiversity science and conservation planning. IBAP assesses an area's biodiversity within the socio-

The IBAP process helps companies integrate biodiversity information into the earliest stages of project design and implementation.

economic context of the region and provides opportunities on how to conserve the project's surroundings. Led by CI's Center for Environmental Leadership in Business (CELB), the IBAP methodology was first piloted in the field by Rio Tinto and ConocoPhillips.

THE VALUE OF IBAP

Conducting IBAP allows a company to become proactive concerning environmental issues.

Benefits provided to both the company and other regional stakeholders through implementation of the IBAP methodology include:

- Generating high quality scientific data;
- Delivering a cost effective product in a timely manner;
- Building local scientific capacity; and
- Catalyzing local support for biodiversity conservation and integrated regional land use planning.

Performing IBAP at a project is not only good business, but it also demonstrates that business and biodiversity can co-exist.



Involving local and regional stakeholders is a key aspect of the IBAP process.



Important biodiversity information is collected by CI's Rapid Assessment Program team through cost effective scientific surveys completed in 3-4 weeks.

OUR MISSION

To engage the private sector worldwide in creating solutions to critical global environmental problems in which industry plays a defining role.



Performing the IBAP process prior to project development is not only good business, but it also demonstrates that business and biodiversity can co-exist.

conservation, industry, the communities that rely on resources within the region and the government of Guinea.

ALCOA IN MARITIME GUINEA

In conjunction with bauxite mining operations in Guinea, Alcoa, in partnership with the aluminum manufacturer Alcan, is looking to build an alumina refinery in the Boké region of Guinea. While the refinery is expected to have a positive economic impact for the local population, Alcoa is seeking to better understand its possible environmental impacts. Beginning in late 2004, Alcoa and CI entered into an agreement to implement an IBAP in Guinea to help the company better understand the region's biodiversity and work with regional stakeholders to develop a biodiversity action plan, in order to help Alcoa make decisions regarding the siting of their proposed refinery. The information gathered by CI is also being used by the company for their project Sustainability Assessment.

IBAP IN PRACTICE

CONOCOPHILLIPS IN VENEZUELA

ConocoPhillips is an operator of a petroleum concession-held in consortium with ENI Venezuela and OPIC in the Gulf of Paria off the coast of Venezuela. CI and ConocoPhillips signed an agreement in 2002 to work with local stakeholders to assess the biodiversity values of the coastal region and design and implement measures that promote improved resource management from local communities, with an emphasis on generating local capacity for better fishing practices. Data collected from a biological survey formed part of ConocoPhillips' Environmental Impact Assessment. CI is now working with ConocoPhillips' to determine next steps to improve resource management in the Gulf of Paria and ensure that the company's petroleum operations integrate biodiversity considerations into their environmental management systems.

RIO TINTO IN FOREST GUINEA

Rio Tinto is currently prospecting for iron ore within concessions in the Pic de Fon classified forest in Forest Guinea. Given the potential for high biodiversity within their concessions, Rio Tinto entered into an agreement with CI in 2002 to assess the region's biodiversity and the existing and potential socio-economic threats to and opportunities for conservation, and to develop a biodiversity action plan. From this, we are forming an alliance with Rio Tinto and other regional stakeholders to develop an integrated regional land-use planning process in Forest Guinea, including the Pic de Fon and surrounding areas, benefiting biodiversity

