IBAT and the Equator Principles: Using biodiversity data to enhance biodiversity risk management

Webinar, 16th July 2020
What is the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool?

- A web-based map & reporting tool that provides fast, easy & integrated access to critical biodiversity information

- An alliance between:
  - The World Database on Protected Areas
  - The World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas
  - The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

- The source of the most globally authoritative biodiversity data:

- A link between the private sector and biodiversity conservation
Context

- We are at a crisis point: 1 million species threatened by extinction (IPBES global assessment)

- There is “greater awareness of the impact that human activities can have on nature, and of the connection between human health, and biodiversity”. Elizabeth Mrema

- Link between business and biodiversity is becoming increasingly clear- The World Economic Forum continues to list biodiversity loss as one of the top 5 global risks in terms of impact and likelihood

- 2020 ‘super year’ for biodiversity (post2020.unep-wcmc.org)

- The challenge will be to mainstream biodiversity considerations into relevant economic sectors
EP4 & BIODIVERSITY
DATA SHARING

EPA Biodiversity Working Group, 16 July 2020
“The EPFI will encourage the client to share commercially non-sensitive Project-specific biodiversity data with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and relevant national and global data repositories, using formats and conditions to enable such data to be accessed and re-used in future decisions and research applications.”
BIODIVERSITY DATA SHARING

PURPOSE AND INTENT

To encourage EPFI clients to share biological data in a methodical and consistent way

To ensure the topic of biodiversity, including species of conservation concern and sensitive ecosystems, is duly considered in project-related risk assessments

To support conservation by enhancing the evidence base for research and decisions relating to biodiversity

To seek new best practice opportunities in alignment with PS6
As global environmental pressures increase, so to does the attention of regulators and citizens on business impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems.

Increasingly, external stakeholders are calling for enhanced transparency, accountability and disclosure by FI’s (e.g. proposed ‘TCFD for Nature’ / TNFD).

Biodiversity Data Sharing represents a low-cost leadership opportunity with high impact potential and cost savings potential.

Contributes to clients’ social license to operate and a positive profile with the conservation community.

Wider and better data availability will overall streamline the ESIA process.

Biodiversity data feeds into evidence-based for attainment of other issues in the SDG agenda such as agriculture and food security, human health, and zoonotic disease management.
Two distinct Biodiversity Guidance Notes have been created – available soon

- Guidance for EPFIs
- Guidance for EPFI Clients

When to use the Guidance Notes

- Ideally, all Project Finance and Project-Related Corporate Loan opportunities where biodiversity data will be collected
- Minimally, when there is a PS6 trigger

Supports:

- Example email in Guidance Notes
- EPA Biodiversity Working Group Members
Biodiversity Data Sharing
Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

- Aim of GBIF is to produce economic and social benefits and enable sustainable development by providing sound scientific evidence on biodiversity.
- International database aimed at providing open access to data about all types of life on earth.
- Uses an evolving community-based standard which enables compiling of biodiversity data from a variety of sources.
- Chosen in consultation with subject-matter experts across sectors and organizations.
BIODIVERSITY DATA SHARING

BENEFITS

• Open-access data can be re-used for research/policy applications

• Reputational benefit: contribute to Sustainable Development Goals through knowledge support to conservation, climate change, food security, human health

• Fill data gaps in poorly-sampled regions

• Save long-term costs through providing baseline data for future EIAs

• Demonstrate contribution to science/policy through data citations linked to clients

• Improve transparency/robustness of EIAs
BIODIVERSITY DATA SHARING

HOW TO PUBLISH DATA THROUGH GBIF

- Client or consultant registers as a publishing organization via https://www.gbif.org/become-a-publisher
- Biodiversity team formats data using accepted terms to describe e.g. which species observed where, when, how, in what quantity
- Formatted datasets entered into GBIF Integrated Publishing Toolkit (IPT), harvested by GBIF.org and national/thematic portals
- Datasets may be hosted on local server or third-party facility (e.g. GBIF national ‘node’, cloud service)
- Client retains full control of datasets, may be withdrawn at any time
- Helpdesk services available from helpdesk@gbif.org, GBIF nodes (operational focal points)

See https://www.gbif.org/publishing-data for a detailed description of data publication
## BIODIVERSITY DATA SHARING

### CONCERNS AND RESPONSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Precise data on occurrence of sensitive species (e.g. endangered, high-value) could lead to poaching or piracy</td>
<td>Geographic coordinates can be generalized, information withheld in published data version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial sensitivity of data during licensing period</td>
<td>Data publication can be delayed until project approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reputational risk if e.g. biodiversity is damaged</td>
<td>Reputational dividend expected from transparency, other issues managed through Action Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government approval and buy-in</td>
<td>CBD guidelines encourage open data sharing, GBIF data mobilization indicator of progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional cost/effort of monitoring/sharing</td>
<td>Monitoring costs should already be considered in project budget, publication is free of charge, long-term savings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Target 19:** By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

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![Species occurrence records accessible through GBIF over time](image)
IN SUMMARY

**EPFIs…**
- Please encourage your clients to share their biological data!

**EPFI Clients…**
- Please consider sharing your biological data!

**ALL…**
- Please share your thoughts and feedback with the EP Biodiversity Working Group
  
  - Clarisse Thornton ([Cthornton@edc.ca](mailto:Cthornton@edc.ca)), [frazer.lanier@citi.com](mailto:frazer.lanier@citi.com), Carla.chizmar@cifi.com
Biodiversity Risk Screening: What & Why?

• A rapid, desk-based assessment of the potential biodiversity-related risks of a given area.
• Can help understand the potential risks of investing in a particular project or asset, and inform investment decisions.
• Risks may stem from significant impacts to sensitive and sensitive ecosystems.
• At a minimum, uses global biodiversity datasets available through IBAT. Supported by field data (e.g. GBIF)
Using IBAT data for site-based risk assessment

Use the main data layers to evaluate the presence of biodiversity features which may present a risk

Ideally early in investment process – even before any field work on the ground.

IBAT data can tell you what might be present, and if an area is important for nature conservation. These are essential components of IFC Performance Standard 6
Using IBAT data for site-based risk assessment

Red List
• Globally threatened species.
• but note, not all have been assessed

Protected Planet
• National protected areas, World Heritage Sites, Ramsar
• but note, not all nations contribute data

Key Biodiversity Areas
• a global suit of sites evaluated against standard objective criteria
• but note, not all areas have been thoroughly evaluated
IBAT provides a variety of reports that help understand risk at sites

...but data always requires interpretation
Using IBAT to support E&S due diligence

Example transaction:
Your bank has been invited by a mid-cap mining client to join a loan syndicate (ticket size ~$150M) for a:
• A major expansion for an open pit gold mine in Sumatra (doubling of output)
• Includes new ancillary facilities and new connecting road

Current information
• You have data room access and have a precise location of the mine and access road
• You’ve reviewed the ESIA which has not identified any biodiversity challenges
• A newspaper article suggests low level community opposition regarding potential impact to the Sumatra orangutan associated with the current mine
So how can you better understand local biodiversity?
IBAT shows critical biodiversity....

Globally...

...and locally.

Mine site
IBAT indicates critical biodiversity around a project location

Each site has a fact sheet
Each site has a Fact Sheet detailing which species are present.

**KBA FACTSHEET**

*International Name:* Sidolangkat  
*Country/Territory:* Indonesia  
*Area:* 14217 ha

This site has been identified as a Key Biodiversity Area based on the presence of:
- Significant populations of globally threatened species.

**Taxonomic group:** Mammals

**Species**

- *Pongo abelii*

  *Common name:*  
  *IUCN Red List Category:* CR
Tailored Site Reports can be download

Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool
WORLD BANK GROUP BIODIVERSITY RISK SCREEN
Report generated on 13/01/2020 by IBAT
by Bill Johnson under the project number 44491-10381

- Project Name: Tailored Site Reports
- Country: Sierra Leone
- Location: 9.3, 13.5

Priority Species

Habitat of significant importance to priority species will trigger critical habitat release (see Field, para 13). IBAT provides a preliminary list of priority species that could occur within the 5km buffer. This list is drawn from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN). This list is not exhaustive and may include many additional priority species not listed here. It is strongly recommended that any new species information collected by the project be shared with species experts and/or IUCN whenever possible in order to improve IUCN datasets.

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species - CR & EN
The following species are potentially found within Sierra Leone for the full IUCN Red List. Please refer to the associated list in the report folder.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species Code</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>IUCN Category</th>
<th>Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acaryosoma caprae</td>
<td>Wildcat</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>REPTILIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhydrilla victoriae</td>
<td>Hawkbill</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>REPTILIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perissodactyla</td>
<td>Small-toothed Sawfish</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>CHONDOGPHYES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarcarina</td>
<td>Atlantic Manatee</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>MAMMALIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carcharhinus longimanus</td>
<td>Oceanic Whitetip Shark</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>CHONDOGPHYES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sphyraena barracuda</td>
<td>Bullhead</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>CHONDOGPHYES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sphyraena barracuda</td>
<td>Grey Nurse Shark</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>CHONDOGPHYES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhynchosoma latipinnis</td>
<td>African Shearwater</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>CHONDOGPHYES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sphyraena squalus</td>
<td>Sawback Angelshark</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>CHONDOGPHYES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sphyraena axillaris</td>
<td>Smoothback Angelshark</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>CHONDOGPHYES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudoscincus mucronatus</td>
<td></td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>INSECTA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Helps support evidence-based decisions during diligence

• IBAT enables a rapid visual screening for critical biodiversity

• Flags that further diligence potentially needs to be conducted

• Helps future diligence (e.g. any new baseline assessments or independent E&S reviews) be correctly scoped so that impacts can be accurately understood (e.g. through comprehensive baseline surveys) and mitigated (via the Mitigation Hierarchy, ESAP, BAPs etc.)

• Reducing project risk for the client and potential credit and reputation risk for banks

• Increased likelihood of meeting PS6 requirements