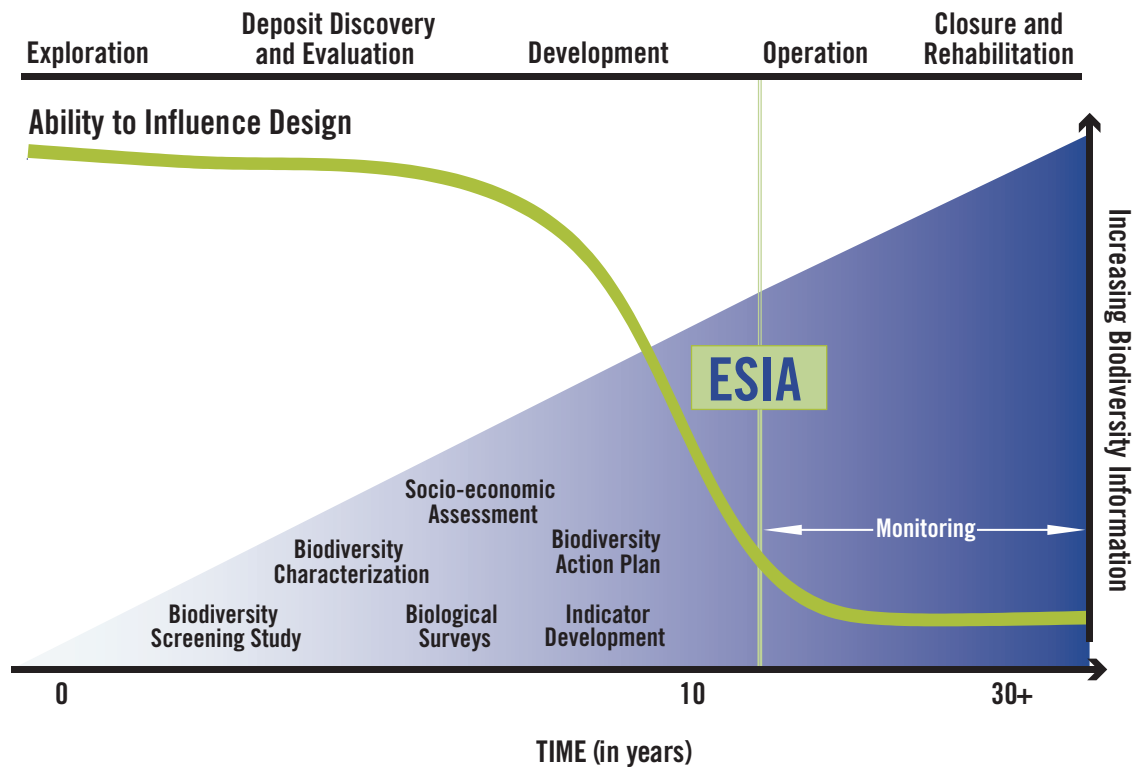
THE IBAP METHODOLOGY

IBAP methodology helps companies incorporate biodiversity into their risk analysis, decision-making and planning processes from the conceptual phase through the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to the development of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

The IBAP methodology consists of:

1. A characterization of a project's global and regional biodiversity context;
2. A regional and site biodiversity screening study which answers a set of key questions related to potential biodiversity risk;
3. A rapid biological survey;
4. A rapid socio-economic threat and opportunity assessment;
5. A biodiversity action plan that encompasses site specific and regional conservation recommendations for all stakeholders. The plan also includes recommendation indicators and monitoring protocols.

Integrating IBAP with Oil & Gas and Mining Project Planning and Design



Business decisions must be made quickly before opportunities are lost, and ready access to pertinent information is essential to assess environmental and business risk. Often, however, the lack of easily accessible data limits the ability of companies to efficiently and effectively factor biodiversity information into crucial early stages of program planning. Through the IBAP process, biodiversity informa-

tion is made available early on when that information can most influence project design. Protocol development and monitoring continue to provide companies with biodiversity information that can be integrated into a project's operations and eventually its closure and environmental rehabilitation.

IBAP IN 2006

Several improvements and enhancements will occur to the IBAP process in 2006. Most importantly, an IBAP guidance document for industry practitioners and conservation organizations will be produced. Along the way to achieving this objective, CI plans to work with partners to:

1. Design and develop a more complete IBAP methodology that will integrate biodiversity information, analysis, and planning from the exploration phase of a project to the development of the ESIA and EMP. The process will establish specific criteria to consider during each stage. CI also will create working groups that encompass specific IBAP components-furthering refinement and development.

2. Apply the IBAP methodology at pilot projects at the corporate and business unit level in collaboration with a number of corporate partners. Lessons learned from these projects will help to refine the IBAP process and these summaries will be included into the guidance document.
3. Promote the IBAP approach throughout the mining and energy industries and conservation community.

In support of these activities, CI is receiving support from the Alcoa Foundation and Rio Tinto. We also will continue to identify and engage companies in key biodiversity hotspots and wilderness areas as potential partners in refining the IBAP methodology.

The Center for Environmental Leadership in Business

Since its inception, Conservation International has recognized the global importance of engaging the private sector as a force for biodiversity conservation. CI launched The Center for Environmental Leadership in Business in 2001 to engage key industries that have the greatest impact on biodiversity: **agriculture & fisheries, energy & mining, forestry, and travel & leisure**. CELB's strategic focus is to work with these industries to advance best practices for biodiversity conservation at a global level and to create partnerships that deliver concrete benefits for the environment, business, and people at a local level.

To implement this strategy, the Center has defined three key ways in which we work with our corporate partners:

Business Practices:

Companies can reduce their ecological footprint and contribute to conservation most directly by improving their own business practices. We have helped to integrate biodiversity protection into the management systems and operations of BP, McDonald's, Office Depot, Starbucks, and others. We focus especially on helping companies leverage the power of their supply-chains by creating measurable performance criteria and effective incentive systems for suppliers to take conservation action in their own businesses.

Conservation Planning:

By working together, industry leaders, government policy-makers, and civil society organizations can formulate regional plans and policies that protect the most important areas for biodiversity and other values, while allowing carefully managed development to proceed in others. CELB is working with Alcoa, Bunge, AngloAmerican, ConocoPhillips, Rio Tinto, and others to develop tools and approaches for regional conservation planning.

Conservation Investments:

Companies can create a net benefit for the environment by going beyond the mitigation of their environmental impacts and supporting conservation efforts in critical ecosystems. These investments can also create net benefits for companies by ensuring the sustainability of natural resources, providing cost-effective offsets for emissions and land-use, and enhancing corporate reputation. CELB is working with BP, Intel, SC Johnson, the Climate Trust, the World Bank, and others to make conservation investments and to develop a market for ecosystem services.

THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP IN BUSINESS

ABOUT THE CENTER

Launched in 2001, CELB was created in partnership between Conservation International and Ford Motor Company to provide a new forum for collaboration between the private sector and the environmental community.



To learn more about this CELB Project, please visit us on the web at www.celb.org.

